

WESTMINSTER COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION

Foundation Focus

Enhancing Today, Securing Tomorrow

Westminster Oaks New Memory Care Building Hosts Ribbon-Cutting and Blessing of the Building

On October 13, 2021, the new Memory Care neighborhood at Westminster Oaks hosted its ceremonial ribbon-cutting and “Blessing of the Building” prayer from the Rev. Taylor Phillips, the community’s chaplain. This new neighborhood at Westminster Oaks, a Life Plan Community in Tallahassee, features 32 apartments for Assisted Living residents with Alzheimer’s and dementia with dedicated, specialized amenities and spaces to support these residents.

Westminster Oaks and Westminster Communities of Florida are delighted to welcome this newest addition to the community. “This is one of the most exciting ways in which our community has expanded, because we are doing something completely different and innovative,” says Westminster Oaks Executive Director Shannon Sauls. “It’s a very exciting time to be here at Westminster Oaks.”

The Memory Care center, costing more than \$9 million, was designed as a set of small, secure neighborhoods with spacious private apartments, a memory garden and more. In addition, it features innovative and sustainable building features, like higher-efficiency HVAC systems, zero VOC paints and sealants, and long life-span construction materials, and it was constructed to the National Green Building Standard Silver level. Residents began moving into their new residences in January.



Rev. Taylor Phillips offers a “Blessing of the Building.”

Linda Shelley, representing Westminster Communities of Florida’s Board of Directors, says, “There aren’t any of us who don’t know someone who has needed support like this, or has a close friend, or someone we know. Until the time comes when memory care isn’t necessary, it is important to all of us that our residents and loved ones have a safe and beautiful place to be, and to enjoy their lives. Thank you, on behalf of the Board.”

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From the Chief Executive Officer

Dear Friends,

Throughout my career, I have been blessed to serve organizations all across this beautiful country. However, getting acquainted with Westminster's residents and team members has been the most rewarding experience of my life. The residents we serve, more than 7,000 of you, are kind and generous people. I owe you my thanks for the many ways in which you enrich our communities.

The Westminster Communities Foundation began with the mission of providing financial support to residents who outlived their means. Today, the services provided by the Foundation team go far beyond that, so that we can enhance the lives of the entire Westminster family, from cultural arts programming, to physical enhancements, to supporting the Mission of our Rental Retirement Communities to serve older adults with low and very low incomes.

Thanks to the many generous charitable gifts our Foundation receives from donors like you, our communities

are stronger, our team members have the support they need, and the residents continue to have their lives enhanced on a daily basis. In this issue of the *Foundation Focus*, I ask you to discover the ways in which a gift to the Foundation enriches our Mission of service.

As we look ahead to the holiday season, a special time of reflection and giving, I hope you will consider how continuing your current generous support or a legacy gift could further the lives of those who serve and live at one of our communities. I encourage you to join me in supporting the community of your choice by visiting your local Foundation Office or donating online at www.westminstercommunitiesfl.org/foundation.

With gratitude,
Terry Rogers
Chief Executive Officer

‘Evening in Paris’ at Westminster St. Augustine

By Ellie Murray and Lynne Sumner,
event committee members



On Thursday, November 18, Westminster St. Augustine’s Foundation honored their Legacy Society members and Foundation donors with an exquisite and festive “Evening in Paris” event. Our dining staff prepared a spectacular dinner consisting of a four-course meal and select wines. It was the highlight of the evening. There were beautiful table decorations and favors for the invitees that included an Eiffel Tower wine-bottle stopper and an ampoule of Evening in Paris, the famous fragrance from France.

All 50 guests were wowed with the presentation of this elegant dinner and festive evening. Compliments and conversations about the evening from the guests who attended continued for days. Many residents inquired about what they needed to do to be invited next year!

The Foundation Ambassadors were thanked for helping to make this evening so special. Director of Philanthropy Tonnie Alliance, Executive Director Debbie Pattinson, and the Foundation Ambassadors thanked the donors that evening for their contributions and continued support for the Foundation, which provides so much support for the Westminster St. Augustine community. Tonnie provided exceptional direction and creativity in making the “Evening in Paris” event a success. The Foundation Ambassadors’ event committee was grateful for her vision and guidance.

2021 Suncoast Legacy Society Members Honored

On Tuesday, November 16, the Westminster Communities Foundation honored the 2021 Suncoast Legacy Society members with a dinner in their honor. The dinner was held in the Quak Center and 26 residents and guests were in attendance.

