SAINT SIMEON’S KICKS OFF WESTERN DAYS 2017

For 21 years, donors have generously supported Saint Simeon’s through the Western Days annual fundraiser. Saint Simeon’s is excited to announce that Western Days 2017: Seasons of Change will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2017 at Cox Business Center in Tulsa.

Caron and Shawn Lawhorn, Event Chairs for Western Days 2017, are gearing up for this year’s event, with Lisa and Tom Schooley serving as Patron Chairs. Marcia and Ron MacLeod will serve as Auction Chairs. The event chairs, along with about 70 committee members, attended the dynamic Western Days Kickoff Party at The Restaurant at Gilcrease Museum on Tuesday, May 2.

Ellen C. and Donald B. Atkins have been selected as Honorary Chairs for Western Days 2017. Ellen C. and Donald B. Atkins are among the most long-standing,
“I was born in Chicago, Illinois, but have lived many places – St. Louis, Denver, Dallas, Memphis, Pennsylvania, Georgia, Cleveland, and Sand Springs. We have moved so many times due to transfers with my husband Dave’s company. We decided to move to the Tulsa area in 2007 because it is halfway between where our two children live. Jonathan lives in Jefferson City, Missouri, and Kristin lives in Keller, Texas. Between the two of them, I have six grandchildren (two are twin boys). My sister Sandy also lives in Mannford and is a Saint Simeon’s Volunteer.

When we lived in Marietta, Georgia, I was Assistant Training Director and taught obedience class for the German Shepherd Dog Training Club of Atlanta. My interest in dogs began back in 1982 with my first German Shepherd in obedience competition. In 1988 I became interested in therapy dog work. My second German Shepherd, Dakota, earned an advanced obedience dog title, and I wanted to do more with him.

I had Dakota registered as a therapy dog and became so involved that I was one of four people asked to write a Temperament and Obedience Manual for evaluating other dog/handler teams to become registered.

Later, my third German Shepherd, Cheyenne, was also registered as a therapy dog.

In 2005 my fourth German Shepherd, Mesa, joined our family. He is a confirmation champion, trained by myself and two friends. He also competed in dog agility competition through the excellent level and is now retired.

My first career was in dental hygiene – I was a hygienist for 10 years.

I worked for 10 years at an assisted living residence in North Wales, Pennsylvania, five of those years as an Administrator. I alternated taking each of my dogs to work every day and doing activities with the Residents with my dogs. Each year at our Christmas party at the residence, the children coming had their choice of having their picture taken with either of the two dogs or Santa. Needless to say, Dakota and Cheyenne were both very tired at the end of the party!

Dave and I moved to Sand Springs in February 2007 just in time for the ice storm. I came to work at Saint Simeon’s on Oct. 1, 2007. I love working here and especially
love working with Lindsay Fick and our great staff.

In 2008, I was asked to help find a replacement Golden Retriever to follow in Simone I’s footsteps. Dara Harris (former unit clerk) and I did a lot of Simone’s training.

Currently I have a 5-year-old red and white Border Collie, River. We compete in dog agility competitions and have qualified for the AKC National competitions for the last three years in Reno, Nevada, Tulsa, and Perry, Georgia in March 2017.

About three years ago Tulsa World ran an article on the homeless people in Tulsa having pets. Many of the homeless were feeding their dogs and cats their own food since they did not have pet food for them. I asked Lindsay Fick if I could take on a community service project for Christmas to collect food for the pets of the homeless in Tulsa. In three years the amount of food collected was 400 pounds the first year, 600 pounds the second year, and over 1,200 pounds this last year.

Everyone has a favorite project, a mission, or a goal in life. This is mine: using the medium of dogs to help provide comfort and happiness to provide less stress in life, not only for me, but for anyone I share my dogs with.
Dear Residents, Families, and Friends of Saint Simeon’s

There is a wonderful song written by Willy Welch and performed by Peter, Paul, and Mary entitled “Right Field.” It is a song about the ritual of choosing teams to play neighborhood baseball from the perspective of the little boy who was “awkward and slow” and always the last to be picked for a team. Such little boys were relegated to the position of right field precisely because nobody ever hit a ball out there. So you were in “right field, just watching the dandelions grow.” If you have never heard this song, just search “right field” on the internet and you will see a link taking you to a YouTube video of Peter, Paul, and Mary’s iconic live performance.

The first time I heard and saw this song was in 1991 when I was attending a Provincial Christian Education Commission meeting in Dallas and The Rev. Charlie Sumners showed us the very video you can see as described above. It immediately took me back to my own childhood because I was just like the little boy portrayed in the song. It is the experience of so many children, boys and girls alike – those of us who seem to lack the coordination or focus or whatever to compete in the team sports at the same level as the other children. Teams are chosen, and you get to hear the raucous laughter of the opposing team as they say, “Ha, ha! You got stuck with (fill in the name)!”

I remember those days well. When faced with the teasing, I could either go home and stay away from such activities, or I could remain, stick it out, and at least have the fellowship of the other kids. My thought was, “Who knows … maybe I’ll get lucky and do something good.” It did pay off to stay. While I never had “The Moment” (see the video), I was able to learn how to develop a thicker skin and find ways to fit in. Later I learned that some kids played sports and other sang in the choir. I really enjoyed choir! Blending my voice with others is something I could do very well. This lesson stayed with me and helped me to grow to be more self-reliant and less dependent upon what others thought of me.

