

VOLUME 5 • ISSUE 1 • WINTER 2016



UNITED
CHURCH
HOMES®

spirit

M A G A Z I N E

Celebrating the Spirit®

Centennial Celebration

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A WORD FROM THE CEO



Rev. Kenneth Daniel
President and CEO

A SECOND CENTURY OF SERVICE

The simple act of turning the calendar page to 2016 is a significant step for United Church Homes. It means we've officially crossed the threshold into a second century of service.

What began with siblings Matthew and Jane Smith generously gifting their family farm in Holland, Ohio, to the Toledo Classis of the Reformed Church of America has evolved into the vibrant organization we know today as United Church Homes. Our impact, which began with only six residents in a small house in Toledo, has expanded to include more than 4,000 residents living at 68 communities located in 13 states and on two Native American reservations.

While some might describe our progress as "we've come a long way," I prefer to believe that "we've only just begun."

United Church Homes was incubated in an America far different than what we know today — more rural, more connected by rails than by roads, more apt to see healthcare as art rather than science. It was a far simpler time, yet also a time teeming with optimism. It was a time of industrialization, of migration to cities. People looked to their local institutions, especially the church, to address social issues.

Matthew and Jane Smith were people of faith, mindful of the call to serve. They knew first-hand the hardships of old age. In 1916 the life expectancy of Americans was barely 50 years. An 'aged' person was anyone beyond 60 years. That's why the Smiths' founding gift had a specific intent: to establish "a home for the aged."

This occasion of our 100th year of service is a great time to look back, to celebrate our accomplishments, and to envision what our second century of service may look like. We're planning a two-day observance, on July 22 and 23, to measure our progress and to define our historical path. We've secured four major presenters, representing our major national constituencies, and are planning to stage 13 workshops to focus on an array of issues associated with aging and access to affordable housing. For more about our centennial celebration plans, see the article that begins on page 2.

There are many leaders whose personal contributions to our first century shaped United Church Homes today. Each represents key elements of the history and future of United Church Homes. We memorialize Rev. Glenn Royer, the founding father of affordable housing at UCH, who passed away in December. It was Rev. Royer who 30 years ago so eloquently persuaded others that affordable housing should be an essential part of the UCH ministry. His impact lives on for more than 2,600 residents who today benefit from his vision and passion.

Rev. Royer is just one of thousands of individuals to whom United Church Homes owes so much. May we continue to be blessed to be "surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses."



ON THE COVER:
 March 1960 groundbreaking ceremony in Upper Sandusky. For more about our cover, go to unitedchurchhomes.org.

spirit MAGAZINE

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A Look Back A Look Ahead

YEARS

"In the courageous standing of uncertainty, faith shows most visibly its dynamic character."
-Paul Tillich

1916

Inspiration

The earliest days of United Church Homes no doubt drew heavily upon the inspiring story of the organization's founding — a committee of five Toledo church leaders appointed to develop a fledgling ministry, a gift that generated the seed money to establish "a home for the aged," and the decision to build a visionary facility in Upper Sandusky, Ohio. Each story has within it the seeds of promise, progress and, above all, a high-minded and persistent faith that everything would end up working out alright.

From the vantage point of history, we know how the story has evolved. But a closer look reveals that this ministry endured times of great uncertainty and social turmoil. Our founders shared an inspired faith. They also demonstrated perseverance when the way forward was unclear. Despite wars, depressions, and massive changes in American society, the ministry survived, gained strength, and has endured.

This inspiration runs deeper, indicating that our ministry was often an instrument that revealed the hand of God. There were times, based on a careful reading of annual reports from the organization's early days, when resources were not available to pay bills or make improvements. As a benevolent institution struggling to survive when dire economic circumstances hit, the "home for the aged" somehow managed to pull through, and to ultimately flourish. But the focus on living out the mission was unwavering, even as the need for the ministry grew.

United Church Homes' success may have been because there was widespread support for the initial idea. It was generally acknowledged

that establishing a home to care for vulnerable elders was a good and worthy cause — its mission was essential to the broader sense of community that existed among the founders. There were aged people in many churches, and they were in need. There was no social safety net in place to accommodate people who could no longer work or farm. It was a foregone conclusion that the church could make a difference, take action, and organize the resources to make this idea viable.

This prevailing sentiment can be found in the first annual report of the Board of Trustees of the Home for Aged People of the Reformed Church in the United States for the period from June 1916 to June 30, 1918:

"Our Financial Agent, Rev. B. Ruf, . . . has found open doors and willing hearts wherever he has gone, which is convincing evidence and proof, that members of the Reformed Church do not only welcome this new opportunity for a sincere expression in a noble cause, but are equally willing and ready to support an institution so much needed within the bounds of our Church."

There were literally thousands of letters sent out during this time asking for financial support — from individuals, churches, and synods — and many who were interested in making a donation first requested a personal visit from Rev. Ruf, the individual who almost single-handedly spearheaded the organization's financial solicitation. The "ask" letters were sent across a large and expansive territory extending from East Coast metro areas to the prairies of Wisconsin,

1926

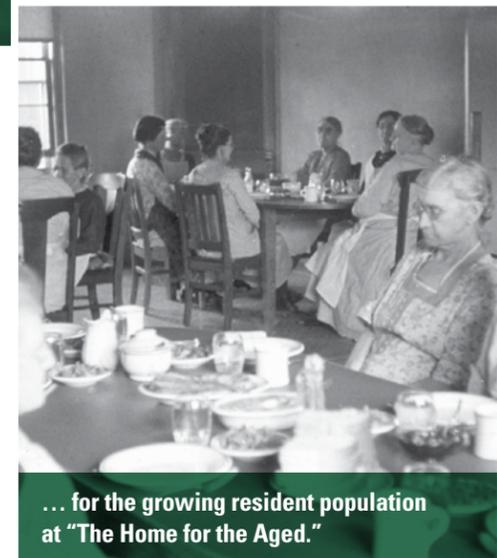


Modern kitchen facilities (circa 1920's) enabled staff to prepare meals...

Minnesota, Nebraska, Kansas, and the Dakotas. There were even donations recorded from people in California.

People understood implicitly the need to care for seniors, and were unfailingly committed to contributing their fair share. In the face of overwhelming, even insurmountable odds, the church's voice and power were uplifted, and the ministry started out, with \$4,011.25 on hand (the equivalent of about \$90,000 in today's currency), on the stable and fertile ground of the American Midwest.

What's also remarkable is that the initial support came from people who did not use English to communicate. Roughly 50 percent of the responses were written in German, by immigrants and first-generation Americans, an indicator of an intact culture where organizing efforts to help out less fortunate souls was often absorbed by the church, and already understood and appreciated. Our founding reflects a tradition that began in Germany to found helping institutions. From a profound faith and embrace of Jesus' teachings, the



... for the growing resident population at "The Home for the Aged."

churches respond: See a need. Solve a need. The existence of the need inspired the faithful action to fix it, and demonstrated the power of the community to mobilize efforts when they were called for. In the process, the church helped transform despair into hope, loneliness into community.

That same spirit is alive and active a century later in today's United Church Homes.

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Gifts in kind, generously donated by church members, kept the pantry stocked in the 1930's.

