



Winter 2023

# Eastern Star Masonic Retirement Campus *Spotlight*



2445 South Quebec St  
Denver, CO 80231-9924  
303-756-9489



At Eastern Star Masonic Retirement Campus, there is a small memory care community. This allows staff and residents to get to know one another. It also promotes becoming acquainted with family members.

The transition into memory care can be a stressful process because it is often a dramatic life changing experience for new residents who enter an unknown environment. They encounter unfamiliar faces and routines. The transition is sometimes scary for both residents and their family members. Many do not know what to expect. Some people may have had different experiences previously in other communities — good and bad.

In Eastern Star's memory care community, all residents and their families are encouraged to feel at home. Staff like to learn about new residents to make their transition into the community as smooth as possible. The residents get to spend most of their time together. They get to know one another, which allows them to build new friendships. Family members are also welcome at any time and may participate in various activities.

Caring for residents is our top priority! (To see more photos, page 8.)

# Serving seniors since 1931: then, now, and in the future

Eastern Star has been in the business of serving seniors for over 90 years in the Denver Metro area. It is well known that in the 1900s the Grand Worthy Matron Mary Barry was the driving force in establishing a home for wives, daughters, and widows of Master Masons that one day would become the organization known today as the Eastern Star Masonic Retirement Campus — offering a variety of home environments and services for seniors .

The Eastern Star Organization has evolved from a small home, built in 1931, known as the Robert Russell Center, into a 19-acre campus of buildings offering independent, assisted living, and memory care services.

Today Eastern Star Masonic Retirement campus offers 168 units of senior living on the campus, 30 units of which serve the Medicaid senior population. The remaining units are available to meet the changing needs of the general senior population of the Denver community. I and my staff are dedicated to serving seniors to carry on the vision of Mary Barry, continuing to meet the mission of the Board of Trustees to provide senior services while soliciting support from fraternal family members.

That support comes in many different ways:

- Fundraising events, such as an annual golf tournament;
- Colorado Gives Day program;
- Night of Comedy at Comedy Works.

Volunteers are welcome — both from the community and the fraternal family — to spend time with residents, participate in activities, and special events.

ESMRC partners with fraternal groups to provide Christmas goodies and presents to Medicaid residents, along with holiday goodies to private residents. We also host open meetings of fraternal groups, which the seniors living in the community can attend.

The COVID pandemic had a tremendous impact on the community. The Board of Trustees had just completed the architectural design and secured the necessary commitments from bankers to fund an additional 42 units of as-

See facing page



## **Eastern Star Masonic Retirement Campus: 303-756-9489**

2445 South Quebec Street, Denver, CO 80231-9924

Larry Lillo, Executive Director  
Pati Sawyer Boex, Fraternal Relations Director  
Jennifer McLaughlin, Business Manager  
Patti Hayford, Controller  
Brettney Starks, Life Enrichment Director  
Kathy Flores, Memory Care Coordinator  
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Barbara Aragon, Director of Sales  
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# Spotlight on the Board

On September 21, 2022, the Board of Trustees and the House of Delegates held their annual meeting. Terry Hudson was reelected to the board for a 5-year term, and Ashley Buss (below right) was elected for a 3-year term.

The board welcomed Sue Schulte (below left) as an associate Board Member.



sisted living apartments when COVID shut down the country. Everything came to a halt, and the Board of Trustees put the project on hold. The care of residents became the singular focus for the next two years. Finally, in late October 2022, the State of Colorado lifted all COVID restrictions for assisted living facilities like ESMRC. Today, the community is totally open to provide services.

COVID changed many things, including how we do business, the seniors we serve, and the level of care we provide. It has challenged the Board of Trustees to think about how they move forward to shape this organization and to continue to meet the future needs of seniors.

An important part of being a fraternal non-profit organization is to educate and solicit fraternal groups to support the ongoing mission of the Eastern Star Masonic Retirement Campus. There are many ways a fraternal member, group, lodge, or chapter can become involved with the organization. We are always looking for volun-

teers to share their talents with residents.

Lodges and Chapters can host a meeting at the community in which residents may participate. We offer an “Adopt a Resident Program” for individuals or groups to provide ongoing support to current residents. You can see what’s going on through various social media efforts, and then click on “Like” on ESMRC’s Facebook page. These endorsements support the communities’ variety of resident program offerings.

