



# Pinecrest Press



Volume 8 Issue 5

September/October 2014

## **Reflections from the Desk of Feroi Labash, CEO**

The Pinecrest family was saddened to learn of the recent death of G. Eugene "Gene" Schmidt. Gene has been a longtime friend and volunteer at Pinecrest and he will

be terribly missed.

Gene was passionate about providing quality care for seniors through the ministry of Church of the Brethren retirement communities. Gene served three terms on the Pinecrest Board of Directors for a total of nine years. While on the board, Gene filled the role of board vice president and president and served on numerous committees.

Upon completing his third term on the Pinecrest Board, Gene continued as a member of the Pinecrest Foundation Board serving as its president for three years. Gene would have completed his sixth year on the Pinecrest Foundation Board this December.

Gene provided special music for Pinecrest residents throughout the year, and occasionally brought his Great Danes to visit. We could always count on Gene to don his bright red Christmas sweater and stroll the halls as he greeted residents with Christmas Carols.

Gene was a fixture in Polo. My husband and I knew we would see Gene when we had a Sunday dinner at the Pinecricer. Gene would walk from table to table greeting the diners and would sometimes sit down and eat with our family. We will miss those times!

One of my last memories of Gene was at a summer

play, *The Seussification of Romeo and Juliet*. He never missed a community event — especially if children or young adults were performing or participating in some way. The youth of Polo counted on Gene to be their biggest supporter. The play was comical and I very much enjoyed it. But even more wonderful were the belly laughs coming from Gene as he watched the young people share their talents with the community. I'll miss that laugh!



Gene used his life and his talents to serve people and to serve his Lord. He probably never knew how many lives he touched during his time on this Earth. Like the Parable in the Bible of the servant who used and multiplied the talents given to him by his master, I like to think of Gene being greeted by his Lord with the words, "Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master." Matt. 25:21 (ESV).

**From the Pinecrest Foundation President:** "I looked up to Gene for his knowledge and leadership while I was vice president of the Pinecrest Foundation Board of Directors. He was a true leader. As the current president, I believe I can personally speak for the rest of the Foundation Board of Directors, Gene will be truly missed." Marty Grasley



## Manor Cookout

A little rain on August 21 didn't stop the dietary department from grilling at Pinecrest's scheduled cook-out! Although the rain did stop residents and staff from eating outside, a great time and meal, which included burgers, brats, and beans, was had by all!

Pictured below, Director of Dietary, Jon Kobylewski grills some burgers with dietary employee Tricia Epperhart.



