



by Dr. Dan Gowdy
VP of Development

It's **WHO** We Serve that **INSPIRES US**

At Sunset we serve older adults as God intended in a spirit of Christian love. We believe every individual is uniquely gifted by God with talents that do not expire, regardless of age. We are wiser and more grounded because of older adults in our lives who, in the midst of life's storms, put their hand on our shoulder and tell us, "it is going to be okay."

It is WHO we serve that inspires us.

On June 19th, Sunset celebrated the inspiring lives of eighteen of our residents who are 100 years old or older! Imagine a birthday cake with 1,800 candles – each candle representing a year of wisdom gained through life's greatest challenge, time.

This isn't the first year that Sunset has boasted an unusually large number of centenarians. Two years ago, Sunset honored the lives of a dozen residents turning 100 or older. Last year, the number climbed to fourteen.

The history of these amazing centenarians date back to the horse and buggy days when modern plumbing was scarce, electricity had just come into vogue, and soldiers were just returning from fighting in World War I.



Jake DeWent is celebrating his 102nd birthday. Like a lot of his contemporaries, Jake finished the eighth grade and went right to work, earning his first dollar working the muck fields of Hudsonville. He later earned 75 cents a day as a hired hand for area farmers. Jake went on to establish a successful home construction business, building 38 homes in the Jenison & Hudsonville areas.

The hardships of the Great Depression are profound memories for our centenarians. As Jake recalled, "I grew up in the greatest time in

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Brookcrest

Rehab / Skilled Nursing / Memory Care

Phone: 616.534.5487

Manor & Villages

*Independent & Assisted Living /
Memory Care*

Phone: 616.457.2770

Rose Garden

Assisted Living

Phone: 616.538.1914

Waterford Place

*Independent Living & Assisted Living /
Memory Care*

Phone: 616.667.1725

Sunset at Home

In-Home Help

Phone: 616.254.8115

Meals at Home

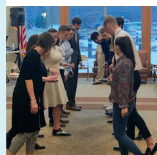
Daily Hot Meals

Phone: 616.457.7777

Emmanuel Hospice

Hospice Care

Phone: 616.719.0919



LOCAL • CHRISTIAN • NONPROFIT

MISSION STATEMENT

To provide quality services for senior adults
in a spirit of Christian love.

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WEST
MICHIGAN'S
101
BEST AND
BRIGHTEST
COMPANIES
TO WORK FOR
WINNER 2019

 Find us on
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www.facebook.com/sunset.retirement

2019



Holding *Hands*

"For I am the LORD, your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you." ~ Is.41:13.

Lately I have been noticing how much hand holding goes on in life. Parents hold their young child's hand to keep him from running out into the busy street. Adult children holding the hands of their mother as she passes from this earthly life into eternity. Even walking into church with my wife involves holding her hand.

The Bible has a lot to say about hands, but I often wonder why there is a differentiation between the right hand and the left hand. When we read about God's strength, it is described as His mighty right hand. Ps.118:15 "The Lord's right hand has done mighty things!" This week I prayed that God would let me hold his hand, but I wanted him to take my left hand so that I could still respond with my own "strong right hand."

Instead, God did something that I didn't immediately understand. He brought to mind

Psalm 73:21-24 "When my heart was grieved and my spirit embittered, I was senseless and ignorant; I was a brute beast before you. Yet I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand. You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory."

I believe that my heavenly Father grabbed ahold of my right hand with his left hand. This prevented me from trying to help myself by using my own right hand, which would likely have created more trouble for me. But it also left God's mighty right hand free to reign as He knows best. "For I am the LORD, your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you." Is.41:13. Never hesitate to let God hold your hand, and if you get an opportunity to hold someone else's hand, grab it.

people & places *Events*

Our community is as active as ever! Here's a quick glimpse of what's been happening at each of our communities over the past few months.

Silver Bucket Wishes



DATE NIGHT



DONAJEAN



Brookcrest

JOYFUL SOUNDS

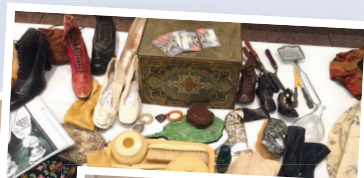


Rose Garden



Manor & Villages

MOTHER'S DAY



FATHER'S DAY



SPRING FLING



UNDERSTANDING DEMENTIA RESOURCES CLASS



SPA DAY



BOWLING



FLOWER BOUQUET

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



WINTER GOLF OUTING



MARY O'HARA SCHOLARSHIP



VOLUNTEER BANQUET





America. The Great Depression taught us what was really important; what really matters. This stayed with me my whole life."

Bob Keegstra, 100 years old, spoke of a time before refrigerators, when a man delivered ice for their "Ice Box." He recalled his first job earning \$3.50 per week at a drug store. He jokingly added, "I asked them for a raise, and I got fired."

James Pierce, who turns 101 this September, grew up on a farm near Plainwell where he milked cows by hand, savored homemade ice cream, and relied on an outhouse where in the winter "that seat was very cold."

James chuckled to note how in his day all his clothes featured patches, and that "Nowadays, you go to the mall and see all these kids paying big money for jeans with holes in 'em. Everybody's got money, but I s'pose they want to look poor." He marveled at what the next 100 years might bring. "It's going to be fantastic," he predicted.