In this coming year, the Board of Trustees Members will be scheduling visits to Lodges, Chapters, and other fraternal groups to present how your group can support the Eastern Star Masonic Retirement Campus. I hope their presentation will stir your interest in becoming more involved with this senior organization

Should you have an interest, please contact us at your convenience. Use ESMRC’s Star website, or call Pati Sawyer Boex, 303-753-2160 or email her, [patis@esmrc.com](mailto:patis@esmrc.com).

– Larry Lillo, Executive Director





## Community Shred-A-Thon Event

April 15, 2023  
10:00 am - noon



**Eastern Star Masonic Retirement Community**  
**2445 S. Quebec Street, Denver, CO**

Hosted by Eastern Star Masonic Retirement Community Sponsored by  
Colorado Grand Assembly

### ITEMS THAT YOU MAY BRING

Old checks, credit card offers, mailings, medical records, tax forms, pay stubs, etc.,  
and any other items that you wish to have safely discarded.

### PLEASE DO NOT BRING

Newspapers, phone books, magazines, plastic, cardboard or catalogs

Donations accepted for the International Order of the  
Rainbow for Girls Scholarship Fund & Other Assembly Activities

Questions call: Julie Mesaros  
Colorado Grand Assembly: 303-350-8516  
Pati Sawyer Boex, Fraternal Relations  
Director: 303-753-2160

## BLOOD DRIVE



## Eastern Star Masonic Retirement Community Blood Drive

Friday, March 16  
9 am to 1 pm  
On the Bloodmobile

To schedule an appointment call 303.363.2300  
or visit [donors.vitalant.org](https://donors.vitalant.org) and use blood drive code **0474**

or  
Contact Pati Sawyer Boex 303.753.2160 [patis@esmrc.com](mailto:patis@esmrc.com)



## 14th Annual Golf Tournament

June 9th, 2023



**CITY PARK GOLF COURSE**  
3181 E 23rd Ave  
Denver, CO 80205

**8am Shotgun/ Scramble**

**\$160 includes Breakfast, Lunch, Cart,  
Drinks at the Tiki Bar, and a Fully Loaded  
Goodie Bag!**

Sponsorship opportunities available! For questions contact:  
Pati Sawyer Boex, Fraternal Relations Director 303-753-2160

To pay by check make it out to ESMRC and put golf in the memo line and mail it to ESMRC, 2445 S Quebec St, Attn: Pati Sawyer Boex, Denver, CO 80231





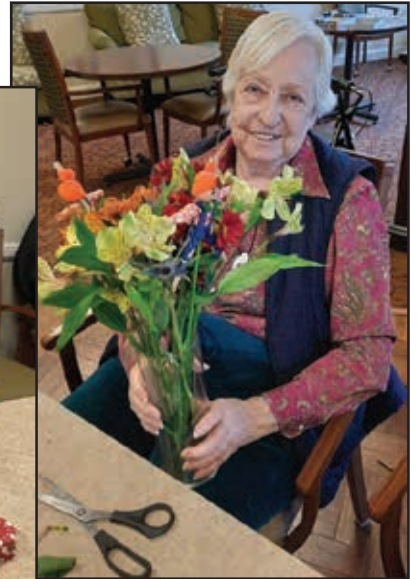


Local students came in to help residents decorate **Gingerbread Houses**. The results were displayed (left).

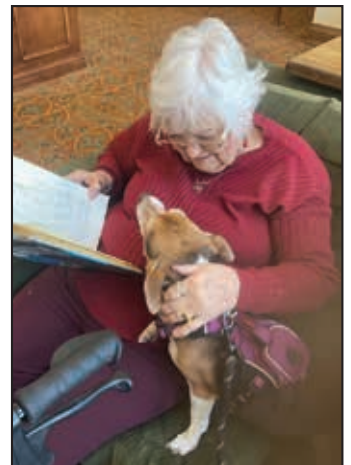




# Activities Recap



Whether dressing in costumes, decorating with flowers, watching a performance of the Nutcracker, creating art or crafts, or playing games — ESMRC residents are always having FUN.





The lunch bunch enjoyed outings to Poppies Restaurant (below) and Sam's No. 3 (right).



The DeMolay held a fall shred-a-thon. Members of Heritage Chapter sponsored a pizza dinner and a Christmas cookie buffet for the residents. There was also a car parade. Areme Chapter, with the help of friends, held a chapter meeting. Masonic youth held a winter carnival and sing-a-long. Sunshine Chapter brought gifts to a resident to brighten her holiday.





