

# MONARCH

VOLUME FOUR | EDITION TWO | WINTER 2023



## Celebrating Plymouth Place Pillars 2023

### INSIDE:

**An Alfresco Act  
of Giving Back**

**Person-Centered Care:  
A Holistic Approach**

**Coghill Golf:  
From Legacy to Lounge**



Exemplary living for generations.

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Nicholas J. Lynn  
Board Chair



Jay Biere  
Chief Executive Officer

## Board Chair and CEO Welcome

It's a pleasure to welcome you to the latest issue of *Monarch* magazine! This edition celebrates the remarkable individuals who make Plymouth Place truly special. In these pages, we proudly present what it takes to be a pillar among our team. You'll learn what makes them stand out and how they shine so brightly in their roles. You'll also read about residents who embody the very essence of our mission, vision, and values by giving their time, treasure, and talent.

At Plymouth Place, we believe that true success is not measured solely by accolades and achievements but by our impact on the lives of those we serve. This issue of *Monarch* is a testament to the incredible people who exemplify this philosophy.

At the core of our organization is "person-centered care." Learn what that means and how it ensures the well-being and happiness of residents. Our team's unwavering care and commitment are inspiring and nothing short of the highest quality.

Additionally, we learn from residents who draw inspiration from various sources—their family history, love of food, and shared experiences—and, in turn, inspire us all. These individuals remind us that life is a journey of discovery and growth. Meet the boundless generosity of those who offer their helping hands to our extended community with thoughtful compassion.

As you delve into these stories, may you find inspiration in the actions of these extraordinary people. They remind us that the kindness, dedication, and love we share with others genuinely define our legacy.

Thank you for joining us in celebrating the amazing individuals who contribute to making Plymouth Place an exemplary community. We wish you all a wonderful holiday season. **PP**

# Message from the Residents' Council President



Art Grundke  
Residents' Council  
President

To coin a phrase, "Positive Culture" is an attitude I sensed early in my experience at Plymouth Place. Where does it come from, and why do I feel that way about Plymouth Place? Among many reasons, it's the employees' genuine care and compassion for residents and coworkers. The Pillar Awards recognize those employees who exemplify this positive culture. You'll meet the 2023 award recipients in this edition of *Monarch* and see how these team members make a significant contribution to the positive culture at Plymouth Place.

As a Residents' Council member, I was invited to enjoy a late afternoon Chicago River Cruise celebration in late August to honor our 2023 Pillar Award recipients and to thank our corporate partners. It was a nice way to get to know everyone better. While waiting to board the boat, I noticed my shoelace was untied. Seeking a place to sit down to tie my shoe before falling on my face, I navigated my walker to an empty bench, and before I could sit down, a smiling face approached me. She asked, "May I tie your shoelace for you?" I later learned her name was Alicia Jackson, one of our featured Pillar honorees. That is positive culture!

Cheryl Maples, formerly Concierge Manager and now People Services Coordinator, also demonstrates what it means to be a Pillar Award winner. My wife and I planned a trip to visit our daughter in Florida, and I approached Cheryl to arrange our transportation to and from Midway Airport. We had some unusual travel needs, and she accepted our special assignment with a smile and perhaps a little trepidation. She made the necessary arrangements with a very specialized transportation company and gave me her private cell number, just in case. Our trip down to Florida went smoothly despite a horribly early start. When it was evident that our return flight would be very late, I called Cheryl. She was already in touch with the airline and the transporter and continued to monitor the situation until we landed four hours late. She connected us to the transporter and guided us back to Plymouth Place. There, standing at the front door at 11 p.m. was smiling Cheryl. That is positive culture!

Now, whenever I say or think "positive culture," I think of Alicia, Cheryl, and all of us! **PP**



# Ahead of Schedule, Under Budget, and Open

It's exciting to see how far The Arboretum Villas at Plymouth Place has come. In just over a year, we've gone from breaking ground to planning a grand opening. In fact, this beautiful new expansion is under budget, a full three months ahead of schedule, and almost sold out.

"This really is unheard of with a project of this magnitude," said Jay Biere, CEO of Plymouth Place. "We owe a special thank you to everyone who contributed to our success. This includes the Village of La Grange Park, special donors, corporate sponsors, the Plymouth Place Board of Directors, our leadership team, and residents who continue to be very supportive of this expansive project. And, of course, we couldn't have done it without our fantastic construction, landscaping, and design teams."



*The hardworking and dedicated team of Pepper Construction puts the finishing touches on the Center for Healthy Living, November 2023*



*Nitsa Foundos,  
Senior Director of  
Sales and Marketing*

"We really are over the moon," said Nitsa Foundos, Senior Director of Sales and Marketing. "In record time, we have sold over 97% of our Villas, and new residents can't wait to be part of this new community. In fact, almost half are scheduled to move in before Christmas! We are excited to welcome and watch them enjoy all our new amenities—from the gorgeous aquatics and exercise centers to our phenomenal new restaurant."

*"Ahead of Schedule..." continues on page 06*



*No small detail was left untouched with Plymouth Place's new addition, including signage for the new Thirty North restaurant*



*New resident of Plymouth Place  
Dave Grimes was one of the  
first to move into the brand  
new Arboretum Villas*

## Ahead of the Curve

"Plymouth Place has always been ahead of the curve," said Biere. "With The Arboretum Villas, we are catering to a whole new audience of people who are active and engaged. With their input, we are redefining the retirement experience in an unmatched setting just steps from downtown La Grange."

As proof of the innovation, The Wall Street Journal featured The Arboretum Villas in an article on the future of senior housing. The article also highlighted up-and-coming communities in San Francisco and Houston. "We were really honored to have the opportunity to showcase our community on a national stage," said Biere.