Later I was able to see that it was through my so-called “failures” that I achieved my greatest growth. I learned to adapt, and strengthen those things I did well, all the while, staying involved in whatever situation I found myself.

Yes, sometimes it’s hard to stick it out when you feel you have nothing to offer. Sometimes you just want to give up. But, there is in you and me and everyone, a strength and a guidance that can give you great assistance in finding your way through the toughest situation. One thing you can count on: nothing stays the same. Weathering the storm until it passes pays great dividends. You will discover wonderful things about yourself you never realized before. Take it from the kid who was awkward and slow – right field is where you want to be! It will take you to new places you never dreamed existed.

Blessings to you,
Fr. Bill Holly †
Only at Saint Simeon’s

Two outdoor signs were installed this past month that help illustrate what is unique about Saint Simeon’s.

First up were Deer Crossing signs (for north and south bound traffic), right in front of our gate on Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. Deer lived on this hill long before the street and then back to this side for further grazing and possibly bedding down for the night. Predators (they share the woods with bobcats and possibly a cougar?) are not likely to sneak up on them on this hill. We make them feel welcome with several mineral and salt blocks and provide deer corn behind the triplex cottages. Pat Perrin (Resident in Cottage #6) has been their friend and observer long enough to watch fawns grow up and start their own families. This year we have seen as many as nine at one time, and that prompted our request to City Hall for signs to warn drivers.

The second set of signs is for our peacocks. So far, we have two peahens sitting on eggs, one in the Reflection Courtyard and one in the Gazebo Courtyard. Assisted Living Resident, Marian McBurnett, provided the signs you see reminding folks not to disturb “Moms” while on their nests. Two new peahens will be joining us momentarily from Peacock Plantation on Reservoir Hill. The family living there is retiring to a place where their beloved peafowl (of over 20 years) cannot follow. They contacted us because they knew however many we could provide a new home would be happy living here. We currently have three males and three females so could use more peahens. These are India Blue peahens and we currently have Black Shouldered peahens, so you will be able to tell them apart. By the time, you read this “Quill”, we’ll all be enjoying watching our peachicks explore their new world!
Memory Center Residents Receive Activity Lap Blankets

Thanks to an idea from a staff member and the talent and hard work of a Resident, the Memory Center now has nine activity lap blankets that will be a source of entertainment and comfort to Residents.

Saint Simeon’s Administrator Chris Gruszczki saw lap blankets at the Alzheimer’s Association — blankets that have several fun items of various textures affixed to them — and thought it would be great to have some at Saint Simeon’s. She approached Activities Director Teresa Reno and Resident Marie Millar about creating such blankets for our Residents and provided them with bags full of fun things from the Dollar Store to use to create them.

The ladies attached all sorts of items to the blankets — teddy bears, squeaky toys, colorful bracelets, ribbon, and more.

“I cut out the material, Teresa pins things on the blanket, and I sew it on,” Millar said.

Many of the items were difficult to hand sew onto a blanket, but they were all attached with much love for the Memory Center Residents who are receiving them.

Saint Simeon’s Volunteers Honored at Annual Luncheon

Saint Simeon’s is grateful for our volunteers, who put in hundreds of hours each year to enrich the lives of our Residents! We celebrated our volunteers with a lunch at Philbrook’s La Villa Restaurant on April 28. Our volunteers do everything from going on outings with Residents, to bagging dog food for the dogs of the homeless, to singing in the Memory Center, to taking Simone around to visit Residents. Thank you, volunteers!
Welcome to our Family!

Alan Ott
Azzie Winn
Carolyn Plucknett
Carroll Craft
Gerald Dean Brimer
Julia Kampen
Mary Atkinson
Millicent Sullivan
Richard Petricek

WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Hannah Bass
Jack Livingston
Maurice Forrester
Suzanne Long

JUNE BIRTHDAY

Lois Gatchell 6/1
Catherine Schomas 6/3
Gerald Dean Brimer 6/3
Billie Cooper 6/5
Rumi Framjee 6/6
John Conway 6/11
Jane Wirick 6/20
Michael Cox 6/21
Doris Nickell 6/22
Jimmie Dozier 6/25
Glen McGuire 6/26
Louise Treadway 6/26
Willard O’Daniel 6/26

Saint Simeon’s
COOKBOOK

We will be compiling a cookbook that will be available for sale at WESTERN DAYS 2017. We welcome submissions from all Saint Simeon’s Residents, families, staff, friends, and volunteers. Recipes must be typed and need to be submitted by June 30, 2017 to Chef Noah at noahmiller@iamsorrison.com.

--- JOIN YOUR RESIDENT FOR THE ---

Father’s Day Meal

Reservations are due on JUNE 4 for the JUNE 18 MEAL. Please RSVP with Attrell at 918-794-1903.

ALZHEIMER’S ASSOCIATION
CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

THURSDAY, JUNE 22
6:00-7:30 P.M.

SAINT SIMEON’S SMITH CONFERENCE ROOM

Complimentary dinner will be provided.
Please RSVP by June 16 to Brenda Haesloop at 918-855-1502 or bhaesloop14@att.net.

ANNUAL POOL PARTY

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21
2 TO 4:30 P.M.

Join Residents, staff, family and friends for the annual Pool Party in the Wellness Center!

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.
FIESTA TIME!

Our Residents and staff had a great time celebrating Cinco de Mayo! We were entertained by mariachi singer Jorge Rodriguez and enjoyed margaritas and wearing sombreros!