Tennyson Senior Living Community Needs Donor Support

Tennyson Senior Living Community is the exciting residential campus under development by Independent Living, Inc. The much-anticipated community will be constructed on Madison’s northeast side, an area that shows a need for more senior living options.

Located on an eight-acre parcel on Tennyson Lane, the property will feature 75 independent apartments, 24 assisted living apartments and 36 memory care units in Phase I of the campus plan. The capital campaign to begin construction is now in full swing and there is urgency in reaching the monetary goals of the campaign. “We need to achieve certain benchmarks in order to start construction in Spring of 2016. We hope our community of friends will include us in their 2015 end of year charitable gifts. Please seriously consider a gift at this time,” says Rita Giovannoni, CEO.

Independent Living is a nonprofit organization; donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Inquiries regarding charitable contributions, including naming opportunities, should be directed to Arlen Moss, ILI Fund Development Director, at (608) 268-9631 or amoss@independentlivinginc.org.

“Independent Living, Inc. is a dedicated, local, charitable organization that has been serving greater Dane County for more than 40 years. The support of our neighbors, corporate friends, foundations and others is very important. In fact, without the shared vision of partners like UW Health, WPS Health Solutions, Goodman Foundation and others, building Tennyson would be just beyond our grasp. Contributions to the Tennyson Senior Living Community capital campaign ensure that our parents, grandparents and others have safe, affordable options for senior living in a community they have helped to build,” Moss says. Information is available by contacting Moss or online at www.independentlivinginc.org/support-our-work.html.

Creating a residential housing campus includes many tremendous opportunities to benefit residents and members of the public. Among them are a health and wellness center, and a nutrition program.

The health and wellness center is unique, due in part to its warm water aquatic therapy center with an underwater treadmill. Aquatic therapy has proven benefits, especially for those with arthritis, diabetic and peripheral neuropathy, chronic or joint pain, and post-operative orthopedic recovery, to name a few. The buoyancy and resistance of water facilitates strength and range of motion exercises, and improves mobility and balance. This leads to fall prevention. Falls are the leading cause of injury and

(continued on page 6)
By now, you may be aware that I have announced my retirement, effective December 31, 2015, from serving as CEO of Independent Living, Inc. It’s been rewarding, stimulating, challenging and ultimately inspiring to be a part of this organization since 1988, first as consultant and then as director in 1989.

While sorting through files, a newsletter from 1998 surfaced and it was a sweet memory to read. In it, I had this to say:

“Twenty-five years ago (1973), a STEP (Services to Elderly Persons) and a SMILE (Services to Maintain Independent Living for Elderly) merged to create Independent Living, Inc., resulting in enhanced independence for older and physically disabled adults in Dane County.

“Over the initial 25 years of its existence there has been significant growth and numerous challenges to overcome for Independent Living, Inc. And while we take great pride in where we have come and what we have accomplished, we also know we cannot rest on the past. We must continuously strive to identify and strategize on how to best meet the challenges that await us.”

Since 1998 what we have done together is pretty terrific. We have delivered to the seniors in our community 202 housing units located in Fitchburg, Madison, and Sun Prairie. We are now poised to add an additional 135 housing units on the northeast side of Madison by 2017. We have initiated our skilled home health care services through the Medicare program with our professional team of nurses, therapists and aides. These new programs in addition to the core programs that have been in place since 1998 have helped us to thrive and grow.

I am confident in Independent Living’s ability to continue its successful and exciting growth over the next 25 years. The next quarter century of service will be promising because of the commitment and passion of the board of directors, executive staff, program staff, volunteers, clients and community support with which we have been blessed, and their enthusiasm for the challenges that lie ahead.

It strikes me that as much as times have changed, many senior issues remain the same. We are fortunate that Joyce Behrend, the new CEO starting in January 2016, knows ILI very well having served as the CFO for the past 10 years. Joyce has capably guided this nonprofit through the recent financial recession and increasing competitive challenges. We are fortunate to have her leadership and expect a very seamless transition for the organization.