## Amenities and Events Galore

With over 100 events and activities a month, The Arboretum Villas offers a resort lifestyle. Nestled in a 17-acre arboretum, the new campus features dining options, pickle ball and bocce ball courts, a four-season greenhouse, golf simulator, a scenic pond, a green-roof garden complete with pergolas, walking paths, grilling areas, and a putting green.

"Overall, I could not be happier," said new resident Dave Grimes. "First, the villa is better than I had ever imagined. My family was here helping to move me in, and they were all so impressed with not only the villa but also the whole complex. Everyone has been so helpful and welcoming. I look forward to spending my next chapter here for many years. Thank you for all you have done to make this place so special." **PP**

# An Alfresco Act of Giving Back

The First Congregational Churches were proud to support Plymouth Place in its early years as a home for retired ministers and then for retirees. It is little wonder today that many church members now live at Plymouth Place. Living in Western Springs for many years, Jan McDermid knew the importance of Plymouth Place in her community.

Jan's labor of love for Plymouth Place, which she now calls home, goes back to 1975 when she was asked to join the Board of Directors. "Little would I dream that 40-plus years later, I would be living there. I'm very proud of Plymouth Place's growth. I often think of those that have gone before us, such as Nancy Dixon, Naomi Borwell, Sally Hadley, and John and Sybil Gilbert, who would be thrilled with our progress."

For Jan, the spirit of Plymouth Place is lived out each day by its residents and staff, working together to serve the community's needs. If there is one area that Jan is passionate about, it is the culinary team. "Every day, they surprise us with their culinary skills, preparing a variety of delicious food, served with a smile," said Jan. "This team is led by our exceptional Executive Chef, Lily Corpus, whom I have had the pleasure of knowing and watching grow over the years."

For Chef Lily, her journey at Plymouth Place has allowed her to grow as a person and with her team. "I feel blessed with the opportunity to create so many culinary

experiences each day for residents. Everything we do, we do with love for residents," expressed Chef Lily. "I have made new friends with many residents and staff, who are like family. Plymouth has allowed me to develop personally and professionally, and I have been given the opportunity to advance my education with a scholarship." She continued, "As I look to the future with Thirty North and the outdoor kitchen with its incredible pizza oven, I realize the amazing transformation in Culinary Services."

Recognizing this important time at Plymouth Place, Jan reached out to the Office of Philanthropy to get a greater sense of how she could help. She said, "As Chairman of the Governing Board when we were building our current building, I was thrilled when a close friend, Nancy Dixon, agreed to fund the Dixon Garden in memory of her mother-in-law. We all loved eating lunch or dinner outdoors amidst the flowers and trees. I wanted to honor the culinary team and echo Nancy's dream with the gift of an outdoor kitchen on our beautiful campus, located in the Dixon Garden North area."

One person's desire to pay it forward in honor of Culinary Services will bring much joy to many for years to come. The new outdoor kitchen at Plymouth Place will open in the spring of 2024!



Jan donated using her Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from her IRA, a tax-effective way to support a cause. QCDs allow donors to instruct their IRA administrator to direct up to \$100,000 per year of their Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) to qualified 501(c)(3) charities. The QCD not only counts toward meeting the donor's Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) but is also excluded from the donor's taxable income.

“ I feel blessed with the opportunity to create so many culinary experiences each day for residents. Everything we do, we do with love for residents,” expressed Chef Lily. ”

*"Outdoor Kitchen..." continues on page 08*





*Resident Jan McDermid and Executive Chef Lily Corpus bonded over shared culinary passions*

"Using one's RMD is an effective way to begin the process of generational wealth transfer for donors and their families," explained Paddy Homan, Senior Director of Philanthropy at Plymouth Place. "It's a win-win option for donors who want to support non-profits in a tax-advantaged way."

Consult with your financial advisor or CPA to discover how you can designate beneficiaries of your IRA assets and other tax-deferred accounts to meet your goals of caring for loved ones and supporting causes and charities you care most about.

"Our office is interested in hearing where your philanthropic passions lie," Homan continued. "Just like Jan, we can help you to maximize the joy of donor-giving while meeting an unmet need, and that's a great thing!" **PP**



The Office of Philanthropy can be reached at (708) 588-6940 or [PlymouthPlaceGiving.org](https://PlymouthPlaceGiving.org).



# Person-Centered Care: A Holistic Approach

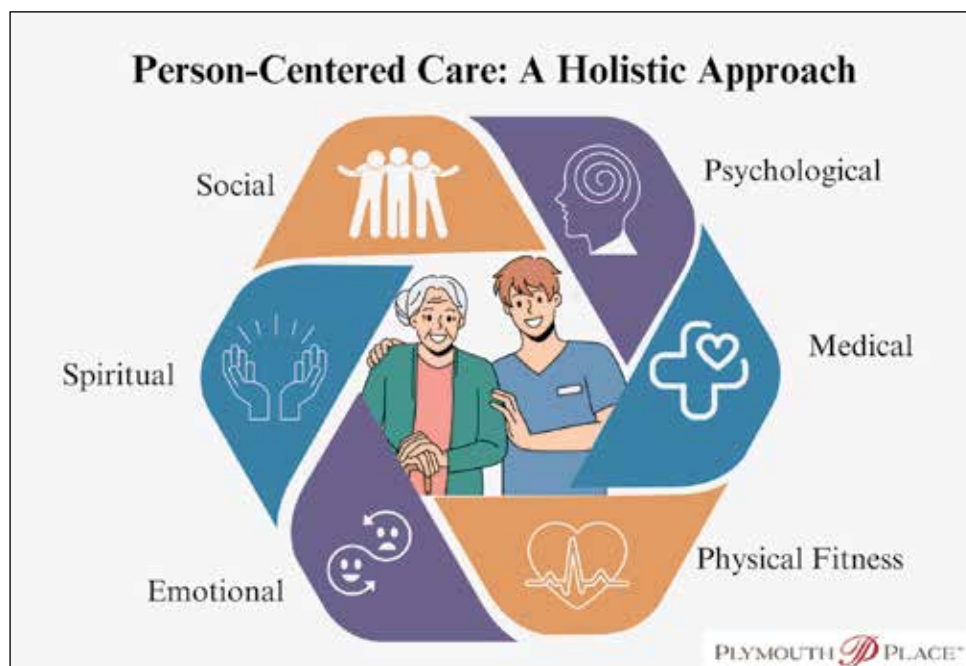
What makes Plymouth Place Memory Care stand out from other memory care communities in the area? "At its core is our mission of taking a Person-Centered Approach, focusing on understanding and meeting each person's unique and individual needs," said Nicole Hibbard, LNHA, Experience Director for Assisted Living and Memory Care at Plymouth Place. "Plymouth Place is committed to person-centered care and strives for it in every resident interaction."

