



# John Knox Village

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2023 Community Involvement Report

John Knox Village  
400 N.W. Murray Road  
Lee's Summit, Missouri 64081  
816-251-8000 ~ [www.jkv.org](http://www.jkv.org)

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## *Overview*

Successful businesses thrive in healthy communities. That's why John Knox Village challenges itself to make the most of its community involvement efforts. Although monetary donations are significant, it's the power of the people – their expertise, skills, time and talents – that make the most impact in the communities in which the Village operates.

The Village's size as well as its diverse offerings of services and amenities enables it to allocate multiple resources toward its community involvement commitments. It shares facilities; facilitates the giving of time and talents; offers leadership and/or modest financial support to other not-for-profit organizations; shares entertainment; and promotes education and intergenerational activities. In turn, the Village benefits in a variety of ways.

- Achieving its mission, vision and values by enriching the lives of residents, associates and members of surrounding communities.
- Strengthening its position as a valuable community resource and leader.
- Heightening awareness of and understanding about the organization.
- Enhancing its image.
- Breaking down stereotypes about aging and older adults.
- Generating interest in residency at or use of its services.
- Promoting itself as a good place to live, work and conduct business with.
- Reinforcing the appropriateness of our not-for-profit status.

The Village's community involvement extends beyond volunteering and/or donations – it also continually works to become an even more sustainable, earth-friendly organization. What better way to make a positive impression within the communities it touches than by minimizing its carbon footprint for future generations?

The Village is committed to achieving its mission of “Enriching lives, building community” in Lee's Summit and beyond, and its community involvement efforts enrich the lives of thousands of individuals. This report is more than a showcase of the Village's generosity: it's the story of how it makes a difference in the communities it serves.

John Knox Village is proud of all that it has accomplished and is excited about the future.

## ***About John Knox Village***

- Founded in 1970, one of the first Life Plan Communities in the nation.
- Not-for-profit organization 501(c)(3), run by a nine-member volunteer board of directors.
- Mission: To enrich the lives of older adults through community living – Enriching Lives, Building Community
- Located in Lee’s Summit, Missouri, with home health offices in Prairie Village, Kansas
- Serves about 1,200 residents on its campus and about 5,000 community members who live in western Missouri and eastern Kansas annually.
- With about 850 associates on staff, one of the largest employers in Lee’s Summit

**Independent Living:** Residents enjoy maintenance-free living in freestanding homes, villas or apartment homes. On-campus amenities include an art studio; library; beauty salons; meeting and banquet rooms; bowling alley; chapel and prayer room; 9-hole executive golf course; two fitness centers; a convenience store; multiple restaurants, including a coffee shop; 1,400-seat special event space; guest rooms; two indoor swimming pools and an outdoor pool; whirlpool; movie theater; media centers; community garden; woodworking center; crafting studio; and more.

**John Knox Village Emergency Medical Services:** In addition to serving the Village campus, JKV EMS provides services to the cities of Lee’s Summit, Harrisonville, and Kansas City for interfacility transports for emergency and non-emergency transports. JKV EMS also has mutual aid agreements with the cities of Lee’s Summit, Missouri, and Raytown, Missouri, which enables them to respond during an emergency if the need arises. In addition, JKV EMS added a behavioral health van service in 2023 to provide non-emergent transportation to patients needing mental health care.

**Village Helpers In-Home Care:** Staff trained and insured in home care provide JKV residents person-centered care services, including light housekeeping, shower assistance, companion visits, medication reminders, transportation by appointment, pet care and more.

**Village Home Health:** With offices in both Lee’s Summit, Missouri, and Prairie Village, Kansas, the Medicare-certified home health agency provides intermittent skilled care as ordered by a physician, including skilled nursing; physical, occupational, speech and respiratory therapies; and medical social work. Licensed health care professionals provide services to JKV residents as well as patients who live in 12 counties in Greater Kansas City.

**Village Assisted Living:** Licensed by the state of Missouri, Villag Assisted Living offers 24-hour nursing assistance; medication management; regular housekeeping; three meals a day in its on-site restaurant; planned activities; exercise classes; an on-site therapy clinic; assistance with activities of daily living; and more.

