

VOLUME 6 • ISSUE 1 • WINTER 2017



# spirit

M A G A Z I N E

*Celebrating the Spirit®*

**Ruth Frost Parker Center  
for Abundant Aging:  
An Inspiring Start**  
PAGE 4

**I LIVE IT**  
PAGE 2

**UCH:  
A Learning  
and Teaching  
Organization**  
PAGE 6

**Bill & Helen Swank:  
Educational Pioneers**  
PAGE 14





# A WORD FROM THE CEO



Rev. Kenneth Daniel  
President and CEO

## A THOUGHT LEADER ON AGING

Friday, November 11, 2016, was a significant date in the history of United Church Homes. It was the day when we officially launched the Ruth Frost Parker Center for Abundant Aging. Nearly 200 people from all around Ohio representing such diverse fields as healthcare, nursing, management, education, research, pastoral care, and social work attended the event.

Our intent was to initiate a discussion to change the perception of aging in America. Award-winning journalist and former *Good Morning America* host Joan Lunden served as our keynote presenter.

What began as a way for UCH to recognize and honor the memory of Ruth Frost Parker, the visionary leader who holds the distinction of being the single most generous benefactor in our 100 years of service, came to fruition that day. Joan's prepared comments captured the essence of what we're striving to accomplish with our ministry: to transform the idea of what it means to age, and to celebrate growing old as a time of abundance, personal achievement, meaning, and importance. I do not think we could have selected a more compelling speaker.

Joan's personal journey as a daughter, sister, mother, and grandmother and, perhaps most poignantly, as a caregiver for her mother and brother as their health declined, captured the attendees' attention and imagination in ways we could have only dreamed of. With a narrative that balanced humor with sincere reflection, Joan so thoroughly engaged those in attendance that we were all laughing, smiling, and nodding in agreement at dozens of fresh insights and novel ideas. Joan's remarks were both evocative and provocative, and demonstrated a keen grasp of the issues regarding aging that we face as a society, and that we seek to change as an organization.

Her presentation was only one part of the day's story. United Church Homes also assembled a panel of professionals that featured some of the most renowned and informed experts on aging in Ohio. We facilitated a panel discussion by Dr. Robert Applebaum, director of the long-term care project for Miami (Ohio) University's Scripps Center for Gerontology; Kathryn Brod, CEO of LeadingAge Ohio, the state's largest trade association for nonprofit senior care providers; and Dr. Holly Lone Dabelko-Schoeny, associate professor of social work at The Ohio State University. With Joan, we further explored issues raised during her presentation as well as questions from the audience.

The title for the Symposium, *A Generation Ahead: Transforming the Way We Age*, spoke volumes, as it positioned United Church Homes at the forefront of what it means to age in Ohio. We created a forum for the exchange of ideas and innovation in the fields of senior service, higher education, research, and advocacy. The observations and points made by those in attendance — both in discussions among themselves, and in the questions they raised with our distinguished panelists — demonstrated impressive levels of engagement and energy.

The Symposium also afforded United Church Homes with an opportunity to serve as a thought leader on the subject of aging abundantly. For years, we've been steadfastly creating a culture that emphasizes education and learning, advancement, and improvement. We invite you to discover that culture in greater detail in this issue of *Spirit* magazine.



**ON THE COVER:**  
Joan Lunden receives the first  
award for the Ruth Frost Parker  
Center for Abundant Aging

# spirit

M A G A Z I N E

## CONTENTS

### FEATURES

- 2 I LIVE IT: New Hospitality Program Unveiled**  
*Listen. Inspire. Value. Empower.*
- 4 Ruth Frost Parker Center for Abundant Aging: An Inspiring Start**  
*Joan Lunden delivers keynote address*
- 6 United Church Homes: A Learning and Teaching Organization**  
*Transforming the way we think about aging*

### ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

- Clinical Pastoral Education: A Cornerstone of Spirit-Centered Care ..... **3**
- Dementia Program Focusing on Comfort Offered at Chapel Hill ..... **10**
- Donor Spotlight: Fred Feicht ..... **11**
- Estate Planning for the Modern Family ..... **12**
- Employee Giving Campaign Largest in UCH History... **13**
- Bill & Helen Swank: Educational Pioneers ..... **14**
- German Club Continues Tradition at Glenwood ..... **16**
- How Great Thou Art ..... **17**
- Home Again: Ruth Moses 'Happier' Living Close to Family, Friends ..... **18**
- Community Briefs ..... **19**







# I LIVE IT:

## New Hospitality Program Unveiled

**A**fter investing nearly a year of looking into the latest in hospitality program development, United Church Homes is introducing an all-new hospitality program — I LIVE IT — and looking to improve its customer service metrics while also ensuring that the ministry’s culture empowers staff to exercise servant leadership.

Amy Kotterman, director of hospitality, chaired a task force of staff from across the organization to develop the conceptual foundations of the I LIVE IT program. “We began with the idea of how best to provide hospitality training that would help bring abundant life to our residents,” said Amy. “We focused on keeping things simple, and integrating the new program with United Church Homes’ mission, vision, and core values.” The I LIVE IT hospitality program is designed for all staff, whether they work in a housing community, a healthcare community, or the central offices.

The program’s training modules cover areas that involve interaction with customers, from greeting guests to using facial expressions, body language, and vocal tone, from attentive responses to teamwork. “Hospitality covers every conceivable interaction, in every setting from the parking lot to public restrooms,” said Amy. “So the training is focused on emphasizing the principles to guide how to respond in specific situations.”

Even the use of different words to describe a common situation can have a powerful impact on how others respond or feel. Here are some responses from Fairhaven Community residents to two alternative words which describe the same concept:

**Facility** – hospital, dry, Army base, place with no personality  
**Community** – village, neighbors, gathering, togetherness

**Patient** – sickness, hurting, needy, needing a doctor  
**Resident** – permanence, home, family

**Unit/Wing** – intensive care unit, hospital, section, cold/sterile  
**Neighborhood** – home, backyard, street, place where you can talk

**Elderly** – old, sickly, feeble, older than us  
**Older Adults** – well-seasoned people, experienced, parents, wise beyond years

*“What we’re finding in the training is that the words we use, over a long period of time, have a significant impact,” said Amy, who explained that’s the idea associated with introducing a new word each week. “The changes we’ve witnessed in a few weeks have been amazing.”*

Inspired by the iconic LOVE sculptures around the globe, it was only fitting that the I LIVE IT logo adopt this visual reminder of the program. “We’ve chosen to borrow the image,” said Amy. “It’s from the original idea that our new hospitality program comes. From LOVE comes United Church Homes’ hospitality program, I LIVE IT.”

