WESTERN DAYS 2014
OKLAHOMA!
Our Home is Grand!

THANK YOU FOR GIVING
DONOR REPORT
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Plus: The Society of Saint Simeon’s
PAGES 8 - 9

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Dear Friends,

It’s hard to imagine fall is here, along with our latest Ambiance featuring so many friends who give generously to Saint Simeon’s. The people who give to Saint Simeon’s are a varied lot and come from all sorts of backgrounds with all sorts of reasons for giving generously to Saint Simeon’s. So, too, are their methods for giving to Saint Simeon’s: an unrestricted cash donation, gifts of stock, planned gifts, gifts-in-kind, the list boggles the imagination. This issue will feature these generous supporters.

All gifts to Saint Simeon’s are sincerely appreciated, all gifts. There is, however, something especially powerful about a donor who makes a planned gift. Perhaps it is the amount of thought put into the gift, or perhaps it is the sheer acknowledgement that a community like Saint Simeon’s is included among the most important parts of someone’s life; their family, close friends, or church. I think, though, it is Nelson Henderson’s quote, “The true meaning of life is to plant trees under whose shade you do not expect to sit.” Members of Society of Saint Simeon’s, the formal legacy program of Saint Simeon’s Foundation, continue to build upon this foundation of generosity in ways we could never imagine.

Saint Simeon’s is fortunate beyond measure to celebrate donors to the successful Western Days 2014: OKLAHOMA! Our Home is Grand!, chaired by the enthusiastic couple, Kristin and Jim Bender, in this issue. We will also take a moment to share some stories of friends who have included Saint Simeon’s among their planned gifts.

Carolyn Blair
Executive Director
Saint Simeon’s Foundation

On the Cover
Western Days 2014: OKLAHOMA! Our Home is Grand! Event Chairs Jim and Kristin Bender, along with Honorary Chairs Margaret and Ross Swimmer.
You will see in this edition of Ambiance that giving is the theme, and what a great theme it is. In truth, giving is at the heart of Saint Simeon's.

Saint Simeon's staff is dedicated to giving the best in care and service. Saint Simeon's is committed to giving employees a wonderful place to work and share their talents. As well, Saint Simeon's mission is fulfilled by the many volunteers and donors giving of their time, their talents and their treasure.

As you will read a bit later, Western Days 2014 was a huge success. Thank you to everyone that attended and for your generous giving. It was a fun filled evening made possible through the hard work of Carolyn Blair, many Saint Simeon's staff and volunteers, and the leadership of Saint Simeon's Home and Foundation Trustees.

People often comment to me that Saint Simeon's has long been known as a leader in senior care. They then ask 'How has Saint Simeon's maintained that reputation through the years?' My answer is always the same – the Boards of Trustees.

Central to the vision, mission and spirit of Saint Simeon's is its Boards of Trustees. Individually and collectively their giving covers the spectrum. Their expertise and wise counsel guide the future of Saint Simeon's. Their dedication to excellence inspires excellence. And the generosity of their personal financial resources ensure services and programs continue.

The following pages will acknowledge the many, many donors to Saint Simeon's. You will also meet a colleague of mine, Chris Gruszczki. Each name listed is an important part of the Saint Simeon's family.

Each day and each evening, every day of the year, we at Saint Simeon's give care and give love. And, we give thanks for each of you.

Lindsay Hurley Fick,
President/CEO, Saint Simeon's
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SAIN T SIMEON’S AMBANCE FALL / WINTER 2014 EDITION
STAFF SPOTLIGHT:
Chris Gruszczek
SAINT SIMEON’S ADMINISTRATOR

Chris Gruszczek, a Saint Simeon’s employee of almost 18 years, has had the opportunity to see first-hand the effects that giving has on Saint Simeon’s. “Programs like Art Expression and the Flint grants to Life Enrichment and the Wellness Center make such a difference in the lives of our Residents,” she said. Having experienced the impacts of these donations, Gruszczek decided in 2009 to establish a planned giving fund through a life insurance policy.

“I believe so profoundly in the mission of Saint Simeon’s,” she said. “When you love an organization, you should support it.”

Gruszczek first joined the Saint Simeon’s staff in 1997 as the Social Services Coordinator and was also given charge of the Activities Department. After being named Director of Activities and Social Services, she opted to change the department name to Life Enrichment, the name it carries today. In 2007, Gruszczek became an Administrator for Assisted Living. At that time, Saint Simeon’s had a separate license for each area of nursing care: Assisted Living, Memory Center and the HealthCare Center. In March 2013, Saint Simeon’s transitioned to having one license, and Gruszczek became Administrator for the entire campus.

Prior to pursuing a career in social work, she studied Spanish and vocal music in college. Her first career was as an operations manager for a private stock broker in St. Louis. After her first husband’s death at a young age, Gruszczek became interested in helping people and returned to school to earn her bachelor’s in social work from The University of Tulsa and her master’s in social work from the University of Oklahoma. Gruszczek was the first member of her family to earn a college degree.