As for me, it’s not quite time to think of swan songs or riding into the sunset. I am continuing at ILI in a different role as project director for the Tennyson Senior Living Community, seeing the community through construction and initial occupancy. I look forward to focusing on this project that will benefit seniors who want to live on Madison’s northeast side, and I invite you to stay connected with me. We might actually have time for a cup of coffee, too!
Independent Living Welcomes Joyce Behrend as New CEO in 2016

The Board of Directors at Independent Living, Inc. have announced that Chief Financial Officer Joyce Behrend, CPA, will be the next CEO, effective January 1, 2016. Joyce has served as ILI’s CFO for more than ten years, managing all the financial functions of the non-profit charitable organization.

“Joyce brings an unparalleled depth of understanding of not only Independent Living’s day-to-day operations, but of the financial landscape our organization must navigate to successfully provide high quality service to those in our care,” said ILI Board President Tom Shorter.

Joyce is assuming the top spot upon the retirement of longtime ILI CEO Rita Giovannoni at the end of 2015. “Rita has been the driving force behind ILI since 1989, and our organization has thrived under her leadership,” said Shorter. “We are thankful for her tireless advocacy on behalf of the people we serve and for the solid foundation she has helped build so that we can continue to grow in the future. She will continue as project director for Tennyson Senior Living Community.”

Tennyson Senior Living Community, to be built on Madison’s northeast side, will be the organization’s newest and largest property. Independent Living, Inc. currently offers senior living communities in Madison, Fitchburg and Sun Prairie, as well as numerous in-home services and home health care.

Given its many in-home service programs and care facilities, ILI is more complicated than the typical non-profit organization. It is Joyce’s success in managing this financial complexity that earned her the 2014 Non-Profit CFO of the Year award from In Business magazine. “Joyce has shown great acumen in maintaining an impeccable accounting system upon which ILI can rely on as we plan ahead,” Shorter said. “We look forward to her leadership as we move into 2016 and beyond.”

Joyce is a 1981 graduate of the UW Madison School of Business and has held her CPA license since graduation. She and her husband Jim, also a CPA, have three sons, one of whom is also a CPA.

Our Programs

We help you or someone you know remain independent at home.
Thank you, Dane County community, for trusting your care to us for more than 40 years.
We look forward to caring for you for years to come.
Call for information today
608-274-7900

Supportive Services
Caregiver Respite
Evening Meals on Wheels
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Home Care
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Medication Management
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Home Health Care
Independent Health Care, Inc. (Medicare-certified home health care agency)

Services from Volunteers
Telephone Reassurance
Friendly Visiting
Kibble on Wheels
Chore Corps
Health Advocate, plus more

Senior Living
The Gardens, Madison
Segoe Gardens, Madison
McKee Park Apartments, Fitchburg
Olympic Village, Sun Prairie

Your local connection to an independent life since 1973

Pictured at the 2014 CFO of the Year Awards are Joyce Behrend, left, and Rita Giovannoni.
Collaborations Benefit Adults Served by Independent Living

By Arlen Moss

Independent Living, Inc. and WPS Health Solutions are partnering to support seniors and adults with disabilities. Employees of WPS held an impromptu fundraiser and chose ILI to be the recipient of $1002. This unexpected gift highlights a longstanding relationship between ILI and WPS. Currently, 16 employees of this insurance stalwart are volunteers with ILI. WPS and ILI plan to increase the volunteers, offer orientation and information sessions on the WPS campus, and host events for collaborative fundraising to benefit people served by Independent Living.

Volunteer Services Manager Dan Barlow is fond of saying, “The need (among seniors and adults with disabilities) in Dane County is so great that I can find a match with one of our clients for nearly any skill-set among potential volunteers.” Independent Living has more than 400 volunteers supporting the interests and needs of its clients. The quintessential ILI services of Evening Meals on Wheels and Kibble on Wheels could not exist without volunteer drivers. From snow shoveling to Wii bowling tournaments, ILI volunteer opportunities run the gamut.

As so many of these contributors are employed by WPS, it was only natural that the two organizations strengthened their bond. To that end, ILI representatives spent a day at WPS corporate offices in Madison providing information regarding Independent Living, Inc. services and volunteer opportunities. Joined in the WPS Nordby Building cafeteria by an International Day of Persons with Disabilities informational display, ILI distributed numerous volunteer applications and information to the lunchtime crowds.

We’ll be happy to share updates regarding WPS Health Solutions and Independent Living, Inc. collaborations. If you would like to volunteer your skills to help support seniors and adults with disabilities or if you’re in need of volunteer services, please call Volunteer Services at (608) 268-9641.

