“When we have an opportunity to share, we should,” said Rea Dot Sprang. “We each have a responsibility to help when we can.”

Recent Gift Provides Support for Wadsworth Community

Known as RD by her friends, she regularly witnessed her parents’ generosity and learned from their example. Growing up, she saw her parents quietly and regularly help as they supported projects that benefitted others.

Throughout her marriage, she and her husband David also enjoyed helping and giving. Both RD and David, who died in 2011, were active members of First Christian Church in Wadsworth. They also volunteered with the Salvation Army of Wadsworth. After his death, RD continued to serve on several community boards, including the Wadsworth Senior Citizen’s Commission, the Salvation Army Advisory Board, the Wadsworth Public Library Board of Trustees, and the Board of Trustees of Every Woman’s House, an organization providing support for Wayne and Holmes County victims of violence or rape.

“My husband was outgoing,” she said, “and we both liked people. But I had no idea of the lives he’d touched. After his death, one person after another came to me with stories of how he had helped them financially or professionally.”

Rea Dot Sprang

By establishing the Rea Dot Sprang Endowment Fund, RD will “help continue the good things already happening at The Village.” Since moving to the Wadsworth Community in March 2019, RD has appreciated the many caring friends she’s made. “Although I’m not Catholic,” she said, “I want people to know what a great place this is!”

The Village is truly grateful for RD’s personal support of The Village’s mission. The Fund will support spiritual care, benevolent care, or special projects for residents of The Village of St. Edward at Wadsworth.
How You Make a Difference

When you give to The Village you directly impact the lives of the residents. Your gifts enable The Village to provide enhanced programs, services and activities that make life meaningful for residents and their families.

Faithfully providing a continuum of care as a nonprofit organization since 1964.

Residents served:

- **2017**: 565
- **2018**: 525
- **2019**: 549
- **2020**: 650 (anticipated since the November 2019 opening of the Green Community)

Employee Emergency Assistance

The Village employs more than 450 individuals. When a good employee experiences a catastrophic or financial emergency and has no means to respond to the circumstances, The Village may provide assistance for that employee.

Using a confidential application and evaluation process, employees may qualify for financial help. Your gift to the Employee Emergency Assistance Fund aids The Village’s ability to extend compassion to those who care for the ones you love.
Benevolent Care

Life can be complicated and follows different paths for each of us. Families plan carefully and save for the future, yet circumstances can deplete savings more quickly than anticipated. The Village’s Benevolent Care program supports individuals who are unable to pay or have exhausted their resources. It also supports care at The Village for residents who are enrolled in the Medicaid program, a program that pays for care at an amount less than it costs to deliver that care.

The Village of St. Edward continues to be a sustainable nonprofit entity with the generous financial support from people like you. The Village promises each resident they will never be asked to leave if they outlive their resources. Your gift keeps that promise alive.

In 2019, 53% of The Village’s Nursing Care residents had no ability to pay privately. In 2020, we anticipate that number will continue to increase.

Nurse and Caregiver Education

Direct caregivers are a special combination of parent, friend, social worker, and first-responder; simultaneously providing tender, hands-on care. They collaborate with families, physicians, social workers, dieticians, therapists, and other members of an interdisciplinary care team to ensure residents receive personalized, compassionate care.

The Village is committed to maintaining a highly trained team of compassionate, competent individuals who consistently provide more than is asked, more than is expected, and more than is required. Your gift to the Donna L. Bender Caregiver Education Endowment provides professional development and scholarships for career-advancing educational opportunities.

Resident Life Enrichment

The Village provides so much more than a place to live for its residents. It’s a lifestyle and a community. Residents and families know that their well-being requires a balance of enjoyable, meaningful activities each day. It’s more than having things to do. It’s about having a purpose. The Village consistently offers Resident Life enrichment above and beyond what is commonly offered in similar settings. With your support, we continually provide activities and therapies that meet residents’ and families’ highest expectations.
In 1917, the U.S. paid Denmark $25 million for what became the U.S. Virgin Islands. The first Pulitzer Prizes were awarded. WWI continued across Europe. At the end of that year, the previous major pandemic, the Spanish Flu, would begin to take its toll on the world.

On September 6, 1917, Frank Mekina, was born in Barberton to his Slovenian parents. Frank is a resident of The Village’s Fairlawn Community. That same year, Stan Wolczyk, a resident of The Village’s Wadsworth Community, was born on December 20, 1917, to Polish immigrants.

Both men are lively, active, and vibrant members of their respective Communities. Both have amazing memories, a great sense of humor; and positive attitudes. Both will turn 103 later this year.

