

MONARCH

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INSIDE

Chaplain Christina's
Journey to
Plymouth Place

Dixon Garden
Enhanced

The Legacy of
Sally Hadley

PREMIERE ISSUE

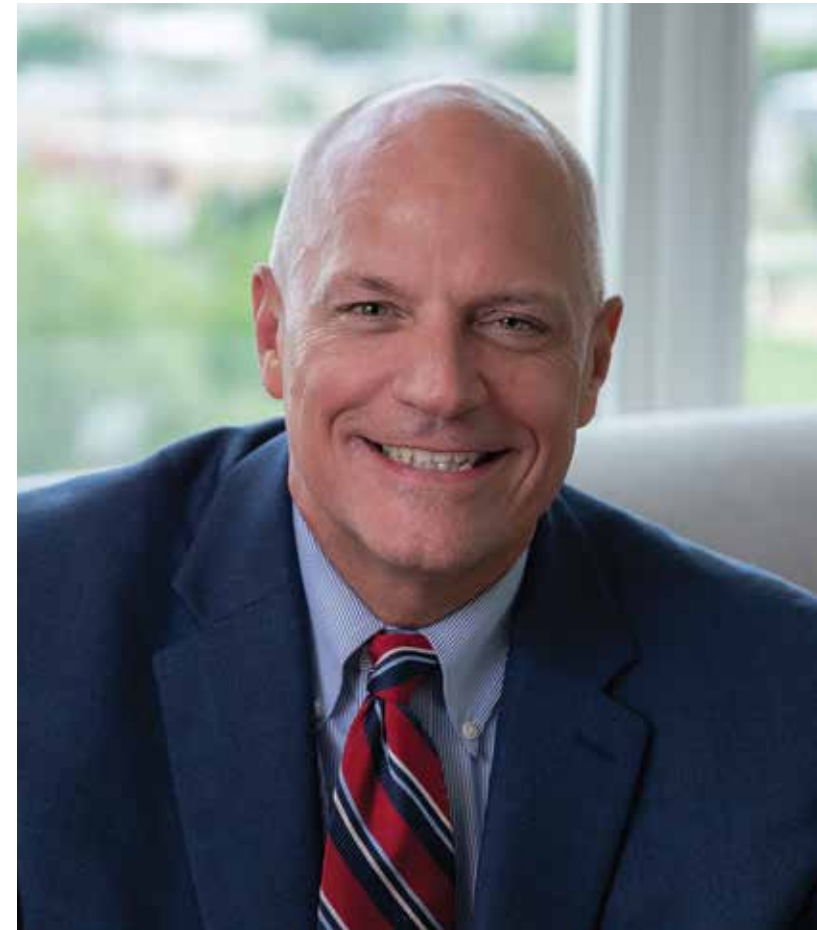


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Welcome to the inaugural edition of the bi-annual Fall/Winter philanthropy magazine, *Monarch*. This inspirational new publication is produced by the Office of Philanthropy for those closest to our mission. With so many extraordinary things happening at Plymouth Place, we knew those stories had to be shared.

Senior living remains an ever-changing industry. Recently, we have needed to pivot more quickly and with greater frequency than in years past, knowing rapid adaptation is the key to remaining successful in the midst of the pandemic. An unceasing focus on our delivery of 5-star services and meeting our residents' social, emotional, physical, and spiritual needs has enabled us to thrive. We are well-positioned for continued success and growth.



CEO Welcome – Jay Biere

We have faced the adverse impact of this virus and responded with a systematic and scientific approach. We have invested in new technology while also investing in our staff – our front line heroes. Behind it all are the prayers and well wishes of residents, their families, and community supporters.

We have witnessed each unique story and connection to this beautiful community – each person or organization giving of their time, talent, and treasure to advance the cause and mission of Plymouth Place in our pursuit of excellence in the service of others.

