

WESTMINSTER RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES

# Foundation Focus

*Enhancing Today, Securing Tomorrow*

## The Foundation Raises More Than \$120,000 to Support Team Members Affected by COVID-19

When it became apparent that the outbreak of the coronavirus was having an impact on the counties where our communities are located, Westminster Communities of Florida was faced with the challenge of how to support team members who may be affected.

That's why the Westminster Retirement Communities Foundation launched the *Care In Crisis Campaign*, an extension of the Foundation's Mercy Fund, to raise funds to provide grants to supplement lost income for team members who are directly affected.

Westminster Palms resident Valerie Webb donated to the *Care In Crisis Campaign*, saying, "I feel safe and secure here even during this pandemic. This gift was a way to show my appreciation and gratitude to the team members for the sacrifices they make so that we can continue to live here comfortably."

Millie and Mac of Westminster Oaks say they also wanted to show their well wishes to those who work in their community. "We are all in this unfamiliar season of our lives together. By extending helping hands through the Mercy Fund to those who have contributed so much to us, we honor the true meaning of community."

"We are grateful to the residents, families, staff and board members who have so generously contributed to the *Care In Crisis Campaign* during these challenging times and enabled us to meet and exceed our fundraising goal of \$100,000," says Noreen Levitt, Vice President of Development for Westminster Communities of Florida. "We are both touched and humbled by the outpouring of support to this very worthy cause."

To learn more about how you can contribute to the Mercy Fund and the Westminster Retirement Communities Foundation, visit your campus Foundation Office or the WRCF website.

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Valerie Webb,  
Westminster Palms resident

### Inside:

From the Chief Executive Officer | Foundation Legacy Society Member Spotlight | WRCF's Annual *Caring for Generations* Appeal for Benevolent Assistance Happening Now | Westminster Retirement Communities Foundation's Resident Art Show Goes On...Virtually | From the Vice President of Development



# From the Chief Executive Officer

Dear Friends,

It's with great enthusiasm that I write to offer my thanks for your support of our organization. Last month, I had the good fortune to succeed Roger Stevens as the new CEO of Westminster Communities of Florida. I have spent many years working in senior living and have seen in Westminster a strong organization with incredible residents and team members. This is an unusual time for a beginning, but we are blessed that our organization is strong.

We are also blessed to have people like you who give generously of your resources to the Westminster Retirement Communities Foundation. **Did you know that the Foundation raised more than \$2,782,745 in gifts and pledges in our most recent fiscal year? That's all thanks to your support.**

As you know, our team members are on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic—not only our nursing team, but everyone who serves the 7,000 residents who choose to live at a Westminster community. We have an amazing team and it makes the choice to “*Live Well. Be Happy.*” much easier for all of our residents.

If you have been inspired by the amazing work that they and their counterparts at senior living communities throughout the United States are doing, I encourage you to join me in supporting them through a gift to our

Mercy Fund, which is supporting our team members who are affected by COVID-19. Together, we can ensure that they continue to receive their pay, as long as they are being treated or required to self-quarantine.

There are countless other ways that you can support the Foundation and our work of supporting the residents and team members of Westminster Communities of Florida:

- Our Benevolent Assistance Fund or Benevolent Assistance Endowment Fund, to support residents who outlive their resources through no fault of their own;
- A gift to the Team Member Scholarship Fund, to support our team members who are pursuing educational advancement opportunities;
- The Cultural Arts Endowment Funds at several of our communities, to offer unique, life-enriching opportunities of mind, body and soul; or
- A restricted or unrestricted gift to any community, to enhance life through directed gifts or any form of support.

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To learn how you can support our efforts through donating to the *Caring for Generations* Campaign, visit your Foundation Office or our website at [www.westminstercommunitiesfl.org/foundation](http://www.westminstercommunitiesfl.org/foundation).