I Listen. I Inspire. I Value. I Empower.



### Hospitality: I LIVE IT!

#### L: Listen

- I listen intently with compassion to understand others’ needs.
- I listen with an open heart and mind.

#### I: Inspire

- I inspire creative hospitality through teamwork.
- I inspire others by my example.

#### V: Value

- I value and respect our residents’ choices.
- I value myself, others, and the contributions we make.
- I value a community environment which is safe and clean.
- I value integrity and transparency as shown by my words and deeds.

#### E: Empower

- I empower a culture of caring.
- I am empowered to take action.
- I am empowered to be a steward of the trust given to me.



*"CPE has become part of the abundant life at Trinity. Residents are eager to find out when the next group is coming, because of the role they play. It's really great to witness."*

— Rev. Greta Wagner, certified ACPE supervisor

## Clinical Pastoral Education:

# A Cornerstone of Spirit-Centered Care

United Church Homes' commitment to Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) represents another example of the organization's emphasis on creating a culture of learning. Since its inception 3½ years ago, the CPE program has flourished, and today is part of a national network of ACPE centers accredited to provide CPE services and training.

CPE is an integrated program of pastoral education and clinical pastoral practice that takes place within a specified time frame and care environment. For UCH, the chosen setting is Trinity Community in Beavercreek, Ohio, a life plan community that offers residential, independent, and assisted living and skilled nursing services. Rev. Greta Wagner, a certified Association for Clinical Pastoral Education (ACPE) supervisor and ordained American Baptist minister with dual standing in the United Church of Christ, serves as director of pastoral care and CPE.

ACPE granted Trinity accreditation to offer Level I and Level II CPE units as a satellite site of the Sisters of Charity Health System of Cleveland, Ohio. With this initial accreditation, Trinity offered multiple CPE classes for a wide and diverse array of students. This diversity includes: race, sexual orientation, age, gender, and religious backgrounds, denominations, and faith traditions. Twenty-four students representing seven states — California,

Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Virginia — will have completed CPE training at Trinity by spring 2017. "As an accredited ACPE center, we have significantly impacted the number of applicants competing for the four to five places," Greta said. "The addition of CPE has helped to make United Church Homes' imprint more national in scope."

The path from satellite site to becoming a fully accredited center was rigorous and involved successfully navigating multiple steps: receiving approval from the ACPE East Central Region accreditation chair and applying to ACPE for member center status; submitting extensive documentation for review by an ACPE accreditation team; and being evaluated at Trinity by the site team March 9-10, 2016. Consequently, Trinity was granted ACPE Member Center status by the vote of the ACPE National Accreditation Commission in May 2016. "We were elated to have qualified for full accreditation status in such a brief time," Greta said. "The accreditation is a testament to attending to the many details in the process, the quality of the program itself, and UCH's commitment to integrate CPE into the daily lives of residents, families, and staff members."

United Church Homes' engagement with CPE is an extension of the mission for the spiritual health and wellness of those we serve. "We believe that chaplaincy in general,

and CPE specifically, are instrumental in meeting the spiritual needs of elders," said Rev. Kenneth Daniel, president and CEO. "CPE students have the rare opportunity to work inside a social institution of the church focused on an underserved and often marginalized population in society."

CPE emphasizes the practice of ministry with people of all faiths and backgrounds, with pastoral supervision, self-reflection, and the support of peers. It is an integral part of our mission, designed to serve others, develop pastoral competencies, and provide a service to the church and the community-at-large. By supporting theological education and professional development, the CPE program at Trinity is helping students to prepare for ministry in their respective denominations where such training is highly encouraged.

One unexpected outcome of Trinity's CPE program is the residents' responses to the training and students, as they understand their unique role in the pastoral formation of seminaries, persons discerning the ministry and chaplaincy, and enhancing the competency of already ordained clergy. Greta said that Trinity residents are fully engaged in the development, attending the graduation ceremony and applauding each student's success.





# 2016 SYMPOSIUM



## Ruth Frost Parker Center for Abundant Aging: An Inspiring Start

Nearly 200 people joined United Church Homes in remembering and celebrating the visionary spirit of Ruth Frost Parker, whose philanthropy helped to create the senior living residence of Parkvue Community, by attending a Symposium in Columbus, Ohio, last November. This inaugural, annual Symposium introduced the newly created Ruth Frost Parker Center for Abundant Aging, an initiative started by UCH as a lasting tribute to Mrs. Parker.

Joan Lunden's keynote address on the changing landscape of aging prompted those in attendance to reimagine the impact they can have on others, made possible by the additional 25-30 years of life that modern medicine and healthier lifestyles have given us.

The day also featured the premiere of a video chronicling the life and impact of Mrs. Parker, whose philanthropic interests also supported a wide range of entities in the Sandusky, Ohio, and Erie County community. In addition to her role in establishing Parkvue Community, Mrs. Parker quietly served Erie County residents

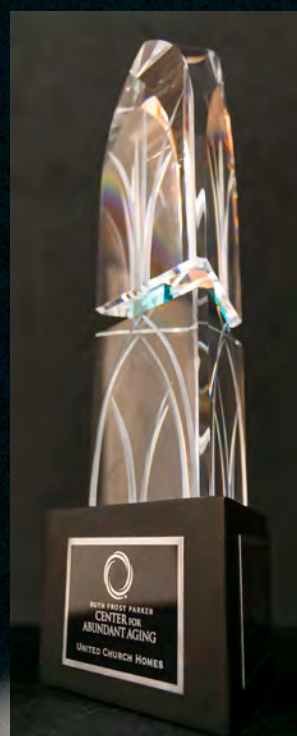
in various capacities involving issues such as alcohol addiction, education, volunteerism, historic preservation, and community beautification.