**Village Assisted Living Memory Care 1, 2 and 3:** Each memory care neighborhood is licensed by the state of Missouri and provides a full range of services as well as a supportive and secure environment for residents with memory-related conditions. The facilities provide 24-hour highly supervised and interactive care; private and semi-private rooms; secured indoor and outdoor environments; monitoring systems in resident rooms; and more.

**Village Care Center:** The freestanding skilled nursing facility is licensed for 430 beds. Care neighborhoods provide 24-hour nursing services for long-term care, memory care, and Medicare-certified rehabilitative care.

**Village Hospice:** Village Hospice provides comfort-oriented services to assist individuals with life-limiting illnesses, who are in the final stages of their lives. The agency is licensed and certified by the state of Missouri and serves JKV residents as well as patients in eight Missouri counties.

**Village Outpatient Therapy:** Serving patients who live in the surrounding community as well as JKV residents, Village Outpatient Therapy provides physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy in our outpatient care clinic.

**Village Palliative Care:** Village Palliative Care assists patients at any stage of a serious illness, injury or health condition, whether it is chronic, curable or life-limiting. The service focuses on improving quality of life by helping with uncontrolled symptoms such as pain, stress, incontinence or constipation, difficulty breathing or sleeping, fatigue, nausea, anxiety, depression or loss of appetite.

# ***Civic Engagement***

*Civic engagement describes how participation in community organizations, political involvement, activism and advocacy can enhance the lives of individuals who give their time and their neighbors.*

## **Chamber of Commerce/Economic Development**

John Knox Village's ongoing involvement in the Lee's Summit Chamber of Commerce and the Lee's Summit Economic Development Council includes both leadership and financial support, which creates an optimum environment for economic growth and development.

Village leaders consistently serve on a variety of chamber committees, oftentimes in officer positions. Also, more than three dozen associates have participated in Leadership Lee's Summit, a nine-month education program.

Members of the Village staff also volunteer at Chamber-sponsored events; for example, about 30 Village associates volunteer during the annual Oktoberfest in Downtown Lee's Summit.

In addition, associates representing Village services, such as Village Hospice, are active in other area organizations such as the Kansas City Chamber of Commerce and the Raytown Chamber of Commerce.

## **Civic/Community Organizations**

John Knox Village associates, residents and board members routinely volunteer for not-for-profit organizations. Although not sponsored or facilitated by John Knox Village, such involvement indirectly – yet positively – reflects on the Village. The organizations also benefit from the leadership, intellectual capital and time provided by the volunteers. The following list includes examples of a diverse array of organizations Village community members have helped: The Boy Scouts of America, Citizen's Advisory Committee, Missouri Family-to-Family, Girl Scouts of the USA, Heartland Men's Chorus, The Humane Society of the U.S., Indian Association of Kansas City, Junior Achievement of Greater Kansas City, Chandana Kannada Sangha Kansas, Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, The Micah Ministry, KCUR Public Radio, Lee's Summit Optimist Club, Lee's Summit Economic Development Council, Lee's Summit Educational Foundation, Rotary Club of Lee's Summit, Lee's Summit Symphony, Raytown Chamber of Commerce and many others.

**Dr. Daniel Rexroth, John Knox Village president/CEO**, strongly believes in giving back to the community. He belongs to several boards and committees, including: Saint Luke's East Hospital – Vice Chair, Board of Directors \* MidAmerica Nazarene University – Chair, Board of Directors and Chair, Finance Committee \* Olivet Nazarene University – Foundation Board of Directors, Vice-Chair \* Harvest Partners – Vice Chair, Board of Directors \* Palestine Economic Development Corporation – Board of Directors \* Greater Lee's Summit Healthcare Foundation – Board of Directors \* International Church of the Nazarene – Audit Committee \* Kansas City District Church of the Nazarene – Advisory Committee \* Lee's Summit Economic Development Council – Board of Directors \* Symbria Great Plains Pharmacy – Board of Directors.

## **Political Participation**

John Knox Village leases space to the Jackson County Board of Election Commissioners for polling locations. Residents volunteer at the on-campus polling locations as well as other voting sites throughout the Kansas City area.

In addition to contributing to a strong voter turnout, Village residents are active in a variety of political endeavors and campaigns. They frequently invite and/or host elected officials and political candidates to speak at resident gatherings. The Village provides support to aid in these efforts from time to time.

