SAINT SIMEON'S EMPLOYEES
Share How Christmas Fund Made Their Holidays Happier

The Employee Christmas Fund raised $77,124 in 2016. Saint Simeon’s front line employees are so grateful to each Resident, family member and friend of Saint Simeon’s that generously contributed to the fund. Here are a few ways that employees used their bonuses.

PAM GOURD, LPN, MEMORY CENTER

“I added some money to my bonus and made a ribbon tree on the wall with 20 and 50 dollar bills for children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. The tree had $750 cash on it total for my five children, 18 grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren.”

ATTRELL REDRICKS, LIFE ENRICHMENT, ASSISTED LIVING

“I used the bonus to buy Christmas presents. My daughter Amajah really wanted a cell phone. Thanks to you, I was able to get it.”

ASHLEY PALETTE, LPN, ASSISTED LIVING

“I used my gift to get presents for my two boys ages 7 and 15 months. They both got four to five outfits each. The 7-year-old got a Nerf gun, army guys, and a volcano he can build himself. The 15-month-old got a wagon full of Legos, a little bike, and some trucks. They were so happy and blessed. I am so grateful for our amazing residents!”

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“We have very caring and talented people working here at Saint Simeon’s, and Abby Graham, a CNA in ALP, just happens to be one of them. She engaged in conversation with one of the people that she provides care for, and she also truly listened.

When she learned that this Resident loves dogs, Abby submitted a Tree of Dreams form and the process was set in motion. As a result, arrangements were made for this Resident to attend an upcoming dog show. Being the thoughtful person that she is, Abby proceeded to purchase the necessary items to make a special, one-of-a-kind decorated sweater for the Resident to wear during her outing.

It is truly a pleasure to have such a caring, compassionate, and creative person working on Saint Simeon’s team.” — Doris Wells

“I started at Saint Simeon’s in May. I originally got my nurse aide license in 2005. Then my son Jadon was born in 2006, and I went to work as the general manager of Billy Sims BBQ in Sand Springs for nine years until the owner sold it. At that time, I got recertified as a nurse aide and came to work here. Back in 2005, I worked for First Call, and I actually did a job at Saint Simeon’s, so I was familiar with the campus.

I started a medication aide program in January. Eventually, I hope to become an LPN.

I’m originally from Hartshorne, Okla. (near McAlister) and attended Hartshorne High School. My mom, grandma, and a couple of my brothers still live there. My grandma was living in California but recently moved back to Oklahoma. Now we all get together for the holidays at the house where my mom and grandma live.

I have seven brothers. I am the only girl! Growing up, my oldest brother, who is 10 years older than me, spoiled me, but my other brothers all picked on me. I have too many nieces and nephews to keep up with now.

My son Jadon is 10, and we live in the Gilcrease Hills
area. He loves football, and I’m a true football mom. I make him a banner for every game. I love doing crafty things like that – which is why it was natural for me to make the sweater for Mrs. Richardson!

My son is on a traveling football team, so we’re always on the go for that. He loves coming up to Saint Simeon’s to visit Residents. He really liked visiting Mr. John Walton, especially when he learned that his art teacher knew Mr. Walton.

We have a dog named Blitz. Jadon named him after a football term, of course.

All throughout high school, I wanted to be a hairstylist. Now, I get a chance to do the Residents’ hair sometimes. Some of the Residents on AIL love it when I style their hair.

I like sewing. My next project will be to make my own scrub tops. I also like cooking.

I like helping the Residents. My favorite part of the job is getting to know them and knowing that they look forward to seeing me.”
Dear Residents, Families, and Friends of Saint Simeon’s

It was early January of 1986. The announcement had been made that The Rev. John R. Norris, Rector of Saint Peter’s Episcopal Church, Tulsa, was leaving that position to become the first full-time Chaplain at Saint Simeon’s Episcopal Home. I was just two and a half years out of seminary: a young buck serving as an assistant at Saint Dunstan’s, Tulsa – full of vim, vigor, and not a small amount of youthful arrogance. Fr. Norris and I were in the vesting sacristy of Saint Peter’s, preparing for a service during the monthly meeting of Tulsa area Episcopal Clergy, known even to this day as The Tulsa Clericus. I took this moment! I had privately with Fr. Norris to ask, out of that youthful arrogance, “John, why in the world would you leave Saint Peter’s to become a Chaplain at a nursing home?”