With gratitude,  
**Terry Rogers**

# Military Couple Dedicated to Serving Others

At Westminster Suncoast, the Wall of Honor displays photographs of residents who served in the military, including Barbara Stakk and Robert Palsha. Barbara, a nurse, served in the Army Reserves and then as an active duty nurse during Desert Storm. Robert, a combat soldier, completed tours in Korea, Laos and Vietnam. By the time he retired from the service after 26 years, he had received a Silver Star and three Bronze Stars.



The military legacy of “leave no man behind” resonates for the couple, who have made major gifts in support of the Benevolent Assistance Program at Westminster Suncoast. Through this program, financially vulnerable residents receive the support they need in a confidential manner designed to protect their dignity and self-respect.

“Barbara and Robert’s lifelong devotion to serving their fellow man is exemplary,” says Gail Holesha, former Development Director at Westminster Suncoast. “From Barbara’s career as an Army nurse to Robert’s leadership as a combat soldier during numerous tours of duty, and now,

right here at Westminster Suncoast through their generous support of the Westminster Retirement Communities Foundation.”

Barbara’s generosity is also evident in the gift she made to fund a cardio-trainer elliptical for the fitness center in 2017. Both Barbara and Robert enjoy fitness; Robert ran marathons, while Barbara likes to walk and swim.

Barbara and Robert’s names appear not only on the Wall of Honor, but also on the Suncoast Memorial Tree in recognition of their significant contributions to the Foundation. Their commitment to serving others makes the campus a better place for all.

Barbara Stakk and Robert Palsha’s thoughtfulness will make a lasting impact on our programs and communities.



## Give Back to Those in Need

*Make a difference in the lives of residents by supporting the Westminster Retirement Communities Foundation (WRCF). Contact your Foundation Development Director to learn more about the Benevolent Assistance Program or other ways you can help.*



## Get More Information

*Learn more about how you can benefit with secure payments for life by making a gift to the Foundation. Complete and return the enclosed reply card to request your copy of our new guide **A Simple Gift That Boosts Your Income**. You can also contact your Foundation Development Director to request a personalized illustration (at no obligation).*



## FOUNDATION LEGACY SOCIETY MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

# Meet Robert Hodge of Westminster Towers Orlando

This issue, we are spotlighting Westminster Towers Orlando resident Robert Hodge, a member of the Foundation's Legacy Society. Our Legacy Society honors donors who have generously included the Westminster Retirement Communities Foundation in their estate plan.

Robert served in World War II and the Korean War and as a member of the Naval Air Reserves from 1953 to 1978. While in the Reserves, he worked for Sperry Gyroscope and later, Grumman Aircraft Engineering Corporation. He was a member of the Riverhead Town Planning Board for 16 years, and retired to Florida in 1990. Robert moved to Westminster Towers in 2018, when he was 100 years old.

Robert is a regular at Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts and Winter Park Playhouse, so Westminster Towers

was the natural choice for him due to its close proximity to downtown Orlando and countless amenities.

"This place fills my needs so well and I have been so well-received, I wanted to express my gratitude by leaving a portion of my estate to the Towers," Robert says. He directed his bequest to the Employee Scholarship Fund because he believes, "After you climb a ladder, you don't push the ladder down, you help the next person up." His other philanthropic interests include Southern Poverty Law Center, United Negro College Fund and the Tuskegee Airmen.

In addition to attending shows at the theater, Robert enjoys reading historical fiction and watching programs on PBS. He celebrated his 102nd birthday in July and says the secret to long life is "the grace of God and good genes."



*You can join Robert and numerous other generous supporters of Westminster Communities when you include us in your future plans. Already made a gift? Let us know using the enclosed reply card! It would be our honor to welcome you into the Legacy Society.*



## WRCF's Annual Caring for Generations Appeal for Benevolent Assistance Happening Now

Summer marks the start of WRCF's Annual *Caring for Generations* Campaign, which raises funds for our Benevolent Assistance Program. Every month, residents at Westminster Communities of Florida rely on our Benevolent Assistance Program to support them financially, and each year the Foundation focuses on replenishing the funds that provide this vital assistance through our year-round fundraising campaign.