Insight

The ability of those early founders to see a very real need that was unmet in their community provided the insight for a solution to the problem. At the beginning of the 20th century, the average life expectancy was about 50 years, yet there were many individuals who outlived those statistics and their means.

Providing a home where these loved ones could receive the care and support in their later years was the solution. Little did they know that similar needs would not only still be prevalent a century later, but that the original six residents would grow to be over 4,000 — and older adults would still need the church to help alleviate loneliness, isolation, and suffering.

Intimacy

The extant documents of United Church Homes' history would fit in the trunk of a car, yet they contain extraordinary details.

For anyone whose family tree traces back through Upper Sandusky, Wyandot County, or any one of hundreds of German Reformed, which became Evangelical and Reformed, and ultimately United Church of Christ churches across Ohio and the Midwest, it's possible to find a connection to a long-forgotten person who prayerfully sent in some support in the early days. Every dime was accounted for, as was every apple, peach, or potato. In fact, gifts in kind may have had more intrinsic value than dollars at one point in time.

These intimate connections — personal, identifiable, and real — underscore the nature of the legacy of United Church Homes. We enjoy a large and growing ministry, impacting tens of thousands of people each year, yet we've never forgotten that healthcare is best described as one person caring for another, or that affordable housing gains are secured one household, one family at a time.

It represents an incredible gift from our forebears, and one we must carefully protect and preserve for those who will follow in our footsteps.

Initiative

While there were times in the past 100 years when initiatives were perhaps less important than they are today — when it was best to faithfully and simply attend to immediate demands — that does not describe the United Church Homes of today, where we stand on the brink of our second century of service.

Today's UCH organization is characterized by many initiatives, impacting every nook of our ministry, and we look forward to new approaches which are already taking place today in order to better serve those who are to come.

Innovation

Finally, United Church Homes is not an organization that's likely to sit still. Innovation is as essential to our culture as breathing. It's part of our nature. It has to be.

While we may not know precisely what direction innovation will lead us, we know it must always be under consideration, and we must always be prepared to imagine where it will take us.

The same energy and verve we associate with our present course was there generations ago, when decisions — about where to locate, when to grow, what to build, and how to fund future projects — were under consideration. It's always been there. It always will be just as it is today.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



"Visitation Day" (circa 1980's) helped create community among residents, families, staff, and churches.

OUR VISION
Where the Spirit creates Abundant Life in Community



Intergenerational activities have long been a hallmark of UCH communities.



A resident enjoying abundant life.

OUR MISSION
To transform Aging by building a culture of community, wholeness and peace.

Centennial Celebration Plans Set

Plans are being finalized to mark the observance of United Church Homes' 100th anniversary celebration, scheduled to take place July 22-23, 2016, in Columbus, Ohio.

The celebration will begin at the Hilton Columbus at Easton, 3900 Chagrin Drive in Columbus, on Friday morning, July 22. Workshops and presentations are being prepared to share the resources that reflect United Church Homes today.

The celebration will include a reception and dinner for guests on Friday, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Creekside Conference Center, 101 Mill Street in Gahanna. The celebration continues on Saturday, July 23, at Westerville Community United Church of Christ, 770 County Line Road in Westerville. The celebration will conclude with a worship service at 1:30 p.m.

One of the highlights on Friday, July 22, 2016, will be the showing of the movie, *Alive Inside*, a documentary that explores music's ability to reawaken and revitalize the souls of people suffering with Alzheimer's disease.

Dan Cohen, founder of the nonprofit organization Music & Memory, uses the film to demonstrate music's ability to combat memory loss. For anyone who hasn't seen it already, the movie is a "can't miss" part of our celebration. For anyone who has seen the film, it's an experience worth repeating.

Major Partners, Major Presenters

Headlining the two-day celebration are national leaders in the fields of senior living and faith-based ministries who have been chosen to make major presentations. The organizations we've invited to join our celebration — the United Church of Christ, LeadingAge, Music & Memory, and the Council for Health and Human Service Ministries — represent key constituencies that have shaped and molded the first century of United Church Homes' existence, and will continue doing so in the next century.

"Each featured presenter was chosen because they represent a different facet of what UCH does and what we stand for," said Rev. Kenneth Daniel, president and CEO. "Our Centennial Celebration is an opportunity for us to reflect on the people and key decisions that have shaped our past, to celebrate where we are today, and to begin envisioning the future we all aspire to create."

For instance, United Church Homes has been in covenant with the United Church of Christ and its predecessor denominations since our inception 100 years ago. That covenant has served as a steady, constant reminder that our efforts represent a sacred, faith-based ministry, founded on Scriptural principles, and dedicated to translating our Christian faith into action on a daily basis.

Rev. John Dorhauer, general minister and president of the United Church of Christ, will preside and preach at the 100th celebration's closing worship service on Saturday, July 23, at 1:30 p.m. at the Westerville Community United Church of Christ.

LeadingAge is the nation's foremost association providing support and direction for mission-oriented nonprofits that provide healthcare and housing services to elders across the United States. With more than 6,000 nonprofit member organizations, LeadingAge works diligently to expand the world of possibilities for aging, and to make America a great place to grow old. Its track record in leadership development, education, and advocacy on behalf of seniors distinguishes LeadingAge from other similar associations.

Dr. Cheryl Phillips, senior vice president of advocacy for LeadingAge, will speak about changing the world of aging services on Saturday, July 23, at 11 a.m.



Rev. Dr. Robert G. Diller
UCH Executive Director
1963-1976



Rev. C. Phillip Laucks, left,
UCH President and CEO, 1977-1986



Brian S. Allen, right,
UCH President and CEO, 1987-2011



Undated photo of residents and family staying connected.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



Trinity Community residents stay active and engaged.

Music & Memory is a relative newcomer to the roster of organizations that are partnering with United Church Homes for its centennial celebration. Music & Memory is a nationally recognized organization that is transforming the treatment and care of people with Alzheimer's disease, cognitive decline, physical limitations, and other ongoing health challenges. Last year, United Church Homes became a certified provider of the Music & Memory program in all of its healthcare communities.

Robin Lombardo, regional director for Music & Memory, will lead a panel discussion following the movie screening entitled, *Beyond the Movie*,

the Music & Memory Path, drawing on her experience and knowledge of the program to speak directly to its impact and sustainability.

The Council for Health and Human Service Ministries (CHHSM) is an essential component of the United Church of Christ. Comprised of 73 autonomous organizations affiliated with the UCC that are committed to advancing the healing and service ministries of Jesus Christ, CHHSM's impact involves nearly \$4.0 billion in resources, touching the lives of one million people each year. United Church Homes is an active member of CHHSM, and one of its largest member organizations.

Michael Readinger, president and CEO of CHHSM, will present *What's Faith Got to do With It?* on the relevance of faith-based ministries, on Saturday, July 23, at 10 a.m.

Workshops to Advance UCH Mission

In addition to the four major presentations, the 100th anniversary observance will also feature a set of 13 workshops that are designed to cover a wide and diverse array of topics impacting seniors and the process of aging. The workshops address physical, spiritual, emotional, and social issues facing seniors.

Collectively, the workshops are organized along the three elements

of United Church Homes' recently minted mission statement — to transform Aging by building a culture of community, wholeness and peace. Using these ideas as a way to introduce discussions, those attending the centennial celebration will be able to choose to participate in the workshops they find most interesting. The workshops are led by individuals, most with direct ties to United Church Homes, who understand and mirror the organization's vision to create abundant life.