On behalf of our Board of Directors, residents, and staff, may I take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude for your support. Through your passion for making a difference, we can achieve so much in serving the greater good. The stories shared here are just a snapshot of the impact of donor support on others' lives. Thank you for being such a special part of our story! **PP**



As president of the Residents' Council, I appreciate this opportunity to welcome you to the premiere edition of *Monarch* and to thank you for your support. I often hear that living at Plymouth Place turns out to be a different experience from what is anticipated by most as they plan this period of life.

Here, we each appreciate our neighbors' journeys to Plymouth Place, and when those experiences partner with the knowledgeable, creative, and energetic staff, a life with physical and intellectual vitality is the surprising norm. Clearly, what makes this possible is the basic mission of Plymouth Place that has withstood the test of time – even the test of 2020. The caring culture of Plymouth Place generates the energy that has always been our hallmark, as you will see in the pages of this maiden *Monarch*. Residents and staff revel in seeing the fruits of their intentions and planning benefit others.

This year brought challenges unlike any other, and our focus adjusted to new needs. Amid the ramifications of a global pandemic, the entire Plymouth Place family – residents and their families, our loyal community supporters, the Board of Directors, CEO Jay Biere, and our outstanding staff – worked together to quickly pivot. We are grateful to each of you for championing our amazing community. We could rise to the challenge of this year because of you! **PP**

President of Residents' Council - Joyce Linn

“
One of our most important customers has always been our staff. We knew we were about to face a monumental hurdle in battling this pandemic, and ministering to the emotional and spiritual needs of our residents and staff would be paramount.
 ”

Called and Called Again - Chaplain Christina's Journey to Plymouth Place



Since the age of four, Christina Vosteen had known she would be a nurse. After graduation from Indiana University, the dream came true, followed by a career in the ICU, ER, management, and nursing education. Adding a Master's degree from the University of

Arizona, Christina continued her journey, expanding into medical cost management and disease management in the hospital and with physician groups.

“Called and Called Again” continues on page 06

Loving what she did and having more opportunities on the horizon, it was on a mission trip to Juárez, Mexico, that she received her next “call” into seminary and parish ministry. With degrees in both Divinity and Spiritual Formation, Christina pastored local churches in northern Illinois. Although she enjoyed intergenerational ministry in the church, she felt an ongoing tug to work with seniors. The connection with Plymouth Place began as a one-time substitute preacher.

“As soon as I came in the door, I knew this was someplace special. And my entire experience that day only reinforced those feelings.”

Responding to the call to serve seniors in a more meaningful way, in 2017, Chaplain Christina began weekly work at Plymouth Place, supporting Chaplain Doreen Sterba DeZur. Christina focused on the Independent Living side while Doreen concentrated on the health care center, assisted living, and memory care.

In March of 2020, as the pandemic began to take root in America, Christina knew that this was more than a job. She began working tirelessly to support her residents and staff, too.

“I began to see the emotion not just in residents but in staff, too, and so I began to focus a portion of my energy on supporting staff.”

For Jay Biere, CEO of Plymouth Place, he knew he needed to act fast to support staff. “One of our most important customers has always been our staff. We knew we were about to face a monumental hurdle in battling this pandemic, and ministering to the emotional and spiritual needs of our residents and staff would be paramount.”

Clearly, Christina’s skill set was needed now more than ever; however, this meant the development of an unbudgeted full-time position. Jay pondered how this could happen. Enter serendipity and the loving compassion of an anonymous donor whose family had a lifelong commitment to Plymouth Place.

“Growing up, Plymouth Place and other mission-focused organizations always had a special place in our family’s annual giving,” remarked this amazing and humble donor. “We always supported our church wherever we lived.”

In discussing their area of interest with the philanthropy office, while recognizing the long-term need to support staff and residents, a flexible endowment, made possible through the gift of an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) was created to allow Chaplain Christina to serve on a full-time basis for the next three years.

Today, Christina serves 24 hours a week, providing interfaith chaplain support, creative worship, classes, and 1:1 counseling for residents. In addition, she is chaplain to their families and to the Plymouth Place staff.

