



# Generous Living Update



CHRISTIAN LIVING  
COMMUNITIES



February 2018

Volume 28

## A Legacy of Caring

*Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.*

**1 Peter 4:10**

Frank and Sylvia Velzen's lives were the embodiment of that verse. The former Holly Creek couple not only gave abundantly through their great service to others but also through their treasure.

Because of their generosity, many future generations of older adults served by Christian Living Communities will benefit thanks to a more than \$450,000 legacy gift made as part of their estate plans.

A few months after Frank's death last January (Sylvia passed two years earlier), CLC was notified that it was one of two organizations they had bequeathed.

The Velzens' daughter, Kathy, shared that CLC meant a great deal to them, and they wanted to continue to make a difference to an organization where they knew it would be put to good use.

Frank's vision was to create a way to grow a solid, sustainable fund that would be a reliable source of future gifts to bless others through the good works of CLC.

Christian Living Communities has placed the gift in a fund functioning



as an endowment whereby the principal is kept intact while the interest annually is used to enrich the lives of residents. This year, the interest generated from the gift will help refurbish portions of the long-term care neighborhood at the Suites at Someren Glen.

"Frank and Sylvia were a blessing to the organization for many years through their many acts of service and volunteering. How wonderful to have their blessing continue by way of this extraordinarily generous gift," said CLC Chief Operating Officer Camille Burke, who welcomed the Velzens when they moved into Holly Creek in 2008. "We look forward to using these funds in a way that

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### Our Mission

*Christian Living Communities enriches the quality and dignity of life for older adults through services and care that reflect Christian love, respect, and compassion toward each individual.*

## Finding Her Passion

Chatting with Marta Tesfai you get the feeling she knows what she wants to accomplish, and is determined to get there. She's poised, professional and exudes an air of confidence. Marta immigrated to the United States from Ethiopia at the age of 19 in search of more opportunity.

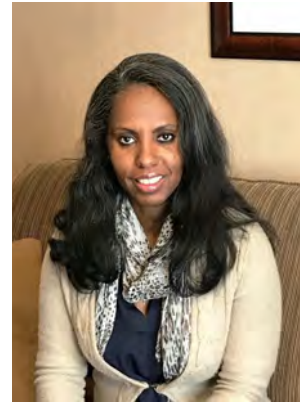
She worked primarily retail jobs, including for a car rental company where she never shied away from long hours and doing more than was expected. However, when she was called in on her vacation because her boss had failed to find someone to take her shift, that call put her over the edge. She wanted a career with more meaning.

Marta took a certified nursing assistant class and was hired at Shalom Park. Two years later in 2011 after a friend raved about the culture at Christian Living Communities, she joined the team at the Suites at Someren Glen as a CNA.

"Since I've started working with the older population, I've found my passion," she shares.

Always on the search for career advancement plus wanting to serve residents even more, Marta decided to become an LPN. The price tag for that — \$28,500.

Fortunately for Marta she was able to apply for tuition assistance through the Employee Scholarship Fund. Thanks to contributions from supporters, she was given \$5,000 in tuition assistance, which was based on how long she's been with CLC, her full-time status and the fact she was attending nursing classes.



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### Donor Relations Team

Director:

**Olivia Mayer**

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720.974.3675

Coordinator:

**Lucy Floyd**

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720.974.3642

### Your Generosity in 2017 Helped us Provide...

**\$22,890** in scholarships awarded to 16 team members  
**\$93,292** to help 6 qualifying residents in financial need



**\$5,000** in Mission Fulfillment funds to create  
 Team Member Critical Needs Assistance Program

New van for Clermont Park **\$48,000**



**\$50,000** Quiet Waters Retreat serenity room at Holly Creek

**\$18,800** to go towards Helping the Healing –  
 Soundwall, garden and refreshed multipurpose space  
 at Suites at Someren Glen



## Gifts in Memory and Honor

Christian Living Communities is very grateful to the friends and family who directed support to Christian Living Communities in memory or honor of their loved one. Below are the names in **bold** of those being remembered or honored, as well as those making such gifts from July 1 - December 31, 2017.