Community Workshops

- Aging & the LGBTQ Community
- Advocacy 101: Let Justice Roll
- Are You Smarter than a Scam Artist?
- Chair Exercise with Brian

Wholeness Workshops

- Medicare/Medicaid 101
- Alive Inside and Out
- Consistency: Prescriptions & Expectations
- Eating Right for a Healthier You

Peace Workshops

- Suicide and Elders
- Spirituality and Aging
- Spiritual Care for those with Memory Loss and their Families
- Good Morning UCH! Circuit Training
- Intro to Qigong

For more information, please go to unitedchurchhomes.org/100-years-of-abundant-living.

UCH Initiatives, 2016

Leadership Development

- LeadingAge Academy (National/Ohio)
- Nollau Institute (CHHSM)
- Marion Leadership
- Frost-Parker Scholarships
- Quellhorst Fellowships
- Vocational training (Marion Tech, Ohio State, Kent State, Heidelberg, Bowling Green, Sinclair, among others)
- Seminary internship in Older Adult Ministries

Quality Care Programs

- American Health Care Association Silver/Bronze Award communities
- Chief Medical Officer (AMDA)
- Music & Memory
- Eden Alternative (SEM Haven)
- Bundled Payment Care Initiative demonstration project

Housing Communities Serving Unique Populations

- Native Americans
- Haitian immigrants
- Physically disabled
- Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI)

Commitment to Spiritual Wholeness

- Clinical Pastoral Education
- Full-time Chaplains
- CHALICE outreach
- Workshops at UCC General Synod
- UCC engagement (national, conference, local)
- Intergenerational programs for congregations

Commitment to LGBTQ Community

- Open & Affirming policies and programs

GEORGE FAGERT: Guarding General Patton



**"May God have mercy upon my enemies, because I won't."
Gen. George S. Patton**

Chapel Hill Community resident George Fagert is a war hero. No other description can do justice for someone who earned a Purple Heart, a Bronze Star, a Silver Star, a Sharp Shooter Badge, and a Good Conduct Medal, among numerous other commendations, within a span of just 11 months.

He was recognized for bravery in combat while serving with the 90th Division in World War II, from just after the D-Day invasion in June 1944, through the Battle of the Bulge, until the war in Europe ended in May 1945.

George enlisted in the Army after graduating from high school. He felt a deep sense of duty and thought there would be honor in fighting for a just cause. His unit was part of the massive Allied forces deployed to invade and take back Nazi-held Europe.

George served in the infantry in France and Germany, earning medals in skirmishes from the Normandy coast to the German motherland. During a mission to capture a railroad bridge over the Rhine River, everyone in his unit was wounded. He was hit with shrapnel in the hand, causing him to drop his rifle. Bleeding profusely, he retrieved his rifle and remembers being so frightened that he literally outran everyone to the Army hospital tent. That night he earned his Purple Heart.

A comparable encounter earned him a Silver Star. Under a barrage of enemy fire, he cleared a house of German soldiers and his unit confiscated their weapons. Like many veterans, George is willing to share some combat memories, but doesn't dwell on the details. He recalls what it was like to take the life of an enemy. He still dreams about those moments occasionally.

"It still bothers me," he said, shaking his head. "You never get used to it. You're raised your whole life and learn



George, left, as a new enlistee.

not to kill. Then the first thing you learn in the Army is that your enemies are not human beings, they're just targets." The Army didn't have to live with those memories, but he did. He carries the reminders with him still.

His exploits in battle left him a highly decorated soldier. So much so that he was soon reassigned to be part of the personal guard detail for General George S. Patton. He remembers it well.

Patton traveled mostly by private train, and George's initial assignment was to meet his train and lead him from the train platform to his staff car. There were many Germans at the train station, and George impressed the general by parting the crowd and escorting him to the car. Wherever Patton traveled, George went with him. Being part of Patton's entourage had privileges — he ate well, he slept on real beds, and he had access to whatever the general wanted.

"I have great admiration and respect for him," said George, "though at the time, most of his men despised him.

He was the most wrinkly guy you ever saw," George remarked. Patton had a reputation among the other generals as a drinker. Patton actively cultivated a persona of being an especially severe man, always looking to earn the respect of those in his command. George would not drink with him, under any circumstances. "The real General Patton and the nickname we gave him, 'Old Blood and Guts,' were very different," said George. "It wasn't an act. He was simultaneously loved and hated."

George served for two years, but it seemed like a lifetime. He enlisted as a naïve Ohio farm boy and returned to the accolades accorded a hero. His chest full of medals attracted the attention of many, especially young ladies. He met his wife through a blind date and says she changed him forever. He jokes that she was the last woman he ever dated, and he was a decidedly better man for having met her. The rest is history.

He returned stateside, earned a degree at Marietta College in his hometown, and worked as a chemical engineer for Firestone for 38 years before retiring.

He shares war stories with other veterans at Chapel Hill and connects to residents and staff who genuinely care for him. People like George remind us daily of our mission to transform aging by building a culture of community, wholeness and peace — ideals that never concerned a young soldier who says he might not remember all the details, but does remember he was being shot at, constantly.

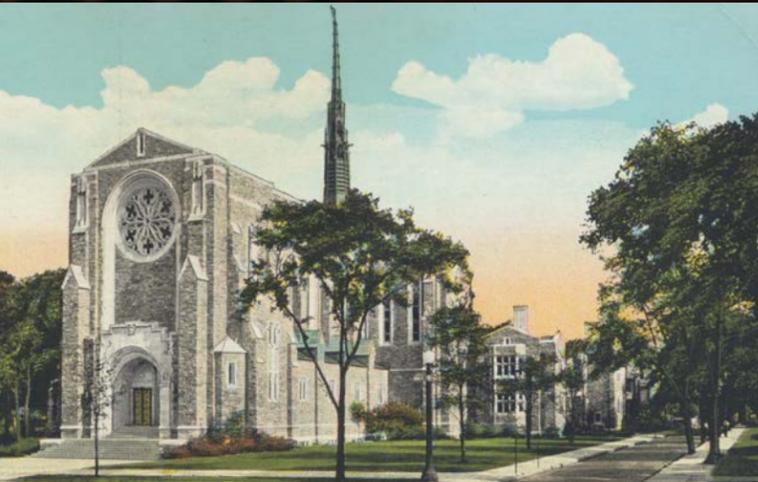
Resting in his recliner, he is now at peace. It was through his personal sacrifices, his harrowing individual moments of terror, that he earned this respite. United Church Homes wishes to thank George and all veterans that serve or have served our country.



First Congregational Church UCC of Columbus

“This is a great place to be connected. It’s all about your relationships, your connections to other people.”

Rev. Dr. Timothy Ahrens,
pastor of First Congregational
Church UCC of Columbus



Source: Scott Krauss News Agency, Columbus, OH. #134570

The Rev. Dr. Timothy Ahrens, pastor of First Congregational Church UCC of Columbus (First Church), has connections to United Church Homes that are personal and date back 75 years. His great-grandparents once lived at Fairhaven Community in Upper Sandusky, Ohio. His grandfather, Rev. Hugo Carl Kellenmeyer, was the superintendent of Fairhaven from 1942 to 1946.