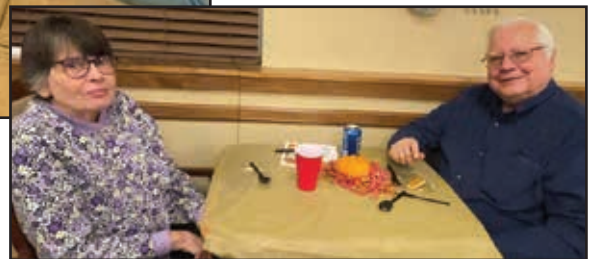
# Spotlight on Memory Care Department



*Above and below:  
Family visits are en-  
couraged and enjoyed  
by residents.*



*Music, crafts,  
and games are  
activities that  
many residents  
enjoy.*



*Right: ESMRC's caring staff in the  
Memory Care Unit sat for a group  
photo.*





Residents went on a pretend or fantasy road trip dubbed the **Great American Road Trip**. They visited Disneyland in California, went to northern California to tour the wine country, saw Elvis perform in Las Vegas, and enjoyed the gambling tables!

They experienced the Wild West by watching horse races (staff were the horses).





*Christmas parties returned with all the splendor at ESMRC this year! Entertainment and photos with Santa were popular.*

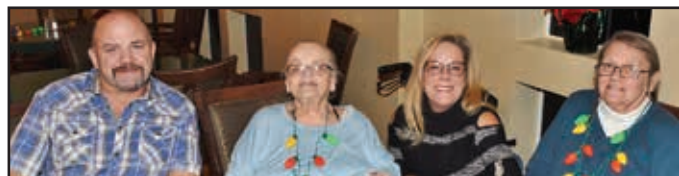




*On a cold winter day, residents enjoyed drinking cocoa with their friends.*



*The holiday events ended with celebrating the new year at noon. Lift that champagne to toast!*





# Spotlight on Employees



*Left: Housekeeping Supervisor Laura Flores became a US citizen.*

*Below: ESMRC welcomed Wellness Coordinator Theresa Digoia to the team.*



*Above: It was a celebration. Rebecca Miles has worked at ESMRC for 20 years.*



*The ultimate irony — these seniors are copying millennials (young people who are tethered to their mobile phone). Are these women the new millennials?*



*Celebrating birthdays is always fun at ESMRC. Hattie (above) had her 103rd birthday. Joyce (left) was feted when she turned 80 years old!*



# Benefits of living at Eastern Star Masonic Retirement Campus

The Eastern Star Masonic Retirement Campus is a 55 and older community. We have been providing seniors care since 1931.

We have independent living cottages for residents who are 55 years of age or older, assisted living and memory care apartments on 19 beautiful acres, in a park-like setting. We offer quality of life and engagement for all residents.

Seniors who call the Eastern Star Masonic Retirement Campus (ESMRC) home are provided with individual care to match their needs. We have a full activities program. A Life Enrichment Director plans multiple fun activities that encourages interaction with others. A variety of activities include daily exercise, painting, jewelry making, baking, word games, Bible study, church services, and card games. A favorite event is a weekly happy hour every Friday with live entertainment. We have two buses that provide transportation for personal appointments, day trips, lunch outings, and scenic rides.

There have been big steps forward over the last decade toward caring for the well being of

the seniors living here. Honor, dignity, and respect are what every senior deserves. It is hard enough to grow old healthy and gracefully. It is exceedingly difficult to see seniors who are living in isolation — not receiving proper care.

I would like families to know that ESMRC is a community that lives its Mission Statement: “We take pride in meeting the social, physical, and spiritual needs of all residents.”

If you would like to explore our beautiful community, please call the Marketing Department, 303-756-9489. Lee Ann or I would love to help you.

— **Barbara Aragon**  
Sales Director



*Left: Veterans who reside at ESMRC were honored and celebrated on Veterans Day, Nov. 11.*



# Philanthropy —

Eastern Star Masonic Retirement Campus thanks the following Chapters, Lodges, and individuals for their donations to the ESMRC for September–December 2022.



Benchmark Investment  
Advisors

Richard Boyer in memory of  
Russell Haughey  
Amy Curd

El Jebel  
Thomas Henshell In memory  
of Helen and Ted Opp  
Robert Hillman  
Peter Murr

Anne Stern in memory of  
Joanne Butcher  
Paul Ward  
Edwin Wichert

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## In-Kind Donations —

Thank you to the following Fraternal Family members and private individuals who donated in-kind items for the residents, as well as treats/food/lunches for the staff during the months of September–December 2022.

We appreciate you!