These residents, who have planned their partnership with the Westminster Community Foundation, have been able to receive a tax benefit during life, maximized their giving impact and will leave a legacy in their community for generations to come. They have chosen to fund a charitable gift annuity, included their community and the Foundation in their estate plans, or named their community/Foundation as the beneficiary of a charitable gift.

These residents chose to diversify the impact of their legacy of giving by partnering with the Suncoast community and their Foundation.

Guests and speakers for the event included Westminster Suncoast Executive Director Tracey Rickabaugh and Westminster Suncoast Director of Philanthropy Tish Burke, and entertainment was provided by Joy Katzen-Guthrie. Before and after the dinner, new Legacy Society members selected their spaces on the Giving Tree. These new plaques were installed in January 2022.





From the Vice President of Philanthropy

Dear Friends,

I am honored to serve the Westminster Communities Foundation as its new Vice President of Philanthropy. Since arriving in July, I have been impressed by the incredibly warm welcome from the Westminster family of residents, team members, community leaders and friends.

Prior to joining Westminster, I served in leadership and fundraising roles for institutions of higher education, including the University of Illinois, Duke University and most recently, the University of Central Florida. In those roles, I enjoyed building lasting relationships and securing charitable funding to meet and fulfill many campus priorities. I am excited to play a similar role within this great organization.

I'm looking forward to building upon my more than 20 years of experience in philanthropy, working with Westminster's leadership, our talented Foundation team and our dedicated volunteers to further our mission of enhancing the lives of our residents and team members throughout our communities.

If you have not spoken with a member of our Foundation team in your community, I hope you will reach out today. To our Foundation donors: Thank you! Your commitment to the wellbeing of our communities makes Westminster a special place to live and work.

I look forward to meeting you in the near future.

Sincerely,

Jeff Coates

Vice President of Philanthropy

Take Control by Planning Ahead

Can't predict what's next? It's tempting to put planning on hold. Unfortunately, loose ends can lead to future stress and rash decisions.

Consider this: Planning under "normal" circumstances allows you to slow down and review your options. For example, taking the time to be mindful when creating an estate plan gives you the opportunity to record your values and make sure your wishes are followed. A thoughtful estate plan can also tell your story through the causes you support after your lifetime.

A well-planned estate helps you:

- **Make the most of your assets.** Meeting with qualified professionals helps you grow your wealth over the long term.
- **Protect family and loved ones.** An up-to-date estate plan keeps loved ones safe. Reviewing it regularly means adjusting for changes in personal relationships, tax laws, births, deaths and state of residence.

- **Be tax smart.** Certain assets can be tax burdens (or at least tax surprises) to your family. Planning helps you keep them in the loop and possibly avoid a tax hit completely.
- **Continue helping others after your lifetime.** Gifts to the Westminster Communities Foundation may provide you financial benefits in addition to the fulfillment that comes from helping others.

We Can Help

By planning your estate now, you not only support your loved ones, you ensure the organizations you care about, like the Westminster Communities Foundation, continue to receive your support. Contact your Foundation Office to learn more about including us in your future plans.

Mission Preservation Fund: Year-End Campaign Focus on Rental Retirement Communities

If the 2021 year-end giving campaign was any indication, donors to the Westminster Communities Foundation are welcoming the chance to expand opportunities at Westminster's 12 Rental Retirement Communities (RRCs).

When it was all said and done, giving to the Mission Preservation Fund totaled just over \$70,000 over the final months of the year, far surpassing the two previous giving years combined and providing a much-needed boost to programming and services for these residents.

Givers to the campaign came from nearly all parts of the Westminster family of communities, as well as staff, illustrating a broad interest in the Foundation's growing mission to the rental communities.

The Mission Preservation Fund, which serves the RRCs, currently provides chaplaincy services and lifestyle enhancements as well as discretionary funds for

administrators to leverage in creative ways for the benefit of their communities.

The low-income opportunities at RRCs are increasingly valuable in areas of Florida that have experienced real estate booms, providing stability where seniors might have otherwise been forced to move or relocate.

Your gift to the Westminster Communities Foundation helps provide security and stability for seniors, in addition to vital lifestyle enhancements at our Rental Retirement Communities. Learn more by contacting your Foundation Office or visiting www.westminstercommunitiesfl.org/foundation.



