



Down Home Living

A Publication of Locust Grove Village

Fall 2018

Celebrate 40...Commitment To Future Campaign Launches

As we celebrate our service to the community and the many people we have been blessed to serve the past 40 years, we launch a fundraising campaign, **Celebrate 40 ... Commitment to the Future**, to upgrade our original nursing home building. The facility has functioned so well for so long, and now it is time to remodel and renovate, for us to do all that we can to improve this space that is so vital to our operation and what we provide for the community and those who make Locust Grove Village their home.

We are beginning our fundraising efforts for an initial project phase that will include:

- Redesigning the dining room. The large room will be converted into smaller, inviting serving areas and conversation spaces. New flooring, lighting, furnishings, entry doors and window treatments will transform the area into an attractive and inviting space for all who live here.
- Converting the nursing station into usable and comfortable living space. A different work space for staff will be created.
- A new kitchenette and area for easy access to snacks and beverages.

•Better access to the outdoor courtyard for enjoyment and exercise.

Our plans are in place and approved by the Kansas Department of Aging and Fire Marshall's office. The contractor, Commercial Builders in Hays is ready to begin. To be in position to execute our plans, we are seeking \$175,000 in donations. We have been richly blessed by donors from Rush County and beyond who believe in our mission of caring for elders. As a not-for-profit community organization, the founding history of Locust Grove Village is based on the generosity of persons believing and contributing to our mission.

One special person whose family has been an integral part of LGV from our founding to the present is Eleanor Wells. Eleanor and her late husband, Lon, were among the sixteen original supporters in Rush County that courageously donated \$1,200 in seed money to start the Rush County Nursing Home Society.

Eleanor recounts her many connections to LGV in a story captured by Maggie Reinhardt (see page 2).

Eleanor Wells will serve as the honorary chairwoman for the Celebrate 40...Commitment to the Future campaign.

"I didn't have to think long before knowing Eleanor was the lady to ask to serve in this capacity. What a rich and generous history of service to Locust Grove Village by the Wells family," commented Charlotte Rathke. "I will always remember when Lon and Eleanor sat in my office one time and he said, 'of all the many things I have been involved in over the years, this is the one I am most proud of.'"

Rathke recounts. "I am so blessed to be carrying on the vision of Lon and Eleanor along with so many others. It is humbling. It is my pleasure to work beside her, our Board of Directors and others through this campaign." Rathke said.

All donations to the Locust Grove Village Celebrate 40... Commitment to the Future are tax deductible. A giving envelope is included in this newsletter or contact Charlotte Rathke at 785-222-2574 to visit in person.

-Charlotte Rathke
Administrator



Mark your calendars for Tuesday, November 27, as Locust Grove Village will participate once again in the GIVING TUESDAY event. This annual day brings a worldwide focus on philanthropy during the holiday season. It has been five years since Golden Belt Community Foundation launched their efforts in Giving Tuesday and Locust Grove Village was involved from the inception. Through the generosity of donors since 2014, the Locust Grove Village Endowment fund has grown by over \$25,100. Each gift is tax-deductible, as allowed by law.

There are various ways to participate in the month-long campaign that began November 1, 2018:

- 1) Give online at: www.goldenbeltecf.org designating Locust Grove Village as you fund of choice.
- 2) Give in person at E-Z Mart 1409 Main in La Crosse from 11 am – 1 pm on November 27th.
- 3) Gifts can be made in-person or mailed to the foundation to qualify for Giving Tuesday at 1307 Williams St.; P.O. Box 1911, Great Bend, KS 67530. Please make checks payable to GBCF.

Giving forms may be picked up at the Locust Grove Village Administration area or printed off the website at www.goldenbeltecf.org. Mailed gifts must be postmarked by November 30, 2018.

Eleanor Wells

(continued from page 1)

After Eleanor Wells' father died, her mother decided she wanted to live in a nursing facility. Since this occurred in 1975, the family had no options but to look outside of La Crosse.

"The closest place available was in Great Bend," Wells recalled. "The plans for Locust Grove Village (LGV) had started, but mom wanted to move right away. She had good care in Great Bend, but we were happy when Locust Grove opened and she could move back home. We could visit her more often and she was glad to be closer to home," Wells noted, adding her mom was one of the first LGV residents when it opened in 1978. (It was formerly Rush County Nursing Home.)

Wells commented that her mom lived at LGV for about 20 years and the staff always adapted to her changing needs - from a few basic services to skilled nursing.

"It was bright and clean with good food and individual attention," she said. "The same can be said today."

Wells' husband, Lon, was a resident for a short time before his passing. His support for LGV was obvious from day one.

"He wanted to be part of it early on and I encouraged him to do so; he served on the board of directors for decades. He received great care and always knew other families could benefit. The facility received widespread community support, which allowed it to grow."

Wells mentioned two of the bigger additions in recent years – the apartment complex and the assisted-living units in the nursing home building.

"The apartments fit in so well," Wells commented. "Residents can have their independence but also have easy access to the staff at the nursing home. After all, they are just across the parking lot from one another."

"The assisted-living wing was also a great addition a few years ago," she added. "Its services are so important for people who might not be able to make it on their own, but don't need skilled-nursing services. This was a great move forward."

A big reason for the success of LGV is its leadership, Wells noted. Because of her husband's service, she was very aware that the board of directors was diligent in enhancing services. Wells also has high praise for Administrator Charlotte Rathke.

"Charlotte is doing an excellent job and has good people working there. It is great to have someone from our area instead of someone from out-of-state. Charlotte is always cheerful and on top of things."

"A lot has happened since she has been administrator," Wells added. "Charlotte has worked hard to add assisted living and other services. I would recommend any family that needs help with long-term care to contact her."



40th Anniversary Fall Festival A Big Success





701 W. 6th
La Crosse, KS 67548
www.locustgrovevillage.com

PRSR STD
ECRWSS
U. S. Postage
PAID
EDDM Retail

Postal Patron

The IRA Charitable Rollover - Unique Giving Strategy Saves On Taxes

The IRA Charitable Rollover allows donors age 70½ or older to annually move up to \$100,000 from their IRAs directly to qualified charities in 2018 without owing any income tax on the money. Donors to Locust Grove Village have the rest of the year to use this tax-advantaged giving strategy.

Using the IRA charitable rollover has many benefits for donors.

- Donors can transfer up to \$100,000 per year directly from a traditional IRA to Locust Grove Village without paying income taxes on the funds transferred.

- For those donors who do not itemize deductions, a gift from an

IRA is excluded from reportable income, thus simplifying tax returns. The new tax plan implemented this year with the increase in the standard deduction has no negative impact on the IRA charitable rollover, it only makes it more desirable for donors to use.

- Direct transfers from an IRA can satisfy the IRS Required Minimum Distribution (RMD).

- Rollover funds may be used to support programming and capital projects at Locust Grove Village.

If you qualify for this giving strategy, but it is not appropriate for you to use it in 2018, there is good news. Since this giving strategy was made permanent by fed-

eral legislation a few years ago, donors can take advantage of the IRA charitable rollover at any time in subsequent years!

This opportunity only applies to IRAs and no other types of retirement plans.

We recommend that you contact your IRA administrator and ask for instructions for executing an IRA charitable rollover. If needed, we can provide you with a transfer form that you can send to your administrator to initiate the process for making the rollover gift.

For more information, please contact Charlotte Rathke by calling 620-222-2574 or by e-mail, crathke@locustgrovevillage.org.