“We gave because it felt right, and I have no doubt it is what my family wanted. We are so happy with the decision to give in this way. We can see the enormous impact Christina (along with Doreen) has on so many, not just at Plymouth Place, but in the community, as well.”

“*The journey of Plymouth Place and the humanity of what everyone was going through during the pandemic, shone through,” says resident Joan Dunne. “I sent the messages to my family all over the country, and they too found consolation through Christina’s words.*”

For Christina, serving as one of the two resident chaplains to both residents and staff means her life has come full circle. “My office on the lower level is a hippie-style place of welcome where anyone can drop in for a conversation.”

Amid the pandemic, as a way to connect with others, Christina took to daily emails to staff and residents. These stories became a hit with residents, staff, and their families all over America.

“The journey of Plymouth Place and the humanity of what everyone was going through during the pandemic, shone through,” says resident Joan Dunne. “I sent the messages to my family all over the country, and they too found consolation through Christina’s words.”

Watch for an early February 2021 book launch featuring these inspiring messages penned by Chaplain Christina and illustrated by one of our incredibly talented Plymouth Place residents.

About Chaplaincy at Plymouth Place

Spiritual wellness at Plymouth Place is a critical component of overall health and well-being. Regardless of how a resident, family, or staff member understands religion, we are wired for purpose and meaning as humans. That is the core of spirituality and the focus of chaplaincy at Plymouth Place.

Catholic worship is celebrated weekly, and there are two ecumenical services every week. Often the chimes, chorus anthems, special musical offerings, and communion

are part of worship. For residents connected to a place of worship in the community, the chaplain is not a replacement, but an added support, encouraging residents to remain active with their respective local congregations and faith leaders.

We are so very thankful for an anonymous donor’s generosity to cover an increase in chaplain hours. This not only enhances services to residents but to their families and staff, as well. Although a Christian organization initially founded Plymouth Place, chaplains provide encouragement, care, and support to everyone regardless of the individual’s experience of “church.” While some programs are focused on faith, others delve into spiritual health. A chaplain is available to respond 24/7, either in person or by phone. Appointments can be made but are never required. Whether it is an occasional visit or phone call, or an extended period of pastoral counseling, the chaplains of Plymouth Place are ready to walk beside you on the journey of life. **PP**

Have you ever stood in front of a soup buffet, ready for a delicious lunch, and stared into the pots of savory chicken dumpling, vegetable, seafood chowder, or beef chili and wondered, “What’s *actually* in this?” Well, Ivah and Art Leemis have!

“The days of good old-fashioned soup – healthy and nourishing soup – are coming back,” remarks Ivah, who grew up in Rochester, Minnesota. She and Art recently celebrated their 71st wedding anniversary, and eating well has been a hallmark of their lives together. “We traveled a lot, moving between Boca Raton, Oak Brook, Naples, and eventually settling here at Plymouth Place.”

After serving in World War II, Art went on to lead a successful marketing company. At the same time, Ivah attended the McPhail College of Music. “We met at choir – and that was it really,” remarks Ivah in her forthright, “can-do” manner.

Raising a family and many grandchildren has been a source of great pride to Ivah and Art. But they’ve also experienced heartache. They lost a child, David, to leukemia at a very young age and later another son, Richard, to glioblastoma. “We have sought to invest in areas that will help with this disease, and growing up close to the Mayo Clinic, we have donated to their research in this area.”

What’s in a Cup of Soup?



In their later years, Art and Ivah attended Mayo Clinic for their regular checkups. During their frequent visits, Art would often visit a local restaurant to get their home-style soup. “They made the best soup – it was always homemade and low salt – nourishing to the body and soul!”

For Cheri Boublis, Senior Director of Hospitality Services at Plymouth Place, the essence of healthy living is directly related to what you eat. “We make everything we can from scratch in our kitchen.” Crafting homemade soup at Plymouth Place has always been a challenge, as the kitchen lacked the necessary equipment to make it onsite. “Making home-style soup for 10 people is one thing, but for 400 is another!” Boublis, with a background in the health care culinary experience, knows the importance of good soup. “We also realize that comfort food as the weather gets colder starts with soup.”



