

# Samaritan Times

BUILDING OUR FOUNDATION TOGETHER

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David and Linda Stetson feel strongly that philanthropic giving at any level is a blessing.

## Donors Ensure Wellness Programs for Affordable Living

When Linda Stetson was first introduced to ERS, she knew she had found something special. With a background in healthcare, including nursing homes, she recognized that “The (ERS) philosophy was so progressive compared to my earlier experiences in more ‘institutional’ settings.”

It became more personal when her mother needed care, both at Marjorie P. Lee and the Cottages. Feeling so aligned with the ERS philosophy, Linda joined the ERS Board of Directors and served on several committees.

“I became a champion of Affordable Living after touring several communities and witnessing first-hand the dramatic improvement in the quality of life experienced by the seniors

benefiting from the support, safety and security of their new homes,” explained Linda.

“My husband David and I feel strongly that the ability to be philanthropic at any level is a blessing. Gifts of time, through volunteer work, are meaningful to those on the receiving end as well as to those who are giving. Our opportunity to financially support causes that are important to us began small. However, we’re now in the position to make more significant impacts through our gifts. We are extremely pleased to be in the position to do so.”

Upon learning that funding for the ERS Wellness Coordinator position would soon be depleted, Linda and

*Story continued on page 3*

**ERS**  
Foundation

*Our Mission: We enrich the lives of older adults in a person-centered, innovative and spiritually based way.*

## Letter to Donors

Dear Friends,

Spring has arrived! While I love the beauty of the foliage and crisp, cool nights of fall, and all the festivities and traditions that come with Thanksgiving and Christmas, if I had to pick a favorite season it would be spring. The excitement I feel when I see the daffodils pushing up through the soil and bursting open in golden glory, spy a robin on the ground or feel the warmth of the sun on my face raises, my spirits and level of optimism. ERS communities are wonderful places for such experiences. On page 5 you will read about the new spaces and programs designed to improve our residents' access to nature.

Spring is a time of rebirth. What better time to honor those who made each of us who we are today — our own mothers and fathers and other special individuals who have shaped our lives. We know that every older adult we serve has made a difference in someone's life. Your gift will ensure those we serve feel honored and cherished while aging with dignity and a sense of purpose, thanks to the quality communities, programs and services of ERS.

I hope this spring has brought you a renewed sense of optimism. I am optimistic for the future of ERS and wish to thank you for the important role you are playing in our success.



Sincerely,

**Joy Rowe Blang**

Executive Director of Philanthropy  
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## Fund Development Team



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## Affordable Living News

# Donors Sustain Wellness Programs

Story continued from page 1

David decided to direct their gift to ensure the position continues for several years into the future.

“Encouraging a healthy lifestyle in a community environment is generally not a priority in low-income housing communities. Engaging the whole per-

son in recreational, social and wellness activities is beneficial for maintaining health and happiness for any age, and seniors are no exception. My husband and I wanted to ensure the continuation of the services of the Wellness Coordinator.”

We are grateful to Linda and David for not only meeting the

needs of our current residents, but for also looking ahead to making a lasting impact on the future.

Shares Linda, “We are currently in the process of evaluating the best planned giving tools to meet our philanthropy goals. ERS will be one of the beneficiaries of a legacy gift in the future.”

## Why I Exercise

Wellness Coordinator Caroline Rapier was curious. She wanted to understand the motivations of residents participating in her programs. She put up posters entitled “Why I Exercise” and asked residents to jot down their personal reasons.

“So that I can keep up with my dancing on Wednesday nights. It has become a routine of mine and I know that if I want to keep moving, I have to keep moving!”

— Resident at Shawnee Place

“I exercise not because I love it, but because I have the company of my neighbors who are encouraging me. Where I would have otherwise done absolutely nothing!”

— Resident at The Elberon

“Everybody had cars long before my family did. I have walked all of my life. Walking is what inspires me!”

— Resident at St. Paul Village



Wellness Coordinator Caroline Rapier with Marlowe Court resident Johnette Key.

**Are you interested in supporting services within Affordable Living by ERS?**  
Contact Joy Blang by calling 513-979-2313 or by emailing her at [jblang@erslife.org](mailto:jblang@erslife.org).

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*Leaving a Legacy*


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# The Indelible Impact of Jay and Lana Kittenbrink

**B**efore there was Affordable Living by ERS, there was Jay Kittenbrink. In 1982, Jay took the role of Executive Director at St. Paul Village (SPV) in Madisonville, owned and managed by the Lutheran Benevolent Society (LBS). Jay's father had served in this capacity since 1973, having been instrumental in its establishment. Jay felt a strong sense of duty and loyalty to continue this important work, but it was a financial struggle. Board Member Gates Smith, who also serves on the LBS board recalls, "We used to sit around and discuss if we should pay the ketchup or the mustard bill."

In 2007, LBS turned to ERS for help, and ERS took over management. Jay was asked to join the ERS Affordable Living team, which was created to expand ERS' mission to serve the needs of low-income seniors.

Jay recently retired as ERS' Senior Development Manager. According to VP of Affordable Living Kathy Ison-Lind, "Jay is an industry expert in affordable housing. Under his leadership, we grew from 1 property to 27 communities in less than 10 years! Today, we serve over 1,800 residents across 3 states. Jay has made an indelible impact on Affordable Living by ERS through his service, knowledge, passion and leadership." We are most grateful to Jay and his wife Lana, who as members of the Living Legacy Society, have included ERS in their estate plan so that Affordable Living by ERS will thrive beyond their lifetimes.



*Jay and Lana Kittenbrink are members of the Living Legacy Society.*

## Your Legacy & Our Mission Go Hand in Hand

Plan a legacy now and make a difference for years to come.

