Western Days 2016
Celebrating two decades of the fundraiser supporting tremendous compassion at Saint Simeon’s

Plus: A Purposeful Piano

Saint Simeon’s is a mission of the Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma
A Letter from our Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Thank you! Western Days was successful thanks to Phyllis and George Dotson, Event Chairs; Mandy and Blake Atkins, Patron Chairs; Lisa and Tom Schooley, Auction Chairs; and the many volunteers and friends who shared their love for Saint Simeon’s. Western Days 2016: Decades of Compassion celebrated 20 years of galvanized support for Saint Simeon’s. Complete with MosCOWBOY Mules, Shelby Eicher and his talented bandmates, a guaranteed wine pull, the ever popular General Store, demonstration from artist Anna Rutherford, and world famous auctions it was an evening to remember.

Western Days 2016 honored The Rt. Rev. Dr. Edward J. Konieczny and his ten years of vision as Bishop of The Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma. We also celebrated Lindsay Hurley Fick and her ten years of leadership as President and CEO of Saint Simeon’s. Saint Simeon’s continues to serve seniors and stay at the forefront of advances in care thanks, in large part, to their generous service. Two gifts to the Resident Benevolent Fund have been made in their honor.

We also celebrated John Brooks Walton as our Pioneer Spirit Award Recipient. Mr. Walton passed away on October 22, 2016, and I am glad he joined us at Western Days in September. Mr. Walton was talented, kind, and had a remarkable way of being very inclusive while living at Saint Simeon’s. The dining room in his beloved Assisted Living Plus is now home to his gallery of artwork. The Oklahoma redbud tree planted to celebrate his award can be seen from the dining room window as well as his former room. It will be a joy to watch his tree grow and bloom this spring. Mr. Walton said he would wait to find out if it has white, red, or purple blooms for the surprise of it. His bet was on purple.

This year marked my 5th Western days. It’s official — I have worked with the most talented leaders and colleagues for a full quarter of all Western Days. This year, when the last minute rush began, I was able to think of the big picture and all of the generosity on display on a lovely evening at the end of summer. Here’s to twenty years! May we all keep enjoying the surprise!

Tadd Weese, Saint Simeon’s Director of Facility Services; Steve Nessler, New Lawn and Landscape, and John Brooks Walton at the planting of Mr. Walton’s Pioneer Spirit Award tree.

Carolyn Blair, Executive Director
Saint Simeon’s Foundation
A PURPOSEFUL PIANO
Read about the Clavinova Digital Piano in the Saint Simeon’s Memory Center

WESTERN DAYS WRAP-UP
We celebrated the 20th annual Western Days on Sept. 13!

DONOR REPORT

RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT
Meet new Assisted Living Resident Minna Lo Squires.

ON THE COVER
Honorary Chair The Rt. Rev. Dr. Edward J. Konieczny and Debbie Konieczny, Event Chairs George and Phyllis Dotson, Patron Chairs Blake and Mandy Atkins, Auction Chairs Tom and Lisa Schooley, and Honorary Chair Lindsay Hurley Fick and Ron Fick at Western Days 2016 on Sept. 13 at Cox Business Center.
THANKS TO FUNDING FROM THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF OKLAHOMA, the Saint Simeon’s Administration Offices recently went through a much-needed remodel. Changes included a fresh look to the front desk area, new carpet, fresh paint, new chairs in the Administration Conference room, and upgrades to several offices. Stop by and see our changes next time you’re at Saint Simeon’s!

The beautiful new entrance to the Admissions/ Administration area features bright paint colors, new carpet, and a TV that displays photos of Residents and information about upcoming events. You can usually find the lovely Donna Mayotte and Brenda Read welcoming guests.

(left) The newly remodeled Administration Conference Room.

(right) Bonnie Gorrell, HR Director, shows off the new HR Application area.