## Furry Friends Visit

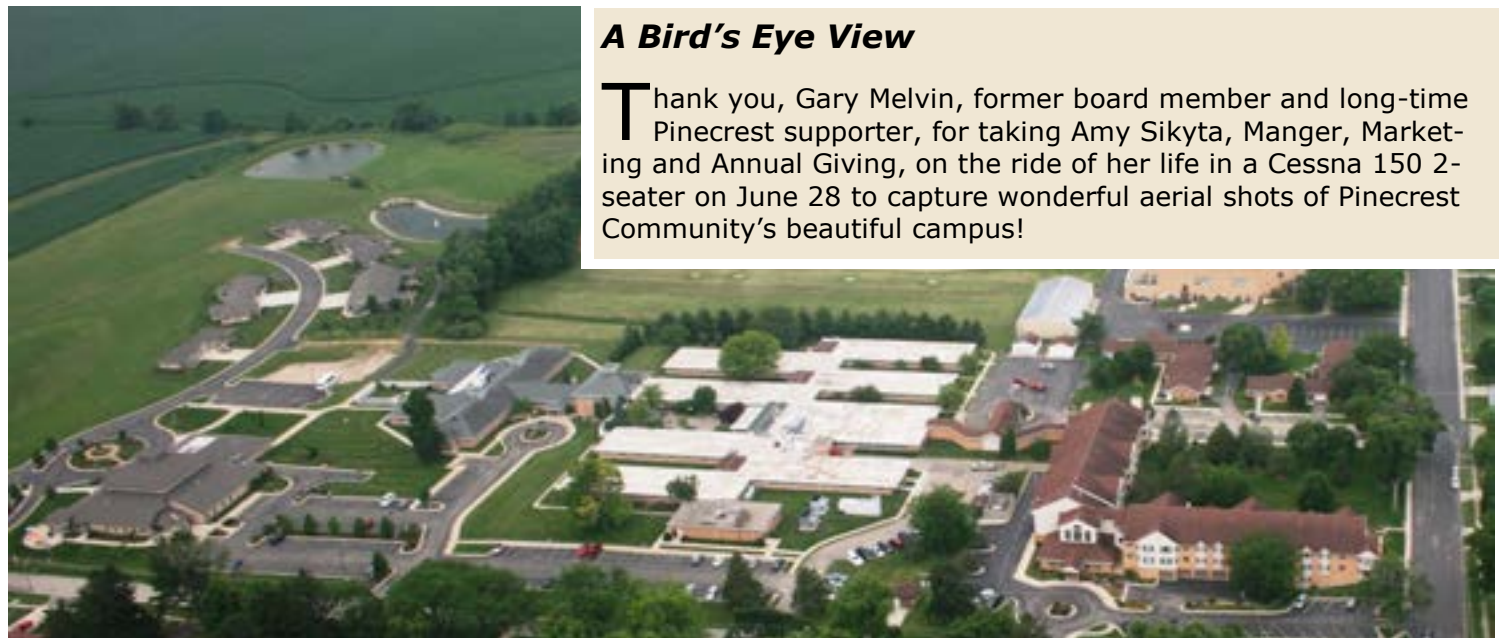
The Manor was full of furry visitors Friday, August 29. Thanks to a wish list donation to the Activity Department, Furry Friends Pets were able to visit with an array of animals including: a miniature horse, duck, bunny, guinea pig, chinchilla, rat, bird, cat, and dogs.

Pictured top left, Manor resident Marge Kump pets a chinchilla. Terrace resident Ruth Atkinson holds a rabbit. Manor resident Bob Karrow holds the "curious" rat. Look closely, you'll see the tail! (Surprisingly, more residents did NOT want to hold the rat!)



## A Bird's Eye View

Thank you, Gary Melvin, former board member and long-time Pinecrest supporter, for taking Amy Sikyta, Manger, Marketing and Annual Giving, on the ride of her life in a Cessna 150 2-seater on June 28 to capture wonderful aerial shots of Pinecrest Community's beautiful campus!



## Want to View More Photos?

If you love seeing all of the photos in each edition of the Pinecrest Press, and would like to see a lot more, like us on Facebook! Too many pictures are

taken at Pinecrest in any given week to publish in the newsletter, but luckily, many of these are posted in albums on Facebook! Please note we only post photos of residents who have a signed photo release form granting us permission to do so.



## 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

### **Joining in November:**

Beverly Binkley  
Andrew Welp, JD, CPA

## Foundation Board Members

Marty Grasley, President  
John Thompson, Vice President  
Ferol Labash, Secretary  
Bill Horst, Treasurer  
Steven Goley  
Ron Lenhart  
Gene Schmidt  
Dianne Swingel  
Vicki Wean

## 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  
Diane Schmidt,  
Director of Social Services  
Diana Roemer,  
Director of Advancement  
Meg Unger,  
Director of Nursing

## Medical Director

Dr. Loyd Wollstadt

## Getting To Know Board Member, Neil Brinkmeier

Neil Brinkmeier has served on Pinecrest's Board of Directors twice. The first time was for thirteen years, ending in 2008. Neil returned to the board in 2012 to fill an unexpired term of another member, and he was reelected in 2013 and currently serves as Board President.



Neil was born and raised on a dairy farm in Pearl City. He graduated from Manchester University in 1972 with a BS in Education. He taught health and physical education and coached basketball and track at Franklin Center Junior High from 1972-1977. Neil began working as a financial advisor in 1976 and is currently working as a financial advisor and tax consultant/preparer.

Neil met his wife Judy at Manchester University and the two were married in June of 1969. Judy is a retired teacher and the pair have

three children: the oldest, Jenny, is married, lives in Philadelphia, and has two children. Katie, the middle child, lives in Kenosha, WI, and Doug married with two children and lives in Stanford, IL.

