



# Generous Living Update



CHRISTIAN LIVING  
COMMUNITIES



February 2017

Volume 25

## 10 Years of Impact: The Deter's Gift

*“Be a gift and a benediction.”*

– Ralph Waldo Emerson

We do not know if Gil and Jeanette Deters ever read this quote from one of our



nation's greatest authors, but they have definitely embodied it in the ten years since Gil's passing.

You see the unassuming couple blessed CLC with the largest donation we've ever received, and in the ten years since first receiving the **\$656,000** gift, it has blessed so many others.

Maybe we should start at the beginning ... Gil and Jeanette Deters' story is one of love—love for each other, love of God and love for others.

Gil was a rural bachelor working his family's Black Angus cattle farm in Kansas when he made a radical change in 1962. He moved to Denver for love—marrying Jeanette Koops Reich on September 22, 1962.

Gil and Jeanette Deter's gift invested has produced nearly \$127,000 in support—and it will keep on giving.

Gil and Jeanette lived a modest, almost frugal life. They were active in Second Christian Reformed church and enjoyed time with family

**...Continued on page 5**

## The Time is Now for Thrivent Choice Members

If you participate in Thrivent's Choice Dollars program, please know that Christian Living Communities is a participating organization. Thanks to generous donors, CLC has received nearly **\$7,500** in support since enrollment in 2012. The Thrivent Choice program allows eligible members to recommend where Thrivent Financial distributes charitable

grant funds each year. Eligible members who participate in the Choice Dollars program have until **March 31, 2017**, to direct any remaining 2016 Choice Dollars. Help support Christian Living Communities by going to [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice) or call 800-THRIVENT and state “Thrivent Choice.”♦

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*Christian Living Communities ministers to senior adults through a continuum of services and care that reflects Christian love, respect and compassion and that enriches the quality and dignity of life for each individual.*

## A World of Opportunities

At 17, Selam Mekonnen won a lottery for a student visa to study in the United States. The Someren Glen team member was one of four children growing up in Ethiopia. For her and her family, it was an opportunity of a life time.

Selam came to the United States, and after she grasped the language, she looked for work as a certified nursing assistant. While working for another community, a friend shared their positive experience at Christian Living Communities and encouraged her to apply.

That was four years ago, and she has loved caring for residents at Someren Glen ever since.

Her only frustration was that as a nursing assistant and then qualified medication assistant, she was limited in her ability to help residents. She knew that becoming a nurse, like her husband, would enable her do more.

Selam learned about the CLC Employee Scholarship Fund from team members who encouraged her to apply. **Her \$3,500 scholarship, funded by donors, offset some of the cost for her nine-month nursing program.** Selam was one of nine team members last year who received tuition assistance.

Without it, she says, she would have racked up credit card debt and would have had to take out more student loans. Last July, Selam proudly graduated as a Licensed Practical Nurse.



Someren Glen team member Selam Mekonnen

She's so thankful. "Now I can help the residents more, and I'm happy with that. And, it's helping me and my family financially."

"I'm blessed," she says. "Only CLC does this. Thank you. It helps a lot."

Selam loves nursing and is considering going on to become an RN in the future. ♦

### Donor Relations Team

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## Gifts in Memory and Honor

Christian Living Communities is very grateful to the friends and family who directed support of 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, since the last edition of *Generous Living Update*.