Last year, Westminster Communities of Florida residents received over \$1,000,000 in Benevolent Assistance. These funds provided discreet financial care to our contract residents when they needed it most. This is an important element of our company's mission, and we thank you in advance for your consideration to support it through your donation to the *Caring for Generations* Campaign.

# Double the Impact of Your Gift to the Foundation

Many individual donors support the Westminster Retirement Communities Foundation, but not everyone knows that companies also help provide for residents. There's also a unique way that an individual and a company can make a joint gift. The *Double the Donation* Program makes this possible. Companies such as Duke Energy, ExxonMobil, GE, McKesson Group, Nationwide Mutual, Pfizer and Pitney Bowes will match gifts from retirees to the Foundation.


A resident at Westminster Winter Park recently took advantage of this opportunity. George, who retired from GE after 33 years as an electrical engineer with the company, secured matching gifts for the Foundation in 2018 and 2019.

“George is so generous and began giving to the Foundation as soon as he moved into our community six years ago,” says Mary Jane Toothman, Foundation Development Director at Westminster Winter Park. “When he first learned of our *Double the Donation* Program, he called immediately to get more information.”

It's easy to find out if a company will match gifts from retirees. Residents should feel free to stop by their Foundation Office to find out if their former employer participates in the program. Staff members say it takes less than a minute to pull up the information.

Gifts of all sizes make an impact at Westminster Retirement Communities. When the gift can be doubled through the generosity of a retiree and their former company, it's a win-win.

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 **Double Your Impact**  
Find out today if your gift to the Westminster Retirement Communities Foundation will qualify for a match from your former employer. Contact your Foundation Development Director to get started.



## A Mother's Day Surprise for the Women of Westminster

On May 10, the women of Westminster Communities of Florida's Rental Retirement Communities were honored in celebration of Mother's Day. Residents were pleasantly surprised when presented at their door with a carnation wrapped in tissue paper attached with a note wishing them a Happy Mother's Day.

This important project celebrating our residents was funded through generous gifts made to the Foundation's *Mission Preservation Fund*. This fund provides support of our 12 Rental Retirement Communities, which serve low-income seniors throughout the state of Florida.

“The residents were so pleased to receive flowers for Mother's Day. In a challenging time like this, it really made the day special. Thank you very much to those who support the Foundation for this generous gift,” says Janet Herron, Westminster's Vice President of Mission Preservation.

To learn more about our *Mission Preservation Fund* and ways that you can support our RRC residents, please contact your Foundation Development Director.

# Westminster Retirement Communities Foundation's Resident Art Show Goes On...VIRTUALLY

During these uncertain times, it is important to move forward and continue routines and traditions. In keeping with this, Westminster Retirement Communities Foundation's 26th Annual Resident Art Show is taking place this year online in a VIRTUAL web format. Westminster Communities of Florida residents, team members and friends will have access to the show through the My W Life portal and a direct link: [bit.ly/wrcfvirtualartshow](https://bit.ly/wrcfvirtualartshow). A video of the show can be found on the Foundation's YouTube channel at: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=iRaIn0a1VwU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iRaIn0a1VwU).

This showcase and contest features hundreds of pieces created by senior adults who are residents at one of Westminster Communities of Florida's 21 active senior living communities. This year, the show has added a category for Westminster team members who will compete for the *Team Member Award for Artistry*.

Categories of artwork include oil, watercolor and acrylic paint, mixed media, drawing, photography, fabric arts and 3D. First-, second- and third-place winners were selected by judges in each category and are indicated with a ribbon. Winners' artwork will also be featured in the Foundation's 2021 Resident Art Show calendar.