The Administration area has a newly remodeled workroom/kitchen.
Keys to Memory Program
— BRINGS PURPOSEFUL ENTERTAINMENT —

The Saint Simeon’s Memory Center is now home to a clavinova digital piano, thanks to the generosity of Ellen and Don Atkins. The piano has become a regular part of life in the Memory Center, says Becky Ashwill, Life Enrichment staff member. “We use it four to five times a week for music listening, sing a longs, and learning to play.”

The Keys to Memory Program offers several special features. The computerized piano houses literally hundreds of songs, and Residents can “play” the songs by hitting any key on the piano. The piano hooks up to a TV, and during sing a longs, a dot bounces along to the words, making it easy to follow along.

Volunteer Karen Harrington has been bringing piano players to show us the many choices available on this computer with piano keys. Local musician Danny Miller knows all the special functions of the piano and often wows the Residents as he plays on it.

The clavinova also has wheels on it and has made trips to other areas of Saint Simeon’s. Since it’s getting so much use in the Memory Center, though, Life Enrichment staff hopes to eventually bring the Keys to Memory Program to the HealthCare Center.

Thank you to the Atkins!
Residents Marie Miller and Louise Treadway prepared for Western Days by making these adorable “Humpty Dumpty” dolls, sock monkeys, and many other items that were sold at the General Store.

Phyllis and George Dotson, Event Chairs, hosted the Western Days Report Party at the Saint Simeon’s Common Room on Aug. 22.

Lindsey Hurley Fick, Saint Simeon’s President and CEO, and The Rt. Rev. Dr. Edward J. Konieczny, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma, were selected as Honorary Chairs for Western Days 2016.

SAINT SIMEON’S FOUNDATION

20TH ANNUAL
Western Days
2016

DECADIES OF COMPASSION

TWENTIETH ANNUAL WESTERN DAYS
A SUCCESS

Saint Simeon’s Foundation is thrilled to announce that Western Days 2016: Decades of Compassion was a success, with more than $465,000 raised. The event, held on Tuesday, Sept. 13 under the barn lights of Cox Business Center, marked the 20th annual milestone of the fundraising event.

More than 700 people attended Western Days 2016: Decades of Compassion, which featured a marvelous Silent Auction, as well as the always entertaining Live Auction. Live auction items ranged...
from a vacation for three couples at a private villa in Baja, California, an elegant evening at Polo Grill for 10 with paired wines, a dinner for 10 prepared and served by Debbie and Bishop Ed Konieczny, and “My Sweet Haven,” a 48” x 60” original oil painting on canvas by Anna Rutherford, artist.

The evening also featured the traditional General Store stocked with handmade items from Saint Simeon’s Residents and a delicious dinner prepared by Chef Devin Levine. In addition, Western Days attendees were entertained by musical performances from Shelby Eicher and the Tulsa Playboys.

Phyllis and George Dotson served as Event Chairs, with Mandy and Blake Atkins serving as Patron Chairs. Lisa and Tom Schooley served as Auction Chairs. The Rt. Rev. Dr. Edward J. Konieczny and Lindsay Hurley Fick were celebrated as Honorary Chairs.

Bishop Konieczny has served as Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma for nearly 10 years and was also honored as being Chairman of the Saint Simeon’s Home Board of Trustees and as Chairman of the Saint Simeon’s Foundation Board of Trustees for 10 years.

Lindsay Hurley Fick joined Saint Simeon’s as President and CEO in 2006. Her decade of guidance and leadership has meant great strides for Saint Simeon’s.

The Pioneer Spirit Award was presented to Saint Simeon’s Resident John Brooks Walton. John, who recently passed away on Oct. 22, was Tulsa’s most famous architect and author of several books, including One Hundred Historic Tulsa Homes.
A Message from our President & CEO

The enormous generosity of individuals and organizations, to benefit Saint Simeon’s, is the theme of each edition of The Ambiance. Once again, this edition highlights extraordinary people and events that allow Saint Simeon’s to expand programs, offer new services, and maintain its beautiful grounds. Examples of ‘generosity in action’ include an expanded focus on Parkinson’s at Saint Simeon’s. New equipment and programming in the Wellness Center, specific to individuals with Parkinson’s, are making a difference. A newly constructed and equipped physical therapy studio is assisting those individuals that come to Saint Simeon’s for short stay rehabilitation.

