

Samaritan Times

BUILDING OUR FOUNDATION TOGETHER

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Visit ersfoundation.org
to learn more about the
programs and services
made possible through
charitable support.

ERS
Foundation



Bob and Connie Reed, and grateful SND participants Stephanie and Joyce, enjoy a delicious lunch at Ali Baba.

Lead Gift Propels Swipe 'N' Dine within \$150K of Goal

With a desire to address social isolation and loneliness, Dr. and Mrs. Robert Reed have generously committed a \$100,000 gift to help ensure the future of one of ERS's newest outreach initiatives, Swipe 'N' Dine.

An innovative partnership with the Council on Aging of Southwest Ohio, Swipe 'N' Dine gathers older adults regularly at local restaurants and community venues. While the promise of a delicious and healthy meal may initially draw them in, most say it's the friendships, sense of belonging and renewed purpose to their days that keep them coming back.

Bob and Connie are longtime friends of Episcopal Retirement

Services and champions for older adults. "Over the years, we have seen ERS succeed in other areas of helping those in need," reflects Bob, who served on the Board of Directors from 2014 to 2019 and chaired the campaign supporting the \$20 million renovation of Marjorie P. Lee in 2018. During the pandemic, Bob and Connie helped make a new dedicated facility possible for the Deupree Meals on Wheels operation, now also home to Swipe 'N' Dine. In addition, they have been strong champions of Affordable Living.

"Giving to those in need fills a need for us," explains Bob. "We find in our post-retirement years a need to give back to a community that has been so generous to us."

Story continued on page 3

Our Mission: *We enrich the lives of older adults
in a person-centered, innovative, and spiritually-based way.*

Letter to Donors

Dear Friends,

“I’ve led a rich life.”

As you read this issue of the Samaritan Times, I hope you are inspired by the stories and perspectives of those whose lives have been deeply touched by the people and services of ERS. Despite the challenges of aging they and their loved ones may currently face, the same sentiment emerged again and again. Barbara, Marilyn, and Micha each reflected independently on “a rich life.”

This made me stop and ponder: What does it really mean to live a rich life?

From what I gather, a rich life is one lived with gratitude, meaningful relationships, fulfillment and a deep sense of purpose.

Several years ago, we asked our staff what they love most about working for ERS. Most shared gratefulness for the relationships they share with those they serve and with one another along with a sense of purpose they find in their work—and the understanding that what they do truly makes a difference in someone else’s life.

When you make a gift to ERS, you empower the older adults we serve to live a rich life as well as those who serve and care for them. For that, we are truly grateful.

Gratefully,



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Special thanks to the ERS Marketing Team for support in creating this edition of the Samaritan Times

Swipe 'N' Dine

continued from cover page

Getting to the Core of Healthy Aging: Swipe 'N' Dine

Stephanie and Barry have been participants of Swipe 'N' Dine since the inception of the program several years ago. It has become a very important part of their lives.



Barry, retired from a distinguished career as a rabbi and professor of theology and described by a former student as “a true mensch, brilliant scholar and fabulous teacher,” began showing signs of dementia in 2021. Stephanie, an educator by profession, began educating herself on how to create the best life for Barry and herself. Maintaining social connections became a top priority.

With Swipe 'N' Dine, they initially embraced the communal dining program at the Deer Park Library where they met people from all walks of life. At a time when Barry was beginning to struggle to keep up with conversations with former colleagues, they found common ground with their new acquaintances “just talking about everyday life,” recalls Stephanie.

As dining in larger groups became more challenging, they switched to going to participating restaurants with just a few friends. Chris is their regular server at Frisch's. “He knows we like to sit in the quiet corner and that Barry likes just one ice cube in his lemonade.” Ali

Baba Mediterranean Grille owner Simon Awad, pictured here, always greets them with a warm welcome.

Like many retirees, Stephanie and Barry are facing expenses they hadn't anticipated, and disposable income is limited. Even so, Stephanie reflects that they “live a very rich life.” They enjoy attending programs throughout the community and taking scenic drives together. She credits Swipe 'N' Dine for helping Barry maintain social skills.

“As I get older, I find I am more grateful for what I have. I appreciate the meals we receive. We are able to go out more because of Swipe 'N' Dine.”

We Are \$150,000 from Achieving Our \$1M Campaign Goal!