How a taste for home-style soup led to a bigger serving

It was through a passing exchange one day in the Bistro with Ivah and Art that the idea came about sourcing state-of-the-art soup kettles for the Plymouth Place kitchen. “We worked with Boelter, a national restaurant equipment company, to determine the best manufacturer and placement. The work was completed this summer and has made a big difference in providing a more efficient space for our staff and increased capacity for cooking...you guessed it, SOUP!” remarks Boublis with pride. Through a desire to reconnect to their fond memories of home-style soup, the Leemis have enabled Plymouth Place’s culinary team to produce soups that are full of hearty vegetables and flavor but with minimal added salt.

“People give out of the goodness of their hearts. Well, Plymouth Place’s heart is something dear to us. Giving is what you do – you pay it forward,” remarks Ivah. “We see the great changes around here and are happy that others can benefit from this.” These new enhanced soup kettles have also supported staff in their work. “My staff is so grateful for this support,” remarks Executive Chef Lily Corpus. “These kettles have put less pressure on their bodies as they work to make delicious food for our residents.”

Much happens behind the scenes in the Plymouth Place kitchen to feed 350 residents, and it is a wonderful team effort. “We are blessed to have such abundant generosity to make a difference for so many!” remarks Boublis. **PP**

A legacy of caring and learning followed Sally Hadley's lifetime of too few years during which she tended her sheep for a 4H project, taught students at the College of DuPage, and helped residents and staff of Plymouth Place with her usual humor. Sally knew everyone's name and assisted in whatever way she could. During her six-month battle with cancer, she decided to leave a generous gift to Plymouth Place and was honored with the Emerging Leader Program's sponsorship.



Sally and her sister, Nancy, grew up in Westfield, Indiana, and Sally graduated from the University of Evansville after attending Westfield High School. She then attended the University of Georgia, where she earned a Master of Fine Arts in Speech in 1966. Sally then began a long and very successful career at the College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn, Illinois, as a Speech Communication instructor. She also served as a dedicated extracurricular coach of the winning college forensics team, which gained wide recognition for the speech department and the college.

In 1984, Sally decided to change her focus from teaching to academic administration. She served as Associate Dean in the Communication division, followed by the Humanities and Liberal Arts divisions. She was widely admired and respected by students and faculty alike for her service and firm, but fair, administration philosophy. Her friendships crossed all levels at the college.

After retirement, Sally moved from West Chicago to Plymouth Place Senior Living in La Grange Park, IL. She visited many retirement communities but found that Plymouth Place and nearby family activities were essential to her desire for an active life in retirement. Her enthusiasm and friendliness quickly endeared her to her fellow residents, who also recognized her strong leadership skills.

Sally quickly became active in and a leader of the Friendship Committee, which supports all residents with events, provides assistance in daily challenges, and caring, not to mention orientation and a warm welcome for new residents. She also was involved in the formation of a scholarship program for staff. In 2017, Sally was elected to a two-year term as Vice President of the Residents' Council, the resident governing body at Plymouth Place, inclusive of all residents. She participated in, along with the Residents' Council President and governing Board of Directors,

the decision to hire Jay Biere as the new CEO, and she worked closely with him, briefly as President, before her illness and death in 2019.

Family was very important to Sally, and she kept in close touch with her brother-in-law, nieces, nephews, and family. Attending the symphony, ballet, movies, and theatre with friends or hiking at the Morton Arboretum were favorite activities. Sally also loved tending dogs or cats who lived at Plymouth Place, for she missed her two corgis, long-time companions.

