



Pinecrest Press



Volume 9 Issue 3

May/June 2015

Reflections from the Desk of Fero Labash, CEO

Medicaid Cuts Threaten Services

Pinecrest's state association, LeadingAge Illinois, joined forces with other state senior service provider associations including the Illinois Health Care Association (IHCA), the Health Care Council of Illinois (HCCI), and the Affordable Assisted Living Coalition (AALC) to oppose the devastating cuts to Medicaid funding that have been proposed for the 2016 state budget that begins in July of this year. The Governor has proposed cutting the reimbursement rate to nursing homes by another 9.5%. Representatives from each organization spent May 12-14 at the State Capitol Building talking with legislators about what these cuts will mean to our residents and staff. I'd like to share with you the message I took to Pinecrest's legislators:

Mt. Morris (pop. 2,927) has been hard hit by the loss of jobs due to the Quad Graphics plant closing, Kable News Company moving jobs to Florida and Watt Publishing relocating to Rockford. Over the last eight years, nearly 1,200 jobs were lost. Now more than ever, the Mt. Morris community relies on Pinecrest for the employment we provide, the services we deliver and the community benefits we offer. Pinecrest has been the largest Mt. Morris employer since 2011 pouring \$5.2 million dollars annually into the community through payroll. We cared for more than 300 residents in 2014—70 of those are independent residents who shop and volunteer in Mt. Morris and the surrounding communities. Pinecrest provides the land which last year generated over 5,000 pounds of fresh produce for local food pantry clients. We are working every day to make a positive impact on a community that is struggling.

The proposed 9.5% cut to Medicaid would mean that Pinecrest would have to cut an additional \$200,000 out of the tightest budget in Pinecrest's recent history. Cuts of this magnitude would certainly result in job

loss and cuts to resident services. Pinecrest has taken pride in staffing above state standards, hiring registered nurses at each opportunity to care for our residents, exceeding the requirements for resident activities, and providing private rooms for all residents. This emphasis on quality has afforded Pinecrest a five star rating with the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services for more than four years. Our current Medicaid daily rate of \$128.54 (**before** the temporary 12.9% cuts in May and June) is a lower rate than we were receiving in 2008. Our expenses, however, continue to climb—in part due to unfunded mandates. **Illinois is already the 49th worst state for Medicaid reimbursements.** Pinecrest and other nursing facilities caring for the most frail and vulnerable of Illinois' residents cannot bear a 9.5% cut without a harsh negative impact on nursing home residents, employees, and the communities in which we are located. To safeguard quality care for seniors, to protect nursing home jobs, and to defend our local economy from another harsh blow, I urged our legislators to say no to the proposed 9.5% Medicaid cut. I encourage you to contact your legislators and share your thoughts on the proposed cuts. The new budget year begins in July, so time is of the essence.



Association members prepare for the first Lobby





Spreading May Day Cheer

Members of Dorcas Circle Women's group for Disciples United Methodist Church stopped by on May 1 to spread a little May Day Cheer.

handmade baskets which were filled with popcorn and other delicious treats to members of their church congregation who are currently Pinecrest Manor residents.

Marcia Sterenberg and Anne Knodle, pictured at left, distributed the little

Thank you, ladies, for your generosity and continued support.

Mother's Day Fun!

Celebrations were held to honor mothers in the Manor, Village, and Grove the week of May 4. Teas were held in the Terrace and Village, and the Manor hosted makeovers with a photo booth!

Pictured below are some Manor residents with their daughters and friends enjoying some photo booth fun!

From left to right: Friends Kathy Clark, Georgia Studebaker (Manor resident), and Leatrice Bicksler; Manor resident Julia Aiken with daughters Linda and Karen; and Manor resident Rose Peterson. Pictured far right: Manor resident Ruth Gaston with her daughter Susan.

In addition to the photo booth residents enjoyed makeovers from Tina Kruger, Mary Kay, and delicious sweet treats.



