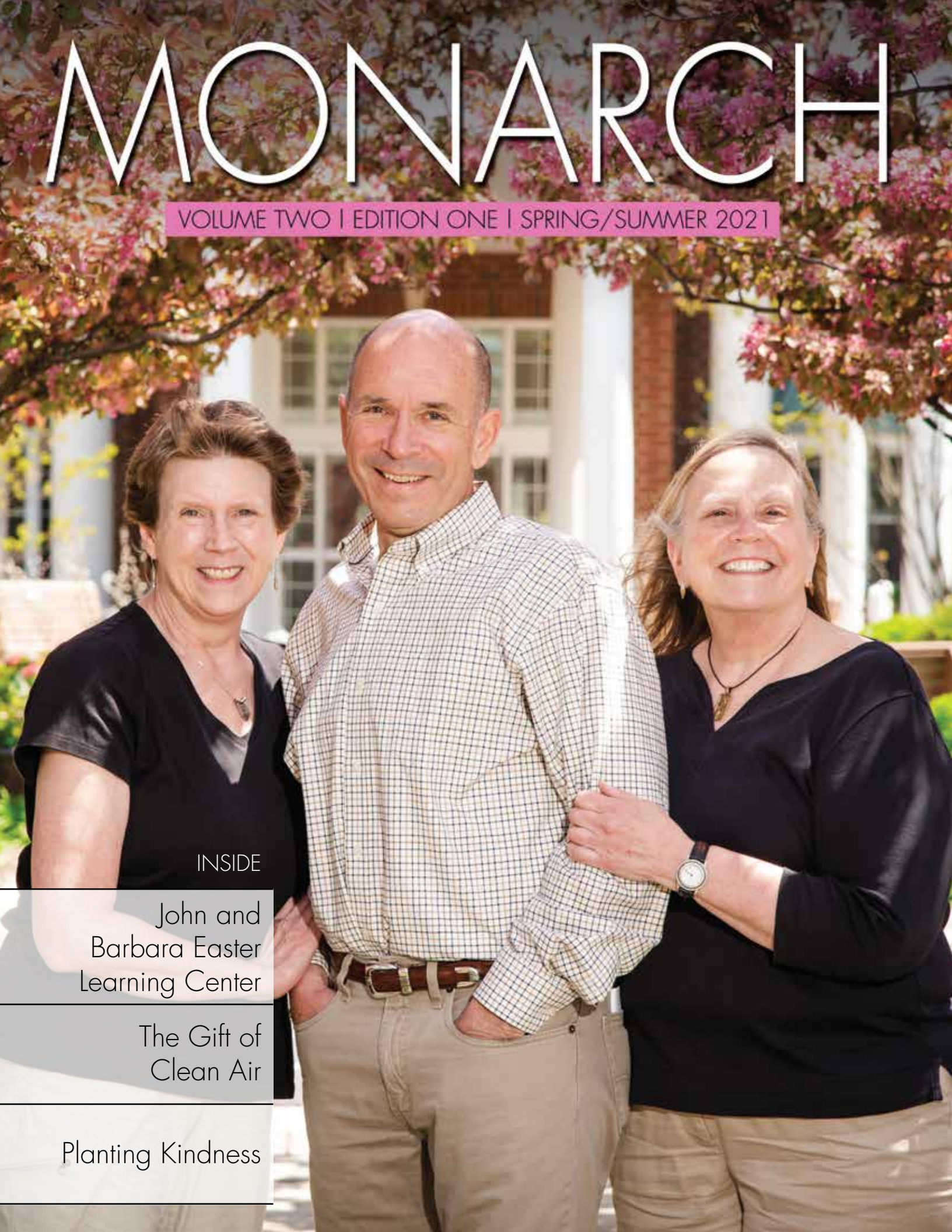


MONARCH

VOLUME TWO | EDITION ONE | SPRING/SUMMER 2021



INSIDE

John and
Barbara Easter
Learning Center

The Gift of
Clean Air

Planting Kindness

Plymouth Place *Senior Living*

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Message from the Residents' Council Vice-President

I would venture to guess when most of us chose to move to Plymouth Place, we never imagined a national pandemic would occur or that face masks would become a regular accessory. What we did expect was a wonderful, gracious, well-managed environment to enjoy our retirement years – and that is, without question, what we have.

I believe the pandemic highlighted what a wise choice we all made by selecting Plymouth Place. When friends, former neighbors, and family members were spending hours of each day trying to book appointments to become vaccinated, we simply waited to learn our time slot to show up in Dole Hall. By the end of February, the majority of us already had optimal immunity thanks to the tireless efforts of our leadership working on our behalf.

Calls with friends revealed loneliness and boredom – we were attending concerts in the Dixon Garden or behind innovative Plexiglas dividers in Dole Hall. Our kids were ordering groceries online – we were preparing our shopping lists for staff to pick up items for us. Restaurant owners were struggling to stay afloat, and our culinary team arranged Sunday dinners from local restaurants so we could help support them and have a delicious meal in the process. It really is astonishing how completely and quickly our needs were met.

Serving as your Residents' Council Vice-President affords me the unique opportunity to work closely with senior leadership and the Board of Directors, and I am in awe of the quality leaders we have. Every last one of them is talented, mission-minded, and committed to Plymouth Place – and by extension, committed to each of us as residents. I know, without a doubt, with the expertise and skill displayed in managing the pandemic, we have the right team to manage just about anything. With the outpouring of support from residents and resident families over the last year, I am confident you agree with me. We have great things in store. **PP**



Art Grundke



Elizabeth Asperger
Board Chair



Jay Biere
Chief Executive Officer

Board Chair & CEO Welcome

Over the past year, we have been tested in unique ways to rise above challenging circumstances. We have been humbled to witness the exceptional responsiveness of so many individuals throughout these months. Our admiration and gratitude run deep.