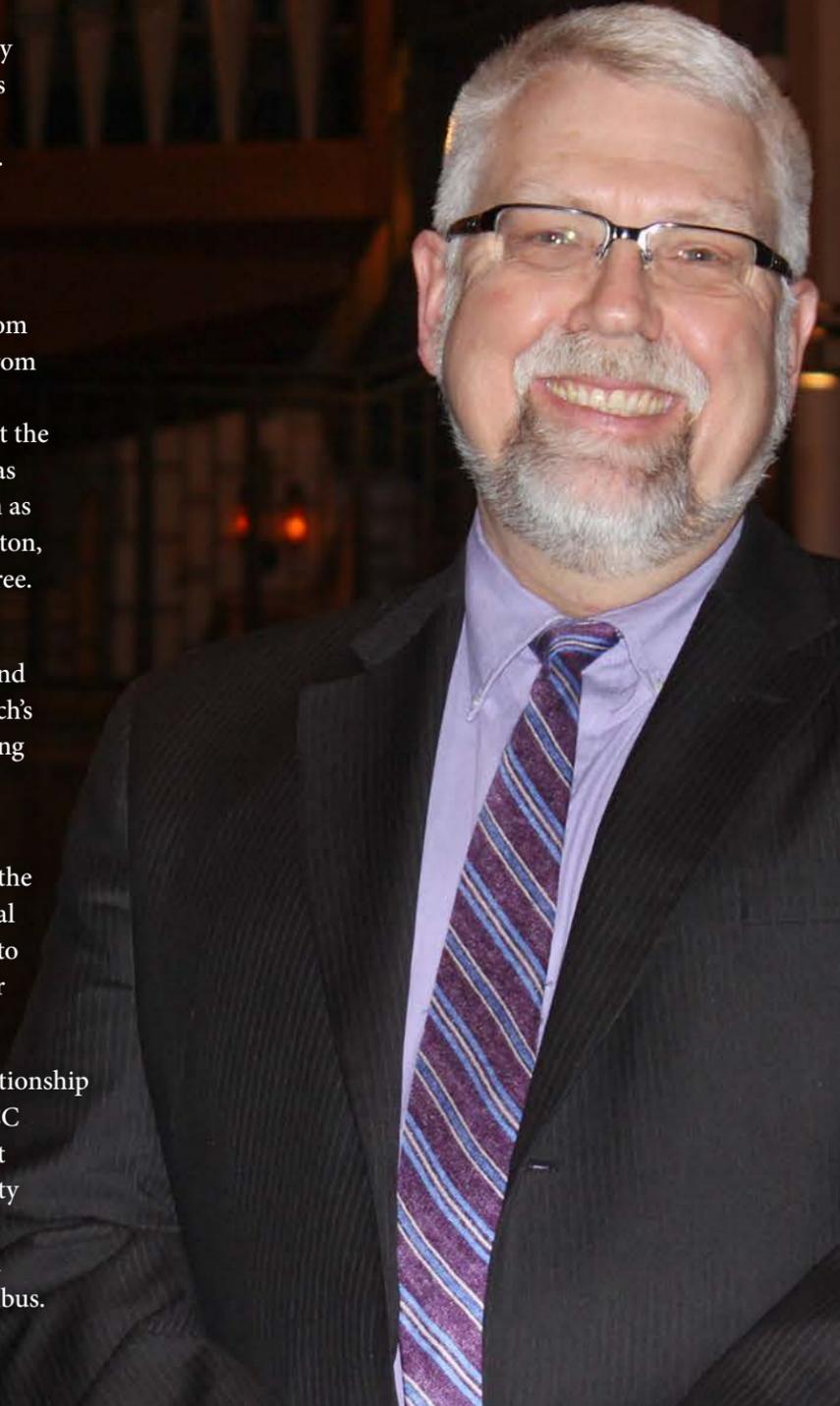
While his personal connections are significant, they are not what fuel his passion for UCH. Instead, it is the opportunity to advance the health and healing ministry of Jesus Christ that animates Rev. Ahrens. For him, Christian faith is not only about personal salvation, but about helping others as well.

First Church is unique. It’s located in downtown Columbus, on East Broad Street, across an alley from the Columbus Museum of Art, and a block away from the Columbus College of Art & Design. With such distinguished artistic neighbors, it’s no wonder that the church itself is an exquisite architectural gem. It was designed by John Russell Pope, who’s better known as the architect of the Jefferson Memorial in Washington, D.C. No other church in Ohio enjoys such a pedigree.

The sanctuary is equally impressive, adorned with ornate carvings and millwork that evoke majesty and reverence. Two massive organs support First Church’s well-known, classically-based music ministry. Sitting high above the altar is a spectacular stained glass window that tells the story of the life of Jesus.

Notwithstanding the church’s singular beauty, it is the congregation’s abiding faith and deep sense of social justice that make it different. “This is a great place to be connected,” said Rev. Ahrens. “It’s all about your relationships, your connections to other people.”

First Church has enjoyed an especially fruitful relationship with United Church Homes for decades. Many UCC churches in Ohio can make comparable claims, but few can do so despite not having a UCH community nearby. The nearest UCH campus is Canal Village, an affordable housing community located in Canal Winchester, 15 miles away from downtown Columbus.



Time. Talent. Treasure.

First Church is the place of worship for multiple members of the United Church Homes Board of Directors. Tom Brownfield, a retired IT executive who lives in Lithopolis, and Rev. Phil Hart, the designated UCC Ohio Conference minister, currently serve on the UCH Board. They each willingly donate time — at least 12 days per year plus conference calls and committee meetings — and specialized talents to provide governance and direction to the organization’s senior management. Another lifelong church member, Bob Kutschbach, a Westerville real estate broker, was a director for 10 years until 2014.

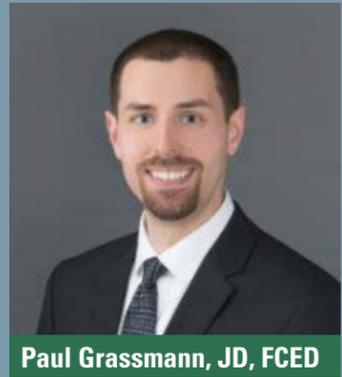
“Our congregation shares a deep sense of social justice,” said Rev. Ahrens. “It’s part of the church’s historical legacy and part of our community identity. We are here to be supportive of, and to be connected to, the ministries of Jesus Christ.”

Church members have been generous in providing charitable financial support to UCH, having donated nearly \$30,000 over the past three decades. “We take up about 35 offerings each year, and United Church Homes enjoys a special place in the hearts and minds of our parishioners,” said Rev. Ahrens.

