



March 2024 — Volume 38



## STRENGTHENING OUR FOUNDATION

A Campaign to Support Our Chaplain Program

### Strengthening Our Foundation in 2024

We are excited to launch the next phase of **Strengthening our Foundation**, a campaign to support our chaplain program. The Strengthening Our Foundation campaign will ensure that Christian Living Communities has a robust chaplain program now and in the future.

The decision to focus on growing the chaplain program is purposeful. We are purposeful in ensuring that Chaplain Jim Kok's legacy of 38 years of labor and love continues now and well into the future. As Jim prepares to retire in May of 2024, we invite you to join in honoring the roots of our organization.

"Our faith story at Christian Living Communities is one of prayerful beginnings and an unwavering commitment to care that is both Christ-like and of the highest quality. It's a story of devoted staff, committed volunteers, and visionary leaders, each of whom has played an important role in keeping

Christian love, respect, and compassion at the center of daily life." Jim Kok, Executive Director of Chaplain Services.



Chaplain Jim Kok in Laghouat, Algeria

#### Who are the CLC chaplains?

At Christian Living Communities chaplains provide compassionate support for all members of the community, no matter their religious beliefs. Our chaplains are part of the "the secret sauce" to making our communities a vibrant place to live and work in.

#### How do chaplains make a difference in our lives and communities?

Our chaplain team contributes to our communities in countless ways. Since July 2023, the team has reached more than 10,000 lives of residents, family members, and team members.

*...Continued on page 2*

## Strengthening Our Foundation ...continued from page 1

Unlike most other healthcare settings, chaplains are part of the team in our communities, not contract workers. Having chaplains present in the communities ensures deep relationships grow, trust develops, and people in the last glorious chapter of their lives are loved and known.

While our chaplains create and provide numerous programs for our communities, the most powerful aspect of their support is one-on-one connections. Building relationships is essential. The time chaplains invest in getting to know residents, learning about their lives, sharing memories, and exploring personal journeys is invaluable.

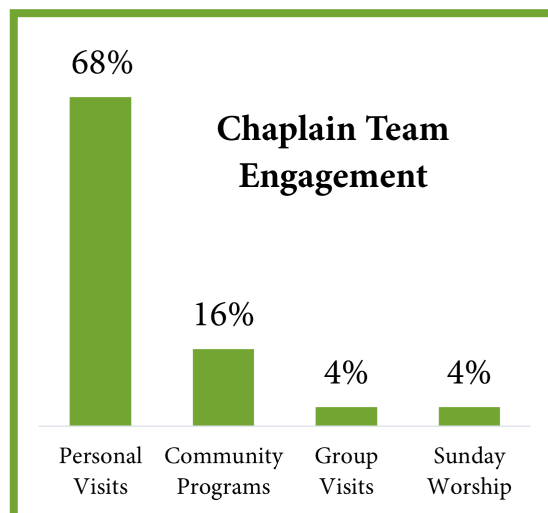
### Chaplains provide safe, whole family support.

Cindy Martin and her mom, Judith, met Chaplain Cindy Simpson in 2021, two days after Judith moved into Someren Glen. Last December, Judith and her family learned that her lung cancer had returned. It was difficult and overwhelming. Chaplain Cindy stepped in right away to support them in whatever way they needed.

Cindy and her family are so grateful for the support they got from the entire team at Someren Glen, but especially from Chaplain Cindy. She hopes that other families and residents know what a CLC Chaplain is: "A safe person, a safe place, to share their feelings and what their needs are. Not to think that nobody wants to listen to them. There is somebody there that will do that."

### What does the future look like?

Jim Kok shares, "I dream about a bright future for the Chaplain Services team, with the ability to enrich the lives of even more residents, families, and team members in more CLC neighborhoods and communities."



Ensuring the support of professionals in our communities is a priority. CLC currently funds full-time and part-time chaplains. To match the increasing needs of residents, families, and team members, we will raise additional funding to increase chaplain hours and accessibility.

### How will your gift make a difference?

Your gift to the Chaplain Fund will help to make Jim's dream come true by providing spiritual care for all. Generous supporters, like yourself, will help increase the hours of a part-time Chaplain to full-time to support the execution of essential program components such as scheduling, hiring, and securing program resources.

