

Baptist Retirement Communities of Georgia

DISCOVER

END OF YEAR CELEBRATION!



HIAWASSEE PARK

|

PALMETTO PARK

FEATURES

- BRCGA Team
- Monthly Activity Spotlight
- Resident Articles

PROPERTY HIGHLIGHTS

- Location Updates
- Amenities



Baptist Retirement Communities of Georgia

TEAM

Our Corporate Staff



SHANNON WATSON
President/CEO



SHARALENE ROPER
Vice President



AMANDA KIRKINDOLL
HR Coordinator & Corporate Secretary



ALICIA ROGERS
Executive Director, Hiawassee Park



MATTHEW GALYON
Executive Director, Palmetto Park



JOANNA HANNAH
Corporate Development Director



MEGAN EYRICH
Corporate Marketing Director

Baptist Retirement Communities of Georgia Teams

HIAWASSEE PARK SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITY



Dodie Thomas,
Office Manager



Kim Farmer,
Lifestyles Director



Dara Dyer,
Hospitality Partner



Marty Ledford,
Maintenance
Director



Scott Cody,
Maintenance
Partner



Chad Vesely,
Maintenance
Partner



Wayne Garner,
Maintenance
Partner

PALMETTO PARK SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITY



Belinda Dishman,
Office Manager



Charlie Koehl,
Lifestyles Director



Joel Nelson,
Facilities Director



Craig Morrison,
Maintenance Partner



Jarvis Wright,
Multi-services,
General Manager
of Sodexo



Pretoria Cheely,
Dining Services
Manager



Michael Burley,
Maintenance Partner

Celebrating a Year of Remarkable Achievements in HR

As we reflect on the past year, it's evident that our Human Resources department has achieved remarkable milestones. We're excited to build on this new foundation as we head into 2024, with a strong commitment to supporting and investing in each team member's growth, both individually and collectively. One of the most significant accomplishments this year has been achieving full staffing across all our locations—a goal that hadn't been reached in many years. This success is a testament to the relentless efforts of our Executive Directors, who worked tirelessly to bring on board exceptional new employees.

In a move that was met with heartfelt appreciation from our staff, the Board of Trustees approved our pay raise recommendations. This decision followed an extensive salary study conducted by our corporate team, demonstrating our dedication to recognizing and valuing the hard work of our employees.

We've also made significant strides in enhancing the knowledge and skills of our team members through mandatory monthly training sessions. Covering a wide array of crucial topics, including Workers' Compensation, Driver's Training, 401(k) Guidance, and more, these sessions have empowered our staff with essential tools and information.



Looking ahead, we are eager to further refine our training initiatives by seeking input from our valued team members. By surveying them on their preferences for future training, we aim to ensure that our development programs are tailored to their specific needs and aspirations.

A standout achievement this year was the recognition bestowed upon Megan Eyrich, our Corporate Marketing Director.



Her exceptional dedication and contributions led to her being selected as one of the 2023 Future Leaders in the Aging Media Network's Senior Housing & Senior Living Industry—an honor that we celebrate with immense pride.

In the upcoming year, we are excited to embark on a new chapter of leadership development. Our team members will have the opportunity to attend two-day team & leadership training workshops through the Winshape Foundation, an initiative founded by Chick-fil-A founder Truett Cathy and his wife Jeannette.

Additionally, we've completed performance evaluations for all positions, setting new, ambitious goals for the year ahead. This crucial process ensures that each team member is aligned with our organizational objectives, fostering a culture of continuous improvement.

The establishment of the Give Back with Gratitude program stands as a testament to our commitment to social responsibility. This program grants full-time employees 40 hours of paid leave annually for mission trips or volunteer work, allowing them to make a positive impact beyond our organization.

Finally, on the horizon is the eagerly awaited Employee Recognition/Engagement program, slated to commence in 2024. This initiative is designed to acknowledge and celebrate the outstanding contributions of our team members, further reinforcing a culture of appreciation and camaraderie.

In closing, it's been a year marked by phenomenal progress and collective achievements in our Human Resources department. As we look forward to the challenges and opportunities of 2024, we do so with a deep sense of gratitude for each and every team member who has contributed to this success.

BRCGA Give Back With Gratitude: Staff Missions

Our Palmetto Park Executive Director, Matt Galyon's student ministry at Oak Hill Church traveled to Panama City, Panama to share the love of Jesus with the children in Curundu', Panama.



They provided VBS for children preschool age up to Highschool. Matt's team also did a lot of service work including but not limited to cleaning, organizing their library, planting plants and painting. The highlight of their week was the opportunity to worship with the children of Panama in their own language.



Our Hiawassee Park Maintenance Partner, Chad Vesley and wife Crystal traveled to an Operation Christmas Child facility in Kennesaw, GA to package gift boxes that will eventually travel around the world to bring kids so much

excitement and joy. "It was such blessing to have the opportunity to esteem others better than ourselves by giving up our time to help spread joy to so many kids. This outreach is especially close to our hearts, because my wife was once a child that wouldn't have had a Christmas if strangers hadn't taken time to spend their own money and give of their own time to make Christmas something she would never forget. To this very day, she always remembers those beautifully wrapped boxes under her tree."



BRCGA's CEO, Shannon Watson and Corporate Marketing Director, Megan Eyrich served at Camp Hosanna this summer on campus and in their dining hall. Camp Hosanna was started in 2003 with a vision to reach the lost children in our area at no cost to them.



The camp had a meager beginning with campers and counselors in tents, but through the support of many churches, prayers of people all over the country and through The Lord's help, the camp now has 12 Cabins for campers, a 2-story house for Evangelists, a double sided bathhouse, a large pavilion for services and activities, a full commercial kitchen, and a 7,200 square foot building under construction to be a Dining Hall and dorm style rooms.



Being true to their vision they host 8 weeks of camp through the summer months with an average of 125 plus young people every week, with junior and teen alternating weeks COMPLETELY FREE of charge. The Lord has certainly blessed their efforts by over 1100 professions of faith to date with many dedicating their lives to the Lord's service.

BRCGA Give Back With Gratitude: Upcoming Staff Missions

Hiawassee Park Maintenance Partner, Scott Cody and wife Mariah recently went to Knoxville, TN with their church, Village Church, to do missions. They spent one week doing home improvement projects and devotion.



