

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Isaíah 9:6

# From The Executive Director

To say that 2020 has been quite a year would be an understatement. Our world and daily lives have changed drastically over the last nine months, but our resolve and optimism, though tested at times, has remained strong.

When the pandemic started even the most pessimistic among us expected that it would be gone in a few months. As the days turned into weeks and the weeks into months, we accepted our reality and learned how to live in our new normal. Face masks became as important as our keys when we left the house and we learned just how poor we were at washing our hands ... 30 seconds sure is a long time.

We have been reminded of the power of saying "Thank you" and being thankful for our many blessings. We have adapted and learned.

Vivian Greene, an artist, author, and entrepreneur, is credited with saying, "Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass, it's about learning how to dance in the rain." 2020 has taught us how to dance in the rain.

Although we may be dancing alone right now or at least six feet apart from others, no pandemic can stop us from saying "Thank you" to our Estates' family.

Thank you to our dedicated heroes who have stepped up to face the challenge of a generation. You have come to work every day to serve our residents. I am in awe!

Thank you to our residents who made face masks to keep us safe, to those who sanitized the common areas on weekends, and for the countless unknown daily acts of kindness to your neighbors. You define the word community.

Thank you to the members of our volunteer Board of Directors for your guidance and support. Your commitment to the mission of The Estates is unmatched.

As we approach the end of 2020 – a year like no other - please take a moment to reflect upon the year while looking forward to the future. Take time to learn how to dance in the rain! This storm shall pass, and The Estates' future remains bright.

Thank you for being a part of the Estates family and I pray that God blesses you, your loved ones, and our community during this holiday season and the New Year.

#### - Brian Robare, CEO & Executive Director

## MEET YOUR NEW NEIGHBORS

#### Jack Priebe, F-217, Phone: (863)688-5991

Jack Priebe is originally from Detroit, Michigan. He worked as an engineer for Hughes Aircraft company. Mr. Priebe settled in Lakeland in 1995 after moving from the Los Angeles area in sunny California, living full-time in a motorhome. The Estates was highly recommended by residents he met through local clubs. Jack is interested in philosophy, the fundamentals of health and exercise. We are happy to welcome Jack to our Estates family.





#### Robert Kossel, G-306, Phone: (863)859-7218

Robert Kossel is originally from Michigan. He lived in Highland Fairways and worked for General Motors for twenty-two years. Mr. Kossel decided to move to the Estates for a better quality of life. Robert enjoys everything sports related. We are pleased to welcome him to the Estates.

#### Our Annual Christmas GALA Is Here!

Join us on December 16th or 17th in the MAIN DINING ROOM for delicious food prepared by our amazing Dining staff, and live entertainment featuring the wonderful trumpet player and singer, Chuck Weirich. Be sure to come in your Christmas best! You will not want to miss this extravagant event. This event is by reservations only, so make sure you call to reserve your table. If you have any other questions or concerns, please contact extension 114.





### A Hopeful Christmas

Andy Williams sang it best; Christmas really is the 'Most Wonderful Time of the Year.' Whether it is listening to Christmas music while wrapping presents for loved ones or watching a Hallmark movie while drinking hot chocolate with marshmallows stirred with a candy cane, Christmas has always been my favorite holiday. Why? Well if you were to ask my seven-year-old self, she would probably say, "The presents, of course!" However, as I am getting older, I find myself thinking less of the presents and more of making memories with my friends and family. Especially in times like these where the relationships with our loved ones means more than anything in the world! This year has brought on a lot of firsts for my family, including our first small Thanksgiving and Christmas with just my parents and my sister. We have always celebrated these special holidays with my aunt, uncle, cousins, and nana, and I am sad this year will be different. However, what keeps me going is knowing that by doing this, I know that they are healthy and safe and hope that we will be able to have more of these celebrations in the future. Hope is what drives my Christmas spirit. Hope is what helps me believe that all of us will get through this no matter what obstacles we have faced. Hope is the one thing that is going to get me through to the New Year. With that being said, I HOPE all of you have the most magical and amazing Christmas this year and are able to be with your loved ones in one way or another. Let us all have HOPE that we are able to get through the rest of this year and bring in a better New Year.

- Kira Morisako, Resident Lifestyle's Assistant

How the Fir Tree Became th Christmas Tree

This is the story of how the fir tree became the Christmas tree.

At the time when the Christ Child was born all the people, the animals, the trees, and the plants were very happy. The Child was born to bring peace and happiness to the whole world. People came daily to see the little One, and they always brought gifts with them.

There were three trees standing near the crypt which saw the people, and they wished that they, too, might give presents to the Christ Child.

The Palm said, "I will choose my most beautiful leaf, and place it as a fan over the Child."

"And I," said the Olive, "will sprinkle sweet-smelling oil upon His head."

"What can I give to the Child?" asked the Fir, who stood near.

"You!" cried the others. "You have nothing to offer Him. Your needles would prick Him, and your tears are sticky."

So the poor little Fir tree was very unhappy, and it said, "Yes, you are right. I have nothing to offer the Christ Child."