## **Activism and Advocacy**

Members of the John Knox Village community routinely advocate for older adults and services for seniors – acting as industry advocates in both state and national arenas. For example, Seniors For Justice is a resident-run, non-partisan group who discuss current events and, when appropriate, take action.

## **Public Safety Emergency Management**

John Knox Village Public Safety serves Village residents, associates and campus guests as well as members of surrounding communities. The Village's ability and willingness to assist helps take financial and staffing tension off stressed city and state programs. When emergency situations occur outside the Village campus, Public Safety can allocate resources and manpower to assist city and state response efforts without adversely affecting the safety or wellbeing of residents or associates.

Public Safety has formed partnerships with local, state, regional and national public service organizations to provide security assistance, emergency service administration and more. The mutually beneficial partnerships include

Lee's Summit Emergency Services, local hospitals/health care facilities, Jackson County Emergency Management, Jackson County Health Department, Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, (Missouri) State Emergency Management Agency, Federal Emergency Management Agency and Homeland Security.

Public Safety provides many services in Lee's Summit and surrounding communities. Examples include:

- **Safety:** Security patrols at community events such as Lee's Summit Downtown Days.
- **Education:** The Village provides space for educational events, such as a regional Homeland Security emergency preparedness workshop. It also furnished vacant buildings to the Lee's Summit Police Department and other emergency services for training purposes. Finally, Public Safety associates conduct EMT-B training at Herndon Career Center in Raytown, Missouri.
- **Emergency Preparedness:** The Village routinely participates in emergencies preparedness exercises both on campus and in surrounding communities, such as city-wide tabletop disaster drills conducted by the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC). Other activities include fostering relationships with city, state and national organizations, such as the fire department, the Jackson County Health Department, the American Red Cross and other agencies. It also conducts continuing education exercises.
- **EMS Services Beyond the Village campus:** JKV Emergency Medical Services provides interfacility transports for emergency and non-emergency transports to Lee's Summit, Harrisonville and Kansas City. It also has mutual aid agreements with the cities of Lee's Summit, Missouri, and Raytown, Missouri that enables JKV EMS to respond to emergencies if the need arises. In 2023, JKV EMS added a behavioral health transportation service to help patients having a mental health crisis get the help they need. Finally, the Village is a member of a Kansas City metropolitan-wide emergency preparedness group.
- **Partnerships:** The Village has a closed Points of Dispensing (POD) arrangement with the American Red Cross. During a pandemic, the Village can provide space to allow large numbers of people to receive immunizations. POD sites are critical in emergencies because they reduce the demand on public dispensing sites and contribute to an effective emergency response. Finally, the Village also hosts Prescription Take Back events for residents, associates and members of surrounding communities, collecting more than 2,000 pounds of expired or no-longer-needed prescriptions and over-the-counter medications in less than a decade. Each event is overseen by the Lee's Summit Police Department, Lee's Summit Cares and the National Drug Enforcement Agency.

## ***Corporate and Community Philanthropy***

*John Knox Village offers modest financial support to organizations that host events or provide services that have measurable social impact within the community and/or encourage older adults.*

John Knox Village has three categories of giving.

**Corporate** giving helps build awareness of the Village and integrates the organization into the local community. Examples of corporate giving include sponsorship of the Lee's Summit Chamber of Commerce golf tournament. The Village also supports the Lee's Summit Chamber of Commerce Oktoberfest celebration and Lee's Summit Symphony.

**Community** giving helps make Lee's Summit and surrounding communities stronger. The Village contributes to a variety of organizations such as Lee's Summit CARES and Lee's Summit Social Services.

**Workplace** giving enables generous people to give back. In addition to raising funds that make a difference in the greater Lee's Summit and Kansas City areas, members of the JKV community have opportunities to contribute to organizations, such as Operation Christmas Child. Individual departments also host their own collections. For example, the associates of Sales, Marketing and Communications hold annual sock-and-blanket drives for the City Union Mission.