Before coming to Saint Simeon’s, she worked as a case manager for Tulsa Senior Services (now LIFE Senior Services), and as a discharge planner for St. John Medical Center.

Gruszczek has two children and three grandchildren. When she’s not at work, she enjoys singing in the Tulsa Oratorio Chorus, babysitting her grandchildren, doing yard work, attending concerts and visiting museums.

Our New Ride Has Arrived!

Thanks to the generous donations of Saint Simeon’s patrons, Residents are now enjoying transportation to outings on the exquisite new Saint Simeon’s 14-to-18 passenger bus. The bus includes a state-of-the-art wheelchair lift and plenty of seating room for Residents and staff. The new bus has already been used on outings to a Tulsa Drillers baseball game, Philbrook Museum of Art, the Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame, and more.

More than $77,000 was raised for the new bus during The Moveable Feast event held in the wine cellar of Polo Grill on Feb. 9. During the event, Saint Simeon’s was honored to have Debbie and Bishop Ed Konieczny offer the creation of the menu based on their own recipes. The couple also helped prepare the meal, along with chefs from Polo Grill. A different chef introduced each new course, along with wine pairings. The exquisite menu featured nine courses paired with selected wines by Robert Merrifield.

Saint Simeon’s Residents Anne Evans, Mable Rice, Janet MacLeod, Trustee Robert Merrifield, President of Saint Simeon’s Foundation Board of Trustees George Dotson, and Polo Grill Manager Michael Funk.

All funds raised from the event were used towards the bus. “I’m so proud to be associated with Saint Simeon’s, which operates a first-class retirement community with dignity and respect for all,” said Trustee Marilyn Morris. “When I donate money to Saint Simeon’s for various needs, I know the money will be used exactly as it was intended to be used. You can be certain that this organization operates with the highest level of integrity with the Residents and their families, the staff, and all guests who find themselves on the campus of Saint Simeon’s.”
Oftentimes, planned giving is presented in a technical or sophisticated light. While some planned gifts can present high-level challenges requiring specific professional advice, the motivation to make a planned gift to a non-profit organization is usually the same: a love for the mission of an organization. Most planned gifts are relatively simple to form and oftentimes create significant tax savings.

Saint Simeon’s has been blessed to receive bequests from wills and trusts ranging from $689 to $1,600,000. Each gift has made a positive, lasting impact at Saint Simeon’s. While the planned giving vehicle has varied from donor to donor—life insurance policies, charitable remainder trusts, unrestricted bequests—each donor has supported the mission of Saint Simeon’s.

Individuals who have created a bequest or other planned gift are celebrated as members of Society of Saint Simeon’s. Fortunately, some members of the Society of Saint Simeon’s share their motivations with the Saint Simeon’s Foundation when they are outlining their intentions, and we are able to create a gift resolution which articulates their hopes or restrictions for the use of the gift. Not only does this document allow us the opportunity to fully understand their wishes, it also allows us the opportunity to acknowledge their generosity.

It is our honor to share the stories from four of the 81 Society of Saint Simeon’s members.

Mary Athens and her late husband, John, were a part of Saint Simeon’s from the very beginning. Therefore, it was only natural for the couple to decide to give back through planned giving. John Athens was on the Board for many years, and the couple was very close to Saint Simeon’s founder, The Rev. Dr. E.H. Eckel. “He baptized me when I was 11, and he also married us,” Mary said. “I also remember going out to see Dr. and Mrs. Eckel when they moved out to Saint Simeon’s.”

Mary Athens with her late husband, John, during a trip to Africa in the ’90s.

Mrs. Athens said their commitment to planned giving was made long before they started thinking about end of life decisions. “My husband and I always believed one of the joys of being relatively comfortable is being able to share.”
Millie Millsapugh, along with her late husband, Bob, has also been involved in Saint Simeon’s for a number of years. Bob served as the President of the Foundation Board from 1994-1996. They were active contributors to the Memory Center, which opened in 1994. They also have participated in planned giving for several years.

“Saint Simeon’s is a beautiful facility that gets better all the time,” Mrs. Millsapugh said. “I hope many people will remember Saint Simeon’s in their wills because we want it to be always the same or better than it is now.”

An anonymous donor in Colorado fondly recalled the experiences his parents and in-laws had at Saint Simeon’s. While they lived at Saint Simeon’s over 30 years ago, the care they received made a lasting impression. He and his wife decided to leave a percentage of their estate to Saint Simeon’s to create an endowment for operations. This gift means a percentage of the gift is annually expended on operations at Saint Simeon’s. This gift allows for flexibility and provides wonderful support to allow Saint Simeon’s to continue its superior care.

The planned giving donations of an anonymous donor have supported operations of Saint Simeon’s, including maintaining our beautiful grounds.