At Plymouth Place, recognizing that each person is unique and should be treated with dignity, respect, and empathy, with a focus on their overall well-being, comfort, and quality of life is at the core of everything they do. By prioritizing the individual needs, preferences, and values of the care recipient, the approach goes beyond just addressing the medical or physical aspects. It emphasizes a holistic approach, considering emotional, psychological, social, and spiritual dimensions of care, and encourages adapting the care approach to the individual.

Plymouth Place provides person-centered care in many ways, including individualized resident care plans, shared decision-making, emotional support, holistic care, flexibility, and adaptability in care plans.

"Person-centered care is crucial because it allows us to recognize and honor the uniqueness of each individual resident," said Jay Biere, Plymouth Place CEO.

Person-centered care is best illustrated by the experience of Abby Lombardi's mother at Plymouth Place. "My mother, Aileen Jensen, had a very active mind and body," Abby recalled. "When I was looking to move her to a memory care community closer to me in the western suburbs of Chicago, I looked at a number of places. I chose Plymouth Place because of its active programming for those struggling with memory loss. Mom thrived at Plymouth Place, thanks in part to team members Joseph (Molino) and Amy (Kolovitz). They are not only exceptionally talented creatively, but they have immense compassion for the residents they are serving."



*"Person-Centered Care..." continues on page 10*



*Teepa Snow chats with Nicole Hibbard, Senior Director of Assisted Living and Memory Care, at the Champion Course Teacher Certification in North Carolina*

"In addition to exercise and movement classes, music performances, and birthday parties, which happen on a regular basis, they plan cooking classes, book club meetings, and wonderful art projects." Abby continued, "For a recent art project, Mom painted the background of her own canvas and then made fall leaf prints on the canvas using fall leaves that she painted with different color paints. It was beautiful. Joseph and Lisa always have the residents show the rest of the group their finished artwork for claps and kudos. Plymouth Place was just the right place for Mom to spend the last 15 months of her life."

"One of the big ways Plymouth Place focuses on person-centered care is with **Teepa Snow training**," added Hibbard. "In short, Plymouth invests our time and resources so our team can go through this important

“

This expands the person-centered approach even further, taking it beyond just addressing physical health to encompassing mind-body-spirit, ensuring that the resident receives care that respects their values, beliefs, and emotional needs, ultimately enhancing their overall quality of life.

– Nicole Hibbard

”

Plymouth Place is educating its staff on **\*Teepa Snow's Positive Approach to Care® (PAC)** fundamentals for residents, funded through the Elvira Teuffer Scholarship Fund.

PAC is an internationally recognized training program that emphasizes a person-centered, compassionate approach to caring for individuals in all stages of brain changes. *"The fundamentals of Teepa Snow's Positive Approach to Care® allow us to reduce the stress of care partners and residents to help maintain their highest level of function,"* Hibbard said.

Teepa Snow PAC training focuses on understanding brain changes, identifying retained skills, helping maintain independence, identifying factors, and working with care partners to create person-centered care scenarios, to name a few.

At Plymouth Place, weekly education is held for care partners across all departments, including housekeeping, therapy, resident assistants, nurses, and life enrichment. This allows all Plymouth Place staff to put residents first.

"By becoming care partners instead of simply staff, Plymouth Place helps residents live their best lives with dignity and respect while also maintaining independence and freedom of choice," said Hibbard.

training that promotes respectful, person-centered care for individuals through all aspects of brain change to enhance their quality of life."

"In our pursuit of whole person care," Hibbard added, "the integration of music is a key element, further guided by the Teepa Snow training, our relationship with the chaplains, and partnership with the Life Enrichment team." Hibbard continued, "Using tools, such as the new donor-funded Steinway piano, will be an amazing asset to Plymouth's music programs as we seek to enhance the daily lives of residents."

### **Spiritual Wellness and the Whole Person — A Holistic Approach to Resident Engagement**

"Those living in a life plan community like Plymouth Place have diverse needs and backgrounds, and person-centered care tailors services to meet each individual's desires," said Biere.

By incorporating chaplaincy and spiritual wellness, Plymouth Place provides emotional support and holistic care to its community, bringing a comprehensive and compassionate approach that promotes the well-being and dignity of each resident. Chaplains offer spiritual

support to residents, their families, and staff through listening, community building, life transitions, and spiritual guidance. Such an approach to spiritual well-being may or may not include traditional religious resources such as worship.

"Spiritual care is defined according to the residents' and families' terms," explains Rev. Christina Vosteen, one of Plymouth Place's two full-time chaplains. She continued, "This expands the person-centered approach even further, taking it beyond just addressing physical health to encompassing mind-body-spirit, ensuring that the resident receives care that respects their values, beliefs, and emotional needs, ultimately enhancing their overall quality of life."