## ***Cultural Offerings/Special Events***

*John Knox Village hosts a variety of special events that are open to all members of the community. These activities are a way to share resources and allow people to have a positive experience on the Village campus.*

- John Knox Village choral and instrumental groups have performed both on the campus and in other area venues.
- The Village hosts free concerts, including performances by the American Legion Band; United States Air Force Jazz Band; the Heartland Recorder Orchestra Concert; and others.
- The Village has partnered with Mid-Continent Public Library to host intergenerational activities, including a live performance by Gerald Dickens, great-great-grandson of Charles Dickens.
- The John Knox Village Community Theatre produces free shows.

# ***Donation of John Knox Village Facilities and Equipment***

*Enabling groups to meet in appropriate settings helps position John Knox Village as a good community resource and allows the organization to breakdown stereotypes about aging.*

## **Meeting Spaces/Tours**

Because of its central location and the availability of meeting spaces of varying capacities, several organizations offer classes/seminars/meetings on the Village campus. For example, JKV has donated space to the **Missouri League of Nursing; Essential Tremors Support Group; Lee's Summit Chamber of Commerce; National Association of Health Care Assistants; Toastmasters International; and other groups** at a value of about \$16,000.

Residents often are involved in civic/church/retiree groups and have held meetings for the groups on the Village campus. The Village also regularly hosts tours of the campus for area schools, scout troops, business groups, etc.

## **The Pavilion at John Knox Village**

John Knox Village donates its special event venue, The Pavilion at John Knox Village, multiple times a year. The donations fulfill a variety of needs, such as bringing entertainment that might not otherwise be possible in Lee's Summit because the appropriate space wasn't available. In other cases, community meetings and programs are enhanced because of The Pavilion's amenities and services. The Village donates the venue at value of about \$50,000 (figure based on rental rates). Examples of events that have been held at The Pavilion include the following.

- City of Lee's Summit Annual Meeting
- Lee's Summit R-7 School District events
- Lee's Summit Mayor's Outreach Breakfast for Community of Character
- Lee's Summit Chamber of Commerce annual banquet
- CLAIM Medicare Enrollment event
- Mid-Continent Library events
- Homeland Security Emergency Preparedness workshops

## **Support Groups**

John Knox Village hosts multiple support groups that are open to Village residents as well as members of the surrounding community, such as an Alzheimer's Support Group, a Parkinson's Support Group, which is led by the University of Kansas Health System Parkinson's and Move Disorder director, and the Essential Tremor Group. The groups are usually attended by people from Independence, Blue Springs and Lee's Summit.

Village Hospice offers opportunities for healing from loss by hosting grief support groups, bereavement services and special events, including a Hope for the Holidays Workshop and the annual Memorial Service and Butterfly Release. The support is available for the families of all patients for up to 13 months after their loved one has died.

## **Surplus Equipment**

John Knox Village donates equipment, supplies and/or gently used items to other not-for-profit organizations, such as the Surplus Exchange, Habitat for Humanity and the Lee's Summit Hope House. Schools, camps, childcare facilities, nursing homes and churches also have received surplus supplies. During the pandemic, the Village received multiple pallets of hand sanitizer. The surplus was distributed to churches, schools, food banks and other organizations.

## ***Education***

*John Knox Village offers a variety of educational opportunities for people of all ages and skill levels that enhance the lives and careers of Village community members as well as members of surrounding communities.*

## **Pathways**

Thanks to a successful partnership with the University of Central Missouri and the Full Employment Council, John Knox Village associates can participate in an earn-as-you-learn program that helps fill critical health care needs.

Through this collaborative effort, students can earn their certified nursing assistant (CNA) certification while working full time as health services assistants at John Knox Village. Students are paid to attend classes and clinicals. To make the high-demand CNA certification even more accessible, the Full Employment Council offers scholarships to qualifying individuals. In addition to enabling more people to enter the health care industry, the program provides the Village with home-grown, high-quality talent who can transition into their new roles immediately after earning their certifications. To date, more than 170 associates have graduated from the program.

## **EMT Basic Training**

In 2022, John Knox Village unveiled a training program for new security officers who want to earn their emergency medical technician-basic (EMT-B) license while on the job. As part of the training, associates attend a 40-hour first responder medical course to learn first aid, health care CPR and other necessary skills. They also shadow another security officer who already has their EMT-B license when responding to medical calls. Finally, the trainee also enrolls in a five-month EMT Basic program; when associates complete the course and earn their license, they will receive up to \$1,000 for tuition reimbursement.