Neil and his wife are active members of the Franklin Grove Church of the Brethren and are active as Deacons and have served in various leadership positions.

Neil has strong family ties to Pinecrest. Reuben Brinkmeier, Neil's father, served on Pinecrest's Board of Directors in the 80's; his grandmother Hulda spent over 10 years in the Manor, passing at age 95. Neil's father spent several weeks at Pinecrest with ALS; his mother spent two years in the Terrace. Judy's mom, Lois McFalls, spent a week in rehab after surgery in 2008.

When Neil is not busy working, or volunteering, he enjoys spending time with his grandchildren. Neil also enjoys gardening and yard work, traveling, and sporting activities including golfing, bowling, and fishing.

## Farewell Wendy

Wendy Howarter completed her term as a board member and was presented with an award at the August 23 board meeting. Wendy and her husband, Darren, are off to start a new adventure in Colombia!



Pictured above: Ferol Labash, Wendy Howarter and Neil Brinkmeier

Thank you, Wendy, for your hard work and dedication to Pinecrest Community. You will be missed.





### **Meet Marquita Butterbaugh, Village Resident**

**M**arquita and her husband, Dwight, have lived in their Village apartment since September of 2009. Marquita provided Pinecrest Press with a whimsical and witty outlook on her life and her life at Pinecrest!

my back or toward my face? At one time someone called me Babe, memories fade. I signed cards Dee and Mae."

**I feel my greatest accomplishment is...** "Staying alive, with God's help. With that help, it has given Dwight and me the years to have been married 67 years this fall. The three of us added three children."

**My favorite food is...** "What somebody else has cooked. Put any food on my plate and I would eat it. May spit it out when you weren't looking."

**What I love best about Pinecrest...** "It can be extended family when one's own family is at a distance. It has the feeling of retirement, but life around you too. Try it you may like it. I wasn't paid for that statement."

**What was your career?...** "What does one have to do for it to be called a "career"? You tell me, because I was mainly a homemaker, husband maker, children maker, and whatever needed to be done. To keep my sanity, short-time clerking in jewelry and dress stores."

**My friends call me (nickname)...** "Do you mean at

### **Birthday Tie**

**P**inecrest Village residents enjoy celebrating birthdays—whether with the scheduled monthly afternoon birthday celebration, or using a little creativity on their own.

Howie Herman, Director of Independent Living, with a special birthday tie!

Carole who moved to the Village with her husband, Dave, earlier this year decorated a white tie with scrapbooking materials to read "Happy Birthday Howie."

This past July, the Jones's surprised

Thank you for your creativity Carole!



### **Winter Will Inevitably Be Returning**

**W**ith the mild summer we enjoyed this year the cold snowy winter of 2014 seems like a faded memory. It is inevitable, though, that winter will arrive again, and soon. Are you prepared? What will you do as the snow piles up and your back and knees are weak and sore from moving the pounds of frozen ice? Who will you call if your furnace decides to take a "vacation" in the middle of the night? Will you really want to take that Alaskan-like snowy expedition on slippery roads to the empty aisles of your grocery store and come home to prepare a warm meal? Oh the forgotten questions of winter.

to sit back and enjoy the ride, prepared meals in a beautiful dining room, and organized activities and exercise classes to pass the time during long winter days, Pinecrest Village is the place to be!

If you have been considering the move but are still not convinced maintenance-free apartment living is for you, Pinecrest Village offers short-term stays. Stay up to six months with no long-term contracts to sign. Short-term residents receive the same amenities and benefits of permanent residents including: cable television, freshly prepared meals each day, travel opportunities, housekeeping services, get-togethers and more.

It is not too early to think about these and other issues winter brings. If you would prefer to spend your winter with the security of someone else doing the shoveling, a maintenance team to ensure a properly functioning furnace, a shopping shuttle to allow you

Visit us online at [www.pinecrestcommunity.org](http://www.pinecrestcommunity.org) and take a virtual tour or call Howie Herman at 815-734-4103 x239 to schedule a tour and learn about available apartments. Several spacious apartment layouts are available.