Looking to the future, Scott and his wife, Mariah, have felt lead to go on an international mission trip for several years now. They were given the opportunity to go to the mountains of Guatemala where they will be building small 12x12 homes with wooden walls, metal roofs and dirt floors in the mountainside for widowed women and children in March of 2024. When they heard the need, they immediately knew they had to go. Scott and Mariah will be fundraising for their full travel and expenses for this trip. They are excited (and nervous) to be immersed into a new culture that has faced true devastation and poverty and be able to extend the love and grace of Jesus that they may have never experienced before. They pray by serving there, their relationship with God will grow and they will become more confident in who he has made them to be. They pray that during this trip, God will shape them as individuals, and in their marriage as they gain a new perspective.

History:

During the longest civil war in Latin American history, running from 1960 until 1996, the Ixil Triangle was hit by waves of horrific violence as it became the main theater of operation for the Guerrilla Army. As a result, the Guatemalan army targeted many of these areas, adopting a program of genocidal tactics against the Mayan communities. During this time military death squads massacred over 200,000 people, 440 villages were wiped from the map, and 1 million people fled their homes into the mountainous western highlands.

In 1987 the atrocities of the Civil War came to light, and since the 1996 peace accords the government has taken steps to heal these wounds by building schools in these remote areas. Unfortunately, the resulting poverty and homelessness issues have not been addressed. During the last five years, Bridge of Hope has been building on the foundation of its predecessor's more than 20 years' experience serving these devastated communities.

What our trip will look like:

The 2024 efforts consists of approximately two teams of 15-20 volunteers each, working sequentially, from Michigan and North Carolina. We fly to Guatemala with backpacks full of supplies and tools. Upon arrival, we purchase metal roofing, nails, chainsaws and any other necessary items for building "off the grid". We then load everything onto an old school bus. The bus makes its way from Guatemala City, to the Guatemalan Highlands. This commute takes approximately 10 hours IF there are no complications. After the commute, the building materials are added to some locally sourced lumber. (This lumber is basically rough rips from a portable saw mill, or large chainsaw, that is arranged ahead of time. The bark is still on the wood). We then carry all of the building materials, tools, and camping gear up the side of the 10,000+ ft mountain to the places where the people had fled to during the massacre. Rain often makes the roads too unstable to use the bus for transport. The team will spend roughly 5 days in the villages and build approximately 10-20 houses (pending the size of the group that can make the trip). In addition to houses, we try to equip the locals with the ability to create a source of revenue. In the past, this consisted of livestock that was renewable; or a Molina (a rustic-style corn grinder). The corn grinder was a big hit in one village where it generated enough popularity to induce trading with other villages. Our goal is to get these poor war-torn people back on their feet in the name of Christ. Furthermore, we assist larger villages by funding a teacher to teach a basic education and the Spanish language. The people in these areas do not speak Spanish for they are descendants of the Mayans. By learning to speak Spanish, the children improve the economic future of the community in that they will be able to trade outside of their immediate area. During the teaching program, these children are provided one meal per day to improve their health. Malnutrition, deriving from poverty, is a common cause of sickness in this area. **Interested in supporting them on this mission trip? Please call the HP Office. They look forward to see what God is going to do in March!**

Baptist Retirement Communities of Georgia

JANUARY

HIAWASSEE PARK | PALMETTO PARK

COMMUNITY UPDATES

HP Library Dedication: Terrace Level

Hiawassee Park Senior Living Community's Library Dedication was a beautiful celebration. Irma Flanagan has published articles in Georgia Backroads Magazine. In her love for writing and teaching, Irma has helped 15 authors publish their books and has facilitated a writers' group at Hiawassee Park Senior Living Community and a writers' group in Blairsville, GA.

It was our honor to dedicate the Hiawassee Park Senior Living Community library to Irma Flanagan.



Pictured above are Hiawassee Park Residents who were members of Irma's HP writers' club and published books. (L to R) Walter Berg, Alan MacDougall, Irma Flanagan, Tom Jones, Sherrill Long



Baptist Retirement Communities of Georgia

ACTIVITIES

HIAWASSEE PARK | PALMETTO PARK

JANUARY 2023

We celebrated the birthday of Elvis!
(Thank you to "Elvis" Roy Perrin, the
Towns County High School Principal)



**26 HP attendees jumped on the bus for a
movie night and popcorn!** Supporting our local
Movie Theater for the special showing of "Left
Behind."



An afternoon at the movies with PPI!

We were seeing the new Tom Hanks movie "A
Man Called Otto". We will agree that he doesn't
make a bad movie.



**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**



Ms. Irene is Aging in Place at
Palmetto Park and thriving at
103 years young!



Super Bowl Tailgate Luncheon

Residents were treated to grilled hamburgers and hotdogs, BBQ and spicy wings, French fries, broccoli salad, and an ice cream sundae bar while watching the Super Bowl. Our dining team is top notch and they earned themselves a "touchdown"! Everyone wore their favorite game day gear and enjoyed fellowship and good food.



Baptist Retirement Communities of Georgia

SPOTLIGHT

PALMETTO PARK SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITY

Resident Spotlight: Gladwin Kriemann

Over the entrance of Baptist Manor, Palmetto, Georgia, could be a banner, "Serving the Lord with Gladness!" Soon after entering the door, a person is in a beautiful environment of people serving. With a warm smile the person at the desk greets the visitor. When she is not greeting someone, she is giving attention to one of the residents. Pressing duties of the manager does not hinder him from serving tea at a special event in the dining room.

A chaplain joyfully serves in providing spiritual guidance and comfort with compassion. Communication about activities, via phone messages, are delivered from a coordinator who encourages residents to take advantage of various and many events she thoughtfully planned. Servers in the dining room will not say, "What'll you have?," like a famous Atlanta eating place, (Varsity), rather they will quickly notice if your tea needs a refill. Every section of the building has caretakers who serve in keeping the halls and apartments tidy. Again, ALL smile and serve with "gladness!"

The serving environment is not limited to staff. Residents serve one another. She may be challenged with sight, however, can see well enough to carry small Amazon packages on her walker to an apartment. A diner may have difficulty carrying a plate, but is quickly noticed and helped with their chair. Advertised as "independent living," yet living in community, knowing the joy of serving !!!

Come, join me, and become a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ is an invitation I have often given with joy. Since I am accustomed to giving invitations, allow me to give others. Consider several: Offer praise to the Lord for Baptist Manor as thy provide a healthy environment for seniors, two, pray for continued strength and wisdom for those who serve, and three, share the news about this ministry with a relative, neighbor, or friend in church.