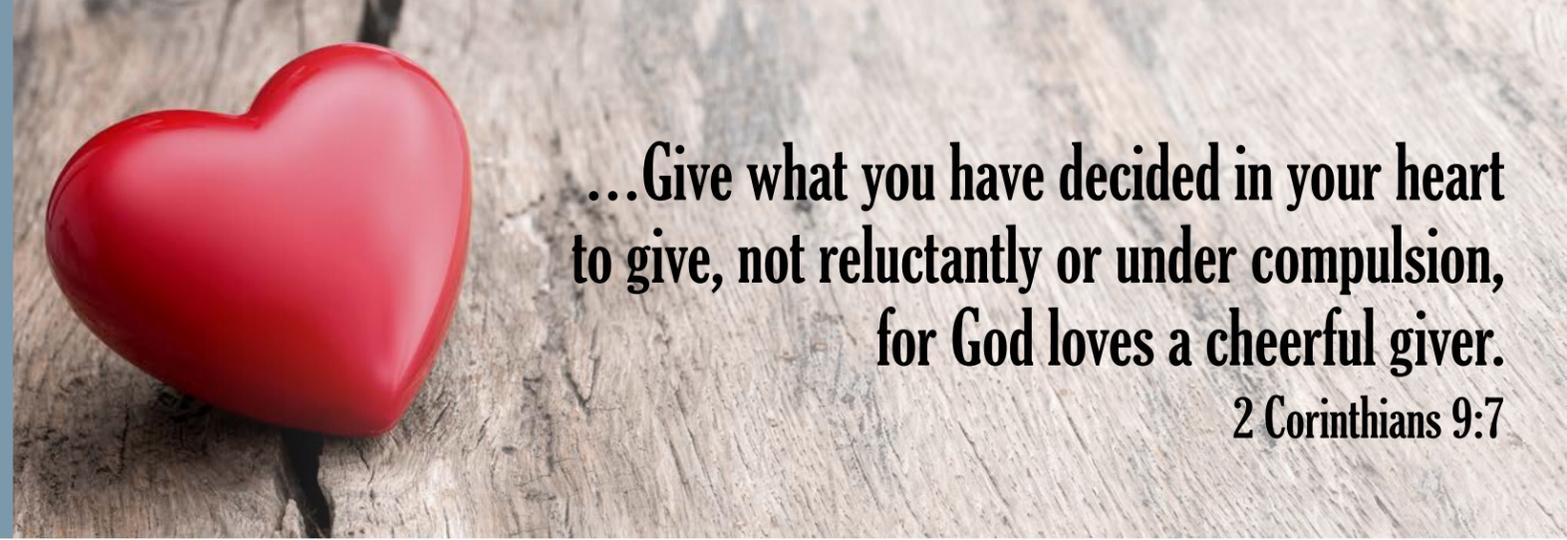
Cognizant of the historical connections between First Church and UCH, Rev. Ahrens invoked the memory and words of the Rev. Dr. Washington Gladden, an influential theologian who served First Church as pastor for 36 years, from 1882 to 1918. His insight still bears witness today. “I’ve come to believe we are shaped by two things: our relationship with God, and our relationship with others.”



Introducing a New Partnership to Guide Giving



Paul Grassmann, JD, FCED



We plan the way we want, but only God makes us able to live it.

Proverbs 16:9

United Church Homes is excited to announce a new partnership with Thompson & Associates that will provide values-based estate planning for its friends and supporters. The process is designed to help develop an estate plan that highlights an individual's values and captures their priorities, while outlining one's intentions and protecting assets.

Leave a Legacy

Estate planning involves deciding what you want your legacy to be, how you want to make it and who you trust to carry it out. United Church Homes knows there are many components to a personal estate plan, and that's why we have partnered with Thompson & Associates to provide expert estate planning information and guidance that assure a supporter's legacy will be what they envision.

"As we prepare to celebrate our 100th anniversary at United Church Homes, we are pleased to offer this valuable, complimentary service to our faithful supporters," said Gloria T. Hurwitz, CFRE, vice president of advancement.

Valued supporters of United Church Homes will be invited to participate in this service that is designed to help them create thoughtful estate plans

that transfer assets to the people they love and the causes they care about. The process often uncovers ways for people to secure their future, provide for loved ones, and self-direct the portion of an estate that otherwise would have been collected as tax.

Headquartered in Brentwood, Tennessee, Thompson & Associates personnel work throughout the nation to help people identify and clarify their estate planning objectives. Thompson & Associates does not draft documents, sell products or manage assets, but instead provides an independent third-party approach to estate planning, offering recommendations to review and have drafted by one's own professional advisors.

Paul Grassmann serves as vice president of Thompson & Associates and as an advisor to United Church Homes. He is devoted to helping individuals plan their estates to meet their personal objectives. Paul completed his doctorate in jurisprudence and achieved the distinction of Fellow in Charitable Estate Planning. He is working on a Master of Laws in Estate Planning from The John Marshall Law School.

Individuals who meet with Paul would expect to receive:

- Expertise from an unbiased third-party
- A valuable set of estate planning recommendations at no charge to you
- Guarantee of complete confidentiality
- A personalized, values-based process that focuses on your objectives
- Convenient appointments on your schedule with no time constraints
- A comprehensive, suggested course of action to share with your local personal advisor(s)

To learn more about Thompson & Associates' partnership with United Church Homes or to discuss scheduling an appointment, please contact Gloria T. Hurwitz, CFRE, vice president of advancement for United Church Homes, at ghurwitz@uchinc.org or by calling her at 740.751.8702.

2015 Employee Giving Campaign: Cheerful Givers

The Employee Giving Campaign demonstrates the dedication of United Church Homes' employees to our mission to transform aging by building a culture of community, wholeness and peace. As an organization, we are greatly impacted by the decision of each employee to give personal financial support to community projects and resident care through the Life Enrichment Fund.



Darlene Marrs
Trinity Community, 40 years

"The people that come to Trinity have been contributing to the Dayton community for many years. It is only appropriate that when their resources dwindle, we are here for them."

The Employee Giving Campaign is a reflection of the enduring spirit and engagement among the employees of United Church Homes. Providing benevolent care for those who have outlived their resources is a cornerstone of what UCH does. Without the generosity of almost 1,000 employees, we wouldn't be able to enhance the lives of residents and families. UCH extends our gratitude to all the participants of the 2015 Employee Giving Campaign.

For more information on donating to United Church Homes, please go to unitedchurchhomes.org/ways-of-giving.



Lori Hill
Four Winds Community, 23 years

"When projects like the gazebo and the planter boxes are completed, I can see smiles on the faces of people here. This is why I try to increase what I give every year."

This campaign lets residents and families know that Four Winds is a place where employees do more than earn a paycheck. Staff are enthusiastic to give back because they genuinely care for the residents here.

The campaign allows employees to help collectively make a significant gift to residents. Trinity uses this time to focus their energy as a team to give more than smiles to residents. Darlene feels giving the best care means going the extra mile. She is excited to talk to other employees about the positive impact of raising money for residents. It has created such a stir that it encourages giving of all kinds, and goes beyond the employees.

"Our staff at United Church Homes is at the heart of our mission. We are thankful for their dedication to their work and the compassion they have for those we serve. Their personal donations are a wonderful demonstration of their commitment," said Gloria T. Hurwitz, CFRE, vice president of advancement.

Fast Facts:

- ✓ \$118,500 in pledged support
- ✓ 30% increase in donations from 2014
- ✓ 73% of employees throughout UCH gave to the campaign
- ✓ Four Winds Community had 100% employee participation
- ✓ Patriot Ridge & Trinity Communities had 99% participation each

SALLY HILLE: Record-Breaking DJ

Glenwood Community resident Sally Hille is the world's oldest professional DJ, and she has the paperwork to prove it. She is in the *Guinness Book of World Records* and has held her title since 2014. As a young child, radio was her main source of entertainment, but she really started her career as a media personality in 1943 while studying at Ohio University.