As Board Chair and Chief Executive Officer, respectively, we are entrusted with the responsibility of leading Plymouth Place from two sides of the same coin, all-the-while keeping our efforts focused on an overarching mission and vision. This charge is accomplished by working collaboratively as we shape culture, influence direction, and set priorities to ensure a strong organization set for success. This is the partnership the Plymouth Place Board of Directors and CEO have cultivated alongside our leaders, staff, residents, families, and broader community.

At a moment's notice, we shifted gears, augmented communication tools, responded with patience and compassion, and today we manage the "new normal." Growing our community is not achieved in a vacuum independent of others. Each of us plays an active role – contributing our strengths and talents for the good of the whole. This requires a shared understanding of the organization's goals and strategies and working together to achieve them.

We are committed to continuing the inclusive, transparent, and strategic manner of leading in partnership with each of you. The role you serve in helping us advance the mission through philanthropic generosity is critical and deeply appreciated. For the part you play in shaping Plymouth Place today and tomorrow, thank you! **PP**

Be Safe and Be Well: Whispers of Love



Inspirations written by
Reverend Christina Vosteen,
Chaplain at Plymouth Place

Illustrations by
Sue Gelderman

Be Safe and Be Well: Chaplaincy at Work

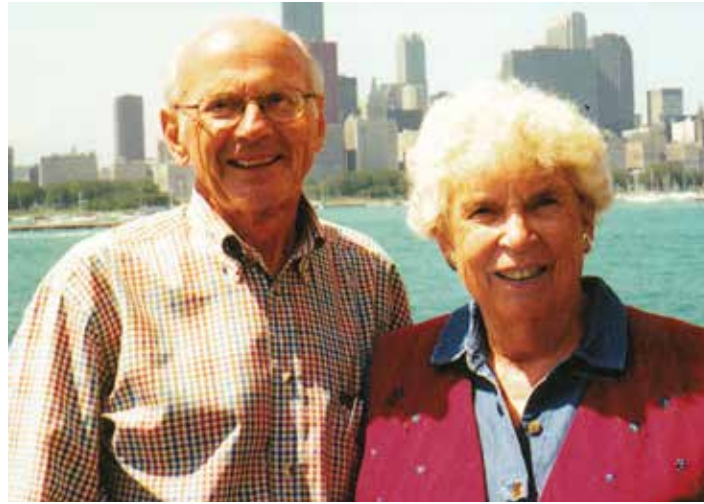
W “We don’t always, or maybe even often, get to see something through from beginning to end. We have a piece of it, plant a seed, or are the one who waters.” This excerpt of *Drips*, one of the “whispers” included in *Be Safe and Be Well: Whispers of Love* perfectly encapsulates the multiplier effect of the anonymous gift that endows our Chaplaincy program. A single generous donor paved the way for a book that has impacted hundreds, if not thousands of people.

Chaplain Christina Vosteen was approached by leadership at Plymouth Place at a time when a little inspiration would go a long way. Christina began sending daily emails, “whispers” as she calls them, to staff and residents of Plymouth Place. Those emails were then passed along to family members and friends, and a community much larger than Plymouth Place began looking forward to Christina’s daily musings.

“What started as a 2020 Lent exercise for a few evolved to an ongoing, seven-day-a-week message. My heart’s desire is that the words of whimsy and prompts uplift, encourage, foster hope, and strengthen connections,” shares Christina. Her heart’s desire came true, as a committee of residents were so moved by her words that they came together to create *Be Safe and Be Well: Whispers of Love* – a collection of Christina’s messages. Sue Gelderman, a Plymouth Place resident and artist, created illustrations to go with many of the passages, creating a truly one-of-a-kind publication.

Following a book launch event in February, hundreds of copies have been mailed far and wide, as residents gifted personally inscribed copies to loved ones. Thanks to a gift that covered publishing costs, all of the proceeds from book sales were donated to The LeaderShop to fund summer camp scholarships for local youth.

One donor’s desire to serve Plymouth Place through endowing the chaplaincy program set in motion something truly special – a seed was planted, allowing so many others to water it and benefit from the bounty. **PP**



The John and Barbara Easter Learning Center – A Legacy of Impact

Each of us desires to leave a legacy. How can we make the world a better place while we are in it and cause a ripple effect that will impact generations to come? For John and Barbara Easter, the answer was simple – use their time, knowledge, and resources to help other people. “Throughout their lives, my parents demonstrated the power of helping others, whether it was immediate family, extended family, or, most importantly, community,” shares Bob Easter, John and Barbara’s eldest child.

For Bob and his sisters, Diane and Cathie, the decision as to how to honor their parents’ memory was an easy one – they simply followed their wishes. Bob explains, “As they got older, we had very thoughtful discussions about the legacy that they wanted us to implement on their behalf. When you think about it, education is really the best gift that we can pass on.” John and Barbara’s commitment to lifelong learning was woven through the fiber of their lives, starting from humble beginnings in Wisconsin.



Living in Madison, Wisconsin, John and Barbara went to the same high school, yet did not know each other. However, kismet brought them together, and they met thanks to a bus ride home from school. They both attended the University of Wisconsin while still living with their families, as this was the only way they could afford to attend college. They dated exclusively throughout those years, even tying the knot during Spring break of their senior year...with their families’ blessing, of course!

While they knew they were headed for marriage, the timeline was advanced with the knowledge that John was being drafted after graduation. They had a small wedding with just their families and enjoyed a trip to the big city of Chicago for a weekend honeymoon; then, it was back to the books. John earned a Bachelor of Business Marketing, and Barbara earned her degree in Speech Therapy. John remained a lifelong fan of the UW marching band.