Frank left home at sixteen to join the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Assigned to the West, he cleared forests, was trained in forest fire prevention, and built roads, cow bridges, and windmills. After a year of adventure, authorities learned Frank was underage. He was sent back to Ohio. He worked for The Babcock & Wilcox Company (B&W) in Barberton just long enough to meet and to marry his wife, Catherine. As women entered the workforce at the start of World War II Frank left B&W to join the Navy as a “Seabee,” building runways and repairing ships, tanks, and damaged bridges.

Similar to Frank’s experience, Stan joined the CCC after completing the eleventh grade. For fourteen months he planted trees across the U.S. He kept $5.60 of his $30/month earnings, sending most of his salary home to help support his family. Once back home, he joined the Citizens Military Training Camp (CMTC), a four-year summer volunteer training program established to train pre-war Army officers. Stan completed high school and CMTC training. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. He then accepted a job with the American Youth Administration. While bringing supplies to a hospital, Stan met a student nurse, his soon to be wife, Mary Edna. Following the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Stan was called to serve under General George Patton. He received a Purple Heart after being seriously wounded in 1944.

At the end of WWII, Frank returned to B&W where he worked for the next fifteen years. He later worked for Donley Construction, Ruhlin Company, and then with Jacobsen Construction. On evenings and weekends, he built their family home. He enjoyed construction work and was so successful that he built and sold their next five homes! Frank and Catherine were married for more than 68 years, until her death in 2010. They loved to bowl, camp, and dance.

Stan utilized the GI Bill to become an educator, serving first as principal of Grill Elementary School and then as principal of Norton Primary School. Stan and Mary Edna loved to ski and travel and were married for 64 years, until her death in 2005.

While Frank no longer goes camping or dancing, and Stan no longer skis, both enjoy The Village’s many outings and activities. Both are very active in their respective communities, participating in monthly Men’s Club meetings with other residents to discuss politics, sports, and life. “I’m very happy here,” said Frank. “This is a good place!” Similarly, Stan smiles broadly and says “I love it here! These people are amazing!”

Frank and Stan aren’t the only residents at The Village who are 100 plus. Congratulations to each of our 2020 centenarians! Thelma Beahn will be 100 in June, and Gladys (Irene) Buckmaster joined the club when she turned 100 in April! Happy birthday to all of you!
When You Want to do Something Special!

Have you been trying to find that unique, special gift? Would you like to make a gift in honor or memory of someone you love? Consider giving the gift of enjoyment!

$100 Music Therapy provides enjoyment and comfort and is welcomed by residents in every level of care. Your gift will provide an hour of group Music Therapy for residents of The Village!

$150 Your gift designated to Art Therapy will provide blank canvases, painting supplies, and an afternoon of instruction designed to bring out the Picasso or Monet in everyone!

$250 Birthdays are a blessing and worth celebrating! Sponsor a monthly birthday party and we’ll recognize and thank you publicly at the party. Your gift will offset the costs of birthday cake, entertainment, and balloons. Specify the month and area of care when you make your gift.

$500 Your gift to Resident Life Enrichment will offset the costs for a special program or activity for an evening. Specify which of our Communities you’d like to bless!

$500 Your gift designated to Art Therapy will provide blank canvases, painting supplies, and an afternoon of instruction designed to bring out the Picasso or Monet in everyone!

$1,000 Your gift to the Donna L. Bender Caregiver Education Endowment will help provide vital professional development, caregiver education, and nursing scholarships for those who care for the ones you love.

$2,000 Remember or honor someone you love when you purchase a memorial bench. Your bench will be utilized in our Wellness Garden.

Do you have another idea?

For a personal, confidential conversation, please feel welcome to contact Vondea Sheaffer, VP of Development at (234) 466-0556 or www.vsefoundation.org.

“Life at The Village didn’t really matter to us until Mom and Dad came to live there. Then it mattered a lot. Thank you to the many dedicated people who take such great care of our parents and all the residents. Please know how much comfort it brings to the families who worry and miss our loved ones! You are doing God’s work. You’re truly our angels.”
You Can’t Quarantine Compassion

Despite Hardships Communities Thrive

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Village employees and families found creative ways to stay connected with loved ones, celebrate milestones, and encourage one another. Despite hardships and necessary social distancing, each Community found heartwarming ways to care for each other.

When holding Mass was no longer possible, Father Novak and Sister Barbara Ebner, the Spiritual Care team for the Fairlawn Community, made regular, personal visits to residents. They ministered, with care, to the sick and dying and paid particular attention to residents who had recently experienced a loss or had few opportunities for family interaction. They expanded their outreach by recording regular Mass and Holy Week liturgies and having had made them available on an internal cable channel. At the Green Community, Father David Durkee, Pastor, Queen of Heaven Church in Green, stood outside the campus chapel to pray outdoors while residents participated with Sister Marilyn Ambrosic indoors, on the other side of the glass.