One of the ways Rev. Christina supports the Memory Care community is through weekly conversations based on letters from readers of the *Chicago Tribune* column, Ask Amy. During a recent meeting, a conversation began about hosting Thanksgiving dinner. "This triggered a flow of memories for the residents, which otherwise may not have been accessible," Rev. Christina explained. "From baking a pumpkin pie to listing favorite dishes such as green bean casserole and oyster dressing, family relationships and holiday experiences were all brought to the forefront of the present."

She shared, "Ask Amy has become a tool for connecting past feelings to today. It makes them tangible right now, and re-experiencing these emotions re-connects the mind-body-spirit to today."

Another aspect of the circle time Rev. Christina has noticed is the camaraderie it has built between residents. "It has deepened purpose and meaning for them as they are called upon to help someone else solve a problem," she noted. "It puts them in the position to be a helper instead of needing help."



*"The Hoover" is well-loved by Plymouth Place residents, providing friendship and another level of person-centered care, and he is Rev. Christina's constant companion*

*"Person-Centered Care..." continues on page 12*



*Plymouth Place staff continues to excel in their donor-funded education with Positive Approach to Care (PAC) certification training*

*Back row, left to right:*

*Alicia Jackson – Lead Resident Assistant,*

*Joseph Molino – Life Enrichment Coordinator Memory Care,*

*Rebekah Wilson – PAC Mentor,*

*Nicole Hibbard – Senior Director of Assisted Living and Memory Care,*

*David Leamer – Clinic Concierge Manager,*

*Front row, left to right:*

*Lisa Kolovitz – Life Enrichment Coordinator Memory Care,*

*Melanie Bunn – PAC Mentor,*

*Jorge Winandy – Registered Nurse Memory Care*

Speaking of help, someone else who plays a crucial role on the Spiritual Care team of Plymouth Place is The Hoover, the official name of the canine co-chaplain. The black lab has been Rev. Christina's right-hand pup for just over a year, and Memory Care is one of his top visiting locations. He has regularly scheduled interactions with residents, and The Hoover even makes personal, group, and special visits as requested. "Dogs sense and respond to human emotion, and The Hoover knows when to offer comfort to residents. He's become a companion here and part of the Spiritual Wellness team, part of the community," Rev. Christina said.

"Dogs can provide valuable support and companionship for those in Memory Care," Hibbard reiterated.

"Interacting with a dog can stimulate cognitive functions and reduce agitation, and at Plymouth Place, we've seen many residents living with brain changes respond very well to Hoover."

"He brings smiles, prompts discussions, brings back memories, is truly non-judgmental, and loves unconditionally. The residents ask for The Hoover before they ask for me!" Rev. Christina laughed.

Biere concluded, "Person-centered care is essential for several reasons. It can lead to better health outcomes and increasing patient satisfaction. When individuals receive care that is respectful, compassionate, and tailored to their needs, it leads to a more positive and satisfying healthcare experience." He elaborated, "Better communication between healthcare providers and residents leads to a better understanding of treatment options and improved shared decision-making, which builds trust, dignity, and respect—the fundamental principles of person-centered care." **PP**



# Coghill Golf: From Legacy to Lounge



*Taren Coghill, (center), her daughter Kelli Calzaretta, and son-in-law John Calzaretta visit the Coghill Family Golf Lounge at the Arboretum Villas*

## Meet Taren

Taren Coghill, the daughter of Arthur and Dorie Johnson, was born in Chicago on the mild spring afternoon of May 18, 1948. Taren grew up in the south suburbs of Chicago alongside her younger brother, Ted.

Taren was incredibly active throughout her adolescent years. She excelled at Bloom High School, where she was the cheer squad captain, an avid swimmer, and a prom queen. On a blind date in 1967, she met her future husband, Richard "Dick" Coghill. It was love at first sight. In March 1968, they were married and soon blessed with the arrival of their daughter, Kelli. Nearly three years later, they welcomed their son, Clint. Taren and Dick built a home in Orland Park, Illinois, to raise their family.

Between the birth of Kelli and Clint, Taren experienced odd and painful sensations in her body, especially in her hands and wrists. As time progressed, the pain worsened to the point that she could not get out of bed in the morning. After numerous trips to the doctor, she was diagnosed with severe rheumatoid arthritis at the age of 21.

The following seven years for Taren resulted in countless hand, wrist, knee, and foot surgeries. Needless to say, life was challenging for her. Dick helped out as much as possible while also balancing running Silver Lake Country Club, the family business.

Taren's rheumatoid pain was, unfortunately, not the most significant hardship of her life. On a rainy day in late November of 1990, Dick, then 44, was surveying roof repairs at Silver Lake when he tragically fell off his ladder and suffered a traumatic brain injury. As a result of the fall, Dick was incapacitated and required 24-hour care.

After moving around to multiple nursing centers in the Chicago area, Taren decided to call on doctors and advisors at The Mayo Clinic. She sold their 20-year-old home and moved to Rochester, Minnesota. Taren did her best to care for Dick on her own but soon realized she needed help from in-home caregivers.

Instead of relying on the insurance agencies to select Dick's caregivers, Taren decided it was time to take the matter into her own hands. She formed her own health care agency, Coghill Care. Day in and day out, Taren tirelessly cared for Dick until his passing in 2005 at the age of 59.



*Taren Coghill enjoys Vail in early 2020*

*"Coghill..." continues on page 14*

In November 2020, at the peak of COVID-19, Taren had a severe fall, leading to a subsequent ischemic stroke. The stroke caused her to be mostly paralyzed on her left side, and coupled with her rheumatoid and joint damage, Taren required a higher level of care. She had flipped from being a caregiver to the one needing care.