Many of Pinecrest's Departments' Wishes Have Been Granted!

Wishes continue to be granted! Thank you to all of our generous donors who have chosen to support the 2015 Wish List. In addition to all of the individual donors, two memorials have been designated for items from the Wish List.

Pinecrest has received over \$5,600 to be used towards items on the Wish List. Pinecrest publishes a wish list every year to give individual departments the oppor-

tunity to express their needs for items that are not included in the normal operating budget. We are very grateful for the generosity of our donors!

If you would like a copy of the wish list, contact Amy Sikyta at asikyta@pinecrestcommunity.org or call 815-734-4103 x277. The Wish List can also be found online at www.pinecrestcommunity.org.



The Terrace "Goes West"

Pinecrest Terrace enjoyed a little western fun at a hoedown in April. The Terrace was filled with country fun as residents enjoyed showing off their shooting skills, a

Nerf target contest, lassoing a "horse", sitting by the campfire (pictured at left), and cuddling and petting a baby goat. Afterwards everyone enjoyed sarsaparilla (root beer).



Board Members

Neil Brinkmeier, President
Dr. Ed Baker, Vice President
Dianne Swingel, Secretary
Michele Firebaugh, Treasurer
Roger Anna
Gary Henderson
Willie Hisey-Pierson
Ralph McFadden
Patrice Nightingale
Dick Noser
Beverly Binkley
Andrew Welp, JD, CPA

Foundation Board Members

John Thompson, President
Bill Horst, Vice President
Vicki Wean, Treasurer
Ferol Labash, Secretary
Victor Green
Steven Goley
Gary Henderson

Administrative Staff

Ferol Labash
Chief Executive Officer
Jolene LeClere,
Administrator of Health Services
Brent Good,
Director of Plant Operations/
Construction Administration
Howie Herman,
Director of Independent Living
Jon Kobylewski,
Director of Dining Services
Kim Macklin,
Controller
Victoria Marshall,
Director of Human Resources
Kris Brunner,
Director of Social Services
Diana Roemer,
Director of Advancement
Meg Unger,
Director of Nursing

Medical Director

Dr. Loyd Wollstadt



Friends, Food, and an Afternoon of Fun!

Highland Avenue Church of the Brethren Active Adult Group visited past congregation members who currently reside in Pinecrest Manor and Village (pictured above). A delicious pot roast lunch was enjoyed, followed by mingling and entertainment in the Manor provided by the group. Afterwards the group toured the Village apartments and Grove homes.

If your church, social group, or organization would like to visit Pinecrest, we would love to have you for lunch and a tour! Enjoy spending time with old friends, or make new ones. This is a wonderful way to spend an afternoon. Contact Amy at 815-734-4103 x277 to schedule your visit.



Century 2 Club Members Honored

Forty Century 2 Club members were honored during the annual luncheon on April 9. A delicious prime rib lunch was served and Bruce Denton entertained on his guitar (above middle). Ferol Labash presented new members with membership pins (pictured

above right) and Pastor Rodney Caldwell led the prayer.

If you would like information on becoming a Century 2 Club member, contact Diana Roemer at 815-734-4103 x273 or droemer@pinecrestcommunity.org.





Report from Howie Herman, Director of Independent Living

Woodworking Shop is Active!

Are you that person who likes to putter or do projects in your shop? Don't want to give that up if you decide to move? The well-equipped woodworking shop at Pinecrest Village is your answer.

It contains two drill presses, two band saws, table saw, drum sander, grinder, and a chop saw. There is a joiner, radial arm saw, work table, and a long list of other tools for your use. Use your own tools if you choose. To use our woodworking shop, Village Residents need only demonstrate their ability to be safe with tools and follow our shop guidelines.

Dwight Butterbaugh, who formerly built homes in the Mount Morris area, is active in the shop building wooden toys, making repairs, and mounting puzzles, and he

recently built and finished two bookcases for our large-print books in the 2nd and 3rd floor lounges. You won't have to give up your enjoyment in the shop when you move to the Village!