The Symposium's agenda also included the presentation of the Ruth Frost Parker Center for Abundant Aging lifetime achievement award to Joan Lunden. The family of Ruth Frost Parker — as represented by her three children and their spouses: Jim and Julia Parker, John and Val Parker, and Allison Van Hartdsveldt — supported this event by attending the Symposium and by serving as founding funders of the Center.

The 2017 Symposium will be held October 20 and will feature Dr. Laura Carstensen, founding director of the Stanford (University) Center on Longevity, as the keynote speaker. For more on the Center for Abundant Aging, Mrs. Parker, or this year's Symposium, visit [unitedchurchhomes.org/rfpcaa](http://unitedchurchhomes.org/rfpcaa).



The family of Ruth Frost Parker with Joan Lunden and Rev. Kenneth Daniel



First award for the Ruth Frost Parker Center for Abundant Aging





*Joan Lunden's keynote address on the changing landscape of aging prompted those in attendance to reimagine the impact they can have on others.*



## The Transformers

What does it mean to “transform aging?” This question was asked in a recent conversation about the Vision/Mission/Values statements of United Church Homes. This phrase keeps stumbling into the conversation and people point out that we can’t really alter the fact that we all age. Truth! However, it helps to insert a few words: *Our mission is to transform **the way we think about** aging.*

This goal helps UCH take seriously our role to educate ourselves and others about aging. As an organization with 100 years of experience, we see the call to teach what it means to age in the 21st century. Likewise, given the changes in the area of aging services, we must provide the resources for our staff to remain informed of best practices as we build a culture of community, wholeness, and peace.

UCH partners with educational institutions to assist with this ongoing process of transformation. We seek to train and transform a new generation of professionals in the field of senior services through internships and programs for students, nurses, physician assistants, social workers, and dieticians and sponsor seminars about health-related careers and nonprofit organizations.

We also provide staff opportunities to participate in a leadership skills certification program. Together, they work to create and implement programs and practices to provide abundant life to our residents, staff, families, and communities.

# UNITED CHURCH HOMES: A Learning and Teaching Organization

Nursing students from Tri-Rivers Center for Adult Education and Marion Technical College receive hands-on clinical training with residents at **Fairhaven Community** as part of a more than 20-year-old internship program. The program allows students to learn how to communicate and build relationships with residents. “By having varying levels of care at Fairhaven, this allows these future nurses to be able to perfect skills they will need to perform no matter where their nursing careers take them,” said Christy Biller, staff development coordinator and unit coordinator for rehab at Wetzel and Stubbs units.



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY



In addition, students studying social work at The Ohio State University participate in care planning at Fairhaven. Each year, an intern works with older adults and gains experience with end-of-life care.



The 2016-17 school year marks a first for UCH. Working together with First United Church of Christ in Marion, UCH is sponsoring Emily Howard, a student at Methodist Theological School of Ohio. Traditionally, congregations offer seminary students opportunities to work with youth. This field placement setting allows her to work in a local congregation, with UCH and the residents of **Brownstone Terrace** and **St. Michael's Communities**, two of our affordable housing communities. Emily will learn about the spiritual and pastoral needs of older adults, the role of a local church pastor, and give her an introduction to our church-related institutional life.



*“In 2017, UCH will include staff from Fairhaven and Central Office to participate in a new Elder Care Certificate that the (Alber Center) is launching. This program is the result of a grant and UCH is pleased to be able to have staff participate,” said Scott Slutz, VP of Human Resources.*



In 2016, executives in Housing Services and Human Resources identified a need within UCH to provide opportunities for employees to build leadership skills. Last July, 12 UCH employees from **Housing Services**, **Healthcare**, and **Central Office** participated in the first of three sessions at The Ohio State University's Alber Enterprise Center in Marion. The center, which works with organizations seeking to innovate and make an impact in their business sector, provided most of the training. UCH staff focused on bringing the ideas in focus with the Vision/Mission/Values of the organization.



**Chapel Hill Community** is involved in transforming aging through programs at Kent State University, Kent State University/Stark Campus, Akron University, and Stark State University. Clinical experiences are provided for nursing, social worker, and STNA students. Chapel Hill was honored at the Ohio Association of Gerontology and Education in 2016 for their commitment to providing opportunities for students working on long-term care administration as paid administrators in training (AIT).



Heidelberg University (HU) and UCH have similar roots: both were founded by the German Reformed Church. When you look at the histories of both institutions, you see common names between donors and leaders, alum, staff, students, and residents through the years. In 2014, both institutions sought ways to partner. Since 2014, UCH has provided six paying internships for HU students. **Parkvue Community** and **Friendship Village Columbus** have hosted summer HU interns, introducing them to career paths in dietary sciences and working with residents with dementia. Amy Kotterman, director of hospitality, has been a regular guest lecturer in the senior seminar for the health sciences majors. “Amy’s annual lecture is a great example of the value of the relationship between our two institutions. Through supervising interns, Amy helps students understand the importance of holistic decisions about care that are in the best interests of those served,” said Dr. Trevor Bates, associate dean of health science. UCH looks forward to Trevor joining the Board of Directors in 2017. Rev. Beth Long-Higgins, executive director for UCH’s new Ruth Frost Parker Center for Abundant Aging, has served on the board of trustees for HU since 2009.





The work experience 17-year-old Savannah Studavaker is getting at **Parkvue Community** is priceless. She works in the kitchen at Parkvue where she and others, such as Faith Chicotel, 16, learn skills that will help them get jobs. “They help me learn how to follow directions and keep on task,” Savannah said. Savannah is one of 24 students who participate in Job Connections, a job training program run by EHOVE Career Center in Milan, Ohio. EHOVE is an acronym for Erie Huron Ottawa Vocational Education. Students with disabilities in the program learn to fill out job applications, write resumes, and other skills. “The skills they learn here are so transformational. They can take these skills and can move on somewhere else and be successful,” Job Connections Coordinator Lisa York said. Parkvue has partnered with EHOVE for nearly 10 years, said Robin O’Brien, director of dining services. “(The students) do a lot of the extra things that we have a hard time getting done,” Robin said. The program exposes students to real world experiences that cannot be duplicated in the classroom. “Those are the experiences that lead to the students being able to problem-solve,” Lisa said. Without the program, many of the EHOVE students would struggle to compete in the workforce. Annee Smith, 25, was trained at EHOVE and now volunteers at Parkvue. “I feel like I’m doing God’s work. There are good people here,” Annee said.