After an honorable discharge from the armed forces, the young couple made their way to Lansing, Michigan, where John started his career at JC Penney. He worked hard during the early years of his career. Though he was never required to work evenings or weekends as a department manager, he always scheduled himself for some of these less desirable shifts. As recalled by his daughter, Cathie, his professional integrity reflected that he “wouldn’t ask his team to do anything he wouldn’t do himself.” This leadership style earned John the respect of his colleagues and afforded him an excellent opportunity to join Sears in Chicago. Cathie remembers frequently accompanying her dad for a “quick visit” to the store to simply talk to the sales team and ask everyone, “How are things going?” Whether it was a sales display or new product promotion, John respected others as the experts in their areas. Cathie recalls that he would often say, “I believe the staff members are the experts and each of them is key to our organization’s overall success.”

In the early 60s, the Easters moved to La Grange Park, Illinois, where they started their next – and longest – chapter, on Malden Avenue (even residing in two houses on the same street over the years). The family was very community-minded and involved with various organizations, including being active members of First Presbyterian Church. John was a Board member of both La Grange Country Club and La Grange Memorial Hospital (now AMITA Health), serving as

Chairman during both tenures. John often stated in his roles as Chair, “Non-profits need to know the business of running an organization.” That perspective is why he felt it was so important to get involved.



Bob, Diane, and Cathie attended Lyons Township High School; however, learning did not only occur in the classroom. Diane, an educator herself, shared, “Our mother was a quiet leader and a doer. She was always looking for opportunities to stretch herself intellectually and that extended to us.” As a college graduate during a time when women were just advancing in the area of academia, Barbara recognized the benefit and privilege of education. She was a member of the American Association of University Women, served as a docent of Graue Mill & Museum, volunteered at Community Nurse Health Center, and was an active member of Las Guias at the Heard Museum in Phoenix, Arizona. Though Barbara enjoyed her years as a Special Education teacher, she told her daughters that she would have been an attorney if she had been afforded the options that today’s women have. She had a deep thirst for knowledge – to the extent that family vacations were often educational in nature, providing great learning opportunities for everyone.

“Learning Center...” continues on page 08



Growing up in the La Grange Park area, the family vividly remembers the original Plymouth Place building and witnessed the development of the current La Grange Road pièce de résistance set back off the road with its regal pillars. The initial interest in Plymouth Place was for Barbara's mother as she aged; however, circumstances did not result in her moving into the community. The same would be the situation for Barbara herself in her later years, and the couple remained in their home until she passed away in late 2008. Already familiar with Plymouth Place, John decided that making a move to the senior living community in 2013 for himself was the way to go. "It's like Mom had planned it out for Dad," Diane warmly shared.

Over their many years in the La Grange Park and surrounding community, John and Barbara made dear friends with other couples through their varied activities. One such couple was Viola and Joe Butler, as John and Joe served on the La Grange Memorial Hospital Board together. In 2016, Viola made Plymouth Place her home, as well. The sense of community and seeing familiar faces was a great comfort for both John and Viola. Their special friendship brought them much happiness before and during their years in independent living at Plymouth Place.

During John's time at Plymouth Place, he acquired quite the reputation for being a snappy dresser. Even the family knew when they came to visit there was a "dress code" to uphold – per their father's standard. Diane joked that once she asked, "Do you want to go to the Bistro or the Dining Room for dinner?" to which her dad laughingly replied while motioning to his attire, "I don't think we have a choice." John always gave a great example to his children – whether it was demonstrating family values, modeling the importance of helping other people, serving the community through volunteer work, or mentoring staff – Bob, Diane, and Cathie knew what was modeled was expected. With the incredible example they witnessed growing up and the lessons they absorbed, there is no doubt that their parents were the trio's most outstanding teachers.

Upon John's passing in November 2020, the family's collective desire was to continue this legacy of mentoring and teaching in honor of their father and mother. Having observed their father's success in the workplace and their mother's dedication to lifelong learning, it was fitting to provide a similar opportunity and environment for others. As a result, the Easter Family presented Plymouth Place



John's commitment to servant leadership touched many lives in the La Grange community, including service on the Plymouth Place Board of Directors. He understood the mission of Plymouth Place and the values for which the organization stands. Later as a resident, John witnessed those values in action through each member of the staff, many of whom he got to know personally.

Plymouth Place is most grateful to Bob, Diane, and Cathie for their support of our employees – both through the Employees Helping Employees hardship fund, as well as the establishment of the John and Barbara Easter Learning Center in tribute to their parents. Echoing the true spirit of their parents, Bob, Diane, and Cathie share their vision for what the Center will become: “By assisting with their future, professional formation, and fulfillment of the greater mission of Plymouth Place, we believe that investing in the staff is the best way to ensure a bright future for all.”

PP

with an incredibly generous gift to establish a state-of-the-art learning center onsite to benefit employees.

Slated to open in August 2021, the John and Barbara Easter Learning Center will be located in a dedicated 1000 square foot space on the lower level of Plymouth Place. It will be equipped with modern culinary equipment, computer technology, simulated clinical labs, and a lounge area for staff to rest and visit with each other. Plans for programming include onsite training, as well as courses taught by outside teachers and residents with particular areas of professional expertise. “We will partner with area organizations, including AMITA Health, to capitalize on shared strengths and mutually beneficial synergies for the community's greater good,” stated Jay Biere, CEO.



There are many things that make Plymouth Place an exceptional community, but at the top of that list are the dedicated and talented staff members who come to work each day with a smile and passion to serve.

Without fail – 24/7/365 – our dedicated staff delivers service and provides care to our community. Our concern for and support of each team member is a privilege we take to heart – not just leadership, but peers and colleagues caring for one another. It is this culture of caring that led to the establishment of the Employees Helping Employees “E2E” Fund.