Conveniences of Independent Living—Groceries and Prescriptions Delivered to Your Door!

Whether you drive or not, enjoy the conveniences of life! Your groceries from Sullivan's Foods can be delivered by volunteers from the Mount Morris Senior Center. Simply set up your account at Sullivan's, call in your order on any Wednesday, and on Thursday they are delivered right to your apartment door! Prescriptions from Snyder Pharmacy in Oregon can also be delivered directly to your apartment once you have made arrangements with staff at the pharmacy. Call Snyder Pharmacy for a consultation with a pharmacist.



Scholarship Recipient Announced

The 2015 Jim Renz Pinecrest Memorial Scholarship recipient was announced at the Oregon High School's senior awards night.

Graduate Carly Stephens was awarded the \$1,000 one-time scholarship.

Carly had a class rank of 7 out of 107 students and maintained an excellent GPA all four years of attendance, graduating with a 4.42556/4.0 GPA.

While a student at Oregon High School, Carly participated in Key Club and took on the role of the Kiwanis Liaison for the Key Club. In addition, she participated in Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Student Council, Academic Bowl, Track, and the school musical.

Carly has served on four mission teams, visiting the Cumberland

Mountains of Tennessee twice, on a Native American reservation in Lake Traverse, SD and the community of Sylacauga, AL.

Carly's goal is to become a teacher for young children; she will be attending Northern Illinois University in the fall.

Congratulations, Carly!

A Star Studded Night!

Pinecrest Village residents enjoyed a night of entertainment trivia at the annual cabin fever party in March.

At the Oscar themed party, residents were told to dress their best, and they enjoyed snacks, trivia, and games.

Pictured on the red carpet above are Village residents Marian Garrett, Carol Hachmeister, and Lois Steffen.



Pictured above, Carly with her award and Diana Roemer



What's Happening at The Grove Community Center, by June Jacobs, Manager/Services & Activity Coordinator



Spring has definitely sprung and the Grove Community Center is buzzing with activities! The recently launched Boot Camp fitness class continues to be popular with the community, McKendrie Street Café continues to fill the space with delicious smells; now including freshly made waffle cones, and Mt.

Morris Chiropractic and Pinecrest's out-patient rehab are as busy as ever. In addition to the daily activities at the Community Center, the past few months have kept the schedule full!

Spelling Bee: We were delighted to host the local Senior Spelling Bee again this year in conjunction with the Senior Center on April 30. Both new and return spellers joined us in this spirited competition. We would like to congratulate Crete LeFevre, and Pinecrest's very own board member, **Dianne Swingel**, took second place. They will now compete in the next round in June. If either place first or second, they will advance to the final round at the Illinois State Fair in Springfield.

will be enjoyed during the spring, summer, and most of fall.

Performances: The local Performing Arts Guild (PAG) entertained crowds two weekends in April with its performance of Steel Magnolias. (pictured below right)

PAG has announced that it is already preparing for its next show which will be performed near the end of **July. Auditions for "The Odd Couple" were held in the beginning of May.** Stay tuned for dates or visit their website www.performingartsguild.com!

Weddings & Events: Another wedding was held at the Community Center and hosted about 150 guests.

Garrett and Kristen Davis were wed under a decorated arch on stage (pictured below middle), and then the room was reset to accommodate the reception. Kristin chose a country formal theme and the wedding party did a wonderful job decorating the auditorium.



Pond: The sun is shining, the warm weather is upon us and now. . . the water is spraying. At the beginning of May, the maintenance staff did their annual spring installation of the fountain that services the North pond on the Grove property (pictured above left). The sights and the sounds of the fountain can now be enjoyed by our Pinecrest families while sitting in the prayer patio.