Recognizing Work Well Done

By Rita Giovannoni

Throughout the year, Independent Living clients and housing residents are generous in expressing their thanks for the hard work of our employees. At this time of year, with the holidays, there may be a tendency to offer an employee a gift, gratuity, or other item of monetary or sentimental value. It is against policy for employees to accept such gifts, although the intent is certainly appreciated.

One way our employees are recognized for their good work is through our annual employee appreciation event. Donations to help fund this event are welcome. To ensure that your donation is used specifically for employee recognition, simply direct your contribution to “Staff Appreciation.” It’s that easy. If you have questions regarding this or any gifting opportunity, please contact Arlen Moss, Fund Development Director, at 268-9631.

Our employees take pride in their work and thank you for the opportunity to serve you throughout the year!

Please Like Us on Facebook

On our Facebook page, you will find mini-stories about people who perform, inspire, build, create and more. You are invited to visit us many times at www.facebook.com/indlivinginc and we hope you will “like” us!
Volunteers are AMAZING
By Dan Barlow

The snow season of 2015-2016 kicked off with a sneaky surprise in November. With what will surely become known as the Great Pre-Thanksgiving Blizzard of 2015 gifting us with several inches of fresh powder, we would like to thank two special groups of volunteers. You probably know already who these people are: We give our sincere thanks to the snow removers and the meal deliverers for your dedication to the clients we both serve.

As fall evolves into winter, and winter evolves into . . . well . . . more snow and cold, there will always be a need for friendly drivers for the Evening Meals on Wheels program, and for stalwart snow shovelers on “white out” days. This is especially true during the holiday season, when our elderly clients may have an extra visitor and therefore a little extra anxiety about safe access to their home. The impact volunteers have in these circumstances is enormous, and we can’t express enough gratitude for your help during the holiday season. Please accept our deep appreciation for what you do.

If you and your family or friends are interested in making an extra gift of your time to help someone through the holidays, OR if you or someone you know may need a little help getting through the holiday or winter season, please contact the Volunteer Department at Independent Living, Inc., at (608) 268-9641 or coordinator@independentlivinginc.org.

Ralph Cohen has been a volunteer delivering Evening Meals on Wheels for eight years. He’s pictured giving an interview to Channel 3 WISC TV about his experiences.

Chauffeured Rides at Your Service
By Linda Lane, COO

Independent Living is “rolling” out a great new option in transportation services for seniors and adults with disabilities. Clients have another choice for their favorite “ride!” Instead of one of our accessible vans, clients could choose to enjoy a relaxing trip in one of our company cars along with a fun and attentive driver of their very own.

Independent Living has a small fleet of three cars that can be available for appointments throughout the week. The vehicles are a 2012 Subaru Forrester, 2011 Honda Element, and 2013 Ford Focus. All drivers go through a background check and screening to be sure that they are safe and reliable.

This new service is perfect for salon appointments, lunch with friends, attendance at senior center activities, rides home from the hospital, shopping and other purposes. We are available to be the chauffeur and carry the grocery bags!

Whether van or car, our transportation service is more than “door to door.” You are never left alone to find your way by yourself. Consider the complexity of University Hospital: picture traditional transportation where an individual is dropped off at the front entrance and, on their own, having to find their way to a particular clinic. Now imagine using our service, where drivers escort clients to their clinic waiting room, as well as wait for them to complete their visit…now that is extraordinary service.

In our ongoing effort to improve client service and experience, we are excited to offer this transportation enhancement.

Appointments are easily made by calling 274-7900. We look forward to putting clients on the road to independence!
hospitalizations for trauma and death among older adults. Wisconsin has a death rate twice the national average for unintentional falls, according to the Wisconsin Department of Human Services.

Tied to physical fitness is good nutrition. Balanced, healthy meals, fresh made by chefs, will be produced in the new commercial kitchen at Tennyson. In addition to a resident dining area with outdoor terrace, there will be a charming bakery/café open to the public. The commercial kitchen also will be the new home for the Evening Meals on Wheels program, the only program of its kind serving the greater Madison area.

The kitchen is designed with room to grow. With Baby Boomers turning 65 at the rate of 10,000 per day, the threat of going hungry increases, too. Meals on Wheels America estimates that 1 in 6 seniors face the threat of hunger. The reasons for hunger vary. It may be financial, a choice between medication or food. It may be a cognitive decline, no longer aware that it’s time to eat or how to prepare food. It may be an injury or illness that makes food preparation exhausting.