## **Emergency Training Institute**

Since June 2006, the JKV emergency medical service department has offered paramedics and emergency medical technicians the chance to earn continuing education units of credit (CEUs) via the John Knox Village Emergency Training Institute. It also provides initial Emergency Medical Technician training for residents of surrounding communities.

## **Lee's Summit R-7 School District Involvement**

John Knox Village supports Lee's Summit R-7 School District in a variety of ways, including the well-established Partners in Education program and the new Diploma Plus program. Diploma Plus embeds career exploration through the K-12 experience by connecting the classroom to business and industry support to help students graduate with confidence and skills. The Village provides professional resources, such as mentors who assist with student projects. For example, to help students learn how to interact with older adults, the Village hosted a technology learning event where students worked one-on-one with residents to help them with their mobile phones, tablets and other personal technology.

## **Mentoring Program**

Since 2001, John Knox Village has partnered with the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine to provide "well elderly" residents to mentor first-year medical students. Through the Mentoring Program, future doctors learn from residents about the normal processes of aging, which helps them to see past negative stereotypes. The mentoring program also teaches the students how to relate to people as a whole person, not just a patient. The program has helped to shape an entire generation of physicians by making them more sensitive to issues affecting older adults and helping them become more effective communicators and better listeners.

## **VIP (Virtual Intergenerational Project)**

Thanks to a partnership between John Knox Village and the University of Central Missouri, students and residents are breaking down barriers between generations. Known as the VIP Project, Village residents (VIPs) are paired with students enrolled in the Human Development Theory course in the Child and Family Development program. The optional assignment promotes communication and understanding between different generations by matching residents and students with similar interests.

## **Student Internships/Classroom Partners/Work Exploration/Job Shadowing**

John Knox Village routinely partners with educational institutions to offer students learning opportunities.

- **Internships/Clinical Rotations.** Multiple departments host student interns to help them gain important on-the-job experiences while they are learning a trade or completing a degree. For example, Village Hospice routinely hosts a music therapy intern and welcomed an MSW intern for the first time. The Village's dining services department also offers a Clinical Rotation and a Food Service Rotation for students who are working toward their registered dietetic certification. The Village has welcomed students from University of Central Missouri, Iowa State, Kansas State and Auburn University.
- **Gaining Real-life Experience and Training (GREAT) program.** John Knox Village is helping students in the Lee's Summit R-7 School District learn important work and life skills by assisting staff in the dining, activities and nursing departments multiple times a week. The students are working to earn their high school diploma and can participate in the program until they turn 21. The program aims to help students find tasks and/or jobs at which they may excel, which will help them find employment after they finish high school.
- **Job Shadowing.** A student from Summit Christian Academy with an interest in nursing/health care shadowed with associates in different positions at the Village Care Center and Village Assisted Living. In addition, students from Pro Deo Youth Center visit the Village restaurants and do hands-on activities to learn about the restaurants. Finally, students from different schools routinely participate in EMS ride-alongs in the ambulances.