Not only is the fountain designed for aesthetic reasons, it is there to help the surrounding ecosystem and keep the water oxygenated and healthy. The staff did a fine job and continue to make the campus look fabulous; we cannot thank them enough. The fountain

We look forward to more wedding parties using our facility to accommodate their special day. The auditorium is the perfect venue for any gathering, large or small. This space has been used for bridal showers, baby showers, birthday celebrations, reunions, graduations, and educational events.

The calendar is filling up for June and through the summer. For up-to-date information on what's happening at the Grove "like" us on Facebook, check the calendar online at www.pinecrestcommunity.org, or call me at 815-734-2103.





Report from Diana Roemer, Director of Advancement

I have been a very busy lady in the grants department.

We were blessed with funding for our watercolor painting project,

"Color Me a Memory," for Terrace Memory Care residents, and that project launched in late March after what seems like forever in fund-seeking, planning, and execution.

Thanks goes to the A. Charles and Lillemor Lawrence Foundation in Chicago for believing in us and funding this important project, which assists those who are memory impaired in remembering better as they paint. Thanks to the staff and volunteers who have given of their time and talents to attend training and work with the residents.

Painting will continue on Fridays throughout the summer and into the fall at which time a full scientific assessment (NIU is doing the monitoring) will be produced and future plans will be determined. It is our hope that this project is deemed a success in the eyes of our residents and their families. This program is a pilot.



Above: Anna Marie Castle paints red and orange zinnias from her memory after being shown a picture of blue wildflowers.

**

I have many dreams about projects that would benefit Pinecrest and our residents, one of which is a story in movie/video format on our website home page that would welcome visitors and tell our story. Not only do they walk through the front door here, visitors are increasingly dropping by from the World Wide Web. Believe it or not, the city whose residents visit our website most often is Chicago, followed closely by Rockford. The numbers drop off quite a bit after that; after the metropolitan guests, the most visitors hail from Mount Morris, DeKalb, Dixon, Sterling, Freeport, Frankfort, Oregon, Leaf River, Spring Grove, and Elgin, in order of volume. However, there are about 80 cities listed on the current report (maybe yours!) with some just visiting once or twice. I have applied for funding for this video from the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois.

Finally, I applied for funding for our Good Samaritan program from the Willow Springs Foundation in March. The Willow Springs Foundation has, as have all our funding partners, been incredibly generous and understanding about our needs. In the past, they have funded beds for the Manor and Terrace as well as a Viking steamer for the Manor kitchen. We remain grateful for all these blessings and those bestowed upon us by all our generous donors and those who remember us in their wills. Without all of **you, we wouldn't be able to fulfill our mission** services.

Do You Have Access To More Money Than You Know?

People often don't realize just how much gift-giving potential they might actually have.

Many employers offer a gift matching program that sometimes even doubles or triples the gift of the employee! Some employers even offer this benefit to their employees after their retirement. Pinecrest currently has several donors who take advantage of multiplying their gift to Pinecrest by utilizing this wonderful benefit!

If your employer has a gift matching program, please be sure to send the appropriate paper work to Pinecrest, attention: Amy Sikyta. This ensures your generous gift and matching opportunity won't be missed.

In addition to gift matching programs at work, certain financial institutions offer charitable gift giving solutions for members.

Thrivent Financial for instance has money available twice a year for EVERY Thrivent member to utilize for a charity of their choice. This money is not the members' money, but money set aside by the company for members to utilize. Check with your financial advisor to see if there is a program like this you are missing out on! **Thrivent's charitable program isn't limited to non-for-profits.** As long as the application is approved, people have been allowed to use this money for local fundraisers for schools, individuals affected by health concerns, and individual fundraisers.

It's worth taking a look at your opportunities! Happy hunting!



Annual Golf Play Day

There was no snow this year at the annual golf play day! Sunshine and warm weather welcomed 51 golfers May 15 who came to Sunset Golf Club to support the Good Samaritan Fund.

This year's event was better than ever with a total of 14 teams golfing for the cause.

A wonderful lunch was enjoyed before the golfers hit the links for an 18-hole scramble.