Inquiries are welcome. People interested in becoming a resident at Tennyson are encouraged to list their names with Sue Berg at 268-9628 or sberg@independentlivinginc.org. Presentations about Tennyson are available for groups who want to learn more. For arrangements, call 274-7900 and talk to Rita Giovannoni, Arlen Moss or Sue Berg.

Notes from Fund Development

By Arlen Moss

On behalf of Independent Living, Inc. we would like to express our gratitude to the 118 golfers and sponsors who enjoyed a great day of comradery and fun at our University Ridge golf outing on September 24th, 2015. The second annual ILI golf outing raised approximately $30,000 toward the Tennyson Senior Living Community capital campaign. A special thanks to our key sponsors who also were members of the golf steering committee: Zimbrick Honda, CG Schmidt, First Business Financial, Savant Capital Management, Tricor Insurance and Wegner CPAs! Without your guidance and contributions, this event would not have been possible.

Notable: The 3rd annual Independent Living, Inc. golf outing will be held at University Ridge golf course on Thursday, September 22nd, 2016! If you would like to join the golf steering committee to help with planning or have interest in sponsorships, please contact Fund Development Director Arlen Moss at (608) 268-9631 or amoss@independentlivinginc.org.
**A Special Thank You Letter**

The home safety modification team at Independent Living recently received a special thank you letter from the adult children of a unique client. The client needed changes at home and struggled cognitively with the process. The letter is shared here with permission. Kudos to our team of specialists: Jonathan Rossall, department manager (and occasional handyman); Ron Budziszewski, certified occupational therapy assistant who conducts home assessments, and Jerrold Woolley, licensed carpenter who builds, removes, and installs just about anything.

**Dear Independent Living, Inc.,**

First let me thank you for all the work, time and energy you have put forth on my mother’s residence to continue to make it accessible to her as she ages. This has been a challenging process with my mother. She has a progressive illness that causes her to be suspicious, anxious, have poor judgement and her memory to deteriorate. This has made the completion of the project a challenge and almost a moving target for you.

I am sure there were countless calls and endless conversations over the months, and I appreciate the willingness to do the right thing. Many others have just written her off as demanding, confused, and irritating. I commend your organization for the diligence, patience and willingness to continue to completion. We have struggled with many other organizations who have, at the first opportunity, “dumped” her. While I can see how her behaviors could cause that to be, I appreciate that it did not happen here.

My sister and I want to sincerely thank you for the services provided to my mom and most of all for treating her with dignity and respect.

Sincerely,

Kassia M

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**ILI Welcomes New Board Member**

Jocelyn G. DeWitt, PhD, has joined the Independent Living, Inc. Board of Directors. She is senior vice president and chief information officer (CIO) at UW Health. The first CIO at UW Health, she oversees the Health Information Services Department, an integration of UW Medical Foundation Information Services and UW Hospital and Clinics Information Technology Systems. Previously, she was CIO for the University of Michigan Hospitals and Health Centers. She has an undergraduate degree from UW-Madison, master’s degree from Boston University, and doctorate from University of Illinois.

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**New TV Show Features Home Modification Manager**

Wonder what to do to make your home safe at every age? Everything from grab bars to medical equipment, and from ramps to Universal Design are subjects of a new local TV talk show.

Jonathan Rossall shares insights during monthly interviews with “Talking Fitchburg,” a program aired on Fitchburg Access Community Television. Segments from the TV show—including interviews with Rossall—are available online.

Rossall is the manager of the home safety modifications department at Independent Living, Inc. Program host Jeremy Crosby interviews Rossall about everything from adaptive equipment like toilet seat risers to Universal Design, which focuses on making spaces and products accessible to all regardless of age or ability. Rossall has a bachelor’s degree in physics, and is certified by the National Association of Home Builders as an Aging in Place Specialist.

The first program with Rossall aired in November, and it can be viewed at www.independentlivinginc.org/home-safety-modification.html.
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When you shop online at AmazonSmile, Amazon will donate to Independent Living. Support us every time you shop!

It’s so easy. When you shop on AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to the eligible charitable organization of your choice. Simply select Independent Living, Inc.!

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Thank you for choosing to shop and do a good deed that helps others. Thank you for choosing to support seniors and adults with disabilities served by Independent Living, Inc.