Now, quite near the trees stood the Christmas Angel, who had heard all that the trees said. The Angel was sorry for the Fir tree who was so lowly and without envy of the other trees. So, when it was dark, and the stars came out, he begged a few of the little stars to come down and rest upon the branches of the Fir tree. They did as the Christmas Angel asked, and the Fir tree shone suddenly with a beautiful light.

And, at that very moment, the Christ Child opened His eyes-for He had been asleep-and as the lovely light fell upon Him He smiled.

Every year people keep the dear Christmas Child's birthday by giving gifts to each other, and every year, in rememberance of His first birthday, the Christmas Angel places in every house a fir tree, also. Covered with starry candles it shines for the children as the stars shone for the Christ Child. The Fir tree was rewarded for its most was for to no other to shine upon as meaning here to show the stars are as meaning here to be a stars.

its meekness, for to no other tree is it given to shine upon so manny happy faces.

## Reinventing the Future

Over the past few months, I have encouraged individuals to reflect on the past while being mindful in the present. As we reflect on the past, we learn how events shape us today. As we take a step back and practice mindfulness, we check in with our emotional and mental health to keep things in check. But what can we do in the future? 2020 can be summed up by a quote a professor from college told me, "Life happens when you're making plans." It can sometimes feel pointless to make plans, especially after such a rollercoaster of a year.

As uncomfortable as it may feel, pushing ourselves to imagine a better future may be a crucial way for us to maintain some semblance of mental well-being—now and whenever that beautiful future does arrive. In many cases, plans are what keep us going. Whether it is a holiday, vacation, or visiting with family and friends, creating plans gives people hope.

During this season of life, I have seen several of you reinvent yourself in fabulous ways. I have seen people begin to take on physical wellness goals that they have put off for years. I have seen residents and staff learning new skills, people brushing up on or learning a new language, and countless other examples. I have encouraged those who have embarked on new journeys to continue to make audacious goals for themselves and to continue with the good habits they have cultivated this season. These goals and plans have helped many develop hope.

As this year comes to an end, and 2021 peaks over the horizon, continue to reflect on your past, be mindful in the present, and develop goals and plans for your future. Not only will these activities help you keep up your mental well-being, they will also give you small moments to look forward to soon, even when things feel out of control and unpredictable.

- Marco Sílvera, Wellness Coordinator

# **The Good Samaritan Fund**

The balance of the **GOOD SAMARITAN FUND** is \$385,123.01. As of October 31, 2020, \$62,517.52 has been used to help residents. Monies are taken from the interest earned.

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Christmas Schedule

If you have an interest in attending any of these events, please call ext. 114 and reserve your spot.



**December 16th-17th** - From 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. **Main Dining Room** and 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

and 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Come dressed in your Christmas best!

### **Tree Lighting**

December 7th-9th - Beginning at 5:45, enjoy a night Front Parking Lot of entertainment and treats. Warm up your vocal chords for some classic Christmas carols.

#### Sounds of the Season

**December 9th-11th** - From 3:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. **19TH HOLE** Join us by the fountain out front to enjoy a variety of

#### Christmas Light Bus Tour

entertainment.

December 21st-23rd -Starting at 6:00 p.m, joinBUSus on a magical bus tour<br/>of the wonderful light

of the wonderful light displays around Lakeland

## Holiday Memories

It is December and what is better than sharing Christmas stories? We have three residents from the Manor and Villa that were willing to share a Christmas Story about growing up. It is is amazing how different stories can be from one family to another!

Ms. Arleen Oakland stated that after she got married, her and her husband tried to make Christmas very special. They would dress up for Christmas Eve, listen to Christmas music, and have a candlelit dinner with a hand-picked menu. Their menu consisted of filet mignon, shrimp, sides, wine, fudge, and cookies from their cookie boxes. After they would eat, they would enjoy opening presents. Ms. Arleen said they did this tradition for over 40 years and it continues to this day with her boys.

Our second resident to share, Ms. Barbara Meikle, would have to wait at the top of the stairs with her two brothers until her momma and daddy came down. "We were so excited when we went down! I would get a doll and my brothers would get balls and a train set, then we would have a big dinner around 1 to 2 in the afternoon. It was so nice," she explained.

As for Ms. Mary Jane Green, her family did not have many big Christmases growing up, since she was an only child. But, when she got married, they would go to her husband's parents' house, which surprised her at how big and busy his Christmases were in comparison to hers. She would also go to her aunt's and uncle's houses for some Christmases when she was younger, but until she met her husband, her Christmases were simple. While she still enjoyed simple, it was nice to be around her husband's family as well. She added, "We moved to Florida in 1952 and my parents visited to get away from the horrible winters."