**Trinity Community** offers educational programs for students. It’s a



**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

clinical site for dieticians from The Ohio State University and a clinical site for nurses and social workers from Wright State University. Also, first-year physician’s assistant students from Kettering College of Medical Arts and nursing students from Sinclair Community College participate in clinical rotations there. In addition, Sinclair offers adult education classes for Trinity residents and the community.



National Honor Society students Grace Barton and Emily Mclean from Beavercreek High School volunteer with the Music & Memory and Opening Minds through Art programs with Trinity residents. Their classmate, Nathan Nevels, is learning job skills in the laundry department.



**Patriot Ridge Community** offers several educational and volunteer opportunities for residents, staff, and southwestern Ohio residents.

Staff members volunteer with the YMCA’s Mentors Matter program. The program aligns inner city youth in the Dayton area with a professional for several days of golf lessons, games, lunch, and discussion about leadership and tools for success.

Nursing students from Cedarville University complete clinical rotations at Patriot Ridge. Students from Cedarville University, Fortris, and Hondros Colleges work as nurses at Patriot Ridge.

Members of the Phi Mu Alpha Fraternity Sinfonia Mills Music Mission complete volunteer service hours at Patriot Ridge to personally interact with and lift the spirits of the residents.







Lindsay Williams, human resources manager at Patriot Ridge, sits on the advisory board of both the Greene County and the Miami Valley Career Centers. The boards meet on a quarterly basis with members of the faculty to discuss the curriculum, preparing students for the workforce and other programs.



Students from the RN programs complete their clinical training at **SEM Haven Community** in Milford, Ohio.

A Milford High School special needs student enjoys working in the laundry department at SEM Haven while developing work and social skills.

“SEM Haven has always opened our arms and hearts to others in our community. Supporting students fits in with our vision to be a home where caring relationships thrive. Our staff members and the students both get a lot of good experience and we also get great future staff members,” SEM Haven Administrator Barb Wolf said.

Cecilia McGee, registered nurse staff development, is on the advisory board for Live Oaks Vocational Diversified Health Program.

### **Harmar Place (HP)**

Rehabilitation and Extended Care in Marietta, Ohio, serves as a clinical site for Washington State Community College nursing students. In addition, HP nurses serve as instructors for licensed practical nursing (LPN) students. The Washington County Career Center brings STNA students for their clinical practice. The clinical education nurse at HP sits on the advisory panels for both institutions and on the panel with the Wood County Practical Nursing program. The director of nursing also serves on the advisory panel for the high school STNA program. Bridging the Ohio River, nursing students from West Virginia University-Parkersburg campus come to HP, usually during flu immunization season, giving injections and receiving lots of practice on the HP staff. “We love to have the students. It’s a win-win for all involved: educational institution and their students, our community and employees, as well as the residents,” said Charlene McGrath, director of nursing for HP.



**Washington State**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

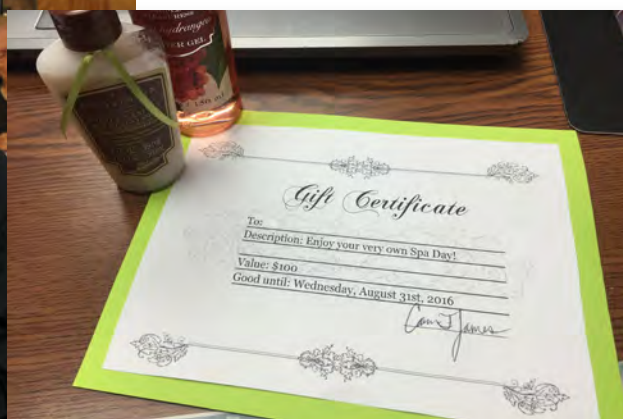


**Pilgrim Manor** in Grand Rapids, Michigan, is a clinical site for nurse training and education and has hired some of the students upon graduation and license testing.

For more than 10 years, students pursuing social work degrees at Cornerstone University have spent an academic year working with a Pilgrim Manor resident on the resident’s life story and developing a relationship based on the class criteria. When finished, the students present their projects to classmates, residents, and families. “One year, a Pilgrim Manor resident participating in the project communicated to the student that they had a horrible childhood and adult life but still managed to find joy in everything. They didn’t have any pictures from their childhood of all the fun things they enjoyed. After learning that, the student drew pictures of each of the fun events and bound them in a book and presented the book to the resident at the end-of-year celebration,” said Karen Messick, former administrator at Pilgrim Manor. “During this presentation, there was not a dry eye in the room.”







## Dementia Program Focusing on Comfort Offered at Chapel Hill

A spa day and a glass of merlot was all it took.

A Chapel Hill Community resident in Canal Fulton, Ohio, with dementia who often lashes out and refuses to bathe agreed to a day of pampering: a bath, time at the community's salon, and a glass of red wine after staff told her she won a gift certificate.

"It takes the right approach and often the right person to give her care," said Chapel Hill Memory Support Director Caroline James. Inspired by recent Comfort Matters dementia care training, staff tried something new: providing her and others with things that bring comfort.

Comfort Matters was developed at Beatitudes Campus in Phoenix, Arizona, another member of the Council for Health and Human Service Ministries of the United Church of Christ. Comfort Matters follows five ideas: comfort care, anticipating patient needs, knowing

the person, person-directed care, and staff empowerment.

Since receiving training, Chapel Hill has added snack stations. "At home, we can access the fridge or the pantry whenever we want. It seems so simple, but we want to give them as much independence as we can," Caroline said.

Staff also contacted residents' families and learned personal information about them and now track what soothes them. "Dementia patients in pain can't always communicate. Staff members look at facial expressions, sounds, and nonverbal (communication). Instead of giving them antipsychotic medication, they can give them a Tylenol instead of a Xanax," Caroline said.

Tena Alonzo, director of education and research at Beatitudes, said comfort care is often common sense. "It's about understanding dementia and understanding the person," Tena said.

Chapel Hill launched Comfort Matters in June. United Church Homes will offer it at Trinity, Parkvue and Fairhaven Communities this year. Amy Kotterman, director of hospitality services, said the training has paid off.