Westminster Oaks New Memory Care Building Hosts Ribbon-Cutting and Blessing of the Building

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Westminster Communities Foundation's Memory Care Center THRIVE campaign raised over a million dollars providing many enhancements including the beautiful, secured garden. The garden includes a water feature, pergola, outside fireplace, memorial benches and more. Funds for the THRIVE campaign were raised with charitable gift annuities, and gifts of cash, stocks and mutual funds, as well as through the Donor Brick Program. The bricks form a beautiful paver around benches and a water feature made of boulders.

We are excited for the residents living in the wonderful and innovative Memory Care Center at Westminster Oaks. We are grateful for the donors who support our mission of serving residents and team members. You made this dream a reality.

This program is the perfect way for our family to honor our grandmother, a successful business woman who developed Alzheimer's too early in life.

-MARIE COWART



Westminster Shores Residents Donate the Gift of Music to Jefferson Center

“I first met John and Geni [Vanek] over the telephone prior to their move to Westminster Shores when they called to donate their piano,” says Westminster Shores Philanthropy Director DeeLynn Rivinius. “Since that first introduction and gift, the Vaneks have continued to bless the Shores community with their generosity of goodwill and friendship.”

In the early months of 2021, John and Geni Vanek became new residents at Westminster Shores, St. Petersburg. As they prepared to move to their new home, they made the generous decision to gift their Schumann baby grand piano to the Westminster Community Foundation.

DeeLynn reached out to the Westminster Communities of Florida network of 22 senior living communities statewide and identified a great need and desire for this gift at the Rental Retirement Community of Jefferson Center Community in Sarasota. “We were over the moon about this gift,” says Jefferson Center Administrator Suzanne E. Geoghagen. “Since the piano’s arrival, it has provided the Jefferson Center residents many musical blessings.”

“On behalf of Westminster Communities Foundation, I wish to extend a huge thank you to John and Geni Vanek for their in-kind gift of their Schumann baby grand piano to our Westminster Jefferson Center in Sarasota. We’re so grateful for their gift of music to our Jefferson Center residents through the Mission

Preservation Fund. We pledge to be good stewards of their gift through our ministry,” says DeeLynn.

Made possible by the Foundation’s mission as a faith-based, not-for-profit organization, and through Westminster Communities of Florida’s partnership with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Westminster’s 12 Rental Retirement Communities offer a variety of high-quality, affordable senior living options with a variety of floor plans. The communities also include campus amenities such as resident-run convenience stores and thrift shops, parks, convenient transit access, disability-accessible accommodations, optional meal programs, ample parking and in-building laundry rooms. With nearly 3,000 residents in 12 Rental Retirement Communities throughout north and central Florida, seniors can *Live Well, Be Happy*



New Westminster Shores
Sunrise Point residents
John and Geni Vanek

with quality, affordable senior living today. The Mission Preservation Fund elevates the Westminster Communities of Florida Rental Retirement Communities, serving low- to very low-income seniors throughout the state of Florida.

For more information on Westminster Rental Retirement Communities and the Mission Preservation Fund or to make an in-kind gift, visit www.westminstercommunitiesfl.org/foundation.

Keeping the Music Alive

Couple Donates Permanent Set of Handbells to WWJC Campus

For a group of residents at Westminster Woods on Julington Creek (WWJC), the joy found by bringing music to life with handbells is wonderful. Led by their director, WWJC resident Lester McCullough, these men and women perform occasionally at Vespers services on campus and at other venues in the local community.

Until the summer of 2021, the handbell team used a set of bells graciously on loan from a local church. The arrangement worked well, but the team knew it was only temporary. At some point, the bells would need to be returned.

In order to provide a permanent set of handbells for the campus, residents Jim and Joan Moore stepped forward and made a gift to the Westminster Communities Foundation in loving memory of their respective late spouses, Carmen D. Moore and Rt. Rev. Stephen H. Jecko. These names were engraved onto the “silent” bell, which will be displayed during future handbell team performances.

“The decision was a simple one for us,” explains Jim. “We know how much happiness the handbell team brings to the community with performances, and this is a special way our loved ones can be remembered, too.”

Thank you to the Moores for this delightful gift of music!



Music is the
universal
language of
mankind.

~HENRY WADSWORTH
LONGFELLOW



Giving Back to the Fund

So It's There When Others Need Our Help



When someone gives to the Westminster's Benevolent Assistance Fund, it often comes from heartfelt empathy. For Dawn Murphy, the empathy comes from direct experience.

Dawn's mother first came to Westminster Point Pleasant as an independent resident, and from the very beginning, the Westminster Communities Foundation made a difference through an Honorable Service Grant in recognition of her mother's many years as a church worker. Even with the grant, however, it was clear from the beginning that her savings might not last. Even though she had a good long-term care insurance policy, she was still an independent resident when she ran out of resources and needed to apply for benevolence.