Even with careful planning, there are times when the unexpected occurs and a financial hardship arises. Explains Dr. Martha Klima-Gamble, Senior Director of People Services, “At Plymouth Place, we understand that challenging circumstances outside of work may cause undue stress on our associates. We strive to support each team member with the work they do inside our community but also support them with unexpected personal situations, if we are able. The E2E Fund helps us achieve that goal.”

Plymouth Place provides financial assistance via the E2E Fund to assist employees who encounter an unexpected financial crisis. Any regular full-time or part-time employee in good standing may apply for up to \$500 per calendar year in E2E Fund support after

Employees Helping Employees:

“*Things happen in life – family members get sick; partners lose their jobs; in the blink of an eye, accidents and other life setbacks can send any of us into crisis mode. I am called to share with others in their times of need, and I am deeply grateful to have the opportunity to help Plymouth Place team members through the Employees Helping Employees E2E Fund. I know that the money donated will be wisely and promptly given to those who truly need it.*

Jackie Terpstra
Senior Director of Clinical
Services

completing one year of active employment. Staff members are able to contribute directly via a payroll deduction, if they so choose, and donors can earmark their donation to this important fund. As the focus of Giving Tuesday 2020, the fund was able to be used to support a number of hardship requests and honor the heroes who serve Plymouth Place each day.

Since its inception, the E2E Fund has supported Plymouth Place associates in ways such as:

- Providing shelter
- Obtaining legal counsel and child protection
- Receiving mental health counseling
- Relocation to a safe residence
- Transportation to those in need

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Contributing to the E2E Fund was an easy decision for me. My colleagues work so hard every day to bring excellence to our community. My contribution to the fund is my small way of acknowledging the dedication of the team I work beside every day. If a few dollars can make an impact on one colleague, then my modest contribution is worth it.

Katy Coffey
Director of Life Enrichment

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The Spirit of Plymouth Place

“It is the goodness of others that lifts us up in trying times. Through our donors’ exceptional generosity – that of residents, employees, and friends of Plymouth Place – we can lighten the burden of those alongside us,” shares Paddy Homan, Senior Director of Philanthropy. Thank you for your support of the Employees Helping Employees “E2E” Fund. **PP**



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Every day that I come to work, I am graciously reminded that our success comes as a team. Over my career, I have been supported and encouraged during difficult times by some truly wonderful co-workers, and the opportunity to give back is rewarding in itself. To see the look of relief in helping someone navigate a financial crisis makes this fund incredibly valuable, especially when they can return the favor down the road.”

Cheri Boublis
Senior Director of Hospitality

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simply taking a breath became something that caused each of us to stop and think about what we might just have breathed in. Almost immediately, Plymouth Place took swift action to manage this unexpected concern.

Evaluating the quality of air circulation throughout the community was one of the first steps. After an assessment, it was determined that Needlepoint Bipolar Ionization technology would be installed throughout common spaces of the community. This undertaking was neither inexpensive nor straightforward, and it required expert tradesmen to support the process. Nonetheless, without hesitation, the investment was made and this critical technology became a part of our mechanical framework.

When Bill and Marlene O'Meara learned of the measures underway to enhance air quality and protect residents, they stepped forward to support the effort. This was no surprise to the leaders of Plymouth Place, as the O'Mearas have a well-known local history of getting involved and taking action for the good of their surrounding community. They, along with countless Plymouth Place residents, sincerely embrace what it means to be in community with their neighbors – to care for each other, celebrate together, and generously give of themselves and their resources for the good of all.

When you think about the gift of a deep, cleansing breath, you cannot help but be aware of the life-giving air around you. It is something easily taken for granted, particularly as we are fortunate to live in a region with good air quality. In March of 2020, as COVID-19 took hold in Illinois,

The Gift of Clean Air

Married now for sixty-four years, Bill and Marlene share a deep connection and love for each other. Bill jokes, “Marlene needs a gold medal for putting up with me all these years.” Residing at Plymouth Place for the past six years, the surrounding La Grange community has been home for most of their lives. Marlene also wins that medal, as her hometown roots are La Grange, while Bill hails from a bit farther north in Waukegan.

So, how does a gal from the western suburbs meet a fella from up north? The tales of how Cupid brought them together vary somewhat. Both attended Catholic colleges in Dubuque, Iowa – Marlene at Clarke University and Bill at Loras College. According to Marlene, they met on a blind date – though they had each been set up with a different date. “Bill had the nerve to ask me out right then and there!” laughs Marlene. Bill’s recollection is smidge different: “The following week after the date, Marlene saw me across the street and ran over to me...she was so excited.” In the end, the arrow struck both their hearts in the middle of an Iowa cornfield, and the rest is history.

After both graduated from college, they married and settled into an apartment in La Grange Park. Having grown-up in the area, Marlene was familiar with Plymouth Place and has vivid memories of the old building. Bill became very accustomed, as well, since his path to law school included a stroll along La Grange Road to the train stop that took him downtown to Loyola Law School by day to earn his Juris Doctorate and work at a bank in the afternoon. After graduation, Bill worked for 30 years at First National Bank of Western Springs.

Bill was very involved in community affairs with the bank. Bill Hendrickson, past Plymouth Place Board of Directors member and resident, approached him to serve on the Board; however, at the time, Bill was already quite involved in other community affairs. He served as Board Chairman for La Grange Memorial Hospital, President of Western Springs Chamber of Commerce, and Board member of the YMCA. “And all while he was running the bank,” remarks Marlene with a chuckle. It was all about relationships for Bill – and that sentiment remains.

Marlene was equally as busy teaching middle school in Western Springs and raising their four children – Beth, Nancy, Kathy, and Mike. As part of their rearing, Bill and Marlene instilled in them the value of generosity and service to others. This lifestyle was something the kids witnessed in their parents through community involvement. It is now being passed on to future members of the O’Meara clan as Bill and Marlene enjoy the blessings of sixteen grandchildren and are expecting their fifth great-grandchild. “God has been very good to us; we have a wonderful family.”