Sally was always interested in radio broadcasting. It was her life. She wrote commercials, some show copy, and eventually reported on the weather. Everything was done live in the studio. She sweet-talked management into what she wanted to do, especially being on the air.

"No one wants women on the air," she was told. But Sally didn't heed such advice. After all this was her dream, one that ultimately became her reality. She interviewed many celebrities, including Cloris Leachman, Gene Kelly, Rock Hudson, Henry "The Fonz" Winkler, Loretta Lynn, and Paul Lynde.

She spent three decades working for stations on the East Coast, and also worked for WCOL, WHKC, WTOL, WMOA, and WBRJ, before retiring in 1979. Retirement did not slow her down, as she founded the Toy and Doll Museum in Marietta, Ohio, and worked as a tour director in Florida.

When she turned 90, she realized it was time to try something different. Sally wanted to create programming for older seniors (over 70), so she put a show together and has been doing it ever since. She interviews older seniors and discusses topics that relate to her generation. She loves playing songs by Glenn Miller, Frank Sinatra, and other artists from the 1940's.

"Older seniors still have lives. There are things they want to hear about," Sally said. Listeners can find her *Good News for Seniors* podcast that airs on WMOA-AM 1490. Listeners from Ohio, West Virginia, Indiana, and Florida tune in every week. To listen to Sally's podcast, visit www.wmoa1490.com/podcasts.

Sally's son, Steve, helped set up the technology and programs she uses to record her podcasts. Once a podcast is completed, she sends it to WMOA via e-mail. She admits being slightly intimidated by the changes in technology at first, but enjoys the ease of use now that she's grown accustomed to it.

For Sally, the radio business remains her passion. She loves her life so abundantly that she would live it all over again. Simply put, Sally said, "I don't think I could do anything else."



"SAIDO Learning was shown to improve symptoms of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias in research trials..."



Chapel Hill Community Participates in National Research Trial

Chapel Hill Community in Canal Fulton, Ohio, has been selected to participate in a research trial that will test the effectiveness of the cognitive rehabilitation therapy approach called SAIDO Learning.

Known in Japan as learning therapy — and based on symptoms like apathy and depressed mood, quality of life, and cognitive and physical functioning in older adults living with mild to moderate dementia — SAIDO is a non-pharmacological treatment developed by the Kumon Institute of Education. Subjects in the control groups will participate in a cognitive/social stimulation or enhanced socialization activity.

The research project is being led by two co-principal investigators based in Ohio: Michael E. Felver,

MD, medical director of the Center for Rehabilitation at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation; and Patricia A. Higgins, RN, PhD, associate professor and researcher at the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing at Case Western Reserve University. Their collaborative work is taking place primarily at Eliza Jennings, a nationally recognized nonprofit leader in aging services in Cleveland.

In addition, five aging services organizations (ASOs) have been recruited to serve as sites for the Intervention Group, and five ASOs were recruited to serve as the Control Group sites.

"SAIDO Learning was shown to improve symptoms of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias in research trials conducted in Japan,

as well as in the United States in 2011 at Eliza Jennings," said Debra Durbin, administrator of Chapel Hill Community. "This new research trial will be national in scope. Chapel Hill residents will participate for six months and the entire trial will last for one year, beginning in early 2016."

"Ultimately, the goal is to significantly enhance the quality of life for older adults while reducing the level of care and subsequent costs of care," said Rev. Kenneth Daniel, president and CEO of United Church Homes. "If the investigational treatment is proven to be effective, the national study could potentially serve as the basis for justifying reimbursement for cognitive rehabilitation therapy, thus making SAIDO Learning available for all older adults living with this dreadful disease."



Nollau Institute: United Church Homes Invests in Leaders

Cheryl Wickersham, vice president of housing, and Amy Kotterman, director of hospitality, both recently completed the Nollau Institute's year-long training program specifically designed to develop quality leaders. Named for a 19th-century German pastor, Rev. Louis Nollau, who founded several Council for Health and Human Service (CHHSM) Ministries, the Nollau Institute helps participants discern their calling as Diakonal ministers. The hallmarks of Diakonal ministry are servant leadership, motivation, and engagement.



Cheryl Wickersham
Vice President of Housing

"A servant leader encourages others to embrace and share their God-given gifts to make life better for others," said Amy. "When we work together and live the mission, vision and core values, we create and provide more abundant life for the people we serve."

Much of the program involves internal reflection and exploring the culture of the organization. The theology concentrated on hearing God's call and being in a covenant with both God and United Church Homes. Amy increased her understanding of the value of positive leaders moving from "me to we" mentality. Active participation in communication, being a part of the workshops, and possessing a fundamental appreciation for spiritual formation is key to Nollau's leadership development.

Cheryl similarly reflects on her Nollau experience by saying, "For me, it solidifies and strengthens the practice

Communities of like-minded individuals come together to support and share with one another, learning what it means to be better leaders.



Amy Kotterman
Director of Hospitality

of leading. It has energized and renewed my spirit of leadership so that I can be an example for my own staff."

Cheryl continued to define her style of leadership and enhance that style with what she already knew — that people come first. In her case, she is focusing on leading from within, knowing herself, and continuing to teach her regional and community managers to support one another.

As both Amy and Cheryl continue their journey of reflection and communication from the teachings at Nollau, they are challenged to grow even more. Communities of like-minded individuals come together to support and share with one another, learning what it means to be better leaders. They do this by getting back to the basics of why they became leaders in the first place: to be a part of the culture of positive growth and change in an organization,

to base their actions on spiritual foundations, and to value purpose and progress in those around them.

Several UCH leaders have taken part in the Nollau Institute, including Laura Farrell, administrator at Trinity Community, and Beth Long-Higgins, director of outreach and mission integration. UCH has chosen Kim Thorp, director of nursing at Trinity, and David Zack, director of operations, to attend Nollau in 2016 to continue the commitment of a faith-based leadership approach.





Four Winds Nurse Named Nursing Hero



The Ohio Health Care Association (OHCA) named Matt Hatten, RN, unit manager at Four Winds in Jackson, as its nursing hero for February 2016. OHCA honors only one long-term care employee each month for his or her service to residents and the community.

Matt was featured on the OHCA website (ohca.org) during the month of February, and will be recognized at its annual convention in May in Columbus.

Mary Casey, administrator at Four Winds, says that Matt is passionate about serving the community and its residents. "It's not unusual for staff, residents, and family members to specifically ask for Matt because of his knowledge, and the respect he shows," Mary said. "He has earned a trust that provides a positive atmosphere throughout the entire community."

Matt has been employed at Four Winds since 2008 when he became an LPN, and continued his education to earn his RN credentials two years later. In addition to his leadership and daily duties, Matt participates in various fund-raising projects

for residents, and assists nursing students in advancing their clinical skills and career paths. He also volunteers in his children's activities and community sports programs, and is an avid motocross bike racer.

Matt works directly with facility leadership to provide an encouraging, person-centered care atmosphere for residents. He is willing to take on any responsibility to better the community and the quality of life provided at Four Winds.