Contributions will ensure the continuation of essential community enrichment such as Sunday worship services and chaplain-led discussions. Your support of the chaplain program ensures that our Christian faith isn't just words but is evident in our actions of providing Christian love, respect, and compassion to each individual, of every background, faith, and those of non-faith practices to 'love each other as God loves us.' *...Continued on next page*

### Meet the CLC Chaplain Team



*Pictured left to right:*

**Cindy Simpson**  
Someren Glen

**Rev. Kendall Batten-Kalantzis**  
Clermont Park

**Jim Kok**  
Executive Director of Chaplain  
Services & Holly Creek

**Rev. Cheryl Meakins**  
Holly Creek and Clermont Park  
Suites

**Brian Miranda**  
Suites at Someren Glen

### Strengthening Our Foundation ...continued from page 2

We invite you to reach out to Stephanie Manley, Director of Philanthropy at 720-974-3675 or [smanley@clcliving.org](mailto:smanley@clcliving.org) to discuss how you could demonstrate your faith and love to others through a gift to the Chaplain Fund.

*The Strengthening Our Foundations campaign goal is to raise at least \$200,000 for our Chaplain Program. Your gift will ensure we have incredible professionals and programs available to our communities today and for years to come.*

### Donor Relations Team



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## Library Project Inspires Community at Dayspring Villa

With just two bookshelves and outdated books, the library at Dayspring Villa wasn't a very welcoming space. Unfortunately, there are few resources available to make improvements - 90% of residents who live in this assisted living community in west Denver utilize Medicaid to help pay for their care.

A group of residents took on the challenge to raise funds to upgrade the library. They decided to host an Art Show and spent months creating beautiful art to sell. To encourage their efforts, CLC promised to match what was raised up to \$2,500 from the General Mission Fund. Promoting autonomy and enrichment are part of the CLC mission, and the Dayspring library project fit the bill.

Caring community partners offered raffle items, bought art, and made gifts to the library. Duet Dining provided a cheese board and wine tasting for Art Show patrons. With everyone's combined kindness and generosity, residents raised more than \$1,600.

Richard Raisch, a resident and lifelong builder of model trains, generously donated a handmade trainset. "When you see something that needs to be done, and you're capable of doing it, then I think you have a social responsibility to do it," Richard shared. This unique piece sold at CLC's annual event, *Aged to Perfection*, raising another \$550.

With the General Mission match, the community had approximately \$5,000 to remodel the library.

Richard formed a Library Advisory Board (LAB) of residents who loved books and were willing to volunteer. Former Librarian and resident Diana

Bennett stepped up to help. "We wanted to make something that was more useable and more appropriate for what people need," she said.

A survey found out what authors and genres residents liked. "We were just amazed," said LAB member and resident Frankie Holder. "We found more people were interested than maybe we had thought that there was going to be."

The LAB purchased five stylish bookshelves that Richard and his daughter spent two days putting together. "I can do a lot of things that most people cannot do," he said. "And I feel that I owe it to the community to use those talents. Putting bookcases together was one thing that I can do."

Resident librarians from Dayspring's sister community, Someren Glen, sent over books for the new shelves.

The impact has been transformative. "I've noticed people that I've never seen look at books before, come and look at books," says Diana. "The way we've created the space, it's very functional for people to sit and talk."



A Dayspring resident enjoying the upgraded library

Frankie agrees: "They like the space, they like the way the books look. Now people really sit out there and exchange ideas and all that. It's a real welcoming place."

The LAB has big plans for the future of the library, including adding large-print books so that

residents living with

low vision can use the library, too. Securing increasingly more expensive newspaper subscriptions is also on the future plans wish list.

## Gifts in Memory and Honor

Christian Living Communities is so grateful for the friends and family who directed gifts to CLC in memory or honor of their loved one. Below are the names in **bold** of those being remembered or honored, as well as those making such gifts from August 15, 2023 - February 1, 2024.