Whether as a young family living in Western Springs or young retirees in New Smyrna Beach, Florida, Bill and Marlene got involved. After forty-nine years in a home they had



“Clean Air...” continues on page 14

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Needlepoint Bipolar Ionization technology is safe and extremely effective at eradicating most viruses, including the Coronavirus. Safety for our residents and staff is mission critical. This ozone-free, state-of-the-art air purification process happens in the background, allowing our support services team to attend to other important tasks.

Katie Freese
Senior Director of Support Services

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outgrown, they headed to sunny skies and warmer weather for a twenty-year stretch. While in Florida, they stayed active doing volunteer work. Bill served as a Court Mediator in small claims court, while Marlene mentored children and volunteered in the AVID program (Advancement via Individual Determination), which fosters a safe and open culture, high expectations for teachers and students, and collaboration in all classrooms. Marlene still remembers Sean, Leroy, and Carlos – the youth she mentored. “It was a great program and provided at-risk youth an opportunity to carve a promising path for themselves.” Their years in Florida were very much engaging and enjoyable.

As the family grew, Bill and Marlene did not want to miss family occasions being all the way in the panhandle state. The support of their children made the return to Illinois an

easy one. When they were ready to return Marlene shared, “We knew Plymouth was the place to go – so, here we are.” Bill says, “It’s a friendly place – it’s like a cruise ship without the water,” and they certainly make the most of all Plymouth Place has to offer.

Bill and Marlene believe it is their privilege to be a part of this community. When asked why they get involved, particularly in response to the need for providing a quality air filtration system, their answer was nothing short of inspiring. “It’s fun, we enjoy people; God has been good to us, and we just feel we have to participate; you should participate. Being in the business I was in with the bank, you better get involved in the community.”

We are beyond grateful that the O’Mearas are part of our Plymouth Place community. Thank you, Bill and Marlene; you continue to make a difference in the lives of others – especially in the air we breathe. **PP**

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Knowing that the bipolar ionization technology continuously “scrubs” the air throughout the building gives us an extra measure of reassurance that our environment is being constantly, thoroughly cleaned. It’s a great comfort to our clinical services team as they focus on providing excellent hands-on care.

Jackie Terpstra
Senior Director of Clinical Services

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Demystifying Philanthropy



As tax laws change, even seasoned investors and donors can be left unsure of exactly the best strategy to make their estate work well to meet their financial and philanthropic goals. Paddy Homan, Senior Director of Philanthropy at Plymouth Place, shares, “One of the most common questions I’ve heard over my career is, ‘I want to become involved with philanthropy, but I’m not sure what makes the most sense with my portfolio.’ Plymouth Place sought to create partnerships that would give our donors the best professional recommendations.”



**NORTHERN
TRUST**

That goal has come to fruition. Since the start of 2021, the philanthropy office developed two pivotal partnerships to support donors with information and resources. The first is a dedicated planned giving website that explains the myriad options available when considering becoming involved in philanthropy, among other valuable information to consider in the planned giving process. Visit plymouthplacegiving.org to learn more.

The second partnership, with Northern Trust, is one that has already proven to be invaluable for residents. During a 3-part financial seminar series in June, experts from Northern Trust provided valuable market insight and explained their

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Not-for-profits do good, but not-for-profits cannot do that good relying only on operating revenues. Giving to a not-for-profit allows that not-for-profit to deliver services that go above and beyond.

Bob Easter

goals-driven approach to estate and philanthropic planning. The final session featured a panel discussion with Bob Easter, son of John and Barbara Easter, regarding the family’s goals and discussions around the philanthropic wishes of his parents.

Each donor has a unique set of goals, circumstances, and passions. The role of the philanthropy office is to provide resources for donors, as well as match particular passions with areas of need at Plymouth Place and the greater community. It is certainly a labor of love, as being invited into one’s home and hearing their stories is truly a gift we do not take for granted. **PP**

Planting Kindness: The Gardens of Plymouth Place

It is nearly impossible to drive down La Grange Road and not notice Plymouth Place. The building itself is a notable landmark, but nearly as impressive are the outstanding gardens, beautifully and lovingly cared for no matter the season. Whether in the sunshine of summer, cool breezes of autumn, magical snowfalls of winter, or fragrant blossoming of spring, residents and guests alike delight in the various gardens that adorn our bucolic campus. Each garden is uniquely placed and thoughtfully named in memory or in honor of a beloved member of the Plymouth Place family.



Marion Giles

One of those special people, Marion Giles, a resident for more than 30 years, has been a lover of flowers and foliage for as long as she can remember. “I have lived here at Plymouth Place for many years and wanted to contribute to keeping things beautiful. When I was approached to help establish a garden by the flagpole – I didn’t hesitate to participate.”

Each distinct garden at Plymouth Place has its own features and appeal. In response to great interest in planting, developing, and tending to the gardens, a resident garden committee was established, providing a means for resident input and involvement. The committee is a resident favorite, as many brought their “green thumbs” with them when they moved to Plymouth Place.

Bev Figge, resident and chair of the garden committee takes great pleasure in her role. “Of all the committees I’ve served on in my life, the garden committee is one that you know will bring smiles and hours of enjoyment to countless folks who stroll the grounds of Plymouth Place.”

Bev highlighted the various gardens and for whom they have been named... join us on a walk through our gardens!