"The Westminster Retirement Communities Foundation Art Show is unique in that it brings all of our communities together each year to showcase and celebrate the artistic abilities of the senior adults we serve," says Noreen Levitt, Vice President of Development for Westminster Communities of Florida. "The Foundation is so grateful to our donors for supporting this celebration of the incredible and diverse talents of our residents."

Please visit your community [MyWLife.org](https://MyWLife.org) portal for more information.

➔  
This year, Westminster Retirement Communities Foundation's 26th Annual Resident Art Show is taking place virtually, showcasing art created by Westminster residents and team members.





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Noreen Levitt,  
Vice President of  
Development for Westminster  
Communities of Florida



# Make a Gift, Receive Income FOR LIFE

We know you support our work because you are passionate about what we do. But, you may worry whether you'll have enough money to last through retirement. This can make supporting your favorite organizations more difficult.

A charitable gift annuity (CGA) is a unique solution to this problem. You make a gift to Westminster Retirement Communities Foundation, then you (and another person if you so choose) receive dependable income for life. At the end of the term, the balance remaining goes to support our communities, making this gift a win-win for both of us.

## Your Payments Won't Change

When you give through a CGA, you can have peace of mind knowing the amount you'll receive each year will not change regardless of the state of the economy. Based on your age at the time of your gift, your gift annuity amount will not fluctuate based on market values.

## Find My Rate

One Life		Two Lives	
Age	Rate	Ages	Rate
65	4.2%	65/70	4.0%
70	4.7%	70/75	4.3%
75	5.4%	75/80	4.9%
80	6.5%	80/85	5.8%
85	7.6%	85/90	7.1%
90+	8.6%	90/95+	8.4%

These rates are subject to change. Please contact us for a personalized illustration.

# Westminster St. Augustine Residents and Staff Gather to Honor the Employee Scholarship Fund



Fredeline Metellus presenting about what her WSA scholarship means to her.

On Jan. 3, Westminster Retirement Communities Foundation hosted a wine and cheese reception at Westminster St. Augustine (WSA). Noreen Levitt, Westminster Communities of Florida Vice President of Development, and Tonnie Alliance, WRCF's St. Augustine Development Director, spoke at the event with a PowerPoint presentation explaining how the Foundation helps contribute to the enhancement of the Westminster St. Augustine community.

Organized by Westminster St. Augustine Scholarship Fund Committee Chairperson Bruce Darnall and the scholarship committee members, the event honored the current employee-recipients who are furthering their education and also served to show appreciation to the resident donors for their generosity.

During 2019, WSA residents made tax-deductible donations totaling \$33,329 to the Scholarship Fund, and 21 awards with a total value of \$22,344 in scholarship funds were given to 12 WSA employees.

A highlight of the event was the speech by Fredeline Metellus, one of the employee-recipients, who is pursuing a B.S. in Nursing with the goal of becoming a neonatal

nurse. David Biron, a supervisor in Food Services, shared his opinion that the scholarship program greatly helps with recruitment and retention of restaurant servers to make WSA more competitive in hiring.

At the conclusion of the reception, a special scholarship was named in memory of Jack Greenberg, M.D., a renowned cardiologist, who recently passed away and was honored for his distinguished medical career, his time as scholarship committee chairman and his major contributions to the Scholarship Fund. A scholarship was established in his name and awarded to an employee pursuing a career in the health field.



## WSA's Lasting Impact

*During 2019, WSA residents made tax-deductible donations totaling \$33,329 to the Scholarship Fund, and 21 awards with a total value of \$22,344 in scholarship funds were given to 12 WSA employees.*



# SHADES OF BUBLÉ: A Three-Man Tribute to Michael Bublé Wows Audiences at Westminster Oaks



On Sept. 22, 2019, residents and staff of Westminster Oaks were captivated as three voices sang incredible songs like “Feeling Good,” “Moondance,” “Come Fly With Me,” “Home,” “Everything,” “Fever,” “Save the Last Dance for Me” and many more.