"The program is person-directed care. We're focusing on the individual and not focusing on the disease," Amy said. "The more you know about the resident, their past, what makes them who they are, we're better able to care for (them)."

Ron and Marie Cleary are pleased with the initiative. Ron's mother, Shirley, who has dementia, was aggressive before moving to Chapel Hill about three years ago. Staff regulated her medication, the Clearys said, and have asked for personal information to provide better care for her. "When the staff has more information, it's an opportunity to connect and see more life come back into her eyes," Marie said.







# Fred Feicht

## Trinity Community: A Family Legacy for LIVING and GIVING

When Fred Feicht's friends learned he was staying at a retirement community, some asked if he had gone there to die. Fred, 81, disagreed. "I've got things to do," Fred said. A resident for 12 years, Fred is an active senior who enjoys living independently at Trinity Community in Beavercreek, Ohio. He volunteers by playing the organ at chapel, Sunday services, during the Christmas season, and every Friday morning. He also volunteers to greet residents and visitors at Trinity, calls Bingo, and enjoys word games, socials, and musical programs.

Fred followed in his parents' footsteps when he moved to Trinity. His mother and father lived there for eight years. Fred is also very committed to continuing a family legacy of donating to Trinity. He has been a monthly donor for more than 22 years to Trinity's Life Enrichment Fund, which provides financial support for community projects and resident care. "I'm giving exactly what my dad gave. It isn't much, but I've been doing it every month since 1994," said Fred, a retired bank teller and former employee at Ludlow Battery and Ignition, which was founded by his grandfather.



Fred has been around Trinity since its beginning. He knows many of the people who were part of the founding planning committee by name as he points at the names on the plaque inside the entrance. "I don't think there's any place like Trinity. No. 1: the friendliness. That's very important. Wherever I go, I see people and say, 'Hi.' I've known this place since it was built," Fred said.

Staying active at Trinity is ingrained in Fred, said his sister, Martha Neitman, 79, who also lives at Trinity. Helping others is important to the siblings. Martha, who also donates to the Life Enrichment Fund, notes of her brother, "He likes to support the things he's interested in doing. I'm all in favor of that. He's very faithful."

Fred, a Sinclair Community College graduate, has a degree in financial management and is a fourth generation member of St. John's Lodge No. 13 F&AM (Free & Accepted Masons). "My dad, grandfather, and his father were active in the Masonic Lodge," Fred said. During his 58 years as a member of the lodge, Fred presided or served as an officer. There, he developed a passion for playing the organ; a talent he honed and eventually shared with churches he attended in the community. What does he love about the organ? "The sound," he said. "The difference between the piano and the organ is the foot pedal. It gives it that extra something. It's soothing," Fred said.

When asked to name his favorite songs to play at Trinity, Fred rattled off a handful of gospel classics and American standards. *O Jesus, I Have Promised, What a Friend We Have in Jesus, Onward Christian Soldiers, America, and God of Our Fathers.* When asked why he plays music, volunteers, and consistently donates his time and money to help others, he recited Matthew 7:12: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."



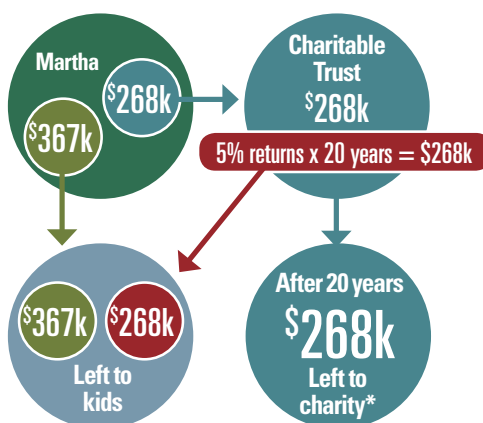
# Estate Planning for the Modern Family

How much do I leave my family and when do I leave it?

As a consumer-driven society, for many — especially the younger generations, the question isn't, "Can we afford it?" The question is, "Can we afford the monthly payment?" Also, as a "litigation friendly" society, individuals are caught up in lawsuits, divorces, and entanglement with creditors. So, how does a modern family plan their estate?

Martha was a widow who never believed she had the means to meet her philanthropic goals while meeting the needs of her heirs. Her retirement accounts totaled \$268,000 and her assets \$367,000 — for a combined worth of \$635,000. However, with planning, Martha created an opportunity to make a charitable gift that she never dreamed possible. And, by leaving a portion of her estate to her heirs immediately and protecting the remaining assets, she was able to create an income stream for those whom she cared deeply.

Martha was financially savvy and knew that the money she set aside for the kids would likely grow over time. It's this growth that she wanted to leave to her favorite charities. So, she used her retirement accounts to fund a charitable trust at her death. By using this charitable trust, it prevents her kids from liquidating her retirement accounts all at once and causing all of these funds to be counted as income in a single tax year. Designed to pay out five percent of the trust assets each year to her children for 20 years after her passing, this trust, combined with her immediate gifts, still allowed her to leave \$635,000 to her kids. Additionally, at the end of this 20-year period, the charities she



*\*Assuming a 5% return on investment*

cared most about would share what was left — approximately \$268,000!\*

While her kids were successful, Martha did not want her kids to have access to all of her worldly possessions at once. She didn't want them to feel like they didn't have to work as hard, solely because they received an inheritance. She did want to provide a stream of income that could help them if they fell on hard times. And, she really hoped that her funds could provide a little something extra each year so their families could take a trip together or help with a project around the house. Martha is a good example of how a modern family achieves impactful estate plans.



United Church Homes is pleased to offer our friends and supporters a complimentary, values-based estate planning service from an expert estate planning advisor. Paul Grassmann, from Thompson & Associates, visits Ohio monthly to meet with and assist families or individuals as they navigate through various practical, emotional, and legal issues. If you are interested in learning more about this service, or scheduling an appointment with Paul, please contact Gloria Hurwitz, vice president of advancement at [ghurwitz@uchinc.org](mailto:ghurwitz@uchinc.org) or 740.751.8702.