The donation of a clavinova piano and the ‘Keys to Memory’ program for individuals in our Memory Center has been a fabulous addition. Music has a way of unlocking stored memories and bringing untold joy. On the medical side, the addition of a bladder scanner allows nursing to diagnosis issues more quickly and efficiently.

And finally, if you’ve been to Saint Simeon’s in the past few months, you may have noticed a much smoother drive! New asphalt was laid, and it looks great. These examples (and many more) were made possible by those shown on the pages of this magazine. On behalf of everyone at Saint Simeon’s, thank you.

Lindsay Hurley Fick, President/CEO, Saint Simeon’s
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Western Days 2015

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A native Texan, Minna Lo Squires was a true cowgirl. She was born and raised in the area near Vernon and Wichita Falls in west Texas. Her dad worked for the largest fenced ranch in Texas at the time – 550,000 acres – and she and her brother often helped him feed cattle. When the annual rodeo came to town, Minna Lo participated in barrel racing. “We were just amateurs and rode for fun on untrained horses.”

Young Minna Lo also rode a horse to school. She and her brother would leave their house at 6 a.m. and wouldn’t get home until 6:30 p.m., but they sure saved a lot on gas! When she entered high school, she began taking the bus to school – a 35-mile bus route since she lived in such a rural area. Even still, they rode a horse to the bus stop. If she and her brother weren’t at the bus stop when the bus arrived, the bus driver would climb on a neighbor’s windmill to see if they were on their way.

After high school, Minna Lo attended Draughon’s Business College and took secretarial and bookkeeping classes. Soon after, she married Sherman (nickname Abie) Squires, and he went off to war. Abie was a building contractor in Wichita Falls, so it made sense for him to join the Seabees – a construction battalion of the Navy. He was stationed in Port Hueneme Naval Base near Oxnard, Cali. Minna Lo joined him there, worked at the base, and stayed until the war ended and Abie returned from Okinawa.

After the war, the couple stayed in Oxnard, and Abie continued as a building contractor, specializing in wooden roofs. Minna Lo said she felt like they lived in paradise because their house was in the middle of an orange grove. The temperature never varied 5 degrees from 70, and they kept their windows open year-round!

Abie was asked to be a part of an effort to rehab (rebuild) air force bases. He worked on one in California, one in Texas, and one in Arkansas, which kept the family busy traveling. Along the way, they had two sons, Jimmy and Tommy. After Abie’s work rehabbing air force bases was finished, he became ill and retired. Minna Lo continued doing bookkeeping work. The family moved back to Texas and bought 100 acres.

After their sons graduated from high school and were in college, in 1971 Minna Lo retired. The Squires bought a travel trailer and lived in it full-time. They were “snow birds”. They spent the winters in the Rio Grande Valley in Texas and the summers in Oklahoma, fishing all along the way.

Minna Lo’s sons are both successful now retired engineers. Jimmy lives in Dallas, and Tommy lives in Bartlesville. Minna Lo has one grandchild, Lacy. After Abie passed away in 2001, Tommy bought Minna Lo a house in Seminole, Okla., where she lived until she had a stroke in April of this year.

She moved to Saint Simeon’s on May 31 and has been enjoying her new life here. “Everybody is so sweet. The staff bends over backwards to help you,” she said.

Minna Lo is active in exercise classes twice a week and enjoys the warm water therapy pool. She said the pool reminds her of times at the river when she was a child. “When I was a little girl, we would go to the river. The kids would swim, the men would fish, and the women would cook.”
The Saint Simeon’s Foundation enhances, through philanthropy and stewardship, the physical, social, and spiritual well-being of the Residents of Saint Simeon’s and their families.