### In Memory

#### **Norma Balthazar**

*Keith and Suzie McVaney*

#### **Hazel Chase**

*Jane Chase*

#### **Jess Crane**

*Patricia Crane*

*Oralene Winchell*

#### **Herta Darley**

*Brad Darley*

#### **Judy DenBraber**

*Thelma Boer*

*Amy K. Dore*

*Barbara and Darrell Hogan*

*Connie Sobeck*

#### **David E. Dennis**

*Carol Dennis*

#### **Robert and Virginia Dobbs**

*Rick Dobbs*

#### **Paul F. Doherty**

*Maureen Doherty*

#### **Roberta Dore**

*Amy K. Dore*

#### **Phyllis Dye**

*Barbara and Darrell Hogan*

*Rick Sanger*

#### **Wilma Erickson**

*Martha Groebe*

#### **Don and Betty Frensley**

*Marcia Lynn Frensley*

#### **Michael and Virginia Galvin**

*Bruce and Char Prather*

#### **Michael and Virginia Galvin (cont.)**

*Donna Vogt*

#### **Claire Gibbons**

*Greg and Denise Gibbons*

#### **Jean Hanke**

*Roger Stephen Hanke*

#### **Dorothy Harvey**

*Barbara Griffith*

#### **Glen Hill**

*Gary and Judy Hill*

#### **Alice Hulings**

*Scott and Patricia Kramer*

#### **Phyllis Hutchins**

*Holly Harker*

*Jean Hillman*

#### **Dennis F. Jones**

*Rickie Jones*

#### **Anne Marie Junio-Connor**

*Teresa Neal*

#### **Eunice Kenney**

*Sharon Kenney*

#### **Carol and Ray Kirkpatrick**

*Kent and Julie Kirkpatrick*

#### **Rev. James and Eleanor Kok**

*Jim and Carol Kok*

#### **Kathryn Kroonenberg**

*Sharon R. Price*

#### **Joyce G. Kullas**

*Michael Kullas*

#### **Jack T. Lang Y Marquez**

*Lisa Haft-Robison*

#### **Caroline Lowsma**

*Andrea Jagger*

#### **Judy McKita**

*Glenny Bervik*

#### **Nancy Virginia Miller**

*Phoebe Busch*

#### **Regina Mordente**

*Catherine Mordente*

#### **Ruth Penn**

*Meril Yu*

#### **Bruce Reedy**

*David and Doris Roos*

#### **Gary Ritsema**

*Fred and Kathy Ritsema*

#### **Meredith Sabin**

*Ellen Rabinowitz and Roxanne Sabin*

#### **Marlis E. Smith**

*Doug Kelsall*

#### **Lloyd Steinmann**

*Betty Steinmann*

#### **Robert "Bob" Stong**

*Jack and Arleda Ballard*

#### **Louis and Elsie Strauss**

*Natalie Pollock*

#### **Ivan Sweetman**

*Shirley R. Sweetman*

#### **Annie Trujillo**

*Olivia Grogan*

#### **Daniel Van Gorp**

*Grace Van Gorp*

...Continued on page 6

## Memory and Honor ...continued from page 5

### Andrew Vander Ploeg

*Susan Keesen*

*Pam Sullivan*

### Joseph Vitale

*Bethany Sprague*

### Marge Vitale

*Jill Vitale-Aussem and Todd Aussem*

### Jane Walker

*William and Charlotte Devereaux*

### John Walsh

*Elaine Walsh*

### Peter Willis

*Fred Fielder*

*Rosemary Willis*

### Marion Woodward

*Richard and Carla Kem*

### In Honor

### Jack and Char Barker

*Barry and Arlene Hirschfeld*

### Rev. Kendall Batten-Kalantzis

*Verna Cavey*

*Lisa Haft-Robison*

### The Entire Chaplain Team

*Olivia Mayer*

### All CLC Residents and Staff

*Bonnie Minter*

### Marilyn Dekker

*Judy Aylor*

### Chaplain Jim Kok

*Ronald and Anne Grout*

*Stuart and Katherine Haskins*

*Gordon and Vee Henderson*

*Edna O'Berst*

*Bill and Sally Pratt*

*Laura Roese*

*Tom and Mary Rogers*

*Dolores Schlessman*

*Allen and Karen Spelman*

*Lavon Starr*

*James and Lisa Van De Wege*

*Donna Lea Van Stone*

*Nolan and Joey Vander Ark*

### Olivia Mayer

*Bryan and Rachel Vinz*

### Pat McBride

*Olivia Mayer*

### Char Prather, June Just, and Patty Seal

*Donna Vogt*

### Chaplain Cindy Simpson

*Patricia Ronald*

### Maggie A. Smith

*Karigene Burke*

### All Someren Glen Residents

*Lucy Floyd*

Thank you to the supporters who have paid tribute to those they hold dear. Unless otherwise directed, gifts are designated to specific communities.