Wier Garden

Wier Garden

The Grant and Olive Wier Garden welcomes all who come to Plymouth Place with a peaceful fountain and beautiful flora. Olive and Grant Wier met at the University of Illinois, married, and raised three sons in La Grange Park, where they lived for more than 50 years. Both loved the outdoors as avid skiers and hikers. In dedicating this garden, the Wier family fondly remembers Olive's childhood accounts of walking through the woods filled with wild rose bushes. Grant loved walks with his sons, finding a place in the sun to settle and enjoy the company of loved ones. In 2012, the Plymouth Place Gift Shop donated 11 benches for the Wier Garden, and they remain widely used. Bev Figge comments, "My family know the Wiers, and we are proud to support the maintenance of this beautiful garden as a tribute to their legacy. We also want to ensure everything is in tip top shape as the garden is one of the first things someone sees when they arrive at Plymouth Place; we all know first impressions last!" Mary Forester, a resident of Plymouth Place, also had a close connection to the Wier family, sharing, "My mother, Claire, played bridge with Olive Wier. I am so glad to participate in maintaining this beautiful garden as a means of honoring their friendship." The Wier Garden is maintained through the support of the Figge and Forester families.



Dixon Garden

Dixon Garden

The Dixon Garden was named after resident Flo May Fletcher Dixon and donated by her daughter-in-law Nancy Dixon. In Flo's honor and to celebrate their shared love of gardening, Nancy set out to create a special spot in the Plymouth Place "backyard" – though she did not see it come to fruition before passing away. Nancy's sons, Dan and Charlie, honored their mother's wish with the creation of the Dixon Garden. Never would Nancy Dixon have dreamed that the beautiful garden she designed in memory of Flo May Fletcher Dixon would become the social center of Plymouth Place as residents enjoyed eating and listening to music in the garden during the pandemic. The setting was recently enhanced with the addition of lights and renovations, expanding the opportunities for enjoyment. The Dixon family, longtime and loyal friends of Plymouth Place, have created a legacy space that adds joy for all who spend time on the patio – day or night. The garden is maintained by general operating funds and the support of the Dixon family.

"Planting Kindness..." continues on page 18



Hulda and Lucille Garden

Hulda and Lucille Garden

This rooftop garden is located between the two neighborhoods of Greg's Place, providing a secure outside space for Greg's Place residents to garden, walk the path, or enjoy the fountain and flowers. Former residents Noel and Ruth Smith donated it in memory of each of their mothers – both of whom were avid gardeners, but in different ways. Noel's mother, Hulda, was a tamer's wife who tended a vegetable garden and strawberry bed to feed her family. Ruth's mother, Lucille, grew flowers in the gardens of their many new houses, as the family moved quite often for

Ruth's father's work; creating gardens made the houses feel like home. "We honor their memories both as nurturers of their families and nurturers of the soil with this garden," Ruth said at its dedication. The garden is maintained by general operating funds.

The Bill and Lois Carhart Garden

The Bill and Lois Carhart Memorial Garden was established in 2005 by the Carhart family "as a tribute to Plymouth Place and the ability of our backyards and gardens to provide rejuvenation in our lives." Widely used by residents and their families who visit them in the Health Care Center, the tranquil fountain and setting provide peace, calm, and a connection to nature. In 2016, a mosaic was created in partnership with the Mosaic School; led by former resident Bill Coates, many members of the community worked together to construct this impactful piece. Over the last year as pandemic restrictions were in place, the garden fell out of use; however, plans are being put in place to return it to the founders' original intent. The garden is maintained by general operating funds.



The Bill and Lois Carhart Garden



Florence Watts and Ethel Wilhelm Terrace

Outside of the therapy gym on the Health Care Center floor is a small balcony with planter boxes dedicated to Paul Watts’s mother and mother-in-law. Mr. Watts and his wife both had parents in the Health Care Center and wanted to honor their memories with this peaceful garden. The garden is maintained by general operating funds.

Giles Garden

One of the spaces that reminds us of the tradition of Plymouth Place is the area along La Grange Road between the two entrances to the parking lot. Long-time resident Marion Giles donated the special area when the new building was erected to provide a beautiful spot for flowers, trees, and the American flag. Additionally, a time capsule, opened in 2019 during our 75th anniversary celebration, was housed in a cornerstone in the regal garden wall. The garden features snowball hydrangeas, roses, and hostas and is planted with annuals every year. The garden is maintained by general operating funds.

Like the garden named in her honor, Marion Giles is one of Plymouth Place’s treasures. Marion began her residency in the cottages and enjoyed planting perennials around her home to add a touch of curb appeal. She has found her years at Plymouth Place a delightful experience and has made many friends.

Transitioning into assisted living, Marion has enjoyed the enhanced accommodations. At 104, she remains in close touch with family and friends. She shares, “I’m friendly and would like to be remembered as such. I think this is a wonderful place to live out your years.”

With her love for all things gardening and nature, it is no surprise that Marion has attended the Legacy Tea and participated in the monarch release each year. As a member of the 1944 Plymouth Monarch Society, Marion has made it a point to support the mission and projects of Plymouth Place and is committed to furthering the philanthropic priorities of the community. Marion reflects, “I give because this has been my home for so many years. I have volunteered in the third floor garden because I care about others and support the gardens because I want others to enjoy the beauty. It’s really that simple – it’s about others.”

When you think about the 104 years that Marion Giles has been graced with in this life, it is certain she has planted kindness, sewn generosity, and bloomed heartfelt friendships along the way. The beautiful gardens of our community are thanks to the goodness and generosity of many, and we are so grateful. **PP**



The Dole Family's 72 Years



One of the most iconic spaces at Plymouth Place is Dole Hall. On any given day, it may be the site of a luncheon, a worship service, a cocktail party, a meeting, a marketing event, an educational lecture, or a movie viewing. And that's just serving the internal community! We are also host to countless events serving the broader community, such as States of the Region and La Grange, performances by LATTE Theater, and meetings of other community organizations. While Dole Hall is a well-known space, the story behind its name is less common knowledge. Let's take a trip back through history, starting in the mid-1800s, as several influential Chicago-area families bonded through marriage.