Thankfully, as Dawn discovered, starting benevolence wasn't an unsettling process.

"I was so appreciative that attention was paid [by administrators] to keeping Mom's quality of life up—not just scraping by," Dawn says. "They wanted Mom to be taken care of well."

Dawn's experience with Westminster goes back two generations to her grandmother, who lived the last three years of her life in Point Pleasant's health center. Dawn spent those years advocating and also volunteering.

"Scripture teaches that children have a responsibility to give back to their parents to bless them for how they have cared for them. I just prayed for God to give her good days at the end and He honored that desire," says Dawn, adding that many of the staff became like family to her.

When her mother was widowed about six years later, Dawn, along with her sister Nikki Wiktorsson, had to make some hard decisions as her mother also declined in health. That eventually put her back on the road to working with Westminster, where her mother lived independently for

Dawn Murphy gave back to the Benevolent Assistance Fund at Westminster Point Pleasant in gratitude for the help she received with her mother.

nearly three years before moving into assisted living there. Although she had been on Benevolent Assistance for most of her final year as an independent resident, Dawn's mother has a long-term care insurance policy that now helps pay for her rent and care.

Rather than moving on after her mother's needs were now paid for, Dawn and Nikki decided to spend a year tithing back to the Benevolent Assistance Fund at Point Pleasant in gratitude for the help they received while bridging the critical gap between living alone and eventual assisted living.

"I'm so very grateful God provided through the Benevolent Assistance Fund when my mom needed it, and now she is able to give back." Dawn said at the time of the family's first gift, "The staff told me it wasn't necessary, which speaks loudly to the heart of the organization."

Since 1974, benevolence at Westminster Communities of Florida has been 100 percent donor-funded through the Westminster Communities Foundation. To give a tax-deductible gift or to consider the Foundation in your estate, reach out to the Foundation office at your local Life Plan Community.

Couple Feels Called to Support Those in Need

For Wilfred and Patrick Souchereau-Caraher, Westminster Towers is truly a place to call home.

“We appreciate the friendly and accepting attitude of the residents and staff,” they share. “The location is superior, and the facility is top-notch. You couldn’t ask for more.”

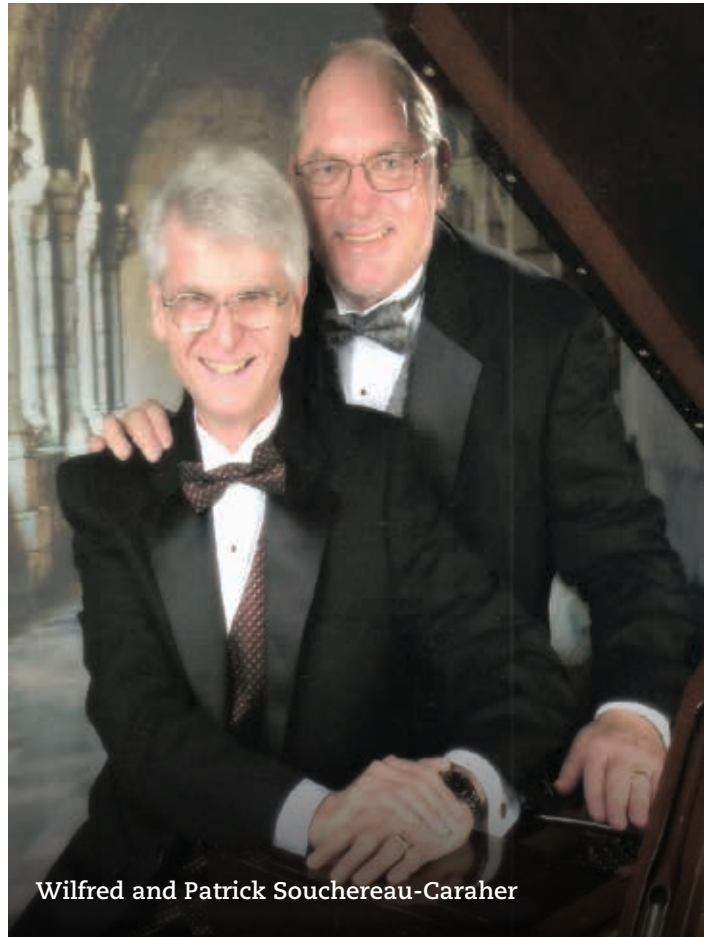
That’s in part why they’ve chosen to give back to the community they love so much.