**Thompson & Associates**  
Values-Based Estate Planning



**Paul Grassmann, JD, FCED**

*\*Assuming a 5% return on investment*



## Employee Giving Campaign Largest in UCH History

Compassion. Hospitality. Respect. The team at United Church Homes truly cares about the older adults served and demonstrate this through values-based engagement. This fact is proven through the person-directed care provided at all communities every single day. Additionally, the staff shows their love for the people in their care by donating personal resources for their benefit through the annual Employee Giving Campaign.

How many organizations can claim that the employees came together and gave a transformational gift of nearly \$127,000? The September–November 2016 effort with 12 kick-off events over all shifts, at all communities, resulted in increased contributions of seven percent over last year's campaign.

An astonishing 83 percent of staff participated in this year's annual Employee Giving Campaign, up 10 percent from the previous year! The campaign is the largest annual appeal at UCH, proving the staff's commitment to the mission. 2016 marks the most successful employee campaign in UCH's history — noteworthy as UCH embarks on its second century of service.

Gifts are designated to a wide variety of exciting projects and programs that will benefit all residents of United Church Homes.



*"It is inspiring to see our team's dedication to the older adults we serve. They show that they care not only through their values-driven work, but also through this compassionate pledge to enhance care and services for residents. I am proud to work with individuals who care so deeply for those they serve," said Alissa Clouse, UCH director of major gifts and grants.*



Housing  
Communities



Wishing  
Well



Life Enrichment  
Fund



Outdoor  
Enhancements



Animal Care  
Fund



Culture  
Change



Activities



Resident Needs



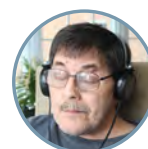
Aromatherapy



Opening Minds  
through Art (OMA)



Neighborhoods  
& Households



Music &  
Memory



Resident  
Christmas Gifts

**100% Participation:** Four Winds, Glenwood, and Trinity

**98% Participation:** Patriot Ridge and Harmar Place

**97% Participation:** Central Office

**\$126K+ Raised**

**83% Participation:** Overall

**967 employees donated**





# Bill & Helen Swank: Educational Pioneers



Today the phenomenon is fairly common, as evidenced by Bill and Hillary Clinton, Bob and Elizabeth Dole, Beyonce and Jay Z, and Elton John and David Furnish. Today it's not unusual for two supremely talented individuals to meet, fall in love, get married, and live happily ever after. We call the phenomenon power couples.

**B**ut 60 years ago power couples were far less common. It's not because talented people weren't attracted to each other. Instead, it was because societal expectations and perceptions about dual-career households often eclipsed the notion that both were not only possible, but even likely given an ideal combination of ability, ambition, and opportunity.

Meet Bill and Helen Swank, residents at Friendship Village Columbus. While they're certainly not Columbus' original power couple, they no doubt occupy a unique place in the capital city's history and in its emergence over the past half-century as a metro center that's home to the state government, large public firms in the banking, insurance, and retail sectors; and ever-growing institutions of higher education. The Swanks flourished as Columbus came of age as a city.

When the Swanks arrived in Columbus as students at Ohio State in the late 1940's, the city held the distinction of being the state capital of Ohio, but its population was less than half that of Cleveland. There were no professional sports teams (Woody Hayes had yet to arrive). There were no Fortune 500 firms, and no material attributes aside from its centralized location and an unlimited ability to grow in every direction. The Columbus skyline could be represented by a





single raised finger, as the Lincoln-Leveque Tower was the only building that stood higher than 15 stories.

It was in this crucible of transformation that Bill and Helen fell in love, married, finished undergraduate and graduate school, raised a family and, individually, pursued careers that it would be difficult to imagine being replicated today. Bill served as executive vice president of Ohio's Farm Bureau Federation for nearly 30 years before his retirement in 1996, while Helen taught in the vocal music department at The Ohio State University for 25 years. Bill was a counsel to every governor from William O'Neill to Ted Strickland. Helen helped guide the vocal music department's rise from obscurity to prominence.

Both are modest when asked to describe how a dual-career couple could achieve such success. Even when pressed, both are unlikely to share too many details.

"When our kids used to ask me what I did all day at work, I told them I just talked to people," said Bill, whose accomplishments include serving on the Ohio Board of Regents, as president of The Ohio State University Alumni Association, and on the boards of directors of Central State, Otterbein, and others. "I listened to

what people said and helped them find common ground. It wasn't anything more complicated than that."

What Bill doesn't say is that his ideas were probably decades before they became popular and widely adopted. After earning a doctorate in economics from Ohio State in 1962, his leadership and vision were counted upon to address the inherent conflict between rural and urban interests, and he was known for calling for an objective and analytical approach to promote understanding and resolution of critical policy issues. The C. William Swank chair in the university's department of Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics is named in his honor.

Helen's achievements are equally significant. The Helen Swank Research and Teaching Lab at Ohio State's department of vocal music is named for Helen, whose pioneering work combining medicine, vocal technique, and speech and hearing therapy concepts helped make Ohio State a leader in voice healthcare and maintenance. The lab is world-renowned among vocal professionals.

Helen earned her master's degree in voice from Ohio State in 1966 and she joined the faculty shortly thereafter. When university officials approached her to head up its emerging program,

she was surprised they would ask someone with a master's degree to lead a program full of doctorate-level candidates. "I was honored that they approached me," said Helen, "but I told them that Bill had an important job, and that we still had children at home." Nonetheless, Ohio State persisted. Imagine such a large and diverse organization doing something comparable today.

She served as head of the voice performance area for 13 of the 25 years she taught at Ohio State. Twice she received the university's Alumni Distinguished Teaching Award and, in 1997, was the honored recipient of the School of Music's Distinguished Service Award. Her former students grace the faculties of colleges and universities across the nation, and are also found in leading opera companies in America and Europe.

From their humble origins in Darke County, home of Greenville, in western Ohio, Bill and Helen Swank have truly carved out a remarkable career arc — correction, career arcs, plural.

"It's been quite a journey," Helen said. "We've had a great time."





## German Club Continues Tradition at Glenwood



Once a month, a group of Glenwood Community residents get a taste of home.

Twelve women — some German war brides or women who married military men about 30 years ago — meet at Glenwood or elsewhere in the Marietta area on the second Thursday of each month for lunch to discuss the topic of the day, exchange recipes, speak German, and eat their favorite German cake or other delicacies.