-Gladwin Kriemann, Palmetto Park Resident

Baptist Retirement Communities of Georgia

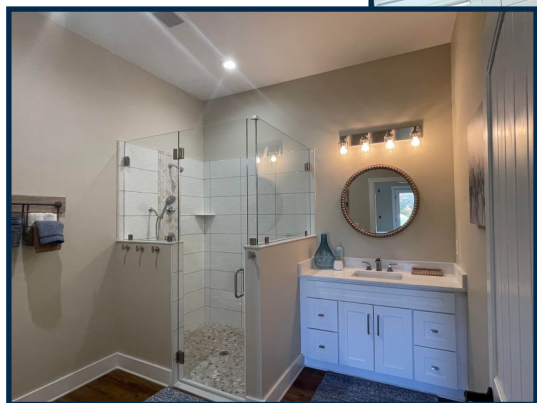
FEBRUARY

HIAWASSEE PARK | PALMETTO PARK

COMMUNITY UPDATES

HP Terrace Level Magnolia Apartment

Resident guests are enjoying the easily accessible on-site accommodations in the new Magnolia Apartment! The Magnolia Apartment is a beautifully decorated and fully equipped space to relax while visiting friends and family.



Baptist Retirement Communities of Georgia

ACTIVITIES

Hiawassee Park and Palmetto Park

FEBRUARY 2023



Valentine's Dinner was full of LOVE and LAUGHTER!!
Sweet music provided by violinist, Hosanna Sherman!



WISH OF A
LIFETIME
FROM AARP



This Valentine's season, Wish of a Lifetime
from AARP planned to deliver in person over 90,000 roses
across the country for the first time since 2020 to connect with older adults and send
them love! We are excited for the opportunity for our HP Team "Cupid Crew" to deliver
roses and love to our Hiawassee Park and Palmetto Park Residents. We are so thankful
to Wish of a Lifetime for bringing beauty and joy to our communities.

cupid crew

Baptist Retirement Communities of Georgia

MARCH

HIAWASSEE PARK

|

PALMETTO PARK

COMMUNITY UPDATES

HP Clubhouse: Terrace Level Ministry

The Hiawassee Park ladies are enjoying the new Clubhouse Terrace Level for their bi-weekly needlework group. What a great space to fellowship, share ideas, and their creative arts. Their ministry goal is to use valuable talents in a creative way to meet the needs of nursing home residents, hospital patients, pastors, and children with every stitch.



What a wonderful performance by Destination Theatre Rockin' Roxies!

Our residents thoroughly enjoyed hearing female hits from 1950's to the 1970's. Destination Theatre provides performances to Senior Living facilities throughout the state of Georgia and we were blessed to have them join us at Palmetto Park!



Thank you to Ms. Jenny of
Corner Arts Gallery, Studio & Gift Shop
for coming to guide Palmetto Park residents in
painting and art.

Baptist Retirement Communities of Georgia

APRIL

HIAWASSEE PARK

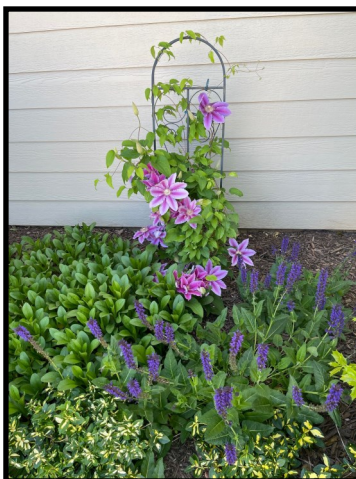
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PALMETTO PARK

COMMUNITY UPDATES

HP: SPRING CLEANING

The Hiawassee Park Maintenance Partners worked hard to prepare the Hiawassee Park grounds and gardens for Summer. Raised beds were built to accommodate new residents, the Greenhouse Gardens are now manicured with new gravel paths, and lawns were freshly cut and green.



Shhh... Monarch Nursery

A mother Monarch has visited the gardens! The Hiawassee Park Gardeners are excited to welcome this year's Monarch Caterpillars to the HP Monarch Nursery.

The newly planted milkweed is already being chomped on by the baby caterpillars.

Baptist Retirement Communities of Georgia

ACTIVITIES

HIAWASSEE PARK SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITY

APRIL 2023

Thank you so much to Melanie Hughes with South State Bank for the incredible presentation on **fraud prevention and protection**.

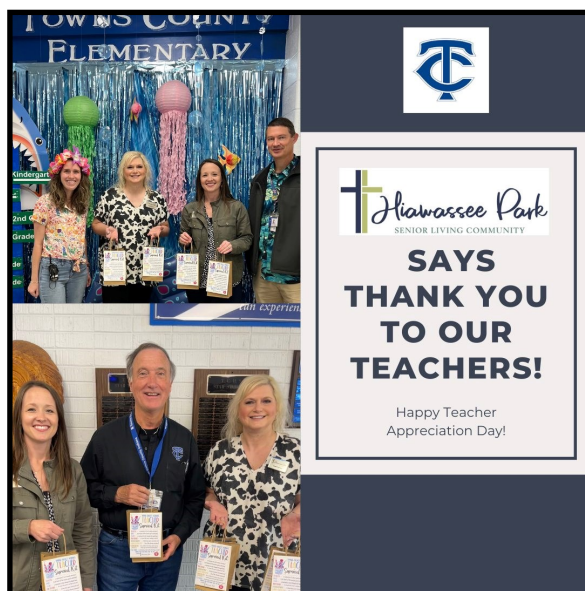
It is essential that we provide the necessary resources and valuable tips of protection to our BRCGA residents.



Teacher Appreciation Week! We are thankful for the hardworking and compassionate individuals who truly do impact the lives of our community forever! Hiawassee Park is intentional to stay involved in the local community by showing our support and love to the administrators, teachers, and students at Towns County Schools.



Studies show that the longest living and most joyous people in the world all share one common trait: **a sense of community**. The HP ladies enjoy a monthly lunch with great fellowship. It is the desire of our hearts to provide an abundance of opportunities for residents to have a sense of belonging, connection, community, and worth at BRCGA!



Baptist Retirement Communities of Georgia

SPOTLIGHT

HIAWASSEE PARK SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITY

Resident Spotlight: Community Testimonials

"If you are thinking about moving to a facility you can call "home" this is the place to come visit. I did, loved the facility and all the amenities offered and moved in last December. At least come see for yourself. Call the office and make an appointment. Hope to see you soon!!"

-Carole C.

"Hiawassee Park is Heaven on Earth."

-Marie H.

"Thank you so much for the sweet Teacher Appreciation Survival Kit! Thank you for thinking of us and for all you've done for our staff and students this school year."

-Patty D.

"The Enchanted Valley. A sip of Heaven. That is what Hiawassee Park is to me."

-Carol N.