### IN HONOR

#### **Jack & Char Barker**

Beth Corn

#### **Nellie Jorritsma**

Elisabeth Rabito

#### **Mike & Kathy Keller**

Jayne Keller

#### **Virgie Livingston**

Pauline Fumagalli

#### **Peggy & Hans Neville**

Dolores Meader

#### **Prayer Group**

Alice Latta

#### **Dick & Suzanne Scott**

Janet Patterson

#### **Nick Westendorf**

Bob & Sandy  
Righter

### IN MEMORY

#### **Beth Aggerbeck**

Charlie & Jean Vail

#### **Hilah Allison**

Jim & Diane Holmes

#### **Harvey Berkey**

Doug & Gail Berkey

#### **Charles Boutin**

Skyler Fairchild  
Jim & Kimberly  
Gillespie  
Neil & Nancy  
Rowland

#### **Millie Campbell**

Fred & Linda  
Wevodau

#### **Bea Daggett**

Teri Ritthaler

#### **Marian Dietz**

Leslie Faurot

#### **Robert & Virginia**

**Dobbs**

Rick Dobbs

#### **Roberta Dore**

Amy Dore

#### **Fern Ebertz**

Lois Allan Stuchlik

#### **Jane Fenton**

James & Laura  
Fenton

#### **Helen Graves**

Mark Reese & Martha  
Graves Reese

#### **Jim Groebe**

Martha Groebe

#### **Barbara Gryboski**

Kathryn Tibbals

#### **Jean Hanke**

Roger Hanke

#### **Kevin Hayne**

Doris Roos

#### **Paul Heitzenrater**

Johann Chanin  
Amy Crowley  
David & Amy  
Crowley  
William & Kathryne  
Graveley  
Martha Irvin  
Alan & Frances  
Johnson  
Laurie Kluth  
Joyce Lemons

Mary Jo Lorenz

Sally Lucero

Sandra Walling

#### **Elsie Herbon**

Joseph & Betty  
Jelinek

#### **John & Janet**

**Humphreys**

John Humphreys

#### **Ray Keesen**

Allen & Beverly  
Keesen

#### **Sadie Keesen**

Susan Keesen &  
Andrew Vander  
Ploeg

#### **Mercedes Kent**

David & Ann  
Necker

#### **Carol & Ray**

#### **Kirkpatrick**

Kent Kirkpatrick

#### **Eleanor Kok**

Jim & Carol Kok

#### **Kathryn Kroonenberg**

Gary & Sharon Price

#### **Joyce Kullas**

Michael Kullas

#### **Jim Luke**

Lori DeWitt

#### **Raymond Marshall**

BJ Marshall  
Donna Lea Van  
Stone

#### **Sam Mathieson**

Jean Giles

#### **June Mochizuki**

Lori DeWitt

Bob & Peg Phares

#### **Rita Moore**

Susan Massey

#### **Sylvia Noordewier**

Edwin & Julie  
Noordewier

#### **Maxime Ordelheide**

Walter Ordelheide

#### **Betty Palme**

Amy Dore  
Doris Kelton  
Margaret Linzbach

#### **Ruth Penn**

William Toomajian

#### **Leah Peterson**

Dorwin Peterson

#### **Kay & Dick Raiter**

Debra & Alan  
Colussy  
David & Martha  
Frampton  
Susan Metzger

#### **Craig Ramsey**

Virginia Bruns  
Christina & Greg  
Downs  
Barbara Grob  
Pat & Verle Hill

#### **Margaret Rayl**

Phyllis Hutchins  
Dolores Meader  
Linda Pittman  
Karen Rayl

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## Compassion Circle

Christian Living Communities created the *Compassion Circle* to honor and thank those who remember CLC with a gift in their estate plans. We are honored to acknowledge these Compassion Circle members:



Anonymous (6)	Rodney * & Mary E. Ham
Edward & Cynthia Berghuis	Jayne Keller
Cornelia E. Blankvoort *	Milton* & Millie* Kurth
Gary & Janice Bomgaars	Earl & Carolyn Lammers
Meindert & Evelyn* Bosch	Olivia Mayer & Gene Rose
Charles* & Betty Bosman	Florence Morrissey
Bryon & Heidi Childs	Edward & Kay Schans
Steve & Sandy Clark	Mary Lou Scott
Russ & Judy Den Braber	Frank* & Sylvia* Velzen
Rev. David & Gladys DeRidder	Bryan & Rachel Vinz
Frank* & Loretta DeWitt	Elaine Westblade
Jim & June Englehorn	*Deceased



**Welcome Lucy Floyd,  
Donor Relations  
Coordinator.**

"I'm thrilled to be a part of such a caring, heart-felt community. Seniors rock!"