Now another person might have seen this as an opportunity to put the little know-it-all in his place. However, John looked at me earnestly and honestly and said, “it’s just something I’ve felt very much called to do.” As I have reflected on this encounter in more recent years, I have suspected that the Holy Spirit told Fr. Norris to hold back smacking me down, because they were both going to have a really good laugh at how this was going to turn out!

After graduating from the Episcopal Theological Seminary of Kentucky, John Norris was ordained Deacon in June, 1977 and Priest later that December. He served as Curate and later Assistant Rector at Saint John’s Episcopal Church in his home town of Oklahoma City. While at Saint John’s he also assumed the duties of Headmaster of the Parish School there. In 1982, Fr. Norris became Rector of Saint Peter’s Episcopal Church, Tulsa, where he served until he became Saint Simeon’s first full-time Chaplain in January, 1986 where he served for 20 years!

Over the years, Fr. Norris saw many changes to Saint Simeon’s. There were changes in leadership, expansion of facilities, and growing changes in the average age and health of new Residents. There were even changes for Fr. Norris as he earned his Doctorate in Ministry from Phillips Theological Seminary. During it all, Fr. Norris sought to be that stable presence, always faithfully exercising the duties of Chaplain of Saint Simeon’s and Priest in charge of the Chapel of Saint Anna. He provided pastoral care to those in his charge. He led services with quiet dignity and preached the Good News of Jesus Christ faithfully. He retired after 20 years of service to this wonderful place, having made his imprint in the life and mission of Saint Simeon’s. I have been very blessed by his legacy here.

On Saturday, January 7th, I received word that The Rev. Dr. John R. Norris had died in Dallas. His passing from this life marks the end of an era in the life of Saint Simeon’s. Oh, and yes, I do very well know why John left parish ministry to become Chaplain at Saint Simeon’s. I have received the same calling he received. I know the same joys he knew. “Well done, thou good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of your Master.”

Blessings to you,
Fr. Bill Holly †
A visit to the koi pond in the Reflections Courtyard is always a treat. During the summer, you can nearly always see a dragonfly or two dipping into the water. Nice to know that the pond welcomes other creatures in addition to providing a home for our beautiful fish.

Looking at the fish caused me to remember Pat Page, a Resident we lost in 2016. She was the fish’s best friend. Pat fed them every day for several years, balancing their food on her walker as she made her rounds. She visited the courtyards to enjoy the flowers, tortoises and peacocks at least once a day, usually more than that. Pat also never missed one of our Friends of Flora and Fauna Meetings (2nd Saturday of each month). She said more than once that she had a wonderful liberal arts education and interesting life, but was surprised and grateful in the twilight of her years to be introduced to the world of plants and animals and be able to learn so much.

Here’s a plant that I bet Pat Page would have enjoyed learning about. Some of its names are Mother-in-Law’s Tongue, Snake Plant and Snake Skin. An old-fashioned plant — perhaps you remember seeing one at a grandparent’s home? It is becoming more popular again. It is virtually indestructible! One has lived in the Flora and Fauna Office for a long, long time but suddenly started blooming in December. It is clearly root-bound, but I had put off repotting it because I think that I will have to break the pot to get it out. It turns out that it only flowers if it becomes so root-bound that there is literally no place left for a shoot to emerge from the soil. The flowers are meant to attract moths in its last desperate attempt to pollinate and reproduce somewhere else. New Year’s Resolution: Repot this plant! Anyone want a start of one for their room?

One other amazing thing about the Mother-in-Law’s Tongue Plant. According to a NASA Clean Air Study, it has unusual air purification qualities. Like other plants it removes carbon dioxide and adds oxygen to the air. But unlike almost all other plants, it also is producing oxygen at night!
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BRENDA READ, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

“I used mine to pay for dance lessons for January, February, March, April, and May and recital fees for my two little granddaughters! It makes my heart happy to see them enjoy dancing, and it’s something that I can do for them and their parents!”

JEZREEL DAGUM, FACILITIES SERVICES

“I waited until I got my Christmas bonus to buy all the gifts for my family. I got my mom a purse, my dad a watch, my nephew a Nerf gun and a stuffed animal, my brother car tools, my two nieces Minecraft Legos, my sister-in-law a coffee pot with grinder, and my sister a purse.”