For weeks, visitors have not been permitted at any of the Communities. Employees from Green used the opportunity to celebrate in new ways. “Quarantine-O-Ween,” included treats and room-to-room visits by Elvis (Jim Fausnight, Director of Facilities), Little Red Riding Hood (Denise Anderson, Director of Admissions), the Scarecrow (Melissa Strainer, Director of Resident Life), and other Resident Life staff members dressed for the new occasion. Becky Soucie, Director of Nursing, and Mindy Keller, Director of Admissions at the Wadsworth Community, visited every resident daily throughout the quarantine to...
Asking “What are you grateful for today?” Responses were written on colored slips of paper and added to the growing chain of ‘Hope and Gratitude.' Some messages were fun and silly; others included things like “baseball,” “wine,” and “PJs all day.” Many reflected the security and comfort residents felt. “I’m grateful for being here,” for “not being alone,” and “my family.” As the colorful chain grew down hallways and around corners, employees shared photos with residents and celebrated being together.

In each Community, popular bingo and exercise classes became socially-distanced activities and were instead moved to doorways and hallways, at a safe distance from each other. Mobile beauty carts temporarily replaced in-house beauty shop visits. Mobile activity carts have supplied residents daily with books, games, and snacks. Aides provided electronic tablets to help residents manage virtual visits with children and grandchildren.

Indoor concerts and live music performances were impossible for weeks. Instead, families and small community groups, following social distancing guidelines, gathered outdoors to serenade residents and sing birthday greetings while residents looked on from their apartment windows. Girl Scouts visited, waving and singing in makeshift drive-by parades, leaving boxes of cookies in their wake.

While separation and distance created hardships and frustration, employees and families worked together to ensure every resident felt safe and connected every day.

#villagestrong
In June 2019, more than 200 residents, friends, and community members enjoyed a summer night of great food, music, and the opportunity to support an important project benefitting The Village’s Fairlawn Community. Proceeds from this very successful fundraiser, in addition to a generous gift from the Lehner Family Foundation, enabled the completion of Phase I of a much-anticipated Wellness Garden.

Despite the unprecedented impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, in spring 2020 The Village was able to move ahead with grading, drainage, electrical work, and the installation of a concrete walking path. With Phase I of the wellness garden complete, we look forward to adding amenities which include a pavilion, putting green, shuffleboard or bocce ball court, meditation space, and children’s play area, that will be added as support is raised.

VillageFEST 2020, based on the success of the previous year, was planned as an opportunity to showcase progress on the project and again provide an occasion for residents, friends, and family to enjoy a summer night of great food, music, and the opportunity to support Phase II, the completion of this important project.

The pandemic, however, forced many changes in the way we live, worship, and help one another. Events and activities throughout the spring and
While the community event was postponed until June 25, 2021, we invite you to instead be part of this year’s VillageFEST Virtual, the family-friendly, wellness alternative!

VillageFEST 2020 Reimagined!

VillageFEST 2020
The Village of St. Edward

Similarly, The Village of St. Edward was forced to enact strict guidelines regarding how residents, families, and staff could interact with one another. Not knowing the future implications of COVID-19, and for the protection and safety of residents, The Village of St. Edward Foundation made the difficult decision to cancel VillageFest 2020.

Make plans now to gather your family or socially distanced small group to participate in a fun wellness activity— for a cause! We invite residents, friends, employees, and families near and far to be part of VillageFEST Virtual. Your participation will support the Village of St. Edward at Fairlawn Wellness Garden, health and wellness initiatives at The Village of St. Edward at Wadsworth, and health and wellness activities at The Village of St. Edward at Green.

Complete the enclosed flier or register at www.vsecommunities.org/FEST to get your VillageFEST Virtual T-shirts. On Friday, June 26 or Saturday, June 27, 2020 wear your VillageFEST Virtual T-shirt while you go for a walk or run, take a hike or bike ride, play a round of golf, do some yoga, or pull your grandkids in a wagon. Whatever you do, know that you are part of The Village’s wellness for a cause!

Create a short video or snap a fun photo and send it by Monday, June 29 to VillageFEST@vsecommunities.org and we’ll compile them into a special video — with you and every family as the stars! The video will be on social media, YouTube, and shared with our residents.

Don’t be left out – make plans and register now to participate in VillageFEST Virtual!
CARES Act Includes Special Opportunity

Changes to 2020 tax laws allow you to help The Village

The recent Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, signed into law on March 27, provides a unique opportunity for those who are typically unable to itemize charitable gifts. For 2020, gifts of up to $300 will receive an “above the line” charitable deduction, allowing you to fully deduct a charitable contribution even if you don’t itemize.