With sincere gratitude, ERS thanks the many individual donors, foundations, faith partners, and businesses that have contributed to the Swipe 'N' Dine campaign to date, in addition to funds provided by the Council on Aging of SW Ohio.

To learn more about Swipe 'N' Dine, or make a gift, visit erslife.info/snd or contact a Fund Development Staff Member listed on Page 2.

Memory Support

Where Hope and Memories Meet

While there is currently no cure for Alzheimer's disease and most dementias, there is still hope.

ERS is in the midst of a \$250,000 Memory Support Mini-Campaign. Gifts from friends like you help ensure that innovative, person-centered programs—including those shared here—continue to grow and evolve. Your support will bring comfort, connection, belonging, and resources to individuals and families navigating this difficult time in their lives.

You are at the corner of hope and memories.

With your support, we can continue moving in the right direction. Together, we can provide a light for those in need of hope and help.



Mind Fit



At Marjorie P. Lee, a special group of Independent Living residents gather regularly in the coffee lounge for cognitive stimulation and

social connection with peers experiencing early memory loss. Wednesdays are a favorite, when Rosie Abel from TheKey leads Mind Fit, a series of brain games promoting memory recall, critical thinking, language skills, and social interaction. It's a welcoming space where new friendships and support systems take shape.

"At first, I was hesitant to come," admitted one participant. "But we're all in the same boat and it has really helped my confidence—and it's so good to laugh together."

Mental Health and Dementia



Depression later in life is more than an emotional struggle—it is also linked to a higher risk of developing dementia. Through the Well Being

initiative in Affordable Living, and in partnership with the Xavier University Center for Population Health, mental health has been identified as a significant unmet need amongst residents. In response, we have expanded programs and resources with community partners like the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), pictured here.

One resident shares, "This is the only program I have come to in months, and I needed it. I needed to hear that I am not the only one with these challenges."

Java Music



Music can trigger personal memories, spark recognition of people, places, and emotions, and sometimes enable moments of clarity and connection even in later-stage dementia. Java Music is a

program offered to residents of Deupree Cottages and Marjorie P. Lee, led by Deacon Fred McGavran. Together, residents choose a topic and related songs to discuss and view pictures that bring the theme to life. Deacon Fred guides the conversation, encouraging everyone to express themselves and listen to one another. Each session concludes with participants sharing something they are thankful for that day.

DD Farmer, Cottages Household Coordinator, marvels, “Residents who don’t normally converse really open up and have a genuine response to Deacon Fred’s questions. It is amazing!”

When Connections Matter Most

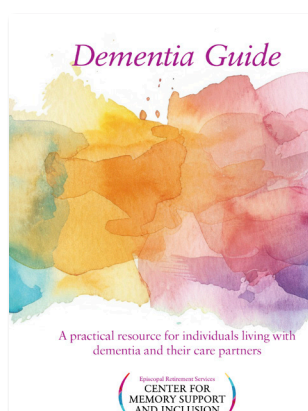


Many living with dementia remain at home, cared for by a devoted loved one. As the disease progresses, it can become harder to leave the house and stay engaged in activities that once brought joy. At the same time,

friendships often grow distant at a time when connections matter most. To fill this gap, the Center for Memory Support and Inclusion partners with arts, cultural, and nature organizations to offer engaging programs that bring purpose, stimulation, entertainment, respite and new friendships.

Reflecting on their first program, a caregiver spouse recalls, “I was overwhelmed with stress at the time, but almost immediately, I felt a sense of relief and belonging—surrounded by compassionate staff and others who understood the journey we were on.”

Dementia Guide - A Resource for All



Thanks to the generosity of The Sutphin Family Foundation, ERS has released an all-new Dementia Guide. Filled with valuable information about dementia diagnoses and what to expect, the guide offers communication tips, brain health strategies, and practical

tools for navigating everyday challenges and major decisions. Designed for individuals living with dementia, caregivers, and anyone who knows someone on this journey, the guide serves as a compassionate and helpful resource for every stage of care.