"Nice and lovely resort location; It is lovely and seems well integrated with the surrounding community."

-M. Gantt

"We LOVE Hiawassee Park!"

-Sharon P.

"My mom made Palmetto Park her home in 2015. She has been very happy there. The staff is wonderful. They care about every aspect of the residents' lives."

-Vicky P.

"I never thought that I could have this much fun at this age! I have had many blessings beyond belief in my life, but this caps them all."

-Pat H.



Residents at Hiawassee Park Senior Living and Palmetto Park Senior Living Community share their experiences about what BRCGA means to them and their journey as residents at BRCGA!

To hear these testimonials
visit YouTube and search>>

Baptist Retirement Communities of Georgia:
Testimonials

Baptist Retirement Communities of Georgia

MAY

HIAWASSEE PARK | PALMETTO PARK COMMUNITY UPDATES

HP Lookout Point: Outdoor Pavilion and Park

The Hiawassee Park maintenance team has been working hard to prepare the grounds for Summer. The residents are already enjoying Lookout Point for cookouts, cornhole tournaments, the outdoor swings, sunrises, and sunsets!



Baptist Retirement Communities of Georgia

ACTIVITIES

HIAWASSEE PARK SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITY

MAY 2023

Hiawassee Park Mother's Day Tea

There is something truly special about celebrating the Hiawassee Park Ladies at our annual tea party. Classic and simple, Mother's Day Tea was a true treasure.



Honor. Reflect. Remember.

Resident Paul Taylor and HP residents joined Taps Across America. The National Moment of Remembrance is an annual event that asks Americans, wherever they are at 3:00 p.m. local time on Memorial Day, to pause for a duration of one minute to remember those who have died in military service to the United States. A Memorial Day Picnic was held at Hiawassee Park's Lookout Point, overlooking the North Georgia Mountains!



Hiawassee Park Explores Lake Chatuge!

It was a gorgeous and relaxing day for residents to cruise on a pontoon and experience the Northeast Georgia Mountain's lake life.



Baptist Retirement Communities of Georgia

ACTIVITIES

PALMETTO PARK SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITY

MAY 2023



Happy Mother's Day 2023

We celebrated all of our ladies with a tea. It was a beautiful spread, thanks to our Sodexo Team. They provided finger sandwiches with fruit and petit fours. It was a wonderful event to share with all of our Palmetto Park Ladies! What a great way to wish all of our friends and family a Happy Mother's Day from Palmetto Park!



★ Prime Night ★

Our dining staff knocked it out of the park! They provided an upscale, delicious meal for our residents complete with Creme Brulée. The residents enjoyed every bite! We will be providing this event monthly!



42 YEARS OF SERVICE

We celebrated our employee, Margie. Margie has served our community faithfully for 42 years!

She is admired for her work ethic and kindness. The residents shared their love and appreciation for Margie, as well as her coworkers.



Baptist Retirement Communities of Georgia

HIAWASSEE PARK | PALMETTO PARK

JUNE COMMUNITY UPDATES

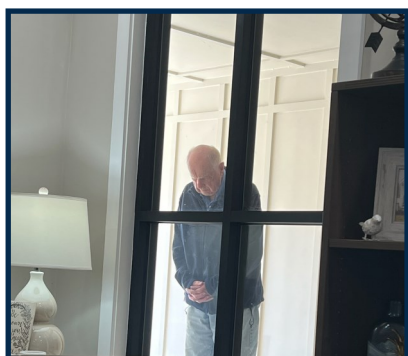
Chapel Easter Celebrations

Hiawassee Park Chaplain, Harry Gilbert breaks bread as residents and staff celebrate Maundy Thursday with a beautiful communion service in the new Terrace Level Hiawassee Park Chapel.



Resident Prayer Walk

Hiawassee Park resident, Jeff Jefferson prays at office window of CEO, Shannon Watson. Jeff walks daily with his dog Trudy and prays for residents and staff as he walks by their cottages and offices. We are blessed to have residents in our community praying for us and with us. Jesus promises in Matthew 18:20: **"For where two or three gather in my name, there I am with them."** Praying as a BRCGA family over our communities bring us all closer together.



Exciting Renovations in the Palmetto Park Chapel



Renovations are complete in the Palmetto Park Chapel.

The residents have donated **\$8000** to the Palmetto Park Chapel renovation project.

Stained glass windows were relocated from a previous BRCGA location and are the focal point of the room. One additional window will be transported to be used in the Hiawassee Park Chapel.



Baptist Retirement Communities of Georgia

HIAWASSEE PARK | PALMETTO PARK COMMUNITY UPDATES

Palmetto Park Senior Living Community Updates

The Chapel renovation is beautiful and the June Chapel dedication was wonderful. What a blessing! Residents will also notice updated improvements in the private dining room, welcome areas, hallways, and elevator entrances.

Palmetto Park is a beautiful place to call home!

Ms. Patty Pritchard, choir director from First Baptist Villa Rica, coordinated purchasing instruments for Palmetto Park Chapel. A special thank you to Rodney Brooks of First Baptist of Atlanta, Cliff Durden of First Baptist Woodstock, and Carol Cymbala of Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir for collaborating with Ms. Patty to provide the new instruments at the Palmetto Park Senior Living Community newly renovated Chapel.



Baptist Retirement Communities of Georgia

PALMETTO PARK SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITY Neighborhood Spotlight

Baptist Manor sustained significant damage from the Christmas Eve Pipe burst. This catastrophic event pulled staff for emergency duty while many of us were with family celebrating Christmas.

We have faced supply delays, a few vendor issues, insurance claims, and a variety of challenges that spanned over 6 months, but we are so grateful to two of our vendors, who also sit on our Board of Trustees, who helped push the project closer towards the finish line.

Every time there was a bump in the road, it was our resident's faces that I saw. I was reminded of Matthew 22:37, "Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."

What a great reminder that through every challenge and every victory, honoring God first, brings about blessings. Looking around the newly renovated Chapel, every hardship has made the wait so much sweeter.

Baptist Retirement Communities of Georgia and Palmetto Park were so honored to present our Chapel to the Lord and to each of our residents, who have so faithfully prayed, encouraged, and donated resources towards the renovation.

Although I am still working on a few items such as the remaining work, insurance claims, and waiting on the arrival of the additional chairs, for now we can certainly celebrate the beautiful new keyboard and piano today and for many years to come.

One of my favorite promise verses is Jeremiah 29:11, which says, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." What a privilege to be able to witness the many lives changed today and in the future because we all chose to love God with all of our hearts, souls, and minds.