In 1855, Henry M. Hooker founded one of Chicago's earliest drug stores and went on to establish the Hooker Glass and Paint

Manufacturing Company in 1888. Mr. Hooker had another notable connection, as he worked for William Wrigley, of the Wrigley Company, and provided Mr. Wrigley with the mixing vats first used to make chewing gum. In the early 1900s, Mr. Hooker's daughter, Mary, married Andrew Dole, a young entrepreneur with a vision.

Early in their marriage, Andrew founded the Dole Valve Company in 1923 in Morton Grove, Illinois. Dole's ties to his father-in-law's circle of successful business peers provided him with access to information and opportunities. The Dole Company was one of the first to produce Vernet's automotive thermostat, and the company became a powerhouse, manufacturing appliances, instruments, valves, and plumbing & heating equipment.

After a series of deals, the

“
The Mary Hooker Dole Trust allows us to continue investing where the greatest need is and creating the best experience for our residents.

Rebecca Mathis
Chief Financial Officer

”

of Support

company expanded north to Canada, and production moved to other locations in Indiana and Illinois. Eventually, the Eaton Corporation bought the US parent company, as well as the famous lock-making company of Yale & Towne, becoming Eaton Yale & Towne in 1965. In 1968, the original Dole plant in Morton Grove was shut down, having served as a top employer in the community for 45 years.

During the height of the company's success, the Doles opened their home, a prominent estate located at 220 North Euclid in Oak Park to Mary's niece, Elizabeth F. Cheney. Miss Cheney was the great-granddaughter of Chicago pioneer Philo Carpenter and the granddaughter of Henry M. Hooker. After sadly losing both her parents as a child, Elizabeth was raised by her Uncle Andrew and Aunt Mary.

The Doles were very involved with the First Congregational Church, as Mary's parents were founding members of the church in Chicago. When Plymouth Place was conceptualized in 1939 by members of the Congregational Church, Andrew Dole was undoubtedly involved in conversations; he and John Finley, one of Plymouth Place's founders and the first president of the Board of Directors, were good friends.

Andrew and Mary lived in their beautiful home with Elizabeth and were pillars of their community until they died in the late 1940s. After the Doles' death, Elizabeth inherited the property and resided there until she died in 1985. Having learned the benefit of philanthropy from her aunt and uncle, Elizabeth bequeathed the mansion to the Park District of Oak Park. Today, the elegance of

Cheney Mansion has been preserved, and it is a highly sought-after event space. The Cheney Mansion is a contributing member of the Frank Lloyd Wright Historic District and was designated a local landmark in 2004.

At the time of Mary Hooker Dole's passing in 1949 at 80, the estate was valued at \$6.8 million. Among the principal estate recipients were her niece, Elizabeth, and two other family members of an unknown relationship. Mary bequeathed stocks and bonds to twenty-one other beneficiaries; eleven were charities, and Plymouth Place was notably among them.

From the many blessings she and Andrew derived as a result of perseverance and hard work, our residents continue to benefit from the perpetuity of the Mary Hooker Dole Trust. Such generosity through the means of an unrestricted trust is an outstanding example of the impact of legacy philanthropy – it truly is the gift that keeps on giving. **PP**

“

Plymouth Place is blessed to be a recipient of the Mary Hooker Dole Trust. The annual distribution from the trust is reliable and helps us to meet our budget goals, which enables us to serve our residents and fulfill our mission.”

Doris Bryant
Board Member

”

When a Tribute Takes Flight



When Mark Harris, a former chair and member of the Plymouth Place Board of Directors, and his wife, Lori, were looking for an engaging and compassionate living environment for his mother, Martha, they looked no further than Plymouth Place. The loving decision was made to move Martha to memory care in Greg's Place, and once she was situated, there was no doubt that they made the right choice.

As Mark and Lori visited Martha, they often enjoyed the scenery and natural beauty of the grounds on the Eastern portion of the campus. They frequently visited the pond, taking in the lush foliage and various wildlife. There was always something new to explore - no two visits were ever quite the same.

As this became a favorite pastime of the Harris family, Lori, an educator by background, found that the environment was ideal for exploring and provided tranquility unlike any other place in the La Grange Park area. Lori shared, "I knew that there was something extraordinary in the backyard of Plymouth Place." She noticed that her mother-in-law became very calm as they meandered through the habitat and watched as monarch butterflies crossed their path as the breeze blew. It was not lost on her that Martha's serenity was directly impacted by the surroundings.

After a little over a year at Plymouth Place, Martha passed away; however, Lori had an idea of a unique and meaningful tribute to her mother-in-law. She was drawn to the wonder of the precious times they spent with Martha enjoying nature - especially since the environment directly connected with her life's work. In addition to serving as Assistant Teacher for the Montessori School of Western Springs, Lori established Salt Creek Butterfly Farm in 2010 to provide opportunities for the community to develop deep connections to nature. Her programs have helped countless people slow down, explore, and fall in love with butterflies, moths, worms, and honeybees.

Since Martha's passing, Lori has been instrumental in developing on the Plymouth Place campus a thriving butterfly habitat and garden, a flight house, a monarch breeding program, and initiating and maintaining two honeybee colonies. With a special love for monarchs, Lori understands how these winged animals work and the interdependency on each other. Monarch butterflies help pollinate crops and wildflowers as they make their annual migration to Mexico from the U.S. and Canada.

It is only fitting that the monarch butterfly is celebrated each year at the Plymouth Place Legacy Tea. For the past decade, in late summer, Plymouth Place has gathered to recognize valued friends and donors at the Legacy Tea. As part of that event, it has become a tradition to release monarchs in celebration of the pivotal role each member of our community, past, present, and future, plays in the long-term sustainability of Plymouth Place.