Resources to Use and Share

ERS Dementia Guide

Download at erslife.info/Guide, scan the QR code or call the number below to request a mailed copy

Learn more about the Center for Memory Support and Inclusion Free Programs at erslife.info/CMSIprograms

Access One-on-One Support

Contact Shannon Braun, Director of the Center for Memory Support and Inclusion at 513.979.2302 or sbraun@erslife.org

Memory Support Living Options with ERS

Visit erslife.info/MemorySupport

Gifts to the Good Samaritan Mission Fund
designated to the

Supporting Memory Support Campaign

help expand life-enriching programs,
education and support for those
at risk of, or living with, dementia.

Our goal is to raise

\$250,000

Your help gives hope.

Feature Article

Marilyn's Legacy of Giving



Thirteen years ago, Marilyn Sesler moved to Deupree House from Columbus after the death of her husband, hoping to be closer to two of her three children in Cincinnati. What she found went far beyond family proximity.

“I found a home. I have built a rich life here, one that allows me to continue living out the values that have always mattered most: lifelong learning, faith, family, and serving others.”

Now a beloved member of the Deupree community, Marilyn is grateful not only for the friendships and activities that enrich her daily life, but for the staff who show up with skill, dedication, and genuine care. She appreciates that ERS invests in its people—providing training, career development, and support that help staff grow and thrive.

Her gratitude extends well beyond Deupree's walls. Marilyn is moved by ERS's commitment to older adults across the region, and by the knowledge that the Good Samaritan Mission makes so much of that work possible. It is that commitment to the future that recently led Marilyn to take a meaningful step: including ERS in her estate plan.

“I deeply care about ERS and its future. The number of older adults is growing, and I want to make sure they have access to the impactful services ERS provides. I feel good knowing I can make a difference now—and for generations to come.”

Marilyn has supported the Good Samaritan Mission for many years. It was important to her that she continue that support after she is gone—so she has set up a gift that will carry her legacy forward. We are deeply grateful for Marilyn's generosity and her trust in ERS's mission.

New Tax Law Expands Benefits for Charitable Gifts in 2026

- Taxpayers who take the standard deduction (non-itemizers) can still receive a limited tax deduction for charitable gifts: Up to \$1,000 for single filers and \$2,000 for married couples filing jointly.
- For taxpayers who itemize, charitable deductions may be taken on contributions exceeding 0.5% of Adjusted Gross Income (AGI).

We encourage you to consult your tax advisor to discuss how these changes may affect your giving in 2026 and beyond.

For assistance in making a gift to further the mission of ERS, contact Joy Blang at jblang@erslife.org or 513-979-2313 or Elise Hyder at ehyder@erslife.org or 513-979-2307.

Expert Advice

Meaningful and Smart: Gifting Through an IRA



For 75 years, ERS has provided exceptional residential and healthcare communities and outreach services for older adults—becoming part of the lives of generations of families.

Some consider a gift in gratitude for the care they or a loved one has received, or choose to pay it forward so ERS can continue serving others for years to come. Carefully considering giving strategies can maximize the benefit to ERS and provide valuable tax advantages for you.

If you are over the age of 70½, a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) can be made from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA).

A few considerations:

- If you don't itemize your income tax deductions, a QCD provides the tax benefits of an itemized income tax charitable deduction.
- If you are age 73 and must take a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD), your QCD gift can satisfy your RMD without increasing your income taxes.
- The total of all of your QCD gifts for 2026 cannot exceed \$111,000 per person however, your spouse with a separate IRA can also make a QCD of up to \$111,000 in 2026 if they otherwise qualify.

You may also designate ERS in your estate plan as the recipient of some or all of what's left of your IRA or 410(k), 403(b) or other Qualified Retirement Plan—at the end of your lifetime. A tax-smart estate planning strategy is to contribute taxable Qualified Retirement Plan assets to ERS and preserve non-retirement plan assets for your heirs.

**Consult a financial advisor to include your charitable giving decisions as part of your comprehensive financial plan. For some, including a QCD, it is crucial that the gift is made directly to ERS. Also, be aware that some do not allow you to receive any benefits in exchange for your gift, like attending a gala event.*

Chip Workman, CFP® is a Certified Financial Planner™, Senior Wealth Advisor and Director with Mercer Advisors, a registered investment advisory firm with local offices in Montgomery. Born and raised in Cincinnati, he has spent his career in financial services, helping the individuals and families he serves navigate all the various aspects of their personal financial lives. Chip currently serves as Chair of the Board of ERS and serves on the ERS Foundation and Affordable Living Boards. He is also a member of the Finance, Personnel and Swipe 'N' Dine Campaign Committees. Chip is involved in ERS because he truly believes it serves as a model for how senior care should be delivered across the spectrum of constituents.