It was such an honor to have had Ms. Patty Pritchard a guest at our Chapel dedication. Ms. Patty was instrumental in bringing the beautiful instruments to Palmetto Park. She is the Choir Director of First Baptist Villa Rica, an accomplished pianist with a long history of working alongside some of the greatest such as Bill Gaither, Cliff Duren of First Baptist Woodstock, and Rodney Brooks who retired from First Baptist Atlanta, and one of my dearest friends.

It was such an honor to hear Ms. Patty share a little bit about how these beautiful pieces came into our possession, but most importantly, to showcase the instruments as she lead us into worship with her talent.



-Sharalene Roper

Baptist Retirement Communities of Georgia

ACTIVITIES

HIAWASSEE PARK SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITY

JUNE 2023

Spectacular views for this picnic destination! Brasstown Bald is a must- see when visiting Hiawassee, Georgia.



Flag Day: Memories from World War II

We celebrated Flag Day with beautiful and emotional stories from our HP Residents. To hear these moving memories visit YouTube and search>>

Hiawassee Park Senior Living Community:
Memories from World War II



Active Senior Living

Hiawassee Park Explores Hamilton Gardens!

Residents enjoyed a beautiful nature walk through the Summer Gardens, lakeside.



Annual Melon Fest on the Clubhouse Deck was a sweet success!

Thank you, Charles Bateman, along with Mike and Gloria Hughes, for bringing watermelons and cantaloupe freshly picked in South Georgia straight to us!



Baptist Retirement Communities of Georgia

ACTIVITIES

PALMETTO PARK SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITY

JUNE 2023

Worship at Palmetto Park!

Thank you to First Baptist Church of Tallahassee Youth Choir for sharing your talents with our community!

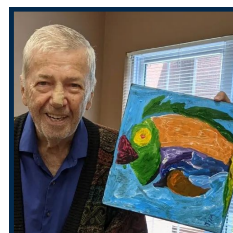


Another successful painting class with Ms. Jenny!



ALOHA

Ladies lunch at Truett's Luau in Fayetteville was wonderful. We had fun dressing in festive attire and a beautiful atmosphere.



We were blessed to hold the June board meeting in the newly renovated Palmetto Park Chapel!

We celebrated Joanna Hannah's 15th anniversary with BRCGA (pictured left). The team ended the day with an assortment of delicious cupcakes to celebrate our Vice President Sharalene Roper's Birthday (pictured above)! Thank you to our Baptist Retirement Communities of Georgia team for making our Board of Trustees feel at HOME!

Baptist Retirement Communities of Georgia

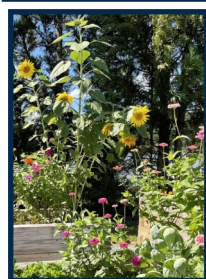
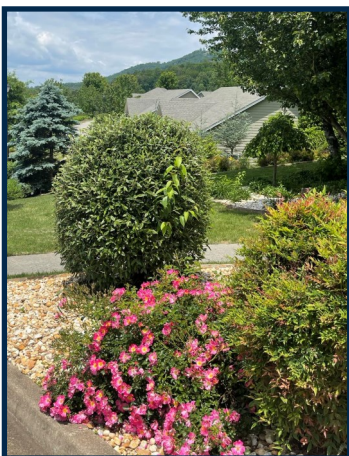
JULY

HIAWASSEE PARK | PALMETTO PARK

COMMUNITY UPDATES

Hiawassee Park Senior Living Community Update

Summer in the North Georgia Mountains is beautiful, especially at Hiawassee Park! The HP Maintenance team takes pride in keeping the grounds pristine. In the Spring, preparation began for a beautiful summer. The grass was fertilized, flower beds were weeded, plants were planted, bushes were trimmed, and every yard was cared for. Hard work pays off, Hiawassee Park is breathtaking this summer! Thank you to our Maintenance Team for a job well done!



Baptist Retirement Communities of Georgia

ACTIVITIES

HIAWASSEE PARK | PALMETTO PARK
JULY 2023

We love celebrating the great USA
and today was no exception!
Happy Birthday, America!



We recently enjoyed a relaxing, lakeside evening
with pizza and of course, s'mores over a fire!



We enjoyed a tour of the **Dahlonega Butterfly Farm**,
delicious lunch, and then rounded out the trip
with a visit to the **Tomato House!**



We love nature- especially when it's right around our home!!
Nature walks are one of the things we love to do!

Chef Jason
served up
a delicious **Peach and**
Blueberry Summer
Salad at the **Palmetto**
Park demo station
during lunch.



Palmetto Park Olympics 2023

EmpowerMe Wellness hosted our Great Summer Olympics. We had a blast playing corn hole, volleyball, ball toss and competing for our Strong Man/ Woman. All participants got goodies and the winners got a swag bag!

Baptist Retirement Communities of Georgia

ACTIVITIES

HIAWASSEE PARK SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITY
AUGUST 2023

We celebrated National Senior Citizens
Day with some of the very best!!
Officially Retired?
Let the FUN begin at BRCGA!!



We love our Towns County Indian's Football
team!! The Leadership Council shared their
thoughts as we all shared a meal in the
Hiawassee Park Clubhouse!! It was a joy to be
apart of bridging the gap and hearing their
hearts. We are honored to partner with this
incredible group of young people and their
administration! Their 2023 motto is
OSAT— One Standard All The Time.



**We are not only your
neighbors, WE ARE
YOUR #1 FANS!!!**



Baptist Retirement Communities of Georgia

ACTIVITIES

PALMETTO PARK SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITY

AUGUST 2023

We had a great morning learning how to Hula and about Hawaiian culture 🌺 our staff even joined in to learn!



Reptile Talk with Bear Creek Nature Center - Environmental Education

Thank you Ms. Norma for teaching us about native species of Georgia!

We got to see and touch a bearded dragon, a box turtle, a ball python, and an alligator.



BEAR CREEK
NATURE CENTER

What does COMMUNITY OUTREACH look like at BRCGA?

Annual Alzheimer's Walk

BRCGA stands together to win the fight against Alzheimer's, because MEMORIES ARE WORTH FIGHTING FOR and we ALL fight together! We raised over \$3000 at our 2023 walk and that number is still rising!



The mission of the *National Day of Prayer* Task Force is to mobilize prayer in America and to encourage personal repentance and righteousness in the culture. Hiwassee Park hosted two annual National Day of Prayer Events for Towns, Union, and Clay County.



AARP, Wish of a Lifetime grants life-changing wishes to older adults and inspires people to redefine aging in America. Granting a wish is a simple gesture, but the effect is extraordinary.