“When you’re in a foreign country, it’s good to connect with someone who speaks your language. If you can get together with somebody and have the same likes and dislikes, it’s always nice. We just help each other out,” said Esther Stowe, 95, one of three Glenwood residents who is a member of the club.

A century ago, when the German Reformed Church started Fairhaven Home for the Aged, one of the benefits was providing a place for older members to be cared for by people who spoke the same “mother tongue.” They had some understanding of their lives as immigrants and could even provide worship in the language of their youth. Although Glenwood Community joined the United Church Homes family a century later, those connections through the German languages still ring true.

Founded in the late 1950’s, the social club Esther is a part of began after some of the first German immigrants arrived in the United States. The club started with a small group of women who met in the evenings in the homes of other members after their husbands came home from work. Christa Cope, 80, joined the group in the 1970’s after arriving in the United States from Fulda, Germany.

In its heyday, more than 20 women were a part of the group, Christa said. “You hear news from the old country because most of them have relatives over there. It’s not just talking about Germany, it’s about your life here and of course what women talk about,” Christa said. “You feel homesick for your old country no matter what. Life is different here. If you can talk to somebody, that would help.”

That is the importance of community and finding others with whom to connect. From our earliest memories to understanding the context of our current lives, it helps to be able to communicate in all the languages that have shaped our lives.







## How Great Thou Art

**H**er passions as a child were music and art. M. Jeanne Tasse, 91, a Glenwood Community resident in Marietta, Ohio, blended the two as an adult studying both in college and teaching her crafts to others for decades. “My first love was music. My second love was art,” Jeanne said. “I used to draw and copy things when I was young. I made my parents Mother’s Day and Father’s Day cards. There was a girl in my class who could draw. She was very good. I said, ‘I want to be good, too.’” A devout Catholic, Jeanne was a nun whose faith played a major role in her education and work as a college professor of art and music. “She made the pursuit of God part of her passion, part of her vocation,” said Glenwood Director of Marketing Laura Miller.

Jeanne, a Wooster, Massachusetts native, is the oldest of seven children and the first in her family to go to college. She earned her bachelor’s degree in music at Anna Maria College in Paxton, Massachusetts, where she lived in a convent with the Sisters of Saint Anne. Jeanne went on to receive her master’s degree in art from Notre Dame University, a Catholic university in South Bend, Indiana. “Women were allowed to go during the summer time. During the regular school year, it was a boys’ school. I thought it was wonderful to go to Notre Dame,” Jeanne said.

She later earned her doctorate degree in history of art at Boston University in Boston, Massachusetts.

Jeanne’s teaching career began in 1953 when she was a professor of art and music at Anna Maria College while she worked on her master’s degree. She also taught calligraphy at Anna Maria, where she was an instructor for 22 years. “When studying for my master’s, I copied a teacher who did beautiful writing. She showed me the Roman letters. But I taught myself how to do calligraphy,” Jeanne said. For about 17 years, Jeanne taught at Marietta College in Marietta, Ohio, said Tom Perry, director of communications at the college. Jeanne taught art, history of art, calligraphy, and applied art at Marietta College before retiring in 1991.

She later was an instructor and the director of the Institute for Learning in Retirement at a time when there was a movement nationwide to offer

courses to retirees. The institute is a community-based organization that offers courses as part of the continuing education opportunities at Marietta College. The ILR grew from just two professors to educate more than 100 students. “The courses dealt with contemporary issues. Things you wanted to learn, but were not in your study plan,” Jeanne said. Courses at the institute continue today, said Jim Hoy of Marietta, a retired ophthalmologist and instructor at the institute. Jim described Jeanne as a “terrific” person who helped the institute flourish, while also devoting her life to Christ. “She’s extremely devout. But she doesn’t let that get in the way. She’s not critical of others. There’s not a malignant bone in her body,” Jim said.

Jeanne is listed in *Who’s Who in America*, *Who’s Who in American Art*, and *Who’s Who Among American Women*.







## Home Again: Ruth Moses 'Happier' Living Close to Family, Friends



Ruth Moses loved living at United Church Homes' Four Winds Community in Jackson, Ohio, where she saw her brother about once a week. But after he died in 2009, visits from family and friends were few and far between. Later, when a good friend who often took her to church became sick, Ruth realized that her closest family was now three hours away.

Mary Barker, 74, Ruth's only remaining sibling, lives in their hometown of Upper Sandusky. "I think it was pretty difficult when she didn't have anyone coming to see her. About all she did was read and watch television," Mary said.

To be closer to her family and others, Ruth decided to move to Fairhaven Community, the first UCH community located in Upper Sandusky that is just three blocks from her sister's home. "It was hard (to be away from Mary)," Ruth, 86, said.

Becky Blocksom, community engagement coordinator at Fairhaven, said being close to family and friends makes a difference for Ruth and other older adults. "I think it creates a feeling of security, a feeling of love."

LeadingAge President and CEO Katie Smith Sloan said remaining connected to people and engaged in social activities is critical to the overall health of older adults.

A lack of social involvement could cause seniors to suffer from health problems such as memory loss, high blood pressure, and depression, Katie added. "There's no question that interacting with people has enormous benefits for people. That human connection, that human touch leads to much better health: physical and mental," Katie said.

Mary noted that when Ruth lived at Four Winds, she and her husband, Ralph, would try to travel to Jackson to see her sister once a month. These visits became less frequent as Mary dealt with her own health issues. But now Mary says she tries to see her sister at least once a week. "Now we can go get her and bring her to our house," where she also sees extended family members, Mary said. Ruth was able to spend Thanksgiving and Christmas with the family and went to the big light show at the city park in Upper Sandusky. "I'm happier now," Ruth said.

Ruth has returned home. Home to Upper Sandusky where she grew up and where she can enjoy the support of family. And home again with United Church Homes from one community to another.





# COMMUNITY BRIEFS

NEWS AND NOTES FROM OUR NEIGHBORS



## United Church of Christ Cornerstone Fund

Did you know that by investing a minimum of \$10,000 in the UCC's Cornerstone Fund you receive these benefits?