With Taren leading the charge, her family began their search for her new home in the spring of 2021.

"Between hearing great things about Plymouth Place and touring the fabulous facility, it was a no-brainer. Plymouth Place was the perfect fit," said Kelli Calzaretta, Taren's daughter. In late November of 2021, Taren moved to Plymouth Place and has enjoyed her new home ever since. "Whether visiting with one of her seven grandchildren, playing a game of bingo or trivia, or enjoying a glass of wine while listening to live music in the pub, she keeps a packed social calendar," Kelli remarked. "We are thankful to have found a new home at Plymouth Place. The staff at Plymouth and their level of care provide comfort and ease for someone who needs it after such a trying life."

Plymouth Place is honored to carry on Taren, Dick, and the Coghill golf legacy with the addition of the Coghill Family Golf Lounge in the new Arboretum Villa expansion, now open. Reiterated Kelli, "After nearly 100 years in the golf industry, we are so excited to be able to share our passion for golf with the residents. We hope the residents and staff enjoy the lounge for many years to come!"

## **Teeing Up to Health: How Golf Can Enhance Your Wellbeing**

Life at Plymouth Place is a bit like strolling down a pristine fairway, surrounded by impeccably manicured green areas and delightful clubhouse amenities. Thanks to the new Coghill Family Golf Lounge, Plymouth Place will continue to enhance residents' physical and mental health. Supported by the insights of "The Strength and Balance Study" from the University of Southampton, England, and The University of Southern California, this sophisticated space leverages the comprehensive benefits of golf.

The Strength and Balance Study, taken over two years, revealed that the physical demands of a round of golf are comparable, if not greater than, traditional fitness activities like gym workouts or yoga. Study participants showed improved strength, flexibility, and balance. Supporting data also revealed that participants received mental health benefits from the social interaction of playing the game. "Even the World Health Organization recommends and supports golf as a strength and balance exercise to fight inactivity!" said David Leamer, Clinic Concierge Manager at Plymouth Place, enthusiastically.

The Coghill Family Golf Lounge at Plymouth Place marks a strategic stride toward wellness initiatives that are not only beneficial but also enjoyable and unique. Leamer explained, "Our objective is to make a 'hole-in-one,' embracing programs that cater to both physical health and mental well-being through the enriching experience of golf. Thank you to the Coghill family for their gift of the lounge and for enhancing the quality of life in our community." **PP**



*David Leamer, Clinic Concierge Manager, enjoys the golf simulator in the new Coghill Family Golf Lounge*

# Pillars of Plymouth Place

"Recognizing employees for their hard work and dedication is essential to maintaining a positive culture," affirmed Dr. Martha A. Klima-Gamble, Senior Director of People Services for Plymouth Place. In 2018, Plymouth Place implemented the Studer Group's "Pillars of Excellence," helping to guide healthcare organizations in their quest for excellence. The Studer Group (now part of Huron) is a consulting firm which helps to guide healthcare organizations to improve their performance in delivering the highest quality patient care, patient satisfaction, and overall operational efficiency. "In short," reiterated Klima-Gamble, "Pillar recipients are encouraged to continue striving toward excellence in all they do for residents, families, and fellow employees."

This model drives Plymouth Place toward success today and ensures a strong foundation for years to come. "Award winners are people who come to Plymouth Place every day in a spirit of service and treat the residents and staff like family," said

Jay Biere, Plymouth Place's CEO. "This is why I introduced the Pillars of Excellence format to Plymouth. I have used it in previous roles and have seen it work firsthand," Biere explained.

Each year, Plymouth Place recognizes one of its employees in each of these five categories:

**Quality** – A strong work ethic and intrinsic motivation are the hallmarks of Pillars of Excellence honorees. They do their jobs exceptionally well, are inspired to work beyond the status quo, and regularly exceed their goals.

**People** – These associates demonstrate a positive attitude and encourage those around them daily. Their presence at Plymouth Place benefits residents and other team members alike, as their approach brings out the best in everyone they meet.

**Service** – Going above and beyond to ensure the highest satisfaction for Plymouth Place residents, these associates are attentive, patient, and proactive as they do their work. They are mission-focused and service-driven.

**Stewardship** – These associates approach their commitments and obligations with excellence. High standards are apparent in their work ethic, approach to peers, and especially toward residents.



*Plymouth Place  
Senior Director of People Services  
Dr. Martha A. Klima-Gamble*

**Growth** – Always willing to help residents and their colleagues, these associates are creative, organized, adaptable, and happy to take on new roles as needed. They see growth opportunities and accept challenges with excitement.

Meet some of Plymouth Place's 2023 Pillar Award recipients:

*"Pillars..." continues on page 16*





*Jay Biere, CEO, and Plymouth Place RN Nina Willman at the 2023 Pillar Awards Ceremony*



*Gionte Richardson, Driver, always has a smile for Plymouth Place residents!*

**Nina Willmann**, an RN at Plymouth Place since 2014, was "pleasantly surprised" when she won the 2023 Pillar Award for Quality. "This award represents recognition of the efforts and dedication to the high standards that I hold myself to here at Plymouth Place," she explained. "It has given validation to my efforts and motivated me to continue striving toward excellence and providing the best service possible."

Nina spoke highly of the team at Plymouth Place, recognizing that Pillar Awards are possible for all! "I feel that everyone here works very hard to provide residents the best environment and care possible," she remarked. "I encourage everyone to make their best effort to strive for consistent excellence and quality care. It will be noticed!"

**Geonte Richardson**, Plymouth Place driver since August 2021, received the 2023 award in the People category. He noted that winning the award has positively impacted his work interactions. "When we go on a trip, Jay introduces me and tells everybody I'm a Pillar Award winner, and when they get off the bus, everybody wants to shake my hand." He laughed, "I wish every employee were a Pillar Award winner so they could feel the excitement!"