Hopple Gift to Adair Gardens

Hopples' Love of Nature Extends to Marjorie P. Lee

While a resident of Marjorie P. Lee, Mary Hopple spent many hours in the Adair Gardens alongside her devoted husband, Bill. Through the seasons, Bill dreamed of restoring the space that was a source of peace and tranquility in trying times.

When Mary passed away in May 2025, Bill invited friends and family to make a gift and, together with his own generous contribution, brought that vision to life. Clete Benken of KZF Design and Pete Wimberg of Wimberg Landscaping—both with personal ties to Marjorie P. Lee—readily offered their expertise and services to help make the project possible.

Nearly a year after Mary's passing, a joyful celebration of her life and the newly restored garden was held in the Adair Gardens. Today, residents, staff, and visitors are finding comfort, beauty, and delight in the peace and renewal that nature provides.



Bill, with daughter Jess



In older adults, studies show that time spent in nature can be linked to better moods, decreased chance of depression, reduced stress levels and improved cognitive function.

History of the Adair Gardens

The Adair Gardens at Marjorie P. Lee are located in the courtyard beyond the Tom Craig Lobby, the original entrance to the community that opened in 1963. 75 years ago, Robert Adair served alongside Marjorie P. Lee herself as a founding board member of the Memorial Homes Foundation which later evolved into Episcopal Retirement Services. Robert remained committed to ERS throughout his lifetime.

Upon his death in 2005, ERS received a generous gift from Robert and Virginia Adair's estate to create an endowment for resident financial aid to ensure that no resident must ever leave their home due to lack of funds. The courtyard and gardens were renamed the Adair Gardens in their memory.

A Family's Gift of Gratitude

Daouds Honor Mother's Care

More than 15 years ago, Sonia Daoud visited the Deupree Cottages with her daughter, Micha, and said simply, "This is where I want to end up." Sonia was an expert planner—and she was right. She moved to Deupree House, built a full and rich life, and made lasting friendships with residents and staff alike.

When Sonia was diagnosed with dementia, ERS staff embraced her and her family with compassion and skill—helping her adapt, find meaning, and stay connected. When the time came for more care, they gave the family the space to make that decision at their own pace, eventually moving Sonia to the Cottages.

"ERS staff knew what our family needed before we did. They saw Mom's wonderful attributes, not her losses. They modeled the way for me and my siblings on how to interact with her—and when I said 'I wish you could have seen her at her best,' they replied, 'We see her, and we think she is amazing.'"

After Sonia's passing, her children—Rosie, Micha, and Emile—wanted to honor the care she had received. They made a generous gift to the Good Samaritan Mission, continuing the annual support their mother had given throughout her 15 years at ERS.

"It's no doubt Mom would have wanted us to do that—to continue her support to the organization she cherished. It makes us feel good knowing we are making a difference in the lives of seniors and their families, for an organization that has given us so much."



Pictured left to right: Micha, Sonia, Rosie, and Emile

Gatherings for Good

Gatherings for Good

INTIMATE & FUN EVENTS TO BENEFIT THE GOOD SAMARITAN MISSION

PRESENTED BY:



Falcon's Landing

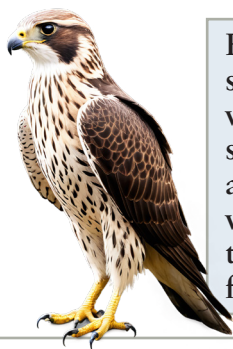
Friday, September 25 | 6:30 – 9:00 PM
Meshewa House at Turner Farm in Indian Hill

Sponsored by:
TheKey



Developed in the 1920s as part of Indian Hill's evolving equestrian community, Turner Farm's Meshewa House is dedicated to preserving both the land and the bucolic, bygone way of life it represents.

Wine, cocktails and hors d'oeuvres await guest arrival on the serene patio and courtyard. Before heading inside for a gourmet dinner, guests may explore the grounds and home or even take part in a live falconry encounter—the sport of kings!