Your tribute gifts provide residents with enriching opportunities for purpose and joy, including art classes, musical performances, gardening, and technology.

## Celebrating with Fortitude: Changes to 2024 CLC Events



We are moving forward into 2024 with a year-long theme of **Fortitude**, rooted more than ever in our vision, mission, and values. We see many opportunities for steadfast growth and innovation in the support and inspiration we provide elders in the coming year.

Our sincerest hope is to continue partnering with you on this journey, and we're excited to share a few changes we are making to our mission celebration gatherings in 2024.

Our **Founder's Day Breakfast** will celebrate our deep roots with a scrumptious breakfast at the Legacy Campus (formerly the Wildlife Experience) on **Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup> from 8:00-9:30am.**

*...Continued on next page*

## CLC Board of Directors

Dave Dookeeram — *Chair*

Jill Vitale-Aussem, CEO

Eric Keesen — *Vice Chair*

Rosina Aragon

Dave De Ridder

Luci Draayer

Barb Hogan

Bill Pichè

Rick Pilgrim

Christine Powers

John Reinsma

Tom Rogers

Jan Roth

Kalen Van Maanen

Brian White

### Did you know?

The volunteer CLC Board of Directors is carefully selected for a variety of experiences and skillsets to serve older adults and advise for our future success.

## Changes to 2024 CLC Events ...continued from page 6

We are moving our **Earthen Vessel Award** (and Distinguished Service Award when applicable) to our Founder's Day event. The Earthen Vessel Award celebrates a special person or persons who have allowed God's gracious work to be done through them, a plain earthen vessel. CLC was founded by a dedicated group of volunteers who deeply believed in creating a better future for elders. We feel the marriage of Founder's Day and our cherished Earthen Vessel recognition is a great fit. We'll send registration information soon! Contact Pam Sullivan, VP of Communications & Philanthropy with any questions, [psullivan@clcliving.org](mailto:psullivan@clcliving.org) | 720.974-3558.

Our **Aged to Perfection** event is returning to where it all started, Holly Creek! The festive happy hour-like event will be **Thursday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> from 6:00-8:30 pm.** Our superb Duet Dining Executive Chefs will provide delectable and hearty delights at various food stations with samples of perfectly paired wines for tasting. Attendees will have time for fellowship, stroll through mission displays, there will be a special mission recognition opportunity, and everyone will enjoy the silent auction and wine pull. It's never too early to donate an awesome auction item or special bottle of wine! Please contact Stephanie Manley, Donor Relations Director, [smanley@clcliving.org](mailto:smanley@clcliving.org) | 720.974.3675 with any donations or questions.

We hope to see you, our valued mission-partner, at these two important celebrations of the CLC mission and to highlight the difference you are making in the lives of older adults and the dedicated teams supporting them.

### You're making a difference...

*"I am very grateful for the Critical Needs program. It helped me at a difficult time of year to repair my vehicle to be able to get to work. I love working at Holly Creek and it's important to me to have reliable transportation. I know that our residents and my team depend on me to make it to work. Thank you to the donors who helped me. I am grateful for the assistance."*

-A Holly Creek Team Member

**Thank You!**



**Christian Living  
COMMUNITIES**  
Where Aging is Honored and Celebrated

**9570 S Kingston Ct, Ste 300  
Englewood, CO 80112**

## Save the Date!

### **Founder's Day Breakfast**

*Thursday May 9, 2024*  
Legacy Campus  
10035 S Peoria St  
Lone Tree, CO 80134

### **Aged to Perfection**

*Thursday October 3, 2024*  
Holly Creek  
5500 E Peakview Ave  
Centennial, CO 80121

**Our Vision:** Creating Communities Where Aging is Honored and Celebrated

# You made a transformative impact in 2023. Thank you!

## Supporters of CLC in 2023 provided:



**More than \$227,000 in General Mission support** to bolster recruitment and retention of team members by funding mentor and wound care training, respite retreats and leadership training

**More than \$49,000 in Critical Needs Assistance** to team members for needs like food, medical bills, housing and rent, and car repair assistance



**19 team members** received more than **\$28,000** in tuition assistance from the **Employee Scholarship Fund**

More than **\$53,000** for **qualifying residents** in rent and medical equipment assistance through the **Resident Assistance Fund**



**More than \$300,000 in Community Enrichment** opportunities including fitness classes, art classes, indoor gardens, magnifying readers, lecture series, and musical performances