“After being at Westminster for a couple of years, we realized that the Foundation was the most appropriate way for us to help our new adopted family at the Towers who are not as financially fortunate as us,” they say. “Except for the few remaining and elderly family members that we care about, we saw a way that we could share our remaining estate in the simplest and most effective way.”

The couple feels called to support those in need, especially older adults with very limited resources. Wilfred, who’s retired from the information technology field, and Patrick, who spent his career as an early childhood educator, said Westminster’s Benevolent Assistance Fund and the Scholarship Program “best align with our belief in and practice of charity.”

David Randazzo, the Executive Director of Westminster Towers, shared his gratitude for Wilfred and Patrick.

“Wilfred and Patrick are blessings to the Westminster family,” he says. “Not only are they generous with their resources, but they are also active and engaged members of the community. We are so glad they are here.”



Wilfred and Patrick Souchereau-Caraher

Like the Souchereau-Carahers, you can make a difference in the lives of other residents by making a gift to the Westminster Communities Foundation. Learn more by contacting your Foundation Office or visiting www.westminstercommunitiesfl.org/foundation.

Westminster Palms residents John Underwood and his wife, Judie

Palms Couple Hopes to Be Witness to Others

John Underwood is a proud fourth-generation ordained Presbyterian minister. His great-grandfather began the mission work in Korea in 1885, led the translation of the Bible into Korean and founded what became one of Korea's leading universities.



John carried on the family tradition of ministry, serving at four churches throughout his career, two on staff and two as pastor. In his retirement, he has been pastoring at yet another church for the past six years.

His wife, Judie, grew up in Nova Scotia and spent most of her career in the fashion industry. She has also served as a church elder and deacon.

The Underwoods lived most of their lives in the Northeast until Judie drove the idea to relocate from Long Island to Florida. They looked at a number of retirement communities before settling on Westminster Palms for its close access to both the water and downtown.

"It was love at first sight," John says. "Although we continued our search for several more months, we knew

from day one that this was the place we wanted to make our retirement home."

Because of their deep appreciation for Westminster Palms and belief in the work of the Westminster Communities Foundation, the Underwoods have chosen to give back to Westminster through a planned gift.

"From the time we moved to the Palms, we were impressed by the quality of life in the community and by the work of the Foundation," John says. "Together, those things fed a conviction that we wanted to support this work."

He adds, "As we were influenced by the witness of people we knew, we hope our witness will prompt the generosity of others."

To learn how you can support Westminster's efforts through a planned gift, visit your Foundation Office or our website at www.westminstercommunitiesfl.org/foundation.

Organize Your Important Papers

Do your loved ones know where you keep your important papers? Send for *Your Guide to Locating Important Documents*, a FREE resource to help you list all the vital information they may need, giving them—and you—peace of mind. Complete and return the enclosed card today to request your copy.



A Vision Comes to Life

Honoring Our Men and Women in Uniform—Past, Present and Future

The Westminster Winter Park Veterans Honor Memorial Monument was the vision of current residents who served in the military and are now members of our veterans group who meet monthly for a short meeting and guest speaker. The veterans group talked of having a place on campus to honor, give thanks, recognize the sacrifice of and pay tribute to all those who have given so much.

With over 120 veterans who reside at both campuses of Westminster Winter Park, this was of great importance to them. Through generous gifts from the veterans group, residents, families of residents and our Executive Director Tom Rockenbach, we were able to raise the \$14,000 needed, along with a matching gift of \$6,000 from the Westminster Communities Foundation.

The beautiful Veterans Honor Memorial Monument is situated near our flagpole, the centerpiece to our main entrance. The location is easily accessible to residents in all levels of care and all visitors entering the main building. Landscaped with shade trees and benches designated for reflection, meditation and memorial events, the monument has become a cherished enhancement to our community.

At a recent Veterans Day event, Director of Philanthropy Mary Jane Toothman said, “I personally have never been more proud of a project the Foundation has been a part of. The Foundation partnered with many of you to bring this dream of a lasting remembrance to say thank you and welcome home.”



Why I Give

A spotlight on our team members who support the Westminster Communities Foundation through payroll donations.

Name: Melissa Paul

Title: Assistant Dining Director

Donations benefit: Point Pleasant Scholarship Fund

What motivates you to give to the Scholarship Fund?

“ I give because many on my team benefit from Westminster scholarships. Our team members work hard and deserve opportunities for personal growth and education.



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www.westminstercommunitiesfl.org/foundation

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