In her estate, Sally left a bequest for Plymouth Place, which reflected her lifetime love of teaching and learning. Happily, the Sally Hadley Emerging Leader Program, an educational forum and lecture series, is now being taught for all levels of rising stars at Plymouth Place, leaving a legacy that would surely delight Sally. **PP**

A Legacy of Caring and Learning ... Sally Hadley Remembered



Making Many Friends Along the Way

Honoring

It was a fateful day in 1957, when Evelyn Louise Hosman met the love of her life, Norman Griffeth. “Norm,” as he was affectionately known, attended Michigan State University with Evelyn’s brother. However, Norm’s journey to meet Evelyn began with his decision to take time away from college to enlist in the Army. Being stationed in Cicero, Illinois, and not knowing anyone in the area, Norm decided to reach out to his friend from college, Evelyn’s brother, who lived in the area. The college friends often hung out and attended church together. Evelyn recalls, “I met Norm at church, and that’s a good place to meet somebody.”

In 1954, several years before meeting Norm, Evelyn enrolled in the nursing program at West Suburban Hospital in Oak Park, Illinois. “On Sundays after church, I would invite my

friends over for a home-cooked meal, but after I met Norm, I didn’t have my friends over anymore – I invited Norm instead.”

Norm returned to Michigan State University in 1958, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in accounting and eventually working for the National Advertising Company for 33 years before taking early retirement. At the same time, Evelyn worked as a nurse in several different locations before settling at Argo High School as resident nurse for 20 years. During a wonderful 63-year marriage, they raised four children – Robert, William, Patricia, and Linda – in Burr Ridge, Illinois. After both retiring early, they came out of retirement twice to set up gift shops – first in Gurnee and later closer to their home. “I did the buying, and Norm kept an eye on the books – it wasn’t just about selling, it was about people coming into our shop and having a conversation.”



Norman & Evelyn Griffeth

Choosing to Call Plymouth Place Home

The connection to Plymouth Place runs deep. Evelyn’s mother lived at Plymouth Place for about six years. “We heard about Plymouth Place through my mom’s physician – Dr. Piccoli. He said we needed a dedicated place for Mom and recommended Plymouth – he saw residents here and vouched for its quality. Our fears about Mom’s move were greatly allayed when we learned that a significant portion of what Mom would pay with her lifecare benefit was tax-deductible as a medical expense. Moreover, if Mom ran out of money, the Endowment Fund would pay her expenses, versus her having to find somewhere else to live. This meant a lot to us at the time. It also influenced our decision to move to Plymouth Place ourselves – no hesitation whatsoever!”

When Norm and Ev did make a move to Plymouth Place in 2008, their kids thought they moved about 5 years too early. “However, they witnessed how we both blossomed as Plymouth Place became home, and now with everything going on in the world today, our kids think this is the best move we ever made!”

Norm and Evelyn Griffeth’s story continues on page 14

Norm and Evelyn Griffeth continued
from page 13



Volunteering at Plymouth Place

Upon moving into their new home, Norm and Ev were offered the opportunity to utilize their talents by setting up and managing a gift shop at Plymouth Place. Ev recalls, “We looked at each other for three seconds and said, ‘Sure, we can do that!’”

The gift shop has become an institution for residents, staff, and visiting families. With a large group of resident volunteers tending to its operations, the gift shop has served as a community within a community where people can drop in for a chat while shopping for a wide variety of items.

Proceeds from the gift shop have been utilized to advance the various needs of Plymouth Place. “We have a committee of residents who identify where the current needs are at Plymouth – so our volunteer work makes a big difference on many levels. This builds up over time and has had a considerable impact on our community.” For Ev, volunteering is personal. “Remembering the consolation I got, knowing my mom would always be cared for and us too, inspired us to use our talents to help others at Plymouth Place.”

Sadly, Norman passed away in the spring of 2020. “I miss him every day, but I am so glad I met such a wonderful soulmate, father, and bookkeeper – he was really good at maintaining the books.” For the volunteers and staff at Plymouth Place, supporting Ev with the operation of the gift shop was a given.