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



### **Manchester Alumni Dinner**

**O**n September 25 Manchester University hosted an alumni dinner in the library. The group enjoyed mingling and meeting the new president of the University. We would like to thank them for choosing us as their regional location to hold their event.

### **Lifeline Screening**

**E**arly detection is key to prevention! The Grove Community Center will be hosting Lifeline screenings on Tuesday October 28, 2014. Choose from a variety of screenings including stroke/carotid artery; heart rhythm (atrial fibrillation); abdominal aortic aneurysm; and osteoporosis risk assessment. There

are two packages of tests available at a discounted rate. Pre-registration is required. Register online at [222.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners](http://222.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners) or call 1-888-653-6450.

### **McKendrie Street Café News**

**M**ckendrie Street Café has added a number of delicious treats to their menu including panini sandwiches, hot Italian beef sandwiches, smoothies, and slushies. The café's summer hours are still in effect and the Café is currently open 7 days a week, 10 am—10 pm.

### ***Good Samaritan Supporters Come in All Sizes***

**Y**ou are never too young to support a cause you believe in and no gift or effort is ever too small.

Several children proved that this past summer.

**W**yatt Atkinson, Rockford, age 12, (pictured at left)

stopped by Pinecrest Manor on July 25 to donate \$50 cash to the Good Samaritan Fund.

Wyatt won first place in the pie baking contest children's division on July 5 with his delicious chocolate chip cookie cowboy pie and decided he wanted to donate half of his prize money to the residents of Pinecrest. When asked what he planned to do with the portion of the winnings he kept, he smiled and said "I would like to buy a new set of spurs."

Wyatt's mom, Amy Atkinson, who won third place in the adult division, accompanied Wyatt and donated half of her winnings back to the Good Samaritan Fund also.

**F**our Mt. Morris neighbor children joined together for the second year in a row to sell lemonade and baked goods to benefit the Good Samaritan Fund. In

2013 the group raised \$200, and this year they set their goal higher!

After the sale the kids took a short, three block walk to Pinecrest Manor pulling a wagon behind them which contained lemonade to share with the Manor residents.

Thank you to all of the children who volunteered their time, talents and money to the Good Samaritan Fund this summer!



Pictured above left to right are: Case Sellers, Briggs Sellers, Avery Sellers and Claire Labash.





### **Report from Diana Roemer, Director of Advancement**

**I**t was not your typical Monday at Pinecrest. I held my mail in my hands, shaking just a little bit with nervousness.

The return address on a gray/green envelope was that of a foundation that I had written to for money.

Now, surprisingly, months earlier than I expected, their response was in my hands.

You'd think I'd just rip it open – right?

\*\*

Three months earlier, in March, I had taken the chance to write to that foundation. I was hoping they would fund a giant food steamer (or two) for dietary. Years ago, Jon Kobylewski tells me, we had steamers for food preparation, but they were destroyed by lime buildup and staff has been preparing food in a much more laborious fashion ever since.

It was Ferol's idea that I find some grant money for the steamers. I was excited! I love typing! I love research! I love getting grants! I pretty much love everything!

I embarked on putting together the proposal, which was probably about 40 pages long before I was done tacking on pictures of the steamers, proof of our nonprofit status, and a budget on how we'd spend the money.

Many staffers assist when its grant proposal time and I do a half a dozen or so each year. I need a lot of support material to prove to the potential funders that we are worthy of their consideration and that what we are asking for is legitimate and serves the needs of our residents. Some of the budgets funders ask us to submit are tedious, and accounting can sometimes narrow their eyes to tiny little slits when I approach

with that puppy dog look on my face. The grant proposal process itself can be convoluted, and little ponds of sweat can be found under my desk while I'm slogging through all the questions.

Then, it's the waiting, you know....more sweat.  
\*\*

Over to the administrative assistant I went, holding the envelope like it was nitroglycerin or something. I waved the envelope around.

"Who will open this for me? I'm too nervous," I said.

Amy Sikyta consented. She calmly opened the envelope, perused its contents briefly, (I felt like I was at the Academy Awards) then she read its contents. I think I was clasping and unclasping my hands.

"It is with pleasure," ... she began....

We not only received funding, we received double what we'd requested—enough for two steamers. I have to remember that letting out loud whoops in the main hallway at Pinecrest is probably not the best way to react..