### IN MEMORY

**John Alsum** /

Emilie Wiersma

**Helen Anema** /

Steven & Adele

Kroonenberg

**Donald Arant** /

Megan Smith

**Alice Bell** /

John & Mary Bell

**Al Belyea** /

Clark & Kathi Belyea

**Evelyn Bosch** /

Jean Giles

Francisco Sabichi

**Lucy Bosman** /

Patrica Buikema

**Mary Ann Burghardt** /

James Burghardt

**Millie Campbell** /

Fred & Linda Wewodau

**John, Chip & Will Cuntz** /

Katie Cuntz

**Beatrice Daggett** /

Teri Ritthaler &

Hale Davenport

**Phili Kirk** /

Jean Davenport

**Marian Dietz** /

Jon & Leslie Faurot

**Roberta Dore** /

Amy Dore

**Jane Fenton** /

Larry & Judy Dietz

James & Laura Fenton

**Claire Gibbons** /

Greg & Denise Gibbons

**Helen Graves** /

Mark & Martha Reese

**Lillian Greenfield** /

Elsie Schwartzkopf

**Harry Hall** / Sue Hall

**Velma Hamilton** /

Judy Biegler

**Jean Hanke** /

Roger Hanke

**Jane Headstrom** /

Betty Steinmann

**Her Nana** / Erin Herlihy

**Elsie Herbon** /

Joseph & Betty Jelinek

**Emily Herk** /

Robert & Joanne Herk

**Rosemarie Houtsma** /

Jan Roth

**David Huber** /

Curtis & Katherine

Huber

**Sadie Keesen** /

William & Anne Lewis

Susan Keesen &

Andrew Vander Ploeg

**Eunice Kenney** /

Sharon Kenney

**Eleanor Kok** /

James Kok

**Clarence Kroonenberg** /

Steven & Adele

Kroonenberg

**Mitz & Millie Kurth** /

Carlton Kurth

**Helen Littlefield** /

Karen Littlefield

**Jenot & Sandy Mill** /

Bert & Dolly Lager

**Esther Mueller** /

Mary Ann Foster

**Bob Niekerk** / Darwin

& Louise Niekerk

**James Norman** /

Linda Baker

**Peggy Nougier** /

Nancy Watkins

**Mildred Olson** /

Gene & Judith Hoyer

**Robert Paauw** /

Lu Paauw

**Clarice Powell** /

Helen Amoroso

**Mickey Rogers** / Thomas

& Mary Rogers

**Marge Sauer** /

Catherine Monahan

**Helen Sharp** /

Lyle & Ruth Sharp

**Jean Shelmire** /

Ray Shelmire

**Magdalen Shumaker** /

Joyce & Bob Herald

**Duane Sjaardema** /

David & Marilyn

Sjaardema

**Mabel Smith** /

Thomas Smith

**Norma Smith** /

Carol Stock

**Bud Sparling** /

Betty Steinmann

**Rene Suwyn** /

Terry Suwyn

**Rolland Walters** / Alan

& Emily Robinson

**Lela & Leon Weinmann** /

Darrel & Sandra Quick

**Ralph Wiersma** /

Brandt & Lavonne

Bruxvoort

**Ralph Wiersma** /

Roy & Bille Hoffman

Gary & Theresa

Meendering

Ruth Rosendale

Grace Van Gorp

Donald & Mildred

Van Wyke

Glenn Wiersma

John & Anne Buteyn

Andy & Lori Plucker

Luke & Melanie Egolf

Peter & Rosemary Willis

**Russ Den Braber &**

**Gladys De Ridder** /

Don & Diane Manuell

Valerie Agostino

Anonymous

Robert & Laura Bandstra

Jack & Char Barker

Evan & Jen Beimers

LaFawn Biddle

Tony Burke

Janet Burns

Roland Buteyn

Steve & Sandy Clark

Scott & Carolyn Davenport

Russell & Judith Den Braber

Eric & Stephanie

Den Braber

Mary Ham

Gregory & Susan Ham

James & Gayle Heckman

Darrell & Barbara Hogan

Gene & Judith Hoyer

Craig & Trish Hoyer

Timothy Johnson

Paul & Mary Johnson

Dennis & Rickie Jones

Gail Kahookele

Arnold & Linda Kaplan

Tyler Keeter

Jayne Keller

Tom & Jan Keyton

Dona Kitto

Chad Kunze

Larry & Jean Landis

Jennifer Lo

Don & Diane Manuell

Jeff & Pat McBride

Wanjiru Mukunga

Connie Nederveld

Matt & Jessica Nichols

Ron & Cheryl Nydam

**Continued on page 4...**

### IN HONOR

**Jane Chase** /

Maryann Ray

**Dorothy Collins** /

Lynn Emanuel

**Russ Den Braber** /

Charitable Service

Providers Reciprocal

RRG

Lisa Den Braber

Chris Erickson

## Your Old Car Can Make a Difference!



Mollie Graves,  
Clermont Park resident

When Mollie Graves found out repairs to bring her 2002 Subaru Forrester into compliance for inspection cost more than the car was valued at, the Clermont Park resident decided it was time to part ways.

Her daughter had given her an iPhone and loaded the Uber app. She also had transportation options at the community.

As to what to do with the car, Mollie already had a plan—donate it to help Clermont Park. She contacted Cars Helping Charities; they set up an appointment to pick it up, and then sent her a receipt. Christian Living Communities in turn received a \$1,200 donation.

Other than having to give up her wheels, it was pretty painless, she says. “I was glad to do it.”

Mollie says she was happy to help out Clermont Park where she’s found a rich, vibrant community and built friendships with her neighbors as well as team members. Since moving in, Mollie’s become a member of The Showstoppers, Clermont Park’s musical group. She attends various classes through Clermont College of Creative Living and just enjoys being a part of the community. “The relationships are what keep me here,” she says.