Today, the gift shop has played a pivotal role in supporting residents and staff throughout the pandemic. The convenience to purchase items without leaving the building, not to mention the ability to special-order items with the support of the hospitality services department, has been a life-saver.

The success of the gift shop is grounded in its founders’ vision; Norm and Ev Griffeth saw it as a place to celebrate the power of relationships and good conversation with others. As Norm always quipped with a smile, “We didn’t sell anything that anyone needed.” Living in a community is about living in community with others. The idea of paying it forward through one’s time and skills is the hallmark of volunteering at Plymouth Place... and making friends along the way is a natural by-product! **PP**



Plymouth Place...On the right course!

Dr. Sih, Medical Director

Serving as Medical Director of Plymouth Place for the past sixteen years, I have watched Plymouth Place evolve from a quaint and traditional home to a forward-thinking community. In these many years, I have had the privilege of getting to know and care for many residents, and I consider myself fortunate to have this opportunity. Through its many changes, Plymouth Place has stayed true to its core values, committed to outstanding care and support for both residents and their families. I see that commitment from our wonderful and talented staff, our steady and caring leadership, as well as from the residents themselves, all of whom are devoted to creating a true community where seniors want to reside and be allowed to age in place with grace.

Plymouth Place has invested heavily in new technology such as Tru-D Ultraviolet-C Technology and Bi-polar Air Ionization, which continually cleans the air in common areas throughout the health care center and in other common areas throughout the building. Plymouth Place is the only senior living community in the Midwest with these cutting-edge technologies. As a physician, it is gratifying to work closely with an organization that is committed to the highest patient care standards and the best interests of their residents and staff.

As healthcare evolves in a post-pandemic world, its effectiveness will be dependent upon the various stakeholders’ belief in projected outcomes, with a chief component being effective management of the ever-evolving COVID-19 virus. I am confident that Plymouth Place is on the right track in this regard. I am honored to serve the Plymouth Place community, and I appreciate everyone’s support in positioning this outstanding institution for continued success. **PP**



Dixon Garden to the Rescue!

Never would Nancy Dixon have dreamed that the beautiful garden she designed in memory of Flo May Fletcher Dixon, her mother-in-law, would become the social center of Plymouth Place as residents have enjoyed eating and listening to music in the garden during the pandemic. The setting was recently enhanced when Nancy's two sons added lights and renovations to the area in honor and memorial of their mother and grandmother.

When Nancy Dixon learned that Plymouth Place was planning a new building in place of the old structure where Flo May had spent her last years, she wanted a special garden to thank her mother-in-law for "teaching [her] how to be a wife."

Nancy grew up in Johnson City, Tennessee, and graduated from Virginia's Hollins University with a degree in biology. While attending Hollins, she met Bob Dixon, then a Lieutenant in the Navy, and they married in 1954. Following college, they moved to Western Springs, Illinois, to begin their married life. After his service, Bob joined his father's real estate firm, and they purchased a home one block away from Bob's parents.

Nancy quickly discovered that housekeeping was different north of the Mason-Dixon Line, but Flo May came to her rescue. A warm and loving friendship developed, and the Dixon family happily expanded with two sons, Charlie and Dan.

Over the years, Nancy became an ardent gardener, golfer, birder, and floral designer. The Dixons moved to a home near Fullersburg in Hinsdale where Nancy worked with a friend from the Morton Arboretum to restore a lovely woodland behind the home. The Hinsdale Golf Club and DuPage Birding Club were favorite spots for the Dixons, as well. During the winter months, Bob and Nancy loved spending time at their home in Sanibel Island, Florida, where the birds and tropical foliage fascinated them – especially Nancy.

The Dixons were active in the Western Springs Presbyterian Church where Nancy did the floral arrangements for many years. Her particular interest was in creating arrangements using natural materials, often found along roads or in woodlands. She bestowed small bouquets upon many friends as a surprise.