- Jamie Backensto, Director of Recreation, Health Center

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#### The Holidays in these Unprecedented Times

While we have learned a lot about the ways COVID - 19 can spread and affect us, there is still much to learn. One thing that we absolutely know for sure is that this year's holiday season is going to look a lot different. We are going to have to take extra precautions in maintaining social distancing, crowd size, and hand hygiene while indoors. The safest ways to approach your holiday celebration is to limit your gathering to your own household and connect with other friends and family virtually. If you need to travel, the safest way is to travel by car. Keep in mind that negative tests prior to travelling does not mean all precautions can be avoided. Arrange a way to see your family and friends' faces virtually while opening a gift. Over these months, we all have learned new ways to be together while apart. If this year has taught us anything, it is how much the people in our lives mean to us, so spread some happiness where you can. Write down how much the people you love mean to you and send it out to them. We have to remember that this is temporary, even though it is starting to feel like COVID – 19 has been here forever. Hopefully, this will be the last winter that we will be celebrating without our families and friends.

- Rana Khan, Director of Nursing, Health Center







Nancy Lynette03
Jean Royer04
Ervine Byrnes07
Henry Coffman09
Mary Smith09
JeannineCasey10
Doris Jackson10
Marie Paolatonio10
Donna Novak 11
Jane Miller13
Katherine Hamann14
Raymond Meder15
Owen Smith15
ErikaEdwards17
MarkSutherland17
Danny Morris18
Martha Conrad20
Harold Hall21
Gerry Rogers23
Dona Nash25
Joanna Birtch 26
A.J. Connor27
Donald Andersen30

DeloresByrd......30

Barbara Meikle01
Rose Kimmel07
Clara Nettles10
Marlene Cheatwood . 30
Phyllis Snavely31



# CHRISTMAS Movie Matinee

**December 2nd - Home Alone** Starring Macaulay Culkin, Catherine O' Hara, and Joe Pesci. An eight-yearold troublemaker must protect his house from a pair of burglars when he is accidentally left home alone by his family during Christmas vacation. (PG - 103 minutes)

#### December 9th - Elf

Starring Will Ferrell, James Caan, and Zooey Deschanel. After discovering he is a human, a man raised as an elf at the North Pole decides to travel to New York City to locate his real father. (PG - 97 minutes)

**December 16th – Saving Christmas** Starring Kirk Cameron, Darren Doane, and Ben Kientz. Former Growing Pains star Kirk Cameron attempts to save the day by showing him that Jesus Christ remains a crucial component of the over-commercialized holiday. (PG - 80 minutes)

**December 23rd - White Christmas** Starring Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, Rosemary Clooney, and Vera Ellen. A successful song-and-dance team become romantically involved with a sister act and team up to save the failing Vermont Inn of their former commanding general. (PG - 120 minutes)

**December 30th - Miracle on 34th Street** Starring Maureen O' Hara, John Payne, and Edmund Gwenn. When a nice old man who claims to be Santa Claus is institutionalized as insane, a young lawyer decides to defend him by arguing in court that he is the real thing. (PG - 96 minutes)

#### The Most Wonderful Time of the Year

The best way to start celebrating Christmas is to remember this is the most wonderful time of the year. Despite the challenges, I prefer to view Christmas as the "best of times." There is no better time of year to enjoy the color that enhances our streets. At no other time of the year do the faces of little children glow with such wonder. And there is nothing like the music of Christmas. They are playing our songs in the grocery stores, elevators, shopping malls, and on every radio station - "Joy to the world the Lord has come." They are talking about our Savior. It is our message on their lips. Have you noticed? Do not miss that! We will string up the lights. Trim the tree. Buy the gifts. Place them under the tree. The holidays need not be just a repetition from last year. Maybe it is time to use these familiar traditions as reminders of essential truths. Do not forget that Jesus was born of a virgin. His very conception, a miracle! Remember how the angels lit the shepherds' field with God's glory that night, announcing the birth of a Savior? A Savior that would die for our sins. Allow the traditions of the season to be a reminder, the Savior has come. May the beauty of the season remind you of His intense concern for every detail of your life and His great, sacrificial love for you.

Merry Christmas!

- Chaplain Randy Horn

## MEMORIALS, HONORARIUMS, AND DONATIONS

The Estates would like to thank the following individuals for their generosity during the month of October 2020: Stephanie Allen, Janet Armstrong, Mr.&Mrs. Byrd, Ervine Byrnes, Jeannine Casey, Roz Coleman, Virginia Collier, Mr.&Mrs. Drury, Jane Fawcett, Judy Fuller, Bonnie Geohagan, Bertilou Hatton, Catherine Head, Theresa Hollywood, Hulbert Homes, Rochelle Iovino, Donna Johnston, Henry Karr, Alita Keller, Claudia Kersey, MaryAnne Kleintop, Mr.&Mrs. Lewis, Nancy Lynette, Mr.&Mrs. Markarian, Rodney Merkert, Althea Nye, Mr.&Mrs. Pesta, Mr.&Mrs. Purvis, Brian Robare, Lucy Shirah, Mr.&Mrs. Sterling, Betty Sutton, Mr.& Mrs. John Thompson, Matt Thompson, Betty Vocelle, Phyllis Watson, and Bob Whittaker

# The Estates



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