We are very grateful for all of our supporters and sponsors who made this event so very successful!

This year's presenting sponsor was Medline. Hole sponsors included: 1st Farm Credit, Country Companies, KSB Hospital, RSM McGladrey, Transamerica—Neil Brinkmeier, and Williams Manny Insurance—Joe Clinton. Sponsors on the Supporter level included: Farrell-Holland-Gale Funeral Home, Steve Duncan, Dick Noser, FN Smith Corporation, and ACT Network Solutions. Sponsors on the Friend level included: Oregon Snyders Pharmacy, Fischers, Inc., and Martin & Company.

In addition to cash sponsors, this outing relies on

generous donors to provide door and raffle prizes to **make the golfers' experiences even more memorable. This year's prizes were exceptionally exciting!** Raffle prizes were: one pass for a carload to the Rockford Airfest donated by RFD, two tickets to Magic Waters Water Park Donated by Rockford Park District, and four tickets to a Rockford IceHogs game donated by the Rockford IceHogs. Door prizes included gift certificates to local restaurants and gas stations, items by local bakers, massages, golf balls and much more. Donors of door prizes included: **Jay's Drive In, Oregon Park District, Casey's, Cloud 9 Massage, Mt. Morris Superwash, Hidden Timbers Gardens, Merlin's Flower Shop, Pinecricer Café, Oregon Pizza Hut, Oregon McDonald's, Alpine Chiropractic, Bassline Bakery, Jen's Artisan Breads, Citgo, Sterling Applebees, Farm & Fleet, Sterling Federal, Mt. Morris Senior Center, and Printing By Laura Medlar.**

Thank you to all of our golfers, sponsors, and volunteers who helped raise just over \$6,000!

All of the proceeds from this event benefit the Good Samaritan Fund, which was established in 1988 to help cover the cost of care for residents who have outlived their financial resources. We hope to see you on the course next year!



Pie Fest 2015 to Combine with Annual Craft & Vendor Fair!

Dust off your favorite cookbook, find that secret family recipe, and mark your calendar for Pinecrest Community's 4th annual pie baking contest.

This year the contest will be held in conjunction with **Pinecrest Grove's annual craft and vendor fair.** There is bound to be something for everyone! Homemade pies, handmade craft items, goodies from local vendors, and more!

The event will be held Saturday, September 19, at the Grove Community Center.

More information on how to enter a pie, volunteer, or participate in the craft and vendor fair will be available on our website at www.pinecrestcommunity.org and our Facebook page. If you have any questions, contact Amy at 815-734-4103 x277 or June at 815-734-2103.





Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Rockford, Illinois
Permit No. 579

414 S. Wesley Ave.
Mt. Morris, IL 61054
815-734-4103

Address Service Requested



Our Mission —

Pinecrest Community is a not-for-profit continuing care retirement community organized exclusively for charitable and benevolent purposes that:

- ◆ Provides high quality residential and health services as expressions of Christian ideals and values.
- ◆ Invites and welcomes all people, without discrimination.
- ◆ Promotes an active retirement and healthy lifestyle with respect, dignity and security for the whole person.
- ◆ Recognizes a responsibility to work in concert with other providers and the community to improve the quality of life and health services for older adults.

Pinecrest Press is published bi-monthly by Pinecrest Community Marketing Department, 414 S. Wesley Ave., Mt. Morris, IL 61054. 815-734-4103. If you have suggestions for articles, you may contact the department directly. See contact information below.

Pinecrest Press would like to "Go Green" in the future. If you would like to join our efforts by receiving this newsletter by email, contact Amy Sikyta: asikyta@pinecrestcommunity.org.

If you no longer wish to receive this mailing, please send a request for removal to:
Pinecrest Community, Attn: Amy Sikyta, 414 S. Wesley Ave., Mt. Morris, IL 61054 or email asikyta@pinecrestcommunity.org. You may also call Pinecrest at 815-734-4103.