Include ERS in your will or living trust, or designate ERS as the beneficiary of a retirement plan or life insurance policy.

Consider these "plan now, execute later" gift options to open the possibility of making a larger gift than you might otherwise consider — increasing your impact on ERS.

Show your family and others what is important to you and encourage them to share your vision.



*True servant leaders, Jay and Lana distribute fresh produce at SPV.*

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### Interested in including ERS in your Estate Plan?

Contact Diana Collins by calling 513-979-2307 or by emailing her at [dcollins@erslife.org](mailto:dcollins@erslife.org).

## *Funding Our Mission*

# Connecting Residents to Nature and the Great Outdoors

**W**hen asked if she enjoys going outside, Betty Pippert, a resident of Marjorie P. Lee's Kirby House exclaimed, "I love the outdoors! I have to go outside every day to get fresh air or I feel too cooped up!"

Studies show that access to the outdoors and gardening can have a profound impact on our physical, emotional, cognitive and social health, particularly for older adults. Inviting and accessible outdoor spaces for our residents is an important part of promoting quality of life in all ERS communities.

The H.B., E.W. & F.R. Luther Charitable Foundation, Fifth Third Bank and Narley L. Haley, Co-Trustees recently awarded MPL a grant to construct an outdoor balcony space for the enjoyment of memory support household residents. This will allow them greater accessibility to the outdoors. The balcony will be located in Luther House, a new household also funded by the foundation. Frances Luther was a MPL resident in the 1990s.

Renovation of the Adair Gardens begins this spring, thanks to the generosity of several donors: The MPL Auxiliary, the Schomburger Family in memory of Joe Front, and the estate of former MPL resident Terry Lilly. "The funding will allow us to have new plantings for year-round interest, additional furniture, a raised planting bed and a new outdoor fountain," said Emerson Stambaugh, Executive Director of Hospitality.



*Renovations will include the Luther House balcony which will overlook the courtyard.*

## New Horticultural Therapy Program



*Plant expert Robert Evans leads residents in activities to connect them to the natural world.*

ERS' commitment to connecting residents to nature goes beyond creating spaces. A horticultural therapy program is being piloted, with great success, at the Deupree House and Cottages and in MPL memory support households. Therapeutic gardening is both soothing and stimulating, particularly for those with cognitive loss. While engaging the senses and memories, there is a deep-seeded familiarity, which is calming, particularly for a person who is living with cognitive loss.

**Support Horticultural Therapy Programs at MPL and Deupree Communities!**

Contact Diana Collins by calling 513-979-2307 or by emailing her at [dcollins@erslife.org](mailto:dcollins@erslife.org).

## Annual Events

I'M LATE, I'M LATE FOR A VERY IMPORTANT DATE. SAVE THE DATE.

EPISCOPAL RETIREMENT SERVICES  
GOOD SAMARITAN MISSION



**THE MAD HATTER BALL**

**ALL NEW 2019 special event to support the  
Good Samaritan Mission Fund!**

Friday, October 4th  
Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza Hall of Mirrors,  
Downtown Cincinnati

Complimentary parking provided for guests  
Complimentary shuttle for Deupree House and Marjorie P. Lee residents

## Sold-out Refresh Your Soul Conference to Benefit Parish Health Ministry



*Speakers Rabbi Abie Ingber, Kathryn Spink, and Leah Sarris;  
ERS' President and CEO Laura Lamb, and PHM Director  
Jeanne Palcic.*

### THANK YOU SPONSORS!

**Title Sponsor:** TriHealth

**Presenting Sponsor:** Alzheimer's  
Association, Greater Cincinnati Chapter;

**Event Partner:** Xavier University

**Platinum Sponsor:** Assisting Hands Home  
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College of Professional Sciences

*Out and About*



*Generous donors Greg and Amy Power dedicated the lobby at MPL in memory of former resident, and Greg's stepfather, Tom Craig.*



*Residents, families, and staff are enjoying the reimagined MPL entrance. The Powers' gift was part of the Marjorie P. Lee Capital Campaign.*



*MPL residents learning to use their new "My Margie" customized tablets, made possible through a gift from Pam Strayer, niece of Marjorie P. Lee.*



*"My Margie is a life-changing gift ... allowing us to keep in contact with family ... A blessing to residents that are not able to use a computer!"- MPL Resident Ann Hunter*



*The Deupree Auxiliary purchased a new golf cart to transport residents visiting their friends and loved ones in the Cottages.*



*Members of the Cincinnati Woman's Club delivered handmade fleece blankets to keep the residents of Walnut Court cozy all winter.*

# ERS Foundation

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## PREMIER SENIOR LIVING

- ✦ Deupree House
- ✦ Marjorie P. Lee

## AFFORDABLE SENIOR LIVING

- ✦ Affordable Living  
Ohio  
Indiana  
Kentucky

## IN-HOME AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

- ✦ Deupree Meals On Wheels
- ✦ Living Well Senior Solutions
- ✦ Parish Health Ministry

## Karen Smith's Tribute to her Mother

My mother spent the last 10 years of her life in senior living communities, always appreciating the extra support that helped her stay active, independent, and engaged. As her health failed, the care she received from the dedicated and compassionate staff at The Deupree House and Marjorie P. Lee was essential to her quality of life. We would all hope that everyone, despite their socioeconomic level, would be cared for in safe, well-maintained and well-managed homes when they become older and more vulnerable. Rather than just hoping, ERS is bringing that vision to life. I've seen ERS's commitment to person-centered care, and I trust its leadership's commitment to its mission. That's why I support Affordable Living by ERS in memory of my mother.



**Consider a tribute gift in recognition of Mother's and Father's Days**

Use the enclosed envelope, visit [episcopalretirement.com/donate](http://episcopalretirement.com/donate) or call Susan Cleverly at 513-979-2309.