“The awesome interconnectedness of nature is something that I love to share with everyone,” explains Lori. She has had the pleasure of witnessing the impact of nature on several occasions – moments that brought joy and awe to residents and staff alike. Residents participate in the Caterpillar Adoption Program – where pop-up containers with plants and caterpillars are provided, and they keep a watchful eye on the metamorphosis process. Lori shares “I remember the time one cottage resident told me when she saw the chrysalis transform suddenly into a butterfly, she no longer needed to explain how it is possible for people to go to heaven – miracles happen, and words aren’t necessary.”

Lori spends many hours volunteering her talent for the entertainment, enjoyment, and education of residents and staff – especially those in Greg’s Place, as the neighborhood holds a special place in her heart. She has seen the effects the butterflies have on the residents both cognitively and emotionally. She recalls, “I’ll never forget the time I had each person in Greg’s Place hold a monarch out in their garden. Residents who had not said a word to me during my previous visits suddenly had stories to tell of when they chased butterflies as a child. It was astounding – even to the staff.” A resident who Lori had worked with watched monarchs flying around in the flight house and expressed to her, “These were important to me – weren’t

“Tribute...” continues on page 24



they?” One fall, during the monarch migration tagging, Lori watched as a volunteer and a resident of Greg’s Place held a monarch with their hands intertwined and released the butterfly together: “It was so moving; I will never forget it.”

Sharing the glory of nature with children also brings Lori great joy. She teaches them that nature is interconnected and dependent on other species for sustainability. Recently, Lori and her students built a beehive out of LEGOs for Plymouth Place, talking about how important honeybees are to the ecosystem. She loves connecting younger and older generations through nature and loves witnessing precious interactions between children and their grandparents. Lori shares,

“I recall a grandmother and granddaughter – both stood still and held their breath when a black swallowtail butterfly perched on the child’s hand.”

The many hours that Mark and Lori shared with Martha strolling around Plymouth Place’s grounds enabled a beautiful tribute to take flight. Our tribute to our faithful friends and donors will take place on Sunday, August 8, with our annual Legacy Tea, and we will say farewell to another generation of monarch butterflies as we connect with each other and the majesty of nature. **PP**

To learn more about the Legacy Tea, please contact Paddy Homan, Senior Director of Philanthropy at phoman@plymouthplace.org or 708.557.6678.

Snapshots of Philanthropy



Through the generous gift of an electric piano and state-of-the-art sound system, quality musical performances can be experienced in any area of Plymouth Place.



Our pond continues to bring joy and peace to visitors and wildlife alike, particularly thanks to the new aerators made possible by thoughtful benefactors.

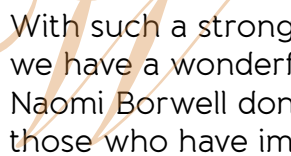


Integral to our mission is supporting the broader community. Through partnerships with Interfaith Community Partners, Pillars Community Health, Aging Care Connections, Community Memorial Foundation, the Rotary Clubs of Western Springs and La Grange, among many others, we are committed to service in the community.



We were grateful to have our annual business partner breakfast in person this year, welcoming more than 70 supporters of our mission. Pictured here with Paddy Homan are Mike and Joan O'Brien with Independence-4-Seniors.

Honoring Donors Through the Naomi Borwell Giving Societies



With such a strong tradition of giving at Plymouth Place by those who wish to pay it forward, we have a wonderful opportunity to recognize our donors with a new donor wall. Our current Naomi Borwell donor tree is full, and it will always remain a fixture of our building, honoring those who have impacted Plymouth Place over the past 26 years. Behind every name is a story and a culture of philanthropy that is a testament to the beauty of people looking out for others.

The new donor wall will be in the corridor north of the lobby, across from Dole Hall and will feature fixed and interactive components. The members of each of our Naomi Borwell Giving Societies will be recognized, thanking them for their generous contributions. Just as the past donor tree recognized those firmly rooted in our mission, the new donor wall, featuring monarch butterflies, represents the unique tradition of family philanthropy that is ever-present at Plymouth Place.

Naomi Borwell, a member of the Plymouth Place Board of Directors, established the Endowment Fund in 1995 due to a strong commitment to protecting our community's future. As a daughter of a resident, Mrs. Sarah Tudor, Naomi experienced Plymouth Place's mission to serve seniors with excellence. By living out that mission, Naomi set in motion a culture of philanthropy that continues today with our Naomi Borwell Giving Societies.

1944 Plymouth Monarch Society

In celebration of the founding of Plymouth Place, members of the 1944 Plymouth Monarch Society are recognized for cumulative and/or matured legacy gifts totaling \$100,000 or more. We are grateful for their significant support in advancing our shared mission.

Circle of Caring Society

Members of the Circle of Caring Society are those generous contributors whose cumulative giving during the calendar year is \$1,000 or more. This critical support enables our residents and staff to have access to programs and services that make living and working at Plymouth Place so special. We are thankful to the Circle of Caring members as well as all annual donors who support our community.

Plymouth Rock Society

This society honors those who have remembered Plymouth Place in their estate plans or who have a planned gift through a trust, life insurance policy, or other arrangement. These gifts give lifelong security to residents and ensure the long-term sustainability of our mission of excellence in service to others.

Loyal Donor Society

Our Loyal Donor Society recognizes contributors who have donated for five or more consecutive years. We could not do the work that we do without the ongoing help of friends like you.

Contact Paddy Homan, Senior Director of Philanthropy, at 708.557.6678 or phoman@plymouthplace.org to learn more about our societies and giving opportunities.



Plymouth Place Mission Statement

Plymouth Place is a retirement community, based on Christian values that honor the individual's right to experience life to the fullest.

Plymouth Place believes in the dignity and worth of each individual and the need to retain one's own personal identity and independence.

Plymouth Place is dedicated to providing a gracious environment on campus for individuals in their retirement years, as well as meeting the needs of the aging community at large.



Plymouth Place
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