GAIL ELDER, LIFE ENRICHMENT, MEMORY CENTER

“The year 2016 was a tough one for my family and me. At the first of the year, one of my sons lost his job, which had a domino effect that caused him to lose his car and his home. He is the father of three of my beautiful granddaughters. This was not the sort of Christmas he or his wife were planning on having. But, at the same time, it may have been a blessing in disguise. We spoke of what the true meaning of Christmas really was.

In September, I had a mild heart attack and had to have a stent put in and could not come back to work for a week. It certainly made me think again of the important things in life: God, family, friends, co-workers, the blessing of a job, Residents and their families.

I can’t thank you enough for your kindness and generosity. My grandkids DID get a wonderful assortment of Christmas gifts, thanks to my Christmas bonus. I was even able to put a little down on my hospital bill. It may not have been the biggest Christmas ever, but it was a heartfelt one.”

LORETTA YOUNG, UNIT CLERK, ASSISTED LIVING

“I was able to buy my grandchildren that one special gift they wanted so badly from Santa – a PS4 with games.”

ROSELL COLLINS, CNA, HEALTH CARE

“I have four kids: ages 7 month-old, 1 year-old, 3 year-old, and 11 year-old. I was able to get them all they wanted for Christmas.”

BECKY ASHWILL, LIFE ENRICHMENT, MEMORY CENTER

“I always use my gift to donate to my college (University of Northern Iowa), the Vietnam Memorial Fund, and of course Yellowstone Forever.”
**Stitch in Time Group Makes Donation to Crosstown**

Our Residents who are involved in the Stitch in Time sewing group took a big Christmas gift again in 2016 to Crosstown Learning Center! Resident Marie Millar (pictured here) and staff member Teresa Reno delivered 85 stuffed bears and fish and 8 blankets! All of these items were handmade by our Residents, and we hope they made the holidays a little brighter for these precious little ones! They received this thank you note from Cameron, a Crosstown student.

Thank you for my new red bear! I love it and he sleeps with me every night! I also play with him during our drives around town.

Thank you so much,
Cameron Smith
(Crosstown)

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**Saint Simeon's Art Show**

**Thursday, Feb. 9, 2017**
**FROM 1:30 P.M. TO 4:30 P.M.**
**IN THE BISTRO, THE LIBRARY & THE LIVING ROOM**

If your family member/resident has any past or present works you’d like showcased, please contact Teresa Reno at 918-794-1932 or at treno@saintsimeons.org.

Any media is accepted!

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**HAPPY BIRTHDAY — FEBRUARY —**

- Thomas Mason 2/2
- Johnnie Standridge 2/4
- Lois Fick 2/7
- Polly Pommier 2/9
- Billy Bee 2/12
- Thomas Monahan 2/17
- Hannah Bass 2/18
- Elizabeth McWha 2/19
- Eleanor Gillock 2/23
- Betty Cottier 2/28

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**WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS**

- Ruth Shepherd
- John Cagle
- Billie Johnson
- Emily Jackson
- Dillard “Duke” Iseley
- Jeanette Ice
- The Rev. Dr. John Norris

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**Welcome to our Family!**

- Phoebe Hocker
- Roger Rosburg

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If you no longer wish to receive the Quill by mail or if you wish to switch to a color, e-newsletter subscription, please contact Lindsay Morris at lmorris@saintsimeons.org or 918-794-1945.
Saint Simeon’s Holds Another Successful Pet Food Drive

The success of the third annual Saint Simeon’s dog and cat food donations drive to help the homeless in Tulsa feed their dogs and cats during this winter season by partnering with the Tulsa Animal Welfare Shelter far exceeded our expectations.

Donations from Residents, families, guests, staff, Broadway Dental Arts in Sand Springs, DogTag Agility and Karing K-9’s added together totaled 1,627 pounds of dog food alone.

Karing K-9’s membership donated over 650 pounds, with one member donating 400 pounds. Twenty-seven pounds of cat food, 18 pounds of dog treats, 40 toys and miscellaneous items also found their way into our dog house donation stations.

A sincere thank you is extended to all for the donations. You have made a difference again this year.

As it is always said, people can ask for food when they are hungry; dogs and cats cannot.

We are so grateful.