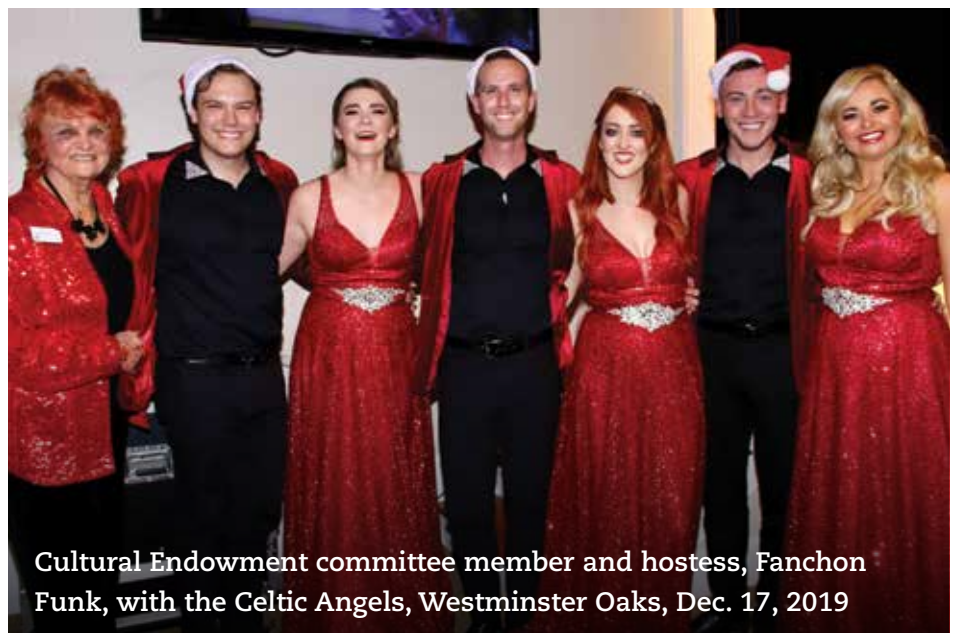
St. Andrew’s Pub where guests had the opportunity to meet and mingle with the band. The concert was one of many events hosted by the Westminster Oaks Cultural Endowment Program and made possible through generous donations to the Cultural Endowment Fund through the Westminster Retirement Communities Foundation.

Delivering a set list consisting only of songs recorded or performed live by Michael Bublé, this world-class tribute act honored the sophistication, retro style and high-energy fun that Bublé brings to his concerts, while engaging die-hard fans with thrilling new three-part vocal arrangements.

## SHADES OF BUBLÉ:

A Three-Man Tribute to Michael Bublé brought the swinging standards and pop hits of Michael Bublé to the stage in an unforgettable high-energy concert event. Beginning with an amazing sold-out debut at the end of the 2014-2015 concert season, this act has wowed audiences around the country with exciting harmonies, smooth choreography and charming good looks.

Before the concert, a donor reception was held in the



Cultural Endowment committee member and hostess, Fanchon Funk, with the Celtic Angels, Westminster Oaks, Dec. 17, 2019



# From the Vice President of Development

Dear Donors and Friends,

Whether or not we write our memoirs, in the end we are all remembered for our acts—for the lives we touch and by the causes we advance. In that light, I invite you to consider creating a lasting legacy by giving to the Westminster Retirement Communities Foundation's Benevolent Assistance Funds supporting our communities and residents through the annual *Caring for Generations* Campaign.

The Benevolent Assistance and Benevolent Assistance Endowment Funds support contract residents by providing direct financial assistance to those Westminster residents who no longer have the resources to pay their monthly fees.

The Endowment Fund's principal is never spent; only the income from the invested principal is used. Therefore, the Fund can continue to operate in perpetuity.

Gifts are tax-deductible and remain at the Westminster communities where they are designated: 100% goes to Benevolent Assistance, with no operational or management fees used out of monies donated.