Residents like Mary Leedy, pictured above, and staff are incredibly proud to nominate Matt for this well-deserved honor. With his kind and compassionate nature, Matt exemplifies the attitude of customer service at all times. He is truly a long-term care hero.



Scouts Spruce Up Space at Fairhaven

Fairhaven Community was approached by local scout troops to facilitate improvement projects to benefit residents. The Silver Award project by cadets of local Girl Scout Troop #2151 focused on clearing out an overgrown area to make it more enjoyable for Fairhaven's residents and staff.

Working together, the girls weeded, mulched, planted flowers, painted a rock, and planned activities in the improved space. The final project included poems, music, prayer, and the release of hundreds of butterflies into the garden. To earn the Silver Award, the highest a Girl Scout cadet can earn, they must complete a project that makes the community a better place.

Similarly, two members of Boy Scout Troop #777 are completing their Eagle Scout projects at Fairhaven. Only six percent of all scouts earn the rank of Eagle Scout, so the projects hold special meaning for the boys.

The first project included the construction of a greenhouse for residents of the newly renovated memory care wing so that they may enjoy growing and tending even when the weather isn't cooperating. It features a wheelchair accessible door, a full ventilation system, and will contain vertical gardening planters along each side for fruit and vegetable gardening. With the mild winter weather, the greenhouse was fully constructed at the end of January and will be ready to fill in the spring.

The second project, to be completed in May, will be the construction and installation of 14 vertical window planters that will stand directly outside each resident's large window facing the courtyard. Each resident will have the opportunity to select and plant the flowers of their choice in early spring, while continuing to tend and enjoy the blooms throughout the summer.

Fairhaven and United Church Homes wishes to thank Girl Scout leader Amy Gardner, and cadets Abby Thiel, and Rachael and Hannah Herring, for making the courtyard a beautiful space to enjoy. Many thanks also to Quinten Voorhees and Simon Getz, troop leader Kent Shane, and others involved in the completion of these projects.





Donor Appreciation Dinners to Resume in 2017

This year, United Church Homes' healthcare communities and affordable housing communities will recognize the many and varied ways in which people give back to those we serve as a component of our July centennial celebration in Columbus. Faithful friends of United Church Homes will be invited to regional Donor Appreciation Dinners when they resume in 2017!



Rev. Glenn Royer passed away on December 2, 2015. Glenn and his wife, Millie, were the second residents to move into Kroft Commons, where they enjoyed the view of Chapel Hill's pond while living within close proximity to two of their sons. Glenn continued to work as the pastor of visitation at Trinity UCC in Wooster, in addition to volunteering with Millie at Barberton Hospital. Glenn was awarded United Church Homes' Ben M. Herbster Award in 2014 in recognition of his leadership while serving on our board in the 1980's. He was instrumental in the establishment of Canal Village in Canal Winchester, where he was pastor of David's UCC. He served the board faithfully as the chair during his tenure and helped to lead UCH into our ministry of providing low-income housing.



Three employees — **Beth Craig** (Patriot Ridge Community), **Alissa Clouse** (Central Office) and **Lisa Burkhart** (Friendship Village of Columbus) — have been selected to participate in the 2016 Ohio Leadership Academy. This education program is designed to strengthen leadership for nonprofit organizations. Past UCH attendees include **Debbie Durbin** (Chapel Hill) and **Scott Slutz** (Central Office) in 2015. Central Office employees **Ken Young** (2014) and **Rob Weisbrodt** (2015) attended the LeadingAge National Leadership Academy.



Mary Maurer, a former member of the United Church Homes Board of Directors, passed away on January 4, 2016. She served on the UCH Board from 1993 to 2002. Mrs. Maurer was a graduate of Heidelberg College, a member of Saint Paul's UCC in St. Marys, Ohio, and served as moderator for the UCC Ohio Conference. She was the mother of current UCH Board member Cathy Green.



Parkvue Place employees were inspired recently. A resident showing off his wedding photos motivated staff to create a bulletin board in a common area to showcase resident baby and wedding photos. Residents had a grand time talking about their past, and guessing whose photos were shown on the board. Some employees added pictures of themselves to join the fun. Small things make a big difference in bringing people together and nurturing community.

CHALICE PARTNER EVENTS

- April 11**
11am – 2pm

"Got Plans?"
Ms. Jessica Moon, attorney, Roth and Bacon Attorneys, LLC
Ms. Marge Sink, LSW, Fairhaven Community

FAIRHAVEN COMMUNITY
- April 12**
11am – 2pm

"What's Up, Doc?"
Dr. James Wysor, medical director, Parkvue Community
Mrs. Shannon Graver, LPN, Parkvue Community
Mrs. Julie Wenzinger, RN, Parkvue Community

PARKVUE COMMUNITY
- April 19**
11am – 2pm

"What's Up, Doc?"
Rev. Maureen Webber, RN, associate pastor of pastoral care, Bath United Church of Christ

"Legal Understanding for Elders"
Ms. Jessica Moon, attorney, Roth and Bacon Attorneys, LLC

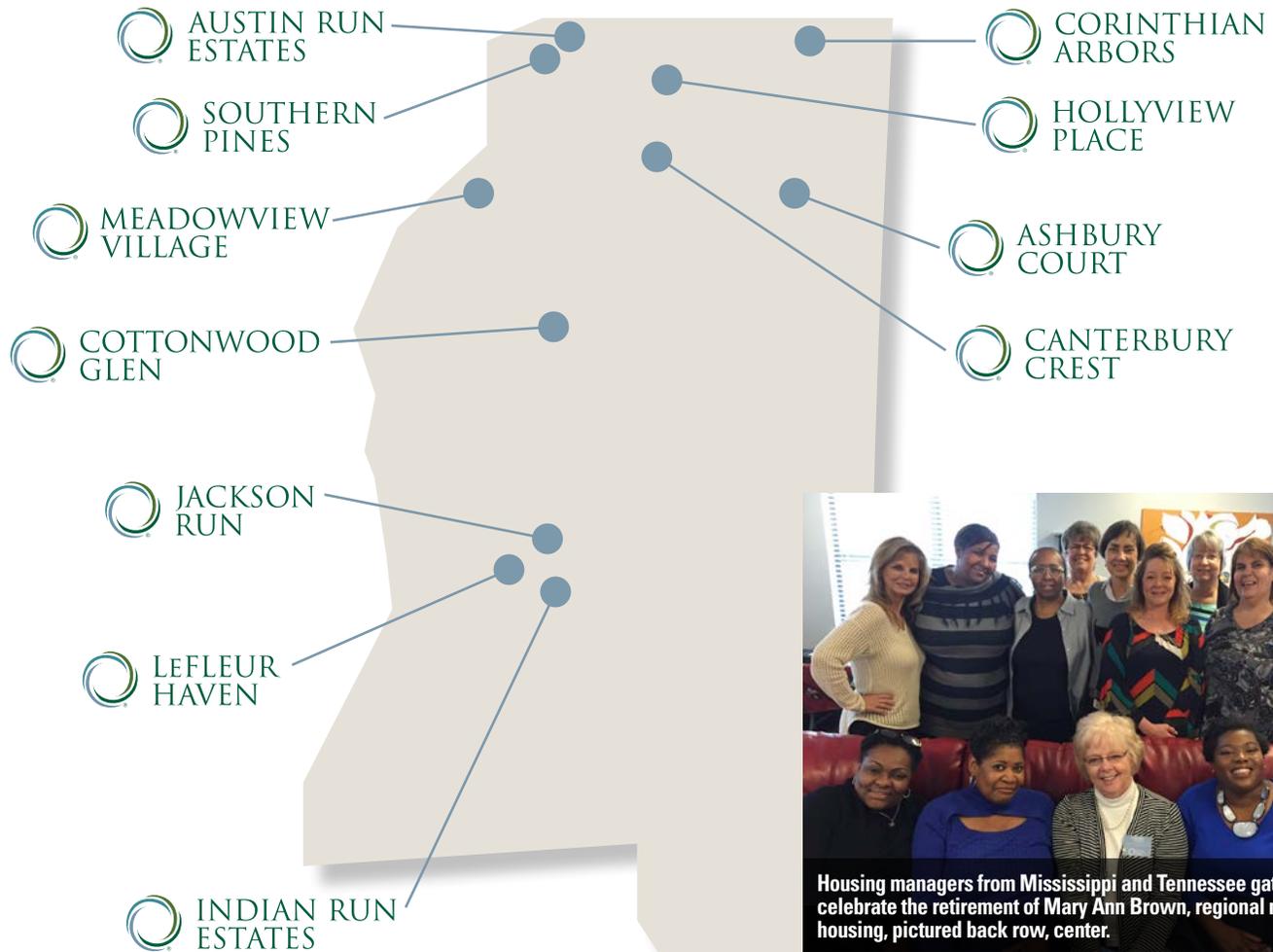
CHAPEL HILL COMMUNITY
- May 4**
12:30 – 2pm