Join us every Sunday at 10am, WJRB 95.1 FM or online <http://www.wjrbradio.com/> as our Hiwassee Park Chaplain Harry Gilbert brings an encouraging word to the North Georgia Mountains!



Megan Eyrych, CMD who also joins in often for **Saturday Morning Senior Moments** – The Podcast of this Radio broadcast, pertains to Seniors and is a great show providing information to Seniors in the area, a little humour, and a place where it's always ok to have a "Senior Moment."

A.A.R.N.



Appalachian Aging Resource Network

Providing resources to the Aging Population in the North Georgia Mountain Regions.

Serving Habersham, Rabun, Stephens, Towns, Union, Clay, Cherokee, and White Counties.

(706) 202-1002

www.appalachianresource.com



Appalachian Aging Resource Network offers resources to the aging population through our member network. Hiwassee Park hosts all meetings in the HP Clubhouse.

Speakers of 2023:

1. Janey McCard, Dignity Home Care
2. Eddy Corn, Elder Care Lawyer
3. Elizabeth McKeon, Traditions Hospice
4. Tamela Cooper, Banister-Cooper Funeral Home
5. Missy Mashburn, Mountain Home Health
6. Tammy Jones, North Carolina Hospice
7. Eddie Fontane, Veteran's Services
8. Lynn Cochran, Appalachian Hospice
9. Randy Christian, Long Term Care Insurance
10. Sabrina Patterson, Pruitt Health
11. Stacey Silver, Mom's Meals



Baptist Retirement Communities of Georgia

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AT BRCGA: Networking

**Mylea Bigganni from Christian City
Assisted Living**



**Monthly Senior Resource Group.
Provides referrals to BRCGA.**



**Senior Expo events were a
success with gaining three
referrals.**



**Never Grow Old Senior
Adult Group partnership for
projects and referrals.**



**Community Outreach monthly
community event held at PP.**



**Church Partnerships for
Fundraising Efforts**



**Chatt Hills Council members. Community
partnership to host events together.**



**Melanie Reeves from RiverLife.
Partnered to do projects and referrals.**



**Monthly speaking engagement at
New Beginnings Senior Center.
Brought them in for Lunch
and a tour.**



Baptist Retirement Communities of Georgia

HIAWASSEE PARK | PALMETTO PARK

SEPTEMBER 2023

🏆 We love our Towns County Lady Indians Softball team! Hiawassee Park delivered Chick-fil-a boxed dinners to the Lady Indians softball team and coaches before the game. Residents were later surprised by the Towns County Athletic Director treating Hiawassee Park Residents to Pizza and Drinks that same night! What a treat!



A great walk at Hiawassee Park and Palmetto Park!
MEMORIES ARE WORTH FIGHTING FOR and at BRCGA we
ALL fight together! We raised over \$3000 at this years walk!
Thank you for everyone who came out and joined us in the
fight against Alzheimer's!



A Season of Transition

As the leaves change colors and the air turns crisper, I find myself reflecting on the past 5 years. BRCGA has undertaken a transformation during a season that embodied transition. Just as nature gracefully transforms, so too do our lives experience periods of change. Embracing this season of transition allowed us to cultivate personal growth, adapt to new challenges, and ultimately emerge stronger and wiser.



Change can be daunting, often pushing us out of our comfort zones. However, it is through change that we discover our true potential. In 2019, God opened the door to allow us to begin construction on an additional 48 cottages and an expanded clubhouse building at Hiawassee Park. 2021 saw completion of this property



as well as a renovation of Clairmont Crest and enhancement of Palmetto Park. I am reminded of Isaiah 43:19: "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." Like a caterpillar emerging from its cocoon as a butterfly, BRCGA evolved into something new - more beautiful and empowered.



In 2020, Baptist Retirement Communities of Georgia entered a Capital Enrichment Campaign, "Age in Grace." Donations to this campaign allow for "now" gifts, as well as increase our endowments that will enable us to continue to serve seniors for another 50 years.

COVID-19 hit the senior living industry and BRCGA particularly hard. In 2022, the Board of Trustees made the difficult decision to sell Clairmont Crest Senior Living. This decision facilitated paying off the bond debt which will strengthen our ministry for the future.

2022 ended with another challenge. Our Palmetto Park Chapel was already slated for renovation when a Christmas Eve flood devastated the chapel and other common areas. Our team overcame the challenges of the flood and the resulting repairs. Due to the flood, we were able to dedicate our beautiful new chapel in 2023.

During times of transition, resilience becomes our greatest asset. Our team and ministry showed strength in adversity which allowed us to adapt and bounce back while maintaining our integrity and grace. We have weathered these storms together.

In 2023, our focus has been on elevating the resident experience in all areas of their daily life – emotional, physical, and most importantly spiritual. This part of their journey should be vibrant and full of meaning, a time to explore new passions. At BRCGA, our aim is to provide opportunities for continued growth and purpose.

Baptist Retirement Communities of Georgia

PALMETTO PARK SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITY

* Lives were changed at the Palmetto Park Tent Revival*

tent revival our blessed

hope

titus 2:11-14



DR. JOSH SAEFKOW

worship led by Flat Creek
Baptist Worship Team



DR. EMIR CANER

worship led by
Bridgepoint Worship
Team



PASTOR LEE BREWER

worship led by Jed
Cornelison with Palmetto
Baptist Worship Team



DR. PAUL MIMS

worship led by Steve Jett
with Palmetto



PASTOR JOHNNY HUNT

worship led by
Rock Springs
Church Choir



JASON HOARD

Bluegrass Band Concert

Baptist Retirement Communities of Georgia

TENT REVIVAL

PALMETTO PARK SENIOR LIVING
SEPTEMBER 2023

The Palmetto Park Annual Tent Revival included a lineup of incredible speakers, choirs, musicians, and bands to lead worship and preach the Word of God!! What an incredible outreach in our community and local area!

SIX beautiful souls were saved at the Palmetto Park Tent Revival!!



Baptist Retirement Communities of Georgia

MINISTRY AT BRCGA: Love God, Love People, Serve People

- Hiawassee Park and Palmetto Park on-site Chaplains
- Palmetto Park Annual Tent Revival
- 2023 SALVATIONS– 1 HP 6 PP
- 2023 BAPTISMS– 1 HP
- Friday night Singing at Hiawassee Park
- Friday morning Prayer meeting at Hiawassee Park
- Transport to Bi-Weekly Men and Women's Community Wide Bible Study with Dinner by HP
- Ladies Coffee, Cake, and Christian Conversation at HP
- Abiding In Him, Ladies Bible Study at PP
- Operation Christmas Child
- Local School Partnership with students & athletes: Sporting Events, Meals, & HP Resident Mentor Program with students



- AARN: Close connection with Hospice, Home Health, and resident special care needs on and off campus. It is our desire that if at all possible our resident's can age-in-place with grace.