Also, for 2020, the income limit for cash contributions to nonprofits rises to 100% of income (from the previous 60% limit). As with current law, cash gifts in excess of the limit can be carried forward to the next year.

While Required Minimum Distributions (RMD) for 2020 have been suspended, we encourage you to continue to use your RMD Qualified Charitable Deduction (QCD) to support the important work and mission of The Village.

Become Part of the Joseph and Sophie Jacobs Legacy Society

Consider a gift to The Village in your estate plans

One of The Village’s greatest sources of hope is the Joseph and Sophie Jacobs Legacy Society. The Society is named for the Jacobs siblings who graciously gifted their family home. The Society recognizes the caring friends who have shared their intention to include The Village in their will, trust, or other estate plans. Members of our Legacy Society come from all walks of life, some from modest means and some from wealth. Their common ground is their concern for the welfare of seniors and their personal alignment with the mission of The Village.

Here are some commonly used methods you might consider if you would also like to include The Village in your plans. Most can easily be accomplished without the assistance of an attorney.

Gifts by Will or Living Trust

Your will or Revocable Living Trust allows you to provide for the people and causes you love most. A charitable bequest to The Village can easily be written into your plans, added to an existing will, or written into the trust using language such as: “I give and bequeath to The Village of St. Edward Foundation, Tax Identification Number 34-1969623, 3131 Smith Rd., Akron, OH 44333 (insert specific amount, asset or percentage of your estate).” If needed, your attorney will assist you with what you want done.

Payable on Death (POD) or Transfer on Death (TOD)

You can easily include one or more beneficiaries on your bank account, certificate of deposit, or brokerage account. Simply speak with your financial institution to have a Payable on Death (POD) or Transfer on Death (TOD) designation added to your account. While the notation does not change your ownership, it causes the funds in your account to pass directly to your named beneficiaries upon your death. You may designate more than one POD or TOD beneficiary. For example, your beneficiary...
For a confidential conversation about the ways your gift can be used to support The Village, please feel welcome to contact Vondea Sheaffer, VP of Development at (234) 466-0556 or vondea.sheaffer@vsecomunities.org.

Make a difference – and Make it Easy!

Did you know you can easily make your gift to The Village even more impactful by making it recurring? $20, $50 or $100 a month is a convenient way to multiply your support and your impact. If you choose, your recurring gift may be designated to support a specific project or fund.

To make your gift monthly by credit card, simply click the “Make this a monthly donation” box when you give through www.vsecomunities.org.

To make your gift from your personal checking or savings account, add The Village of St. Edward Foundation as a recurring payee, using your bank account’s “Bill Pay” function. It’s safe, secure, and easy, and you may cancel or change your gift at any time.

However you choose to direct your gift, know that it will immediately be used to improve the lives of those living at The Village.

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However you choose to direct your gift, know that it will immediately be used to improve the lives of those living at The Village.
It is our Privilege to Serve

For over 50 years, The Village of St. Edward has provided a place for older adults to call home, build relationships, and maintain the highest quality of life. During these truly unprecedented times, the support from family, friends, and the community is especially important. We are proud to continue to provide engaging activities and meaningful, socially distanced, connections for residents.

In times like these, many may wonder what they can do to support The Village's residents and employees. Every gift makes a favorable difference in attaining The Village's mission “to support and enrich the lives in our community with compassionate, Christ-centered care.” Engaging programs, extraordinary care, and a sense of belonging for residents are all made possible through your support.

Your investment in The Village helps residents lead fulfilling and meaningful lives. One important aspect of many of their lives is spiritual care, which enriches the well-being of residents and provides a sense of peace and belonging. Charitable care, provided by generous giving, supports The Village's commitment to never ask or encourage any resident to leave if they outlive their resources. The Resident Life enrichment programs allow residents to enjoy a variety of activities, no matter their physical or cognitive condition. With generous support from so many in the community, The Village will continue to provide a place for seniors to age safely and contently in the place they call home.

I invite you to join us in investing in the important mission and work of The Village.

Thank you,

Karen Manna
Chairperson
The Village of St. Edward Foundation

The role of The Village of St. Edward Foundation Board is to advise, govern and lead fundraising efforts which build permanent resources for the long term growth of The Village. The following community leaders graciously volunteer their time and talent for the benefit of The Village.

Karen Manna, Chairperson

The Village of St. Edward Foundation is a non-profit Sec. 501 (c)(3) organization which exists for the sole purpose of supporting The Village of St. Edward Communities in Fairlawn, Wadsworth and Green. Annual financial contributions from generous individuals, corporations and foundations provide for the spiritual care, charitable care, special programs, activities and unique needs of The Village's patients and residents. The Village receives no financial support from Catholic Charities.