- A return of 10 percent of your investment to your favorite UCC ministry — including United Church Homes or your own local church
- A tax deduction (as eligible) since this 10 percent gift is made in your name
- A one percent bonus on the balance of your investment for the entire five-year term

To learn more about this fund, visit [cornerstonefund.org](http://cornerstonefund.org)

## *In Memoriam*

### Willie Rogers

May 4, 1915 – November 18, 2016

Willie Rogers, a resident of UCH's affordable housing unit, Burlington Tower, died in St. Petersburg, Florida, in November. Willie was the oldest surviving member of the original Tuskegee Airmen well known for their service in World War II. He was 101. Willie was featured in the June 2014 issue of *Spirit* magazine. For his story, please visit [unitedchurchhomes.org/WillieRogers](http://unitedchurchhomes.org/WillieRogers). We extend our thoughts and prayers to his family.



## It's All About that Pink at LeFleur Haven in Jackson, MS

United Church Homes Housing Services residents at LeFleur Haven, Jackson Run, and Indian Run in Jackson, Mississippi participated in the city of Jackson's 23rd Annual Senior Health & Wellness Fair called It's All About that Pink. Over 3,000 seniors participated looking for preventive health awareness, health screenings, healthy lifestyle demonstrations. LeFleur Haven residents wore their LeFleur Haven T-shirts and pink breast cancer awareness ribbons.

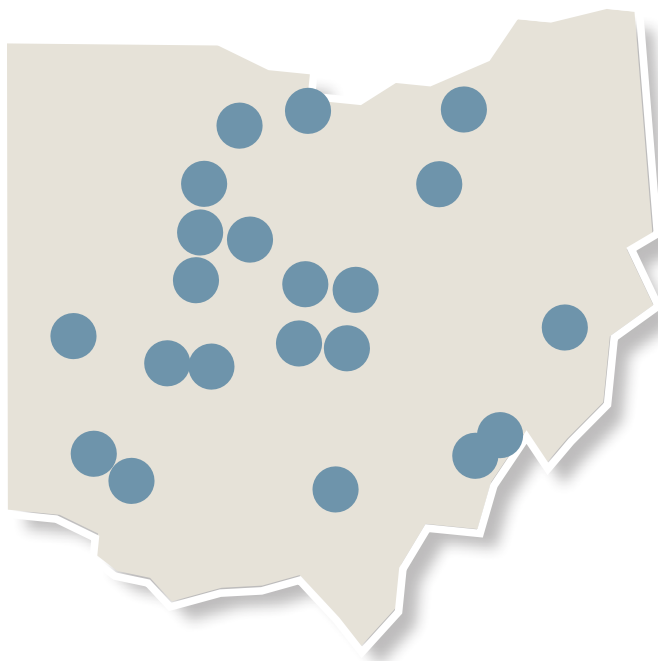
## UCH Executive Named Marion Technical College Trustee

United Church Homes Executive Vice President and General Counsel Ken Young was recently appointed to the Marion Technical College Board of Trustees. "I'm looking forward to serving on the MTC Board of Trustees, as I have a strong belief in the value of people achieving their goals. Obtaining as much education and training as possible can be a proven path toward accomplishing those career and other personal goals," Ken said. Ken graduated from Upper Sandusky High School, received his undergraduate degree from Ohio Wesleyan University, and received his juris doctorate degree from The Ohio State University. He returned to Upper Sandusky to become a partner in a local law firm before joining United Church Homes in 2005. "I've greatly benefited from having educational opportunities. I give a great amount of credit to certain teachers, professors, and other mentors for helping me achieve some of my professional goals," Ken said.



# Ohio

-  CHAPEL HILL COMMUNITY
-  FAIRHAVEN COMMUNITY
-  FOUR WINDS COMMUNITY
-  GLENWOOD COMMUNITY
-  HARMAR PLACE
-  PARKVUE COMMUNITY
-  PATRIOT RIDGE COMMUNITY
-  TRINITY COMMUNITY
-  TRINITY COMMUNITY AT FAIRWOOD



-  BROWNSTONE TERRACE
-  CANAL VILLAGE
-  CHERRY ARBORS
-  DAVID'S WAY
-  FRIENDSHIP PLAZA
-  HARDINCREST
-  MILL RUN PLACE
-  PICKFAIR SQUARE
-  RIVER'S LANDING
-  SHAWNEE SPRINGS
-  SOUTH HAVEN WOODS
-  ST. MICHAEL'S COMMUNITY



United Church Homes serves more than 4,500 residents in 69 communities in 14 states and two Native American nations.

We operate and manage 10 healthcare communities in Ohio and Michigan. UCH also provides quality work environments for more than 1,500 staff members nationwide.\*\*

For more information, visit us at [unitedchurchhomes.org](http://unitedchurchhomes.org).

\* Property managed by United Church Homes \*\*As of January 23, 2017

THE PLACES OF UNITED CHURCH HOMES





Virginia Duff is a resident at Parkvue Community in Sandusky, Ohio. For more on her story, go to [unitedchurchhomes.org](http://unitedchurchhomes.org).

THE FACES OF UNITED CHURCH HOMES



UNITED  
CHURCH  
HOMES®

170 East Center Street  
PO Box 1806  
Marion, OH 43301-1806

*Celebrating the Spirit®*

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
MARION, OH  
PERMIT NO. 46

JOIN THE CONVERSATION | [facebook.com/UnitedChurchHomes](https://facebook.com/UnitedChurchHomes) | [twitter.com/uchomes](https://twitter.com/uchomes)

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](http://ahca.org)

**Council for Health and Human Service Ministries (CHHSM):** [chhsm.org](http://chhsm.org)

**LeadingAge:** [leadingage.org](http://leadingage.org)

**LeadingAge Ohio:** [leadingageohio.org](http://leadingageohio.org)

**Midwest Affordable Housing Management Association (MAHMA):** [mahma.com](http://mahma.com)

**Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging:** [ohioaging.org](http://ohioaging.org)

**Ohio Healthcare Association:** [ohca.org](http://ohca.org)

**Southeastern Affordable Housing Management Association (SAHMA):** [sahma.org](http://sahma.org)

**UCC Coalition for LGBT Concerns:** [ucccoalition.org](http://ucccoalition.org)

170 East Center Street • PO Box 1806 • Marion, Ohio 43301-1806 • **740.382.4885 / 800.837.2211**  
**[unitedchurchhomes.org](http://unitedchurchhomes.org)** • Fax: 740.382.4884 • TTY: 800.750.0750