- Staff Mission Opportunities: Give Back With Gratitude Program
- Christian Robo Call Word of the Week to HP residents from their Chaplain, Harry Gilbert
- Palmetto Park Sunday Morning Chapel Services
- Resident Hardship Discounts totaled \$162,876 in 2023
- 285 Resident Lives touched in 2023
- Lifestyle Directors and team plan events and meals to provide community for the residents of BRCGA
- Preacher Coming to Dinner: HP hosts local pastors for Monday night dinner and they share the love of Christ and we support their ministry.
- Palmetto Park Pastor's Luncheon

Daily Operations Ministry is the heart of what we do at BRCGA. There are numerous needs that are met at BRCGA, and we could never list them all. Our staff's doors are always open for prayer. Cottages visits and phone calls are made to our residents for support, encouragement, and care. There are multiple health and wellness opportunities that are provided and encouraged, these are used as ministry opportunities to share the Word of God. We work closely with residents who need grief support and offer care for shut-ins, those who are sick or recovering from surgery, and recent widows and widowers. The list is truly endless. There is not one event that either the Lord's name isn't mentioned or the Word of God isn't shared.

- At BRCGA, we are truly a ministry that
- **Loves God, Loves People, and Serves People**



Embracing New Beginnings: A Fresh Chapter for BRCGA

As the sun gently sets on one chapter of life, a vibrant new dawn emerges, teeming with the promise of fresh experiences, personal growth, and exciting discoveries. This sentiment holds particularly true for Baptist Retirement Communities of Georgia. With the sale of Clairmont Crest Senior Living, BRCGA was granted a unique opportunity to refocus its energies and usher in a reinvigorated era of senior living. What a thrilling season of challenge and transformation this has been!

In 2023, BRCGA set forth a resolute commitment to provide its residents not merely with a place to reside but a vibrant canvas upon which they could paint the



vivid strokes of new beginnings. To realize this mission, BRCGA embarked on an ambitious journey to reevaluate and enhance every facet of senior living, from operational excellence to innovative marketing strategies, from lifestyle enrichment to spiritual fulfillment. It was a time for a paradigm shift.



Traditionally, senior living communities may have been associated with tranquil retirement, but in today's dynamic landscape, these communities have evolved into hubs of activity, engagement, and rejuvenation. This transformation stems from a profound shift in how we perceive the process of aging. No longer is aging seen as a journey towards an end; instead, it is embraced as a continuous exploration of life's endless possibilities and renewed purpose.

Senior living communities have transcended their traditional role as care facilities to become vibrant, thriving communities where residents can flourish socially, intellectually, and emotionally. The focus now centers on holistic well-being, encouraging residents to pursue their passions, engage in lifelong learning, and partake in activities that bring them joy and fulfillment.



BRCGA dedicated an entire year to enhancing its Lifestyles programming, igniting a desire for individualized growth and fostering a sense of community. From Broadway-themed performances in the summer to serene boat rides on Lake Chatuge and engaging in community volunteerism, the BRCGA Lifestyles Program aimed to provide experiences that were fresh and unexpected, setting it apart from conventional senior living environments.

The well-being of residents takes center stage in this new era of senior living. Innovative fitness programs, nutrition initiatives with live chef demonstrations and educational lunch sessions, and access to holistic healthcare services are tailored to meet the unique needs of residents. Group classes, awareness-raising



fundraising walks, and introductions to new fitness activities such as Tai Chi create a comprehensive approach that nurtures an environment where residents can focus on staying active and healthy, enabling them to savor their newfound freedom to the fullest. Now, more than ever, Baptist Retirement Communities of Georgia empowers every tenant with the ability to make choices that allow them to live their best lives.

Embracing New Beginnings: A Fresh Chapter for BRCGA

Georgia empowers every tenant with the ability to make choices that allow them to live their best lives.

Technology, too, has become an integral part of the BRCGA experience. From using Touchtown to offer virtual tours of faraway places to implementing digital signage, technology bridges the gap between residents and the outside world, ensuring that they remain connected and engaged in the digital age. Additionally, BRCGA is investigating a more user-friendly property and maintenance management tool to increase workflow efficiencies and provide opportunity for financial gains that ultimately affect the tenants and employees in a positive way. Video recordings and digital marketing have also taken a central role in telling the BRCGA story in a thought-provoking and captivating manner.

Furthermore, marketing and fundraising have gained momentum within the BRCGA team. The executive leadership and marketing teams have dedicated tireless efforts to connect the communities with senior resources and champions who share an emotional connection with the BRCGA mission. Through educational and inspirational initiatives such as community meetings, niche gatherings, revivals, and



large group tours and events, Baptist Retirement Communities of Georgia leaves no stone unturned in its endeavor to provide the very best in every aspect of senior living. The challenge, however, lies in securing adequate funding.

While Baptist Retirement Communities of Georgia boasts a compelling and unique story, many remain unaware of the blessings and challenges faced by a 501 (c)(3) organization dedicated to senior living. There has been an increased focus on educating, influencing, and inspiring companies, civic groups, churches, and individuals to contribute through prayer, volunteerism, and financial support to the Age in Grace campaign. The



more funding that is made available, the more enhanced programs, improved facilities and equipment, and best-in-class services can be made available to a new age of emerging aging adults that expect more from life.

Senior living communities are no longer places of retreat but vibrant spaces where residents co-author the next thrilling chapter of their lives. It's a celebration of new beginnings, a testament to the resilience of the human



spirit, and a reminder that age is but a number. As these communities continue to evolve, they not only enrich the lives of their residents but also inspire us all to embrace the beauty of new beginnings, regardless of our age or stage in life. Baptist Retirement Communities of Georgia remains unwavering in its commitment to continue the hard work of bringing goodness and fulfillment to those it serves in the New Year and beyond.

Age in Grace: Enriching Lives and Creating a Lasting Legacy for Active Aging Adults

Baptist Retirement Communities of Georgia (BRCGA) is a shining beacon of hope and compassion for active aging adults. Guided by our mission to "enrich the lives of active aging adults by empowering each individual to flourish while aging in place within a Christian community," BRCGA invites you to participate in their Age in Grace giving campaign. Through this campaign, you can make a profound impact on the lives of the active aging adults that BRCGA serves today and for years to come.