# ***Environment/Sustainability Efforts***

*John Knox Village strives to be a sustainable, earth-friendly organization.*

## **Notable “green” efforts include the following.**

- Providing on-campus recycling to collect cardboard, paper, glass, plastics, batteries and ink cartridges.
- Using technology to cut down on printing and paper usage.
- Reducing energy usage by investing in new equipment and lighting. For example, Village dining venues use induction cooking to reduce energy usage and increase utility savings. Also, the Village uses LED bulbs throughout campus and no longer uses incandescent or fluorescent replacement bulbs. As result of the change, the Village’s electrical budget has been reduced by about \$95k since FY19.
- Reducing the number of miles driven by the transportation vehicle fleet and business vehicles.
- Adding a “bi-fuel” vehicle to the fleet, which runs on conventional fuel or natural gas.
- Hosting multiple solar panel arrays on roofs throughout the Village.
- Repurposing cabinets, windows, tile, furniture, office equipment, etc. Items that can’t be used within the campus are donated to Habitat for Humanity and other organizations.
- Incorporating electric cars into the Public Safety security fleet – when fully charged, the cars operate for up to 110 miles and use zero gas.
- Participating in Evergy’s Clean Charge Network. JKV installed three electric vehicle charging stations consisting of nine stalls. The public-use stations are in parking lots at The Pavilion and The Meadows. A third station is located near the public safety offices.
- Building parking garages that have access to electrical vehicle charging stations.
- Using recycled asphalt mix that meets project parameters for paving projects throughout the JKV campus.
- Composting leaf-and-yard waste to reduce the use of chemicals around campus and keeps waste out of landfill.
- Providing space for two beehives at the John Knox Village Resident Gardens.
- Partnering with KC Can Compost, an organization that collects restaurant food waste for composting, in 2022 the Village 21,975 pounds of food waste into nutrient-rich soil and prevented 14,987 net pounds of CO2 from entering the atmosphere, which is the equivalent to the greenhouse gas emissions produced by driving 17,086 miles in the average passenger vehicle.
- The restaurants also are using more environmentally friendly take-away containers, decreasing the use of plastic straws, increasing the use of low-energy equipment and recycling fryer oil.
- Hobby Hut volunteers reuse wood and other recyclable materials to make toys for area children.

# ***Industry/Professional Involvement***

*Involvement in industry and professional organizations aids in building the knowledge and skills of John Knox Village associates, introduces new ideas to the organization and enables Village associates to share expertise.*

## **Industry Involvement**

John Knox Village is active in LeadingAge Missouri and LeadingAge, which enables Village leadership to remain informed of industry trends and innovations. Members of management attend state and national conferences, make presentations at the conferences, serve on state and national committees, and hold positions of leadership.

The Village’s general and professional liability insurance company, Caring Communities Insurance Company (CCIC), shoulders the advanced risk management and quality healthcare responsibilities for many other not-for-profit life plan communities around the nation. The Village was a key player in the establishment of this innovative risk-financing program. What’s more, the Village’s involvement in CCIC has resulted in significant savings, which enables it to better meet community involvement goals and commitments.

## **Professional Involvement**

- ***Boards of Directors and Advisory Board Participation:*** In addition to participating in professional associations, several Village associates are members of the boards of directors, committees and/or advisory boards for various organizations, such as: Lee’s Summit Medical Center, Saint Luke’s East Hospital, Saint Luke’s Preferred Provider Network, Lee’s Summit Health Education Advisory Board, SorryWorks, Truman Heartland Foundation, the Dean’s Advisory Board for the Helzberg School of Management at Rockhurst University, Lee’s Summit Community For All Ages Committee, SorryWorks and others.
- ***Professional Associations:*** Most members of the JKV management team are involved in the local chapters of

professional associations, and many hold leadership roles at the local, state and/or national level. From time to time, association meetings are held on the Village campus or feature a Village speaker. Village associates are members or serve on the boards of a variety of industry associations, such as: American Chef Association, American Health Information Management Association, American Hospital Association, American Society for Healthcare Risk Management, American Society of Safety Engineers, Association for Healthcare Foodservice, Association for Healthcare Resource & Materials Management, Association of Fundraising Professionals, Board of Certified Safety Professionals, Dietary Managers Association, Full Employment Council/ Eastern Jackson County Workforce Board, Health Care Compliance Association, Healthcare Financial Management Association, International Society of Certified Employee Benefits Specialists, Jackson County Professionals in Aging, Kansas Assisted Living Association, Kansas City Compensation and Benefits Association, Kansas State Advisory Board for Hospitality Management, Missouri Alliance for Home Care, Missouri Association of Hospital Auxiliaries, Missouri Association of Medical Staff Services, Missouri Association Natural Gas Operators, Missouri Association of Nursing Home Administrators, Missouri Hospice and Palliative Care Association, Missouri League for Nursing Missouri Restaurant Association, National Association of Home Care & Hospice, National Alliance on Mental Illness, National Hospice and Palliative Care Association, Professionals in Aging Network, Society for Human Resources Management of Greater Kansas City, UMKC Bloch Board and dozens more.

## ***John Knox Village Board of Directors***

*Because good governance is vital in business, one of the most valuable assets the business community can offer is intellectual capital.*

The John Knox Village board of directors are volunteers who offer business insights and help make decisions about strategy and direction, which help the Village achieve its mission. The board is made up of three residents and six individuals who live in surrounding communities.