Falcons symbolize courage, strength, protection and vigilance—characteristics we see every day in the older adults we serve and those who serve and support them—the perfect symbol for an ERS gathering!

The Sphere of Life

Friday, November 13 | 6:30 – 9:00 PM
Mercantile Immersive, Downtown Cincinnati

Sponsored by:
Bricker Graydon Wyatt and Mercer Advisors



Be among the first to experience this spectacular 360° multi-sensory cinematic event, bringing the level of spectacle seen at The Sphere Las Vegas to Cincinnati. Within the historic Mercantile Building, this exciting venue is the result of a unique collaboration between two ERS partners and sponsors: The Model Group and DelightMore.

Guests will be transported to another land, but this “mystery trip” won't be revealed until your arrival that evening! You may find yourself among the red rock canyons OR wandering an enchanted forest OR exploring a grand European chateau!

No matter where the night takes you, you can anticipate a lively evening that includes cocktails and hors d'oeuvres followed by a delicious dinner and great company.

Space is limited! Don't Delay! Register Today!

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.erslife.info/gala or call Sarah Meyer at 513.979.2308

Special thanks to DelightMore—official caterer of the 2026 Gatherings for Good Series!

Finding her Forever Home

Sharron's Fresh Start at Pedretti Place

Around this time last year, Sharron Tucker received a call from her grandson in Cincinnati. "He said, 'I found this place called ERS. It looks like it would be good for you.'"

Needing a fresh start, she drove down from Columbus to visit Pedretti Place, ERS' newest Affordable Living community. The community manager showed her around and described all of the services and amenities.

Sharron was stunned. "I remember thinking, I can't believe this. I've never heard of a place doing all of this! I finally looked at her and said, 'Are you for real?!'"

Raised in a military family, Sharron moved often and learned to embrace change. After becoming a single mother, she rebuilt her life in Texas and went on to successful careers as a police captain and later in computer science, moving to Ohio to be closer to her daughter.

But retirement "threw me for a loop," she admitted. Without a sense of purpose, depression crept in. "I became reclusive and sedentary. My health declined. I knew I had to get out of my rut."

Last fall, Sharron moved into Pedretti Place. It was a dramatic contrast from the apartment she had left behind, where loud music and bug infestations had become part of daily life. "I felt unsafe there," she said.

Today, she treasures the peace and quiet of her apartment and opportunities to make new friends, like Donna. She enjoys cooking classes, music programs, bus outings, and exercise classes. "I want to keep up with my great-grandbabies!" she said with a smile. Well Being Assistant Afton Palmer has noticed a difference. "I see Sharron's overall happiness expanding and a willingness to try new things," Afton said. "She has a lightness about her now."

Sharon says she's found her forever home. "ERS goes out of their way to make a beautiful community. Not just the building, but they take care of the people inside. We are individuals and we have value. It builds my self-esteem. I think I am a good person, but it is reinforced here. I don't feel like I am disposable."



ERS Foundation

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PREMIER SENIOR LIVING



Deupree House



Marjorie P. Lee

AFFORDABLE SENIOR LIVING



Affordable Living
Ohio • Indiana • Kentucky

IN-HOME AND COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES



Deupree Meals On Wheels



Living Well Senior Solutions



MIDDLE MARKET

Join Us for a Celebration 75 Years in the Making.

Since 1951, Episcopal Retirement Services has been dedicated to enhancing the aging experience and building communities rooted in compassion, excellence, and care. This year, we are thrilled to celebrate our 75th anniversary—and we want you to be a part of it! To mark this exciting milestone, we are hosting a series of identical anniversary celebrations across our communities between June and September.



Thank you for being an important part of our history and our future. We cannot wait to celebrate with you!



If you missed the recent celebrations at Marjorie P. Lee or St. Paul Village, there are more to come. Please RSVP at signupgenius.com/go/ERS_75thAnniversary or by using the QR code.



ERS Support Services Office

3870 Virginia Ave., Cincinnati, OH
July 30 | 2 - 4 PM

Canterbury Court

450 W. Elm St., West Carrollton, OH
August 21 | 10 AM - 12PM

Deupree House

3939 Erie Ave., Cincinnati, OH
September 2 | 2 - 4 PM

Episcopal Church Home

7504 Westport Rd., Louisville, KY
September 22 | 10 AM - 12 PM

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