The Age in Grace campaign is a call to action, an invitation to become an agent of God's grace, and a chance to show kindness and favor to our elderly population. In a world where active aging adults can sometimes feel forgotten, BRCGA is dedicated to ensuring that every resident experiences grace in every encounter, feels valued, and looks toward new beginnings.



With two beautiful campuses that provide faith and community, BRCGA is well-positioned to fulfill its mission. The population of active aging adults in Georgia and the Southeast continues to grow, making it the fastest-growing segment of our society. This demographic shift presents a unique opportunity for a Baptist ministry, like BRCGA, to demonstrate God's love and compassion to those in need.

We need your support. To faithfully respond to God's call and meet the needs of this growing population, BRCGA cannot rely solely on rental income, but must continue to expand and improve its facilities, programs, and ministries. Our goal is to not only provide housing, but to create a "home" that is filled with new family,



vibrant experiences, and opportunities for service and ministry. This is where the Age in Grace campaign comes into play. By extending *Grace to Others* through your prayers, gifts, and service, you can help BRCGA serve not only today's seniors but also future generations.

By offering *Grace for Today* gifts, you will immediately contribute to program enhancements, infrastructure upgrades, and, most importantly, provide additional financial assistance to those in need within our communities.

Age  IN Grace
A PLACE OF FAITH
AND COMMUNITY

Age in Grace: Enriching Lives and Creating a Lasting Legacy for Active Aging Adults

Lastly, you can also serve generations to come by considering a Legacy Gift for *Grace for the Future* through your Last Will and Testament, your retirement account, or your life insurance policy. Such contributions will ensure that BRCGA remains a place of faith and community for God's people where they can rediscover their new purpose for life and experience the absolute



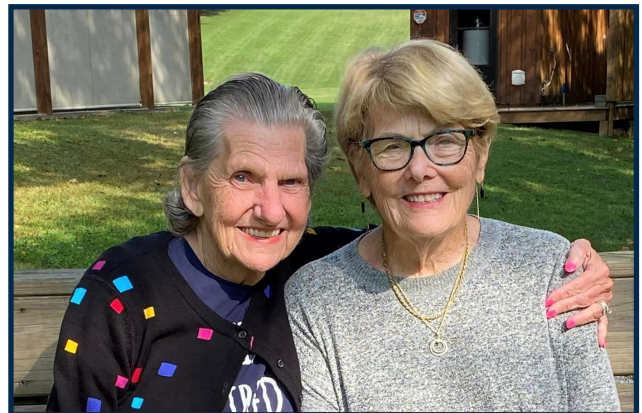
best that they deserve for years to come. By doing so, you are blessing the ministry and furthering God's kingdom.

By partnering with the Georgia Baptist Foundation, BRCGA has made the opportunity of giving easier than ever. The Georgia Baptist Foundation is a valuable resource for assistance in gift and estate planning based on a ministry relationship with BRCGA. They can help you navigate the process of leaving a legacy that will impact active aging adults throughout the BRCGA communities.

The Age in Grace campaign is a call to compassion, a reminder of our duty to care for our active aging adults.



By supporting this campaign, you are not only enriching the lives of those currently residing in BRCGA but also creating a legacy for future generations of active aging adults in Georgia. Your gift will allow BRCGA to continue its mission of showing God's grace, favor, and kindness to those in need.



Consider becoming a Friend of BRCGA by contributing to the Age in Grace campaign. Your generosity and commitment can make a world of difference, ensuring that BRCGA remains a haven of faith and community for active aging adults in the years to come. In giving, you are not just investing in a ministry; you are investing in the well-being and happiness of the elderly population in our community, honoring the values of compassion and grace. We need life changers, we need champions, we need you!

If you are interested in learning more about how to make an impact on the kingdom for today or for the future through your tax-deductible donations, please contact Sharalene Roper at (770) 463-2460 or sroper@brcga.org.

2024

Community Wish List

BRCGA strives to create spaces and experiences that are unique and memorable for every resident. By addressing the Seven Dimensions of Wellness: Spiritual, Physical, Emotional, Intellectual, Social, Environmental, and Vocational, each resident has opportunities to grow, be challenged, and flourish! The BRCGA 2024 challenge is to elevate the facilities, programs, and equipment that help meet those needs, but we need support from champions who believe in investing into the ministry and our residents.



Indoor/Outdoor Fitness Equipment & Walking Track
Promotes Physical Fitness, Connection to Outdoors, & Rehab Programs



Clubhouse Kitchen Remodel
Promotes Socialization & Learning Opportunities



Lakeside Pavilion, Fence & Dock
Promotes Connection to Nature, Socialization, & Physical Activity



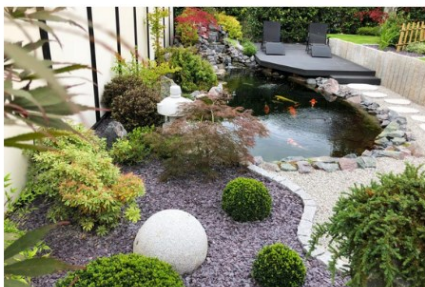
Resident Garden Pavilion
Provides Sense of Community, Outdoor Revival, & Outdoor Socialization



Community Bus
Promotes Mental Stimulation, & Social Interaction Outside of the Community



Outdoor Fireplace
Promotes Social Interaction with Friends & Family



Serenity Pond
Creates a Place for Quiet Reflection & Sense of Peace



Activity Room
Promotes Overall Wellness, Creativity, & Volunteerism



2024

Community Wish List



1. Wellness Center & Gym Equipment

Group Classes, Personal Training,
Rehab Program Support

2. Activity Room

Group Events & Classes, Volunteer
Opportunities, On-Campus Movies

3. Walking Track around Lake

Social Interaction, Nature Appreciation,
Physical Fitness Groups & Challenges

4. Clubhouse Pavilion and Lake Dock

Space for Revival & Gatherings, Dining
Events, & Outdoor Bible Study Classes

5. Pavilion and the Oasis (Plants, Koi Pond, Waterfall, Landscaping & Stone Fireplace)

Gardening Classes, Volunteer
Opportunities, Playtime with Grandkids,
Space for Prayer & Reflection



1. Community Bus

Off-Campus Trips for Shopping,
Excursions, & New Opportunities for Fun

2. Outdoor Track & Fitness Equipment

Group Classes, Personal Training,
Rehab Services, Nature Appreciation

3. Pond Fence

Community Safety & Environmental
Beautification

4. Pond Completion

Time of Reflection, Outdoor Enjoyment