But Richardson did have advice for those wanting to earn the award. "Sometimes, people think going out of their way will take a lot out of them, but it's the simple things that help." Geonte advised, "Just try to do that little extra step."

Going the extra step runs in the family; Geonte's Auntie Elsie traveled from Alabama to Chicago to attend the Pillar Awards because she was so proud. "My family is big on celebrating when people excel at their jobs," Geonte explained. "They come out if you're doing good!"

“ Just try to do that little extra step. – Geonte Richardson ”





*Shavonne Gadberry,  
Security and Concierge,  
welcomes everyone  
to Plymouth Place*

**Shavonne Gadberry**, Security and Concierge at Plymouth Place, was given the Plymouth Place Pillar Award for Service within her first year as an employee. "It represents hard work and determination," Shavonne said. She shared that she likes how other staff can depend on her, both in and outside her departments. "And it's also really about the residents," she pointed out.

"I set a goal to accomplish things because I don't like just quitting." She explained, "I feel like I got to the finish line, but there's still more to go. There's still more runs." In other words, just because she won the award, Shavonne isn't slowing down. "I'm going to keep giving my all!" she said excitedly.



*Edith Almanzan, Executive Dining Room Manager, serves resident Nancy Conforti and guest Associate Minister Katherine Pershey at a First Congregational Church of Western Springs Luncheon*

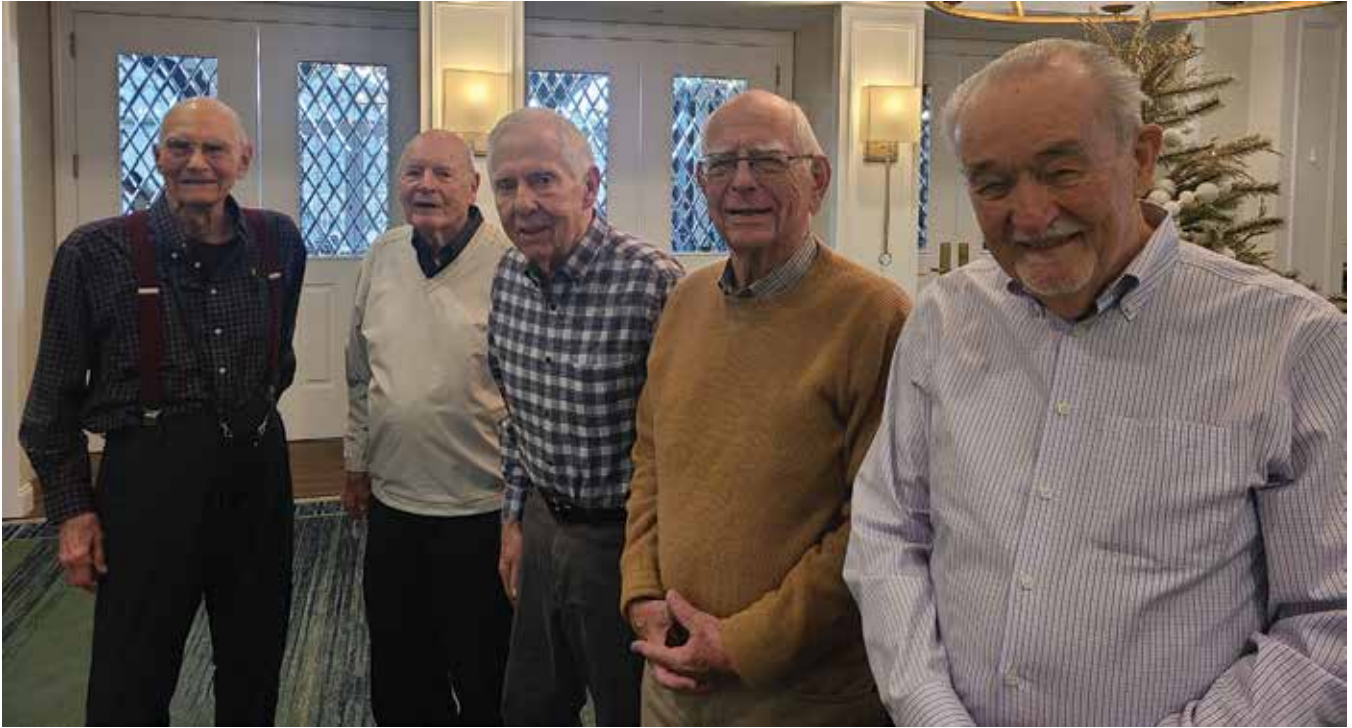
**Edith Almanzan**, Executive Dining Room Manager, expressed that the Pillar Award for Stewardship "...represents all my hard work and dedication to Plymouth Place for the last 18 years." Edith has built beautiful relationships in her many years as a team member. She remarked, "The residents have shown me how proud they are [of me] by expressing it not only with words, smiles, and hugs but also with their beautiful congratulations cards and letters." Edith will pass her knowledge on to others. "[The award] has inspired me to continue training new staff and co-workers and to show them how great it is to work here."

"Many Pillar Award winners see it as an opportunity for growth and go on to apply for a scholarship," acknowledged Klima-Gamble.

"The Elvira Teuffer Scholarship Fund, supported by residents, is another unique way we recognize employees." She continued, "Like the Pillar Awards, scholarships give our employees a sense of purpose. It encourages them to further their education, training, and skill development. Plymouth Place Scholarships and the Pillar Awards are powerful tools for fostering a culture of learning and development, promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion." **PP**



# History Buffs



*Plymouth Place's proud history buffs. Left to right: Hank Bode, Val Price, Bill Peterson, Frank Pierson and Peter Devlin*

During a chance meeting in 2020, Plymouth Place residents Frank Pierson, Hank Bode, Bill Peterson, and Val Price created the History Buffs, Vets and Friends group in the Plymouth Place Skyline Lounge.