**Do you have a car you no longer need?** Contact Cars Helping Charities at 866.701.2277 or go to [ChristianLivingCommunities.org/donate-your-car-and-support-clc/](http://ChristianLivingCommunities.org/donate-your-car-and-support-clc/) and fill out their online-form and indicate Christian Living Communities. They offer nationwide car pickup and also take boats, SUVs, motorcycles, campers, vans and buses. ♦



### Continued from page 4...

#### Russ Den Braber & Gladys De Ridder (continued) /

Brenda Olson  
Andy & Helen Ottinger  
William & Susan Piche  
Everett & Charlotte Rohrig  
Jan Roth  
David & Rachel Schans  
Ray Schuttinga  
John Shryock  
Tim & Janet Sparks

Larry & Carolyn Strutton  
Mavis Tell  
Greg & Carolyn Terry  
Ronald Van Donselaar  
Nolan & Ethel Vander Ark  
Jeff & Mary Vander Galien  
Gertrude Vander Veen  
Cliff & Audrey  
Vander Zwaag  
James & Linda Veldkamp  
Bryan & Rachel Vinz  
Jill & Todd Vitale-Aussem  
Allen & Carol Wassenaar  
David & Lori Williams  
Gerald & Sandra

Wischmeyer  
Mary Zachman  
Dale & Jane Zoetewey  
**Gladys DeRidder**  
Shirley Sweetman  
Doug & Susan Adams  
**Glenn Hill /**  
Gary & Judy Hill  
**Barb & Darrell Hogan /**  
Linda Toland  
**Mike & Kathy Keller /**  
Jayne Keller  
**Virgie Livingston /**  
Pauline Fumagalli  
**Ruth Penn / Meril Yu**

**Vi Sjaardema /**  
David & Marilyn  
Sjaardema

**Pat Su /**  
Monica Trainor  
**All CLC Veterans /**  
Jill Vitale-Aussem

**The Connections  
Committee /**  
Anne Harnack  
**CLC Team Members /**  
Olivia Mayer ♦

## 10 Years of Impact—The Deter's Gift

### ...Continued from page 1

and friends. Gil worked for Keesen & Sons Landscaping Co., where he was a customer favorite. Jeanette was a long-time volunteer at our Clermont Park community.

Gil enjoyed many sports; especially golf rounds with friends at which he meticulously kept score. Meticulous, careful and methodical is how Gil approached work and life.

His methodical and careful nature allowed Gil to combine his continued income from the family farm and his earnings from his job into a diverse and well maintained financial portfolio.

Gil and Jeanette did not have children so when it came time to make their estate plan, their love for others shone through. Gil and Jeanette wanted to leave a legacy of love and caring—they designated a portion of their estate to benefit Christian Living Communities (CLC) upon their passing.

Jeanette met her creator in 1999; Gil continued his careful management of their affairs until his death in 2006. Both Gil and Jeanette received care and services at CLC before their passing.

Following their instructions, CLC has invested the **\$656,000 Deters gift** in our endowment fund. The interest generated from this investment benefits the skilled nursing neighborhoods at Clermont Park and Someren Glen—just as Gil and Jeanette had wanted.

In those 10 years since the gift was first made in 2007 and we've realized interest income (even during the economic downturn) a total of **\$127,800** has benefited residents.

A few of the enrichments the Deter's Gift has provided includes:

- Creation Stations – for food demonstration activities and classes
- Improved, adjustable mattresses
- Chapel services equipment
- Bathing spas
- Furniture and TVs for improved resident lounge areas
- Eden program training
- Sit-to-Stand Lifts
- Popcorn Carts
- Fitness Equipment
- Program Equipment

And this gift will keep giving for many, many more years to come so in the end, Gil and Jeanette Deter's will continue to enrich the lives of seniors in perpetuity.

Not everyone will be able to leave a legacy quit the size of the Deter's but giving a gift from your estate plans is often the easiest way to give a gift of impact and legacy.

**If you are interested in learning more about leaving a gift to CLC** in your estate plans or will please contact our Donor Relations Office at 720.974.3555.

As an added benefit, once you let us know that you've included CLC in your plans you automatically become part of the Compassion Circle, a cherished group of friends with special benefits, be sure to ask about the Compassion Circle.♦

**The interest generated from this investment benefits the skilled nursing neighborhoods at Clermont Park and Someren Glen.**

## A Tax-Saving Way to Help CLC



Jim and June Englehorn,  
Holly Creek cottage  
residents

Holly Creek cottage residents Jim and June Englehorn have been taking advantage of tax savings by having their required minimum distribution from their Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA) donated to charity.