Benevolent Assistance is the primary mission of our Foundation, as it enables Westminster Communities of

Florida to honor its promise to provide residents with a home for the rest of their lives. While each of our residents moved onto our campuses with the necessary assets to meet their projected financial obligations, sometimes these assets become depleted due to unforeseen circumstances such as crippling medical expenses or poorly performing investments, and more often than not, due to the simple fact that we are being blessed with longer lifespans.

Add another memory to your life history and make a gift or pledge to Westminster Retirement Communities Foundation today. Your gift will create a legacy benefiting you, your neighbors and your community.



To learn how you can support our efforts through donating to the *Caring for Generations* Campaign, visit your Foundation Office or our website at [www.westminstercommunitiesfl.org/foundation](http://www.westminstercommunitiesfl.org/foundation).

With gratitude,  
**Noreen Levitt**



# Outdoor Space Ribbon-Cutting Celebration at Westminster Palms



From left: Steven Bell, Westminster Palms Chaplain; Jan Bigelow, former Westminster Palms Executive Director; Carlen Maddux, Westminster Communities of Florida Board Member; Jim Polaski, Westminster Communities of Florida Senior Vice President of Operations; and Tish Burke, Westminster Retirement Communities Foundation Development Director.

On Nov. 5, 2019, Westminster Palms residents joined with WCOF staff and leaders for a ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating the opening of the Westminster Palms Outdoor Shuffleboard and Gathering Space.

Funding for the project was provided by the Westminster Retirement Communities Foundation and Westminster Palms resident donors as well as the Resident Association of the Palms community. These important partnerships facilitated this wonderful addition to the campus.

Constructed to provide opportunity for residents to enjoy time with each other, the Shuffleboard and Gathering Space was also created specifically for residents to share with visiting friends and family members. This vital addition to the Westminster Palms campus will be a space that will encourage active social engagement for residents in years to come. The space includes a shuffleboard court, memorial benches and garden space all united by a shade-providing pergola.

The Memorial Bench Program that was incorporated into the space allowed donors to honor or memorialize loved ones with a bench and a dedication plaque. Everyone enjoyed celebrating the benches that made the space even more personal for residents.

Guests and speakers for the event included Westminster Communities of Florida Board Member Carlen Maddux, Westminster Communities of Florida Senior Vice President of Operations Jim Polaski and Westminster Communities of Florida Vice President of Development Noreen Levitt.

Before and after the ribbon cutting and dedication, tours were provided of the space and a reception with food, games, music and fellowship followed the dedication ceremony.



The newly opened Westminster Palms Outdoor Shuffleboard and Gathering Space.

## Your Development Team:

Mary Jane Toothman • Winter Park: (407) 647-4083  
Tish Burke • St. Petersburg, Westminster Palms: (727) 894-2102  
Katie Lay • Jacksonville: (904) 287-7300  
Christina Patterson • Orlando: (407) 841-1310  
Tonnie Alliance • St. Augustine: (904) 940-4800

Mark Reimers • Bradenton, Westminster Manor: (941) 748-4161 x249;  
Westminster Point Pleasant: (941) 782-3271  
Gail Alexander • Tallahassee: (850) 878-1136  
DeeLynn Rivinius • St. Petersburg, Westminster Suncoast:  
(727) 864-7498; Westminster Shores: (727) 824-1329



Westminster Retirement  
Communities Foundation

Noreen Levitt, Vice President of Development  
80 W. Lucerne Circle • Orlando, FL 32801  
(800) 948-1881 • (407) 839-5050

[www.westminstercommunitiesfl.org/foundation](http://www.westminstercommunitiesfl.org/foundation)

If you wish to be removed from our fundraising mailing list, please contact Hyacinth Mayberry by email at [hmayberry@wservices.org](mailto:hmayberry@wservices.org) or toll free at (800) 948-1881.

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