"We were thinking of those interested in military history," remarked Frank, who has lived at Plymouth Place since 2019. "It just took off from there to include people who have a love of history regardless of whether they have ever served in the military."

Today, the Plymouth Place History Buffs, Vets, and Friends Committee is comprised of Frank, Val, Hank, Bill, and Peter Devlin, with support from

Angela Pierson and Kathryn Price. The group meets twice a month and has approximately 15 to 20 regular attendees.

"We've had some incredible stories shared by both men and women," said Hank. "The account of resident Denise Stehman and her journey to America from France during World War II with her cousin was most compelling."

The group has also enjoyed other presentations, including Peter's service as a Merchant Marine in the Atlantic, Frank's collection of military aircraft and his attendance at the air show, Val's experiences in the WWII Ghost Army and the Korean War, and Hank's talk on the

importance of submarines. Another very interesting presentation was Tom Allen's reorganization of the Defense Ministry in 1942. "It was so insightful," said Bill, who heads the promotional aspect of this historical committee.

The establishment of our country, state by state, Civil War battlefields, national and state parks, immigration, transportation, aviation, and more are all areas with potential for study and presentation. The History Buffs, Vets and Friends group has also enjoyed watching historical documentaries and movies, often followed by discussion.

Amidst the passion for history, a strong bond and sense of camaraderie has flourished within the group. "We just enjoy people's company and hearing their stories. We continue to learn from each other," reflected Val.

The History Buffs, Vets and Friends at Plymouth Place exemplify the importance of creating spaces that foster meaningful connections and intellectual exploration, serving as a testament to the philanthropic value of supporting environments that encourage reflection on life's journey and the enduring bonds formed within communities.

If you have a story or an interesting movie or documentary that would be a great topic for the History Buffs, Vets and Friends to consider, please get in touch with Life Enrichment at Plymouth Place at (708) 354-0340.

**PP**



*Frank Pierson,  
5th Cavalry Division Army  
Second Lieutenant, Japan*



*Bill Peterson, 1952, Munich,  
Army Human Resources  
Quarter Master*



*Hank Bode,  
U.S. Naval Ensign,  
Washington D.C.*



*Peter Devlin in 1964 at his  
graduation from USMMA*



*Young Denise Stehman arrives from  
France at Boston aboard the  
American Export liner Exochorda  
bound for Chicago*





*Staff of Premier Landscaping enjoy  
Sights and Sips on our Corporate Cruise*

*Left to right:*

*Derek Postma, Jordan Streveler, Joe Christian and Mike Barcelos*

# Snapshots of Philanthropy



*Rev. Christina Vosteen  
during the traditional releasing  
of the monarch butterflies  
at the annual Legacy Tea reception  
held on August 13, 2023*



*Plymouth Place resident and Veteran Raymond Hill at the  
Veterans Appreciation Ceremony. We give thanks!*





*On September 19, 2023, residents of Plymouth Place, along with local junior high students and representatives from the Constance Morris House, came together in the Education Room of Plymouth Place to assemble purple ribbon pins to be distributed in October to raise awareness about Domestic Violence Prevention Month*



*2023 Monarch Legacy Award winner Mike McCartney of Silver Age Homes with his wife, Jana, and daughter, Maya, at the August 13, 2023, Annual Legacy Tea reception*

*"Snapshots..." continues on page 22*



*Plymouth Place Travel Group Trip to Ireland – seen here at the  
9/11 Memorial Park in Kinsale, Co. Cork, Ireland*

# Snapshots of Philanthropy

*Presenters of the  
2023 Annual Financial Roundtable*

*Left to right:*

Bob Hanson, Jr.

– CFP Vermillion Financial Advisors, Inc.;

Mary Pat Flaherty

– Estate Planning & Estate and Trust Administration;

Robert Vear – Agent, Registered Representative NYLIFE;

Karin Pranglely

– Sr. VP & Wealth Planner of  
Brown Brothers Harriman & Co.;

Don Vear – Agent, Registered Representative NYLIFE;

Paddy Homan

– Sr. Director of Philanthropy, Plymouth Place







*Plymouth Place is proud to celebrate the Grand Opening of the new donor-funded salon located on the Health Care Center!*

*Left to right:*

*Cassidy Barth – Director of Nursing,  
Mike McCartney – Silver Age Homes,  
Sharon Andersen – Salon Manager,  
Cheri Boublis – Senior Director of Hospitality,  
Heintje Miranda – Health Center Administrator,  
and Jay Biere – CEO*



*2023 Monarch Legacy Award winner  
Bill O'Meara with his family at the  
August 13, 2023, Legacy Tea reception  
Left to right: Kathleen Code, Nancy Molidor,  
Elizabeth McMillan, and Mike O'Meara*

# Books for Students



*Plymouth Place employees receive books for their children from P2H2 Committee co-chairs, Sue Gelderman and Sue Johnston*

The Plymouth Place Helping Hands (P2H2) Books for Students project, which focuses on fostering a love of reading for students, had a tremendously successful event this past May. Over 70 Plymouth Place residents donated more than \$2,000 to purchase over 130 books for the preschool through 8th-grade children of Plymouth Place staff.

"Giving books to employees for their children is an investment in future generations," said Jay Biere, Plymouth Place CEO. "It nurtures a love for learning, fuels imagination, sparks creativity, and opens up a world of endless possibilities."