Hazel Mae Coy, who will be 100 years old in December, is a life-long Detroit Tigers fan

Dear Sunset Communities,

Thank You
FOR ALL YOUR KINDNESS

Thank you so much for hosting the Centenarian Celebration. I felt honored and was so happy my family and friends were able to attend with me.

Thank you for making this a truly special celebration! It is a day I will always remember.

Sincerely,
Bernadine Skripka
100 years

who worked a Royal manual typewriter while serving as an administrative assistant at Keeler Brass in Grand Rapids. She recalled with humor that she and her four

siblings took turns bathing in a small wash tub on Saturday nights. She said, "I'm not sure if we used the same water or not... I hope not, but it might have been!"

Her advice for others: "Live close to the Lord. When you're young, you think you know everything, but as you get older, the Lord means so much more."

When asked why people live so long at Sunset, Hazel said, "It's home... I've made a lot of good friends here. We take care of each other, we worry about each other, we pray for each other, all the time."

Ruth Curtis, 101, concurred, "I think it's important to pray about things. We may not get the answer we want, but we know they're answered." Her family boasted the first indoor

bathroom in the Oceana County town of Hesperia. Ruth's history includes having a pet pig, and graduating Eastern Michigan University with a teaching degree. She taught for 20 years.

Lois Oom, 102, spent her youth riding horses, roller skating, and "frolicking" in Lake Michigan. A lover of fresh flowers, she offered some loving advice for her grandchildren, "Always walk with God. You need Him in life, you can't do it without Him. And be kind to people."

As the Apostle Paul instructed the Corinthians to, "Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ;" our centenarians are shining examples of how to live. They inspire us by giving testimony every day to a larger story and a higher calling.

Ann VandenBosh, 101, said, "It's not that I want to live, I'd just as soon meet the Lord. But if I can witness for Him, it's worth it, you know, to live another year."

OUR CENTENARIANS SHED LIGHT ON WHO WE SERVE AND WHO INSPIRES US.

Their Godly testimony, a precious pearl forged through the challenge of time, is now OUR blessing.

Sunset 2019
Legacy Foundation

FALL GALA

featuring...

Tim Zimmerman & the King's Brass



Friday · September 20, 2019 · 6pm

The Pinnacle Center / Hudsonville · Benefiting Resident Benevolence

SunsetGala.org

You can register and pledge/donate at SunsetGala.org

Sunset's Fall Gala benefits Resident Benevolence. Your support allows residents who have, through no fault of their own, outlived their life savings to remain in their homes here at Sunset.

For more information: 616.214.4545



725 Baldwin Street
Jenison, MI 49428

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With the help of our amazing donors, wonderful things have happened at Sunset. We've been able to help resident benevolence, give nursing scholarships, and lives have been enriched. You can help by gifting through the enclosed envelope, online at Donate.SunsetCommunities.org, or call 616.214.4545. Thank you!

If at any time you would like to be taken off our mailing list, please call 616.214.4545, or contact us through our website at SunsetCommunities.org.



AUGUST 8 FARM & ARTISAN MARKET

Where: Waterford Place
1725 Port Sheldon, Jenison

When: Thursday, Aug. 8th 9am-1pm

AUGUST 28 CAR SHOW

Where: Rose Garden
3391 Prairie, Grandville, MI

When: Wednesday, Aug. 28th 6-8pm

All are welcome! Come enjoy the cars, music popcorn, hot dogs and ice cream. Bake Sale will support Alzheimer's Association.

SEPTEMBER 12 FARM & ARTISAN MARKET

Where: Waterford Place
1725 Port Sheldon, Jenison

When: Thursday, Sept. 12th 9am-1pm

SEPTEMBER 14 2019 WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S

Where: Millennium Park
1415 Maynard Ave, SW.
Grand Rapids, MI
Meet at the Sunset Booth

When: Saturday, Sept 14th 9am-12pm

Join Sunset in walking to raise funds to further the care, support and research efforts of the Alzheimer's Association.

SEPTEMBER 20 SUNSET FALL GALA

Where: The Pinnacle Center
3330 Highland Dr.
Hudsonville, MI

When: Friday, Sept 20th 6-8pm

Attend Sunset's Fall GALA, a benefit for resident benevolence. Enjoy the music of "Tim Zimmerman and the Kings Brass".

NOVEMBER 1 ANNUAL ARTS & CRAFT BAZAAR

Where: Manor & Villages
725 Baldwin, Jenison
(Door A or F) – Town Square,
Main Street, Village Dining
Room

When: Friday, November 1
9am-3pm
Early Christmas Shopping!!!

NOVEMBER TBD VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION

Where: Waterford Place
1725 Port Sheldon,
Jenison (Door A)

When: 6:30-8pm

WATERFORD PLACE MEMORY CARE

Dementia Support Group

3RD TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

1725 Port Sheldon, Jenison, MI • Door T
6:30-7:30pm • Call Ben 667.6000

(Light Refreshments Served)

There are many activities scheduled for residents & their family members – too many to note. Please contact the Life Enrichment staff at each community for further details.

calendar

OF EVENTS