Eli and Judy Batenburg  
Jane Cahn  
Betty Eastburn  
Cathy Easterday  
Julia James

Keith Lapuyade  
Amy Lopez  
Sherry Lund  
Murr Family  
Judy Oleson

Dan and Marlene Reichel  
Ron Rodriguez  
Doris and Drew Schrupp  
Mark Short

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During the holiday many Order of the Eastern Star Chapters donated tissues — the big boxes of Kleenex.

Every resident got one. Thank you to the following:

Colorado Leadville #2  
Fountain Valley #155  
Heritage Chapter #154

Loyalty #145  
Oriental #98

Past Patrons and Matrons  
Club of Colorado

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Thank you to Knights Templar Association of Colorado for the donation of butter cookies for each resident.

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Thank you to following for your donation to our Santa Program so our in-need residents received a special wish gift from Santa:

Aaron Brownell  
Denver Chapter No. 2, R.A.M.  
Denver Colorado Commandery  
Excelsior Chapter  
Cheryl V. Gurule and the Monarch Investment  
and Management Group  
Michael Longhurst

Past Patrons and Matrons Club of Colorado  
Umar Shabazz  
Leon Sonksen  
Catherine Teetzel  
Bridget Thompson  
John and Margaret Zeaphy

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Thank you for boxes of Sees Chocolate for all staff and residents from Denver Royal Arch Chapter #2

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Thanks to all anonymous donors or those whose names are not acknowledged here — we always appreciate your support!

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The Robert Russell Eastern Star Masonic Retirement Campus is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit, so all donations are tax deductible. Please make checks payable to Robert Russell Eastern Star Masonic Retirement Campus or R.R.E.S.M.R.C. Send them to attention: Director, 2445 S. Quebec St, Denver, CO 80231. You can also go online to ESMRC's website: [www.esmrc.com](http://www.esmrc.com), then click the "donate now" icon. Make a secure donation using the Community First Foundation System.



# Colorado Gives Day —

On Dec. 6, 2022, generous supporters donated \$8,400. Thank you!



Michael Alvine in memory of Robert Matthew  
Helen Andresen dedicated to Chas  
Antoinette Augliera  
Craig Bailey  
Terry Barnard in memory of Evelyn Barnard  
John Befus in honor of Clay (Pops)  
Phil Black in memory of Philip Black  
Jane Cahn  
Kathy Easterday  
Marcel Eisma  
Feigitsch family in memory of Paul Feigitsch  
Marsha Ferrick in memory of Juanita White  
David Gans  
Amy Graziano in memory of Rocky and Phyllis  
Donald Hayford  
Robin Heinrich  
Terry Hudson  
Raju Jairam  
Tom and Lilly Johnson in memory of Merna  
Johnson  
Casey Johnson  
Joanne Johnson dedicated to staff at ESMRC  
Mary Kemker in memory of Grady S. Kemker  
Peggy Kieffer  
Gary and Dolly Lavoie  
Larry and Ellen Lillo

Loretta McElhiney  
Ilene Morgan in  
honor of Elsie Stoetzer  
Norma Murr  
Karen Prater  
Kathryn Rau  
Dan and Marlene Reichel in memory of neighbors and friends of SVV who have passed  
Paula McClain  
Jean Robertson  
Kristi Rudy in memory of Joanne Butcher (Princess from Iowa)  
Loann Scarpato  
Jeff and Karen Schaeffer  
Doris Schrupp  
Linda Stengel  
Richard Surroz  
Nancy Swope dedicated to Bob Swope  
Bart Wegner  
Janet White in memory of Juanita F. White  
Shirley Wideman  
Anonymous dedicated to all employees who work at ESMRC  
Anonymous in honor of Joann Duckworth  
Anonymous in memory of Doris Flannery  
Anonymous in memory of Charlotte Leader



*Whether it is flowers (left) or butter cookies (right), ESMRC appreciated all donations made by friends of the community.*



## Spotlight

Robert Russell Eastern Star Masonic  
Retirement Campus of Colorado, Inc.  
2445 South Quebec Street  
Denver, CO 80231-9924

Postmaster: Deliver to homes Feb. 16, 17

Non-Profit Org.  
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Denver, CO  
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### I would like to give a charitable contribution to Eastern Star Masonic Retirement Campus.

☐ \$25      ☐ \$50      ☐ \$75      ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Tree of Faith      ☐ Tree of Hope      ☐ Tree of Love  
\$100–499      \$500–999      \$1,000 and up

**Make checks payable to Eastern Star Masonic Retirement Campus or ESMRC.**  
Your donation is tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Send to:  
Business Office  
2445 S. Quebec Street  
Denver, CO 80231

- ☐ Operating Fund  
☐ Home Endowment  
☐ In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