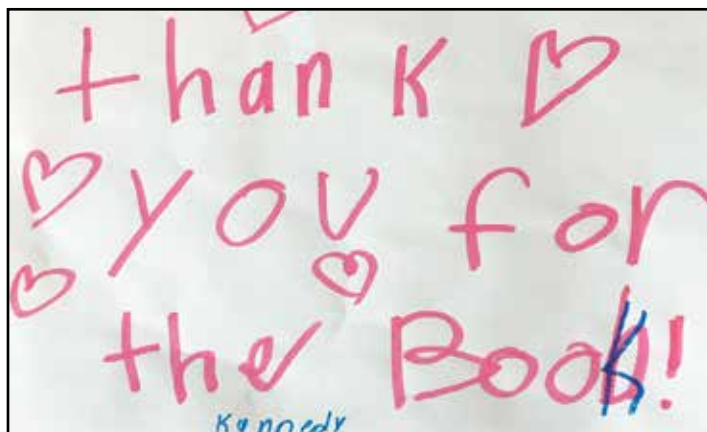
Books were also given to students who participated in the La Grange LeaderShop after-school programs. LeaderShop is an organization that "empowers youth to become community-minded individuals through diverse programs that foster confidence, knowledge, and leadership," according to their website.

All selected books were either recent award winners or award-nominated children's books and young-adult fiction. The P2H2 Committee consulted with parents, children, award lists, and librarians and previewed all the books before making their final choices. The focus of the books featured diverse characters and settings with themes of strength, perseverance, caring, friendship, creativity, inclusiveness, and problem-solving. Plymouth Place residents wrote personal notes to accompany every book and tucked an original bookmark inside each book.

The P2H2 Committee visited The LeaderShop after-school programs, where students also designed their own bookmarks and enjoyed reading the notes from Plymouth Place residents. Students then listened to a brief book-talk and enthusiastically chose their books.

"The project was an absolutely overwhelming joy," said Sue Gelderman, one of two co-chairs of the P2H2 Committee.

"We want to continue the Books for Students project for years to come," said Sue Johnston, co-chair. "The Plymouth Place Helping Hands Committee and the residents want to keep providing more reading opportunities for students." **PP**



*A thank you note from a LeaderShop student who received a gift book from the P2H2 Committee*



# Cultivating Kindness Through Philanthropy

One of the most soul-invigorating parts of my role at Plymouth Place is to sit with the scholarship committee and review the applications of those staff seeking to better themselves and their families and advance their education. During the recent application review, several team members showed a strong desire to improve themselves for the benefit of their own families and the residents of Plymouth Place. One RN applicant, currently working as a CNA, mentioned in her application, *"Plymouth Place deserves to have a nurse that cares for the residents as their own family because that is what Plymouth is all about, caring for our family."*

As I sat in this scholarship review meeting, I was reminded that such events don't just happen miraculously. The Elvira Teuffer Scholarship Fund provides these life-changing opportunities for our team.

Donors put their confidence in institutions like Plymouth Place to live out its mission while fulfilling their philanthropic desires. For this to occur, Plymouth Place has its own institutional Pillars of Excellence to serve the greater good. The essence of these pillars is based on the values on which we were created. Indeed, some of the Pillars Awards winners were also scholarship applicants, and what joy it is to see them grow in their learning!

The exceptional Plymouth Place team, Residents' Council, Board of Directors, volunteers, residents, and colleagues radiate adaptability and positivity, inspiring all those around them. By supporting and uplifting one another, we can cultivate a culture of kindness and compassion that spreads throughout our homes and broader community. As we envision our mission in the 21st century and prepare for the future, we strive to set our community up for success in serving others. Your partnership inspires us as we see our good works come to fruition. The best is yet to come! **PP**



“

I would be deeply honored to sit and listen to your philanthropic interests at Plymouth Place. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me, and together we can explore the many options available to help you achieve your charitable giving goals for Plymouth Place.

”

**Paddy Homan**

Senior Director of Philanthropy  
(708) 577-6678 | [phoman@plymouthplace.org](mailto:phoman@plymouthplace.org)

*May the wind in our sails always be filled with  
great pride in our rich history, heritage, and traditions.*

## — OFFICE OF — PHILANTHROPY

There are many ways to make a charitable donation to Plymouth Place, including an outright unrestricted cash gift to cover our day-to-day operations. If you wish, you can specifically designate your charitable gift to be applied to any of our many programs and initiatives, such as our:

- Quality Life Enrichment Music Programs
- Renowned Elvira Teuffer Scholarship Fund
- Spiritual Wellness Fund to cover the salaries of our two dedicated chaplains
- Reserve Fund for benevolent support and emergency capital needs
- Capital improvements



To learn more about how you can help us serve residents, team, and the wider community, please visit us at **[www.plymouthplacegiving.org](http://www.plymouthplacegiving.org)**.



### Cover Photo



*Front row, left to right:*

*Fabian Martinez – AV/Maintenance,  
Cheryl Maples – People Services Coordinator,  
Eleazar Medina – Housekeeping,  
Geonte Richardson – Driver,  
Alicia Jackson – RA,  
Mary Joyce Flores – RN,  
Krystal Allen – Clinical Manager AL/MC,  
Carmel Saurel – RA,  
Juan Carlos Campuzano – Maintenance/Painter*

*Back row, left to right:*

*Shavonne Gadberry – Security & Concierge,  
Lourdes Mendoza – Housekeeping,  
Joseph Molino – Life Enrichment,  
Doreen Sterba Dezur – Chaplain,  
Angel Bullock – CNA,  
Michele Thompson – Sr. Accountant,  
Kledia Simo – Sales Coordinator,  
Trevissa Martis – Physical Therapy,  
Nina Willman – RN,  
Edith Almazan – Executive Dining Room Manager,  
Martha Rodriguez – Bistro Lead*



# 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.



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For your Gift Planning needs go to  
***[www.plymouthplacegiving.org](http://www.plymouthplacegiving.org)***