Most board members are involved in a variety of professional and civic organizations and are (or were – prior to retirement) prominent in their professions. Examples of board members community involvement have included: Artists Helping the Homeless, Community Services League, Cornerstones of Care, Eastern Jackson County Workforce Investment Boards, Emeritus Member of the American College of Physician Executives, Fellow in the American College of Physicians, Gillis, International Municipal Attorneys Association, Johnson County Mental Health Association, Junior Service League of Independence, Kansas City Municipal Assistance Corporation, Marlborough Neighborhood Coalition, Missouri Society of CPAs, Midwest Innocence Project, Missouri Municipal Attorneys Association, National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, Neighborhood Housing Services, United Way, Vizient-Mid America and many other organizations.

## ***John Knox Village Foundation***

*The John Knox Village Foundation was established in August 1983 to enable residents and friends of the Village to make tax-deductible contributions to projects they feel are beneficial to the elderly.*

- The Foundation has purchased state-of-the-art ambulances, contributed funds to help beautify the Village campus and assisted with other projects that affect JKV and surrounding communities. The Foundation also has purchased items to assist volunteers of the AARP Tax Aide office.
- The Foundation funds projects for John Knox Village departments and programs including the Hobby Hut, chaplain's program, performing arts, Village Care Center, Village Hospice, fitness center, JKV Food Pantry, resident financial assistance and others.
- The Foundation manages a fund dedicated to purchasing new trees that are planted throughout the campus.
- The Foundation established the Legacy Brick Program to raise funds for fitness initiatives throughout the continuum. The organization has a long history of funding health and wellness programs, including the Squire Anderson Fitness Center at the Villager Inn and the fitness center at The Meadows.
- The Foundation staff and a committee of residents, associates and community members plan and host annual galas. They spend hundreds of hours planning, procuring donations, and selling tickets. Their efforts have paid off. Through the years, thousands of guests have helped to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars.
- Finally, the Foundation secures grants from a variety of local foundations to fund purchases and programs that enrich lives and build community. For example, the Foundation helped purchase equipment for the rehabilitation department at the Village Care Center with a grant from the Greater Lee's Summit Health Care Foundation. The Foundation also worked with the George H. Nettleton Foundation to fund the construction of a new outdoor area,

which was named for a nationally known expert on aging, in the courtyard of the VCC Memory Care unit.

## ***Volunteer Opportunities***

*Members of the John Knox Village community are always ready to lend a helping hand, and the Village supports their efforts wherever possible.*

### **Village Volunteer Program**

The John Knox Village volunteer program benefits Village residents, the corporation and surrounding communities in a variety of ways. During 2022, volunteers, including residents, members of the surrounding community and high school students, recorded 15,860 hours of service.

The Village offers a variety of volunteer opportunities, including companionship visits; assistance with special events and activities; and transporting residents in wheelchairs throughout all levels of care. The Village also has volunteer opportunities specifically designed to support veterans.

### **Village Hospice Volunteer Program**

Village Hospice of John Knox Village also has a group of dedicated volunteers who play an important role in assuring quality of life for hospice patients. Along with a warm and caring attitude, each volunteer brings a unique set of life experiences and skills. They help in three distinctive areas: direct patient care, community impact and administrative support. In 2022, volunteers contributed 1,924.5 hours.

Volunteers offer companionship, arrange flowers or help with office work. They are instrumental in providing respite to the families of hospice patients as well as fulfilling the 11<sup>th</sup> hour role by sitting with patients in their final moments. There are pet volunteers; volunteers who help in the bereavement department; volunteers for the Music and Memory program; a volunteer who makes Memory Bears; and volunteers who make lap robes. Volunteers who are veterans also are paired with clients who are veterans as part of the Veteran-to-Veteran program.

## ***Conclusion***

Enriching lives and building community – both within and outside the John Knox Village community – is intrinsic to the success of John Knox Village. Community involvement activities offer rewarding experiences for Village residents and associates, touch the lives of people of all ages, enhance the Village’s image, further business goals, and promote the Village as a great place to live and work. Moreover, a strong community is essential to a strong John Knox Village and helps define the Village as a leading provider of senior services.