**720.974.3642**

**lfloyd@clcmail.org**

## Finding Her Passion

**...Continued from page 2**

The assistance, which cut her student loans significantly, has been a huge help.

"It changed my life, and I'm sure it will change someone else's as well."

Last fall with nearly a dozen friends and family members she celebrated graduating from nursing school, and recently transitioned into a nursing role at the Suites at Someren Glen.

"I'm not planning on going anywhere. I love the residents, knowing their life stories, and what they did is amazing. I am part of their family, and they count on me."

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*If you are interested in supporting the Employee Scholarship Fund with a tax-deductible donation, please contact CLC's Donor Relations Department at 720.974.3555.*

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## A Sacred Space

Most mornings after exercising, one Holly Creek resident stops by the Quiet Waters Retreat, pulls out the devotional book from the cabinet and then sits and reflects.

“Having that space to be alone helps me deal with the turmoil in the political world. It clears my mind and sets me up for the day.”

Another resident shared she’s visiting regularly during Lent.

Weekly, Cindy Livingston, the Life Enrichment Coordinator for the Suites at Holly Creek, brings several residents from the assisted living and memory care neighborhoods to Quiet Waters Retreat for a guided meditation. One resident who deals with anxiety has mentioned how much calmer she feels after the visits.

“That’s exactly what we envisioned when we had the idea for this space,” says Dolores Meader, former chair of the Holly Creek Spiritual Welfare Committee. “We wanted to create a sacred space to better meet the



spiritual needs of all the residents of Holly Creek.”

The Quiet Waters Retreat is the result of a \$50,000 remodel of a former first-floor lounge with the focal point being a soothing, artistic water wall feature that sets a tone of serenity. The room includes comfortable seating as well as kneelers, a large door for privacy and access to an outdoor courtyard.

The entire project, which was completed early last fall, was funded through donations. Nearly all of the gifts were from Holly Creek residents or their family members.

Meader says she hopes more people will take advantage of the non-denominational sacred space and find comfort in doing so.

***“One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered.”***

***Proverbs 11:24-25***

## Helping the Healing

Within minutes of moving upstairs to the new Someren Glen Transitional Care Neighborhood, Tom's eyes lit up. The difference that bright, welcoming surroundings made was written across his face. Last month, Christian Living Communities opened its new state-of-the-art rehab neighborhood, the result of a \$3 million investment that converted an older, outdated neighborhood at the Suites at Someren Glen.

Generous donations have funded an outdoor space for guests and Soundwall technology, combining therapeutic music and visual art. Gifts also are being used to refit the former therapy gym into a Community Life Hub, a multi-



purpose space for art classes, fitness and various activities for long-term care residents.

You can help make The Life Hub a reality by donating to the Helping the Healing campaign. We are more than halfway to our goal of \$50,000. For more information contact the Donor Relations team at 720.974.3555.

**Instead of reaching for your checkbook, perhaps consider whether a Qualified Charitable Distribution might make more sense.**

**For more information about these gifts, please contact Olivia Mayer at [OMayer@clcmail.org](mailto:OMayer@clcmail.org) or 720.974.3675.**