After she had decided to donate a garden for the new building under construction at Plymouth Place, Nancy began the design process herself with some help from Morton Arboretum on selection of the bushes and trees. The fountain was a particular passion of hers, and it took a long time to create just the right attraction to fit her vision. Sadly, Flo May died before she could see the beautiful tribute from her daughter-in-law and dear friend, Nancy. Bob passed away in 2000, and Nancy carried on with the intent of completing the garden, which graciously reflects the Dixon family name.

For a brief period, Nancy resided in the Health Care Center at Plymouth Place until she passed away in 2012. Even in her final days, Nancy spoke of changes she wanted to make to further enhance the beauty of the garden.



Plymouth Place is incredibly fortunate to have a longstanding friendship Charlie and Dan, the Dixon sons. They have taken on the legacy of the family garden, which continues to bring great joy to countless residents, families, and community members. As Plymouth Place faced the start of the pandemic in March 2020, the Dixon family generously sponsored, through the Nancy Dixon Charitable Trust, the addition of new lighting and garden enhancements. These modifications allow for residents to dine al fresco and enjoy live performance programming in a safe manner. Dan Dixon remarked, "This was what Mom would have wanted."

We are grateful to the Dixon family and Nancy, in a special way, for bringing beauty, enjoyment, and serenity to our backyard. **PP**

Using Technology to Look After Those Who Looked After You

Growing up on a farm in Volo, Illinois, near the Wisconsin border was foundational for Jay Biere, CEO of Plymouth Place. “I was taught the importance of hard work at an early age. There’s a lot of work to do on a farm, and it’s expected that everyone participates.” This strong work ethic instilled by his parents was taught alongside the importance of compassion and service to others.

With such wonderful influences, it is little wonder that Biere has been on a 30-year journey of service, much of which in senior living, eventually arriving at Plymouth Place in 2017. Having worked with organizations big and small, coming to Plymouth Place felt like coming home.

“It was iconic to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of Plymouth Place in 2019. There was such an air of goodwill and positivity. We had a wonderful year with sales, and our master planning for the East Campus was up and running. Then 2020 came upon us, and it all quickly changed.”

The advance of the Coronavirus across the globe caused a new reality to set in. “A public health situation of this magnitude is something we trained for but hoped would never happen,” remarks Jackie Terpstra, Senior Director of Clinical Services at

Plymouth Place. “Overnight, we needed to put in immediate safeguards to protect our residents and staff from a virus we knew little about, and we had to act, evolve, and respond to regularly changing directives from the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control.”

For the residents at Plymouth Place, watching the pandemic unfold as reported in the media, while witnessing the dramatic safety protocols so rapidly implemented by Biere and his team, caused many of them to reach out and see how they could support the work at hand.

“Residents were so appreciative of the extra care and work of the employees that they regularly stopped me to ask how they could help,” comments Joyce Linn, President of the Residents’ Council. “Bill Whitney [former President of the Residents’ Council] and I approached Jay to see how we could maximize support to Plymouth Place during this time.”

Knowing that there would be an enormous financial impact to execute important new safety protocols, Biere, along with Plymouth Place Board Chair, Liz Asperger, moved forward their traditional annual appeal into a unique request to donors and community supporters. Says Biere, “At the same time as we modified the timeframe of the appeal, we knew that our front line workers would be faced with added burdens at home. At



the suggestion of the Board of Directors, we instituted a food pantry to show our staff we understood the challenges they faced and were on their team.”

The Board of Directors at Plymouth Place led the way by providing lunches for staff and monetary donations to offset the cost of the pantry. The outpouring of support to Plymouth Place from residents, their families, and community partners was the right jolt at the right time. “Knowing the cost of some of the new technologies needed to protect everyone, we set a lofty target of \$500,000 for the annual appeal,” comments Paddy Homan, Senior Director of Philanthropy. “It was truly amazing and humbling to see the generosity of so many wishing to be part of supporting our community and staff – they wanted to help, and this was the best way they could do it.”