“It’s been a great way to support the organizations we care about while also helping out on our tax bill,” says Jim.

Under the Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes Act of 2015, Americans over the age of 70 ½ are allowed to distribute up to \$100,000 in a calendar year from an IRA to the charity of their choice, tax-free. This can be a significant benefit for IRA owners who are required each year to take minimum required distributions, which are included in their gross income for income tax purposes.

If an IRA owner directs the IRA plan administrator to distribute any amount up to \$100,000 to charity, the transfer generates neither taxable income nor a tax deduction, so you benefit even if you do not itemize your deductions.

For the past couple of years, June has had her distribution sent to CLC to

help residents in need and also help team members through the Employee Scholarship Fund.

“This is our family now,” June says, which is why she chooses to support CLC.

### The Particulars:

- You must be 70½ or older at the time of distribution.
- You may distribute any amount up to \$100,000 in a calendar year to charity, as long as it is completed by December 31 of the year in which you intend to make the charitable distribution.
- Your IRA administrator must make the distribution directly to the charity, or you may write a check payable to the charity from your IRA checkbook.
- Distributions from private foundations, donor advised funds or life income gifts DO NOT qualify.
- You may not receive a benefit, such as tickets to Aged to Perfection or the Earthen Vessel Dinner.

If you make a gift from your IRA, **please include written instructions on how you would like to designate your gift** both to your IRA administrator and by making a note on your IRA check. Or you can call Olivia Mayer at 720.974.3675 or email [omayer@clcmail.org](mailto:omayer@clcmail.org) with your gift designation. ♦

### For questions or to discontinue, contact donor relations:

Phone: 720.974.3555

Fax: 720.974.3656

Email: [info@clcmail.org](mailto:info@clcmail.org)

## Board of Directors

These members serve on the boards of our family of organizations.

Erin Cook  
Gene DeKruif  
Peggy Furgason  
Greg B. Ham  
Paul Johnson  
Susan Keesen

Eric Keesen  
Dianne McCallister  
Karen Meyer  
William Piche  
Terry Rogers, CEO  
David Samson

Ed Schans  
Greg Terry  
Joseph Vande Griend  
Peter Willis,  
*Member Ex Officio*  
Mark Wolfe

## A Word from the CEO

Happy new year! I'm thrilled to be beginning 2017 with Christian Living Communities!

This next year is filled with so much promise and potential—that is very evident within my first few months.

To ensure we start the new year off right the senior leadership and board of directors will be spending considerable time in the first quarter focusing on strategic planning.

Of utmost importance is ensuring the current and long-range success and vitality of CLC will:

- make sure we continue our mission;
- always exercise prudent and impactful financial stewardship—this includes expanding our fund development efforts and seeking strategic partners;
- continue to be leaders in re-defining and “re-firing” what

it means to be an older adult; and

- ensure we are offering housing, care and service to meet and exceed the needs and expectations of seniors and their families now and well into the future.

While strategic planning always sounds so formal and business-like, and it is, We at CLC fully understand we are about relationships.

We are people-people ... and will ensure our future plans serve, empower and inspire older adults, associates, supporters, family members and the community at large.

We understand that our success is only defined by the success of others. We also know it takes partners, like our faithful donors to fully deliver our mission every day.

So here's to looking at an amazing 2017... thank you for your partnership in making it a great year! ♦



Terry Rogers, CLC  
President and CEO



Enriching the lives of seniors since 1972.

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



**Thursday, April 20th**

Holly Creek | 5500 E Peakview  
Avenue | Centennial, CO 80121

5:30-8:30pm

**Register online at:**

[ChristianLivingCommunities.org/  
Aged-to-Perfection](http://ChristianLivingCommunities.org/Aged-to-Perfection)

## Plan to Join us - 12th Annual Aged to Perfection!

On Thursday, April 20th, we will be celebrating successful living as we host our 12th Annual Aged to Perfection wine tasting and silent auction. The popular event is held at our Holly Creek Community in Centennial and showcases delectable wines and culinary tastes as well as a bountiful silent auction.

This year we have trips ranging from culinary experiences in Tuscany, Italy to a family trip to the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. We also have signed Broncos and Nuggets memorabilia, resident art work, and many theme park tickets available.

We hope to offer more and are gladly accepting auction donations.

Maybe a sponsorship or monetary donation is of more

interest, we would gladly accept those as well! **Contact**

**Morgan Shoup**, Donor Relations Coordinator at 720.974.3642 or [mshoup@clcmail.org](mailto:mshoup@clcmail.org). ♦