"Knowing Your Limits"
Ms. Elaine Clark, motivational speaker and stress management coach

PATRIOT RIDGE COMMUNITY

For more information on Chalice Partner events, please visit unitedchurchhomes.org/ways-of-giving/chalice-partners or contact the advancement office at advancement@uchinc.org.

Mississippi



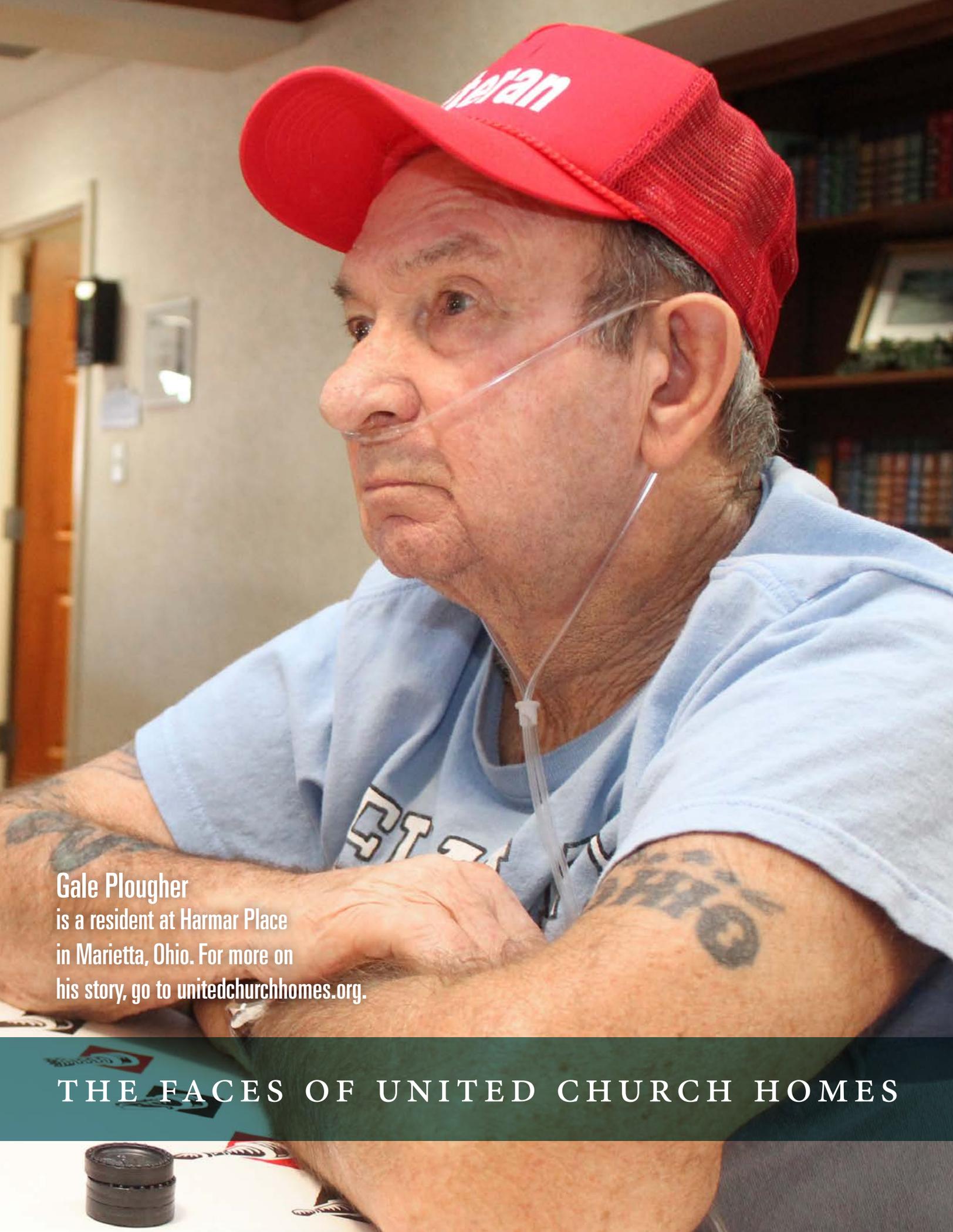
United Church Homes serves over 4,000 residents in 68 communities in 13 states and two Native American reservations.

We operate 11 affordable housing communities in Mississippi — including Ashbury Court in Tupelo, Austin Run and Southern Pines in Horn Lake, Canterbury Crest in Oxford, Corinthian Arbors in Corinth, Cottonwood Glen in Greenwood, Hollyview Place in Holly Springs, Indian Run in Pearl, Jackson Run and LeFleur Haven in Jackson, and Meadowview Village in Clarksdale. UCH also provides quality work environments for nearly 1,400 staff members nationwide.*

For more information, visit us at unitedchurchhomes.org/affordable-housing.

**As of January 31, 2016*

THE PLACES OF UNITED CHURCH HOMES



Gale Plougher
is a resident at Harmar Place
in Marietta, Ohio. For more on
his story, go to unitedchurchhomes.org.

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Our Mission is to transform Aging by building a culture of community, wholeness and peace.

NATIONAL AND STATE AFFILIATIONS:

American Health Care Association: ahca.org

Council for Health and Human Service Ministries (CHHSM): chhsm.org

LeadingAge: leadingage.org

LeadingAge Ohio: leadingageohio.org

Midwest Affordable Housing Management Association (MAHMA): mahma.com

Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging: ohioaging.org

Ohio Healthcare Association: ohca.org

Southeastern Affordable Housing Management Association (SAHMA): sahma.org

UCC Coalition for LGBT Concerns: ucccoalition.org

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