## Honor and Memory

**...Continued from page 3**

**Therese Saracino**

Marie Booren

**Jerry Schouten**

Arnette Schouten

**Duane Sjaardema**

David & Marilyn Sjaardema

**Mabel Smith**

Thomas & Lelia Smith

**Mary Jane Smith**

Dayton Smith

**Ann Stong**

Jack & Arleda Ballard

Jack & Char Barker

Christy Blakely

Eleanor Gribble

David & Ruth Rowley

Gary & Sue Russell

Robert Stong

William & Isy Vobach

Orena Young

**Annie Trujillo**

Olivia Grogan

**Rookie Van Eps**

Verna Cavey

Lori DeWitt

Jean Giles

**Daniel Van Gorp**

Grace Van Gorp

**Nellie Van Maaren**

Allen & Beverly Keesen

**Frank Velzen**

Kathy Velzen

**Jack Vente**

Katie Cuntz

Lisa Den Braber

Russ & Judy Den Braber

Joel & Melanie Jonker

**Margaret White**

Ed & Marianne Marvez

## Board of Directors

These individuals serve on the board of Christian Living Communities:

**Sandy Clark**

**Erin Cook**

**Amy Dore**

**Peggy Furgason**

**Eric Keesen**

**Susan Keesen**

**Dr. Diane McCallister**

**Karen Meyer**

**William Piche**

**Terry Rogers, CEO**

**Greg Terry**

**Joseph Vande Griend**

**Peter Willis, Member  
Ex Officio**

**Mark Wolfe**

## A Legacy of Caring

**...Continued from page 1**

honors them to the fullest.”

In 2006, the Velzens were awarded Christian Living Communities Earthen Vessel Award, given annually to exceptional volunteers.

Frank, throughout his 37-year career with Keebler and beyond, generously shared his knowledge in his humble, unassuming manner. He mentored many and served on various national and local boards, including the Calvary Drug and Rehabilitation Center in Arizona, the Bethesda Foundation and Christian Living Communities.

For more than 25 years, Sylvia volunteered for CLC, including working one-on-one with residents at what is now Clermont Park. She also served as a Deacon and Elder in her church.

In fact, many who knew the Holly Creek couple would say you couldn't find a better example of true Christian caring – caring characterized by humility and great joy of service to others.

When they received the Earthen

Vessel award, one team member shared this about the couple:

“Probably the most striking characteristic of the Velzens' volunteer service is their determined and continued effort to ensure that the CLC organization 'does well'-- that we are not just mediocre or run-of-the-mill, but that CLC remains an organization of integrity and commitment to its founding values.”

This generous gift will go a long way to ensuring that.

We are committed to fulfilling Frank's vision and encourage others who feel the same to consider including CLC in your estate plans and help grow this fund.

Not everyone can bequeath such a generous gift as the Velzens', but all gifts are impactful and appreciated.

*If you are interested in learning more about leaving a gift to CLC as part of your estate plans, please contact Olivia Mayer, Director of Donor Relations, at 720.974.3675 or [omayer@clcmail.org](mailto:omayer@clcmail.org). As a thank you, you'll become part of the Compassion Circle, a cherished group of friends.*

**Mark your calendars for a new, revamped Aged to Perfection featuring the Earthen Vessel Award on Thursday, Oct. 4 at CU South Denver, formerly the Wildlife Experience.**



*Enriching the lives of seniors since 1972.*

7000 E. Belleview Ave., Suite 150  
Greenwood Village CO 80111



*Featuring the  
Earthen Vessel Award*  
**Thursday, Oct. 4th**

CU South Denver  
10035 S. Peoria St.  
Lone Tree, CO 80134

**5:30-9pm**

## Mark your Calendars

Christian Living Communities is introducing a new opportunity to engage our community! We are taking the best of our Aged to Perfection spring event (but keeping the name!) and the tradition of our fall Earthen Vessel Dinner to create one, new combined event that will celebrate aging.

*Aged to Perfection* on Oct. 4 at CU South Denver (formerly the Wildlife Experience) will include a wine & hors d'oeuvres tasting and silent auction. We will also pay

tribute to our Earthen Vessel Honoree and share CLC's mission.

Our goal in hosting one annual event is to maximize our dollars raised and minimize your time spent. We hope to have both new and returning attendees come together to raise money for our Residents Assistance Fund, helping residents who, through no fault of their own, have exhausted their financial resources.

Event details will be forthcoming, so please stay tuned.



*For questions or to discontinue receiving fundraising information, contact us at  
Donor Relations:*

**Phone: 720.974.3555**  
**Fax: 720.974.3656**  
**Email: [donate@clcmail.org](mailto:donate@clcmail.org)**