The late Ruth Fishburn was on our waiting list for 12 months for her Saint Simeon’s apartment. She happily called Saint Simeon’s home for over 10 years and was honored at Western Days 2012 with an inaugural Pioneer Spirit Award. Mrs. Fishburn very much was ingrained in the life of Saint Simeon’s.

She began her career at the War Ration Board in Pryor, Okla., where she went to rural schools delivering war ration books. A state trooper was assigned to keep both Ruth and the ration books safe.

That state trooper, the late Cecil Fishburn, and Ruth were happily married for 33 years. As Cecil’s career took him throughout the state, she went on to teach in the Oklahoma public school system in various communities.

Mrs. Fishburn left two wonderful gifts to Saint Simeon’s: one as an unrestricted gift to be used at the discretion of the Saint Simeon’s Foundation Board of Trustees, and the second toward Saint Simeon’s Resident Benevolent Fund. Not only did she hope individuals could experience Saint Simeon’s as Residents, she also hoped they could stay at Saint Simeon’s should someone be faced with outliving their resources.

Planned gifts at Saint Simeon’s may be created for nearly any purpose. Gifts may be restricted or unrestricted, part of an estate plan or through a life insurance policy. Gift annuities and charitable remainder trusts may be a good tool for donors. There are many vehicles to create a planned gift, and we are happy to discuss a way to make a meaningful gift to Saint Simeon’s. It is a simple process to make sure the dreams a donor has for Saint Simeon’s may one day be realized.

Should you be personally interested in learning more about planned gifts or the Society of Saint Simeon’s, please contact Carolyn Blair, Executive Director, Saint Simeon’s Foundation at (918) 794-1937 or cblair@saintsimeons.org.
WESTERN DAYS 2014
OKLAHOMA!
Our Home is Grand!
a Huge Success

Kathy Hinkle with Simone, Resident Therapy Dog
June Patton and David Hogan, Chairs Elect, Western Days 2015
Jim and Kristin Bender, Western Days Chairs, John and Lucy* Barker, Patron Chairs (*not pictured)
Saint Simeon’s Foundation held its 18th annual, successful Western Days event on Sept. 9 at Central Park Hall at Expo Square, raising $514,000 for Saint Simeon’s. Over 700 guests enjoyed a live and silent auction, a delicious dinner, a wine pull, a raffle drawing for a $2,500 Utica Square gift certificate giveaway, and more.

Playing off the *Oklahoma!* theme, the event featured musicians performing songs from the musical, as well as a large screen displaying clips from the film. Before leaving, guests enjoyed singing *Oklahoma!* and holtering their very best ‘Aye-yp-aye-yo-ee-oy’!

Kristin and Jim Bender served as Event Chairs, with June Patton and David Hogan serving as Chairs Elect. Margaret and Ross Swimmer were selected as Honorary Chairs and were celebrated for their long-time guidance and support of Saint Simeon’s.

The Pioneer Spirit Award was presented to Saint Simeon’s Resident Mable Rice in celebration of her dedication to minority rights and community development in Tulsa. Rice worked as a founder and developer of Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame, North Tulsa Heritage Foundation, the Greenwood Cultural Center and the Business and Industrial Development Corporation in an effort to preserve the rich history of the Greenwood District.

An addition to Western Days this year was a game called “Money on the Line.” Guests could purchase a clothespin for $20, and at the end of the evening, Jim Bender dropped all of the clothespins off of a platform into a bucket. One clothespin was drawn as the winner, and that guest received half of the earnings from the game.

Judy Roberts was the lucky winner of the Money on the Line drawing. Her clothespin, number 1106, was selected. Judy mentioned the last time she won something was the 1970’s and she and her husband won lawn chairs from a company picnic. Judy decided to split her prize between Saint Simeon’s and the Assistance League of Tulsa, an organization where she donates countless volunteer hours. Thanks to Judy, many people win!

Funds raised from Western Days 2014 will support operations of Saint Simeon’s, including helping to provide a highly trained and experienced nursing team, magnificently landscaped courtyards, a resident-driven gardening club, and more.
Saint Simeon's
TULSA'S SENIOR COMMUNITY

3701 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Tulsa, OK 74106-6450

www.saintsimeons.org | 918-425-3585
Send change of address information to: Saint Simeon's, 3701 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Tulsa, OK 74106 or email khebard@saintsimeons.org

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Saint Simeon’s
TULSA’S SENIOR COMMUNITY

PRESENTS THE

Harvest Moon Festival

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2014
2:00 TO 4:00 P.M.

SAINT SIMEON’S GROUNDS
3701 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BLVD.

Thank you to Wrick Resources, LLC and the Wrick Family for their gracious gift making possible the Harvest Moon Festival 2014.

A party for the entire family, featuring horse-drawn rides, pumpkin painting, balloon animals, face painting, live music, games, light refreshments, and more.

Questions? Call Becky at 918-794-1903.