“We realized at an early stage that we couldn’t wait for government support – we hoped it would come through, and eventually it did, but at the beginning we needed to take immediate action to keep our residents and staff safe,” remarks Biere. Residents, staff, and community members sewed mask covers to increase the length of time a surgical mask could safely be used while waiting for more personal protective equipment to arrive, and once it did, Plymouth Place was able to distribute masks to each resident.

Through the generosity of so many, a successful three-month \$500,000 mini-campaign was achieved. “These monies allowed us to cover our direct care expenses, which were running at about \$100,000 per month, while also investing in critical new technologies such as the Tru-D Ultraviolet-C disinfecting robot, bi-polar air ionization, and infrared thermal sensor technology,” advised Rebecca Mathis, CFO of Plymouth Place. These investments, along with the setting up of a dedicated isolation unit painted in anti-microbial paint with negative airflow to eliminate the potential of airborne spread, proved critical decisions at critical moments in this battle.

“Our primary focus has always been the health and protection of our residents - this is something we hold sacred,” says Jackie Terpstra. “We were very conscious of the emotional supports needed for health care center and assisted living residents and grateful for a donor who allowed us to purchase 100 iPads to keep them connected to their families.”

“Using Technology...” continues on page 20

“Using Technology...” continued from page 19

News of Plymouth’s success has spread nationally. *Senior Living News* featured Biere in a special edition of its July publication. Biere commented in this article, “We have to be thoughtful, resourceful, and creative,” concerning operating Plymouth Place post-COVID. “Everyone needs to be on page if and when the second curve hits. COVID-19 can be defeated, but we have to be wise and do it together.”

Today, as Plymouth Place manages the second wave, Biere remains resolute and determined. “We have to recognize that there can be socialization within isolation. At the same time, we must adhere to the safety protocols to steer Plymouth Place through this global pandemic. We do this through effective planning, while at the same time over-communicating with our residents and their families.”

As Plymouth Place navigates these challenging times, they are seen as a national leader in safety measures in protecting seniors. This laser-focus on safety has caused many new residents to feel comfortable moving to Plymouth Place throughout the pandemic, echoing residents’ comments that they feel safer at Plymouth Place than they did at home.

“I look back on this extraordinary journey, and I think of my parents and grandparents and give thanks for their influence on me. They taught me to look after those who looked after you. In the midst of the pandemic, that value is more important than ever before.”

In Plymouth Place’s history, this year will go down as one where a group of people came together to look out for one another, under the guidance of a servant leader and a community whose mission stood firm in the face of adversity. **PP**



Snapshots of Philanthropy



Social distancing and outdoor fitness on our newly installed putting green made possible by the generous gift of a resident donor couple.



Thanksgiving was extra special for staff thanks to a generous donor who honored his friend, a former Plymouth Place resident, with turkeys, produce, and pumpkin pie.



Honoring our front line heroes on Giving Tuesday with community, business partners, and leadership gifts going to the Employees Helping Employees Fund.



The local community rallied around our associates, including lunch from Palmer Place sponsored by Neighbors Helping Neighbors. Donations from the Rotary Clubs of Western Springs and Hinsdale, among many others, supported the Plymouth Place Pantry, providing groceries and essentials to staff throughout the pandemic.

Naomi Borwell Giving Societies

Naomi Borwell, a member of the Plymouth Place Board of Directors, established the Endowment Fund in 1995 due to a strong commitment to protecting Plymouth Place'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 the mission of Plymouth Place, Naomi set in motion a culture of philanthropy that continues today with our Naomi Borwell Giving Societies. Today, we have a committed group of donors who give annually and cumulatively, in support of the Plymouth Place mission.

1944 Plymouth Rock Society – In celebration of the founding of Plymouth Place, members of the 1944 Plymouth Rock 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.

Planned Giving Legacy Society – This society was established to honor those who have remembered Plymouth Place in their estate 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 made a donation for five or more consecutive years. We could not do the work that we do without the ongoing help of friends like you.

For more information regarding participation in our donor societies, contact Paddy Homan, Senior Director of Philanthropy, at 708.557.6678.



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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