Moments later when he walked in, I made Jon, our director of dietary, read the letter. He was busy, and not knowing its contents, waved me off. "Later," he said. Not until Amy insisted did he let his eyes run across the page I thrust at him. It took a moment, then surprise—and joy— registered. His department was getting a great gift that would help residents and staff."

At Pinecrest, we all find every way we can to enrich the lives of our residents, sometimes a few thousand dollars at a time. We are always grateful to our major donors and those foundations who believe in us, for everything we are given.



### **Party To Honor Barb Blackburn**

**J**oin us in celebrating Barb Blackburn's retirement on Wednesday, October 15 from 2 - 4 pm in the Manor Solarium.

Barb began her career at Pinecrest Community on July 17, 1981.

Through the years Barb formed many

friendships with residents, family members and staff. She often brought in homemade goods to share and always with a smile.

In addition to caring for Pinecrest's residents, she also took great joy in caring for many of Pinecrest's pets.

We hope you can join us in expressing how much we will miss Barb!



## A Fun Filled Evening

The annual Good Samaritan banquet was a success once again this year, raising \$4,765 to benefit the residents of Pinecrest.

Sixty guests enjoyed dinner, light hearted conversation and entertainment. The entertainment featured Mary Ley who played harp, guitar, and American Indian flute; Kathryn Arnold Stauffer on violin; and Bruce Denton on guitar.

The music included originals written by the trio.

Pictured top left from left to right: Kathryn Arnold Stauffer, Mary Ley, Bruce Denton perform. Top right: Amy Sikyta, Manager, Marketing and Annual Giving, with longtime Pinecrest supporter John Condit share a hug before dinner. Below, left to right: Midge Herman, Pinecrest Village resident with her daughter Molly Baker and Molly's husband, board member, Dr. Ed Baker.



## Ready, Set, Bowl!

Join us on Saturday, October 11, for the annual Good Samaritan bowling fundraiser. This yearly fun-filled night is a great way to gather family and friends and strike-out for a great cause!

Bowlers will enjoy one delicious pizza per team, two games of bowling, and shoe rental for only \$20. The cost is only \$10 per person if you choose to collect pledges.

Collecting pledges is a fun way of encouraging your friends, neighbors, co-workers, church members etc. to participate in the event and help a great cause.

The Good Samaritan Fund was established in 1989 to help cover the cost of care for residents who have exhausted their own personal resources. Each year Pinecrest provides approximately \$1.8 million in charitable care. It is through our generous donors and events like the Good Samaritan banquet and bowling fundraiser that help support and raise awareness of this great mission of Pinecrest.

If you would like information on registering or have any questions, contact Amy Sikyta at 815-734-4103 x277 or [asikyta@pinecrestcommunity.org](mailto:asikyta@pinecrestcommunity.org). Or visit us on the web at [www.pinecrestcommunity.org](http://www.pinecrestcommunity.org) and click on the current events tab.



## Manor Residents Enjoy Lunch Outings

The ongoing stained glass decoration sales benefit lunch at area restaurants for Manor residents. In August several took advantage of the trip to White Pines restaurant scheduled by the activity department. Past outings have included trips for breakfast at the Dogwood Inn and lunch at Maxon's restaurant.

Deb Cheek of Mt. Morris donates her time and materials to craft each stained glass decoration by hand using glass which was salvaged

from the Manor Chapel windows when they were replaced years ago. Stained glass items include table top butterflies, and sun-catchers in various shapes including crosses, fish, stars, and abstract. If you would like to purchase a little piece of Pinecrest history and support the resident outing fund, contact Janell Miller, Director of Activities at 815-734-4103 x 218.

Pictured at top left: Manor residents Loretta Martin and Bob Karrow enjoy their lunch at the Pines. Bottom left: several sun catcher decorations made from the old Manor chapel windows.

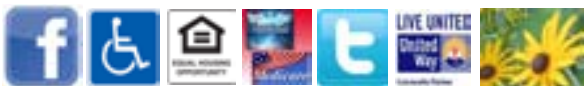




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## Our Mission —

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](mailto:asikyta@pinecrestcommunity.org).

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