WESTERN DAYS TO BE HELD SEPT. 12

Western Days: Seasons of Change is right around the corner and will be held Tuesday, Sept. 12 at 6 p.m. at the Cox Business Center. For 21 years, donors have generously supported Saint Simeon’s through the Western Days annual fundraiser.

The Western Days planning committee gathered on Aug. 2 at Saint Simeon’s to report on funds raised to date. We’re looking forward to this being a great fundraising year!

For sponsorship and ticket information, please visit www.westerndaysevent.com or call the Foundation Office at 918-794-1977. We hope to see you on Sept. 12!

WESTERN DAYS 2017 HONORARY CHAIRS: ELLEN AND DON ATKINS

This year’s Honorary Chairs for Western Days 2017: Seasons of Change are Ellen C. and Donald B. Atkins. The Atkins are among Saint Simeon’s most long-standing, loyal and committed supporters. Their first gift was given in 1973.

Continued on page 3
“In June, Stanley went ‘Dumpster Diving’ for a Resident’s dentures. During a meal the Resident lost their dentures in a wrap of napkins. As the tables were cleared the dentures, along with other used napkins, were thrown in the trash. It wasn’t until after the meal that it was noticed that the Resident did not have her dentures. The trash had already been taken out and put in the dumpster. Stanley to the rescue, went into the dumpster, retrieved the trash bags and searched each one. He found the missing dentures! Thank you, Stanley, for your quick action AND for always taking such good care of the Residents. You are a champion!” — Stephanie Colbert, Life Enrichment

“I was the youngest of 4 in my family and the only boy. My sisters say I was spoiled, but I don’t agree. I’m originally from Michigan, but I’ve lived in Tulsa for 11 years. My aunt lived here and told me the economy was better here, so I came here for better work.

I am married to Ashley Ervin who works in Assisted Living as a CNA/CMA. My sister Commica Williams is the Unit Clerk in HealthCare. Commica came to Saint Simeon’s, then Ashley, then me. I met Ashley while we were both working at a nursing home in west Tulsa. I have been in dining services for 11 years since I moved to Tulsa.

Together, Ashley and I have 4 boys. We had 1 boy each before getting married, and now we’ve had 2 boys together. Mari is 16, Kodi is 15, Miltwan is 11, and Ashton is 6.

I love my job. I like putting people in a better mood when all it takes is a plate of food. The Residents might think it’s a big thing they’re asking for, but usually it’s just a small thing like a dinner roll. They look forward to the three meals each day, and I try to make them special.

I work the 10:30-7:30 shift. When I come in, I prep for the lunch meal and get everything stocked from juice to condiments. Morrison’s has a daily meeting at 10:30. I serve lunch in Memory Center, then pick up afterwards. There is usually a little down time before it’s time to get ready to prep dinner, serve dinner, and clean up afterwards.
GETTING TO KNOW

Going through the trash to find the Resident’s dentures wasn’t a big deal to me. That’s just how my parents raised me – to be a hard worker.

In my free time, I like spending time with my family. I’m a family man. I like throwing the football around with my boys. I do whatever my family has going on. We usually go to Michigan once a year to visit my family there for their annual camp reunion.

My family just moved into a new house, and we love it. It was a lot of work moving everything on a hot day in July, but it was worth it.”

ATKINS
Continued from page 1 ........................

They have consistently supported the efforts of Saint Simeon’s nearly every year for 44 years. Ellen’s late mother, Golden Etter Colley, was a Saint Simeon’s Resident in the early 1980’s.

Ellen and Don are both originally from Oklahoma. Don grew up in Ardmore, and Ellen in Tulsa, and both were the only children in their families. They met while attending the University of Oklahoma. Don explained that within 60 days of college graduation, they got married, he enlisted in the army, and he got confirmed in the Episcopal Church. “It was a whirlwind.”

During his time in the military, Don was stationed in Greenland and Goose Bay, Canada. “Aircraft couldn’t fly all the way to Great Britain and Europe without refueling, so they had to land in Greenland for more fuel,” Don shared.

Don served as an administrative officer during his two years in the military.

In March of 1953, Don returned home to Tulsa, and after much searching, the couple found a house in the fall. He went to work as a CPA and started attending night law school at the University of Tulsa. Many of his professors were practicing lawyers.

He mentioned that Judge Joe Morris, another long-time Saint Simeon’s supporter, was “the best professor I ever had.”

When Don finished law school in 1957, he went to work at McKee and Schuler, which eventually became McKee, Schuler and Atkins. In the early 1970’s, he went to work at Jones Givens, Doyle, Gotcher and Atkins, and a few years later, he started his own firm. In 1983, their son, Blake, joined him while he was going through a similar situation as Don’s – attending night law school and starting his career.

Don still works at Atkins and Atkins, where the newest member of the team, Mandy and Blake’s son, Price, came on board in January.

Ellen and Don have been married 66 years. They have three children – Leslie, Blake and Mark – and five grandchildren. They are active members at St. John’s Episcopal Church.

Don is a Saint Simeon’s Trustee Emeritus. His leadership as a Trustee spans from 1988-2003 and includes some of Saint Simeon’s greatest strides – the creation and opening of the Memory Center and the early planning of the Dotson Family Assisted Living Center. Don’s keen ability to offer strategic advice for Saint Simeon’s, while at the same time keeping the needs of Residents top of mind, has helped position Saint Simeon’s well over its 57 years.

Don’s son Blake is now serving as Executive Vice-Chair for the Saint Simeon’s Board of Trustees. We are proud of the Atkins’ tradition of Trustee leadership spanning two generations.

Over the years, Ellen and Don have supported nearly every initiative at Saint Simeon’s. Their recent contribution made possible a special music program, Keys to Memory, in the Memory Center. Complete with a clavinova and unique training for staff members, their generosity provides hours of joyful, music-filled experiences for Residents with memory loss.

Truly humble people, Ellen and Don have quietly made a great deal possible at Saint Simeon’s. We are delighted to celebrate their generosity and leadership as Honorary Chairs for Western Days 2017.
Dear Residents, Families, and Friends of Saint Simeon’s

I remember my first Western Days event. The year was 2006, and it was Western Days number 10! At that time, we set up a tent on the back administrative parking lot, which was basically on the other side of those double doors leading from the Foundation Office into the current Dotson Family Assisted Living Center! There was a small bit of paved parking there, and that was the official site of Western Days.

The event was a bit smaller back then than it is now. We usually had catered BBQ, a few tables covered in red and white gingham tablecloths, and in the days leading up to Western Days, I was called upon to pray for good weather! The General Store was there, as was the Silent Auction, and of course, the Live Auction. It was crowded! It was either very warm or cool because of rain! But we had a very good time, and many memories of people and days gone by were shared there.

Today’s Western Days event is quite a bit larger, and also a lot of fun! Like in the earlier days, people gather to celebrate a place that has brought comfort, care, and peace to many people’s lives. It is a big Saint Simeon’s family reunion, in which supporters, families of current and former Residents, volunteers, Residents themselves, and many staff members share stories and memories, and catch up with one another. Importantly, Western Days is also a time when we raise funds to help Saint Simeon’s provide equipment and services that directly meet the needs of the Residents.

I hope you can make it to the 21st Western Days celebration on Tuesday, September 12th at the Cox Business Center in downtown Tulsa. It will be fun, and if you are there, it will be even more fun! Here’s a picture of some of the high class entertainment we had in the tent at Western Days 2006!

Blessings to you,
Fr. Bill Holly †
This month Dezi Kinzer, one of the Nursing students who was here doing her clinicals, has written an article for us. She was so taken with Simone that she wanted to write about what she learned in her studies and got to experience firsthand with Simone.

---

Magical Simone

I read an article from “Nursing Homes: Long Term Care Management” entitled, A Touch of Magic. It talks about using a service dog for dementia care. The article describes a 63-bed special care community that was having problems keeping Residents away from exits that triggered alarms and subsequently took up staff time.

They decided to find a well-tampered dog and train it to distract Residents by gently leading them away from the exits. They also had other objectives. The dog could encourage residents to interact more and create a more home-like environment.

The challenge they faced was finding a dog that would fit their needs. It must have a good temperament, tolerate wheelchairs and walkers, visitors, etc. They had to prepare a place for the dog to stay and a care routine as well. After finding a dog and training her, they started the program. Sure enough, the result was that fewer Residents tried to exit. Everyone found it easier to visit with the Residents because they now had something to talk about every day. The Residents loved having the dog. The staff was also appreciative, and the families could see the joy it brought their loved ones.

Simone, Saint Simeon’s Golden Retriever, is also known as the Chief Executive Cuddler. She comes to work every day with her caregiver, Kathy Hinkle. Simone goes everywhere Kathy goes and sometimes on her own. She knows who has dog biscuits in their rooms! On Thursdays, a volunteer, Jan Osborn, takes her to every area of the Home. Simone plays a big part in the lives of the Residents, and they even have a birthday party each year for her. At the party, Simone asks for donations for cats and dogs in need. She also participates in the community at various events like the Alzheimer’s Association Memory Walk and Parkinson’s Association’s Walk.

I already knew that I liked the idea of a dog in a long-term setting. However, it wasn’t until Saint Simeon’s allowed me to take Simone into the Memory Center that I got to see firsthand the amazing transformation in the Residents when she is around. The second she walked into the room, many of the Residents perked up. They began to call her over and petted her and loved on her. After seeing how everyone, including visiting family members acted around her, I feel like every community should have their own loveable Chief Executive Cuddler!

Would you be interested or do you know someone who would be interested in becoming a Saint Simeon’s Simone volunteer? You can pick your day and time. Your duties? Take Simone around in the Home and brighten the life of everyone you encounter. Contact Kathy Hinkle at 918-794-1946 or khinkle@saintsimeons.org if you’re interested!
Aug. 1 was Clown Day at Saint Simeon’s! Staff and Residents were welcomed to dress as clowns. We were able to bring joy to a lot of Residents!

To add to the happiness at Saint Simeon’s, we are now holding Laughter Yoga programs twice a week! They are held on Tuesdays at 1:30 in the HealthCare Center and Thursdays at 10:30 in the Game Room in upstairs Dotson Family Assisted Living Center. All are welcome!
Welcome to our Family!

Artita Wood
Katherine Amend
Marian Pelt
Peggy Koch
Thurman Pelt

Join our Walk to End Alzheimer’s Team!

The Tulsa Walk to End Alzheimer’s will be held the morning of Saturday, Sept. 23 at The University of Tulsa. To join Saint Simeon’s team, visit tulawalk.org, select “Join a Team,” and “St. Simeon’s.” If you have any questions, please contact Lindsay Morris at lmorris@saintsimeons.org or 918-794-1945.

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.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28
6:00-7:30 P.M.

SAINT SIMEON’S SMITH CONFERENCE ROOM
3701 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Tulsa.

Free and open to families of Saint Simeon’s and members of the community who have loved ones with dementia. Complimentary dinner is served. Please RSVP by September 25: 918-794-1945.

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.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Tuesday, October 3, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. in the Common Room

We welcome you to bring your pets to receive a special blessing from Fr. Bill Holly! Simone will of course be there to receive her blessing.
Our Residents had a great time during an outing to the Tea Room at the Belvedere Mansion in Claremore!