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Plymouth Place Staff Travel to Prophetstown for a Day of Service — and Leave a Legacy Behind

LA GRANGE PARK, IL — May 13, 2026 — Twenty Plymouth Place staff members, joined by Mike McCartney of Silver Age Homes traded their regular routines for something far more meaningful: a full day of hands-on service at Winning Wheels & S.T.R.I.V.E. in Prophetstown, Illinois.

What the team accomplished in a single day was nothing short of remarkable.

Over the course of the annual We Serve Day, the group delivered 44 free haircuts and painted 150 nails. They initiated construction on a new koi pond — a project made possible through the generosity and sheer effort of Mike McCartney and his son Caden. Outside, the team transformed the grounds by transplanting hostas and planting multiple flats of flowers. Inside, they created a calming room complete with handmade mobiles, sewed custom window valances from scratch, and painted nearly the entire interior of a building.

And then came the grand finale: the unveiling of an extraordinary mural — a work of art that will stimulate imaginations and offer residents in rural Illinois a window to somewhere new for years to come.

"This is exactly what Plymouth Place is about," said Jay Biere, President and CEO of Plymouth Place. "We are so proud of everyone who gave their time and talent that day. Watching our team show up — fully, generously, and joyfully — for another community reminds us why service is at the heart of everything we do."

Paddy Homan, Vice President of Philanthropy & Community Affairs, echoed that sentiment. "Days like this are a reminder of who we are as an organization — and who our people choose to be outside of their job descriptions. The team didn't just show up; they showed up with creativity, muscle, and heart. We're incredibly proud, and we're already looking forward to the next one."

We Serve Day is a reflection of Plymouth Place's core values: service, people, and stewardship. It is also a testament to the power of partnership — and what becomes possible when organizations come together around a shared commitment to care.

Sheila Huizenga, LNHA, Administrator at Winning Wheels & S.T.R.I.V.E., spoke to what the day meant for the people her organization serves. "What Plymouth Place brought to us that day goes far beyond what was built or painted or planted," she said. "They brought dignity, joy, and a profound sense of being seen. Our residents felt the love in every brushstroke, every haircut, every handmade detail. This is the kind of partnership that changes a community — and we are deeply grateful."

The koi pond will welcome Winning Wheels' newest residents on July 23rd, during the Grand Opening and fish release festivities. Plymouth Place extends its deepest gratitude to Mike and Caden McCartney of Silver Age Homes, whose partnership and physical labor made the koi pond project a reality, and to every team member who gave so much of themselves that day.

About Plymouth Place Plymouth Place is a nonprofit life plan community located at 315 N. La Grange Road in La Grange Park, Illinois. Founded in 1939 and opened in 1944, Plymouth Place has served the southwestern Chicago suburbs for more than 80 years. Its mission is to create a welcoming and inclusive environment that inspires individuals to grow, connect, and live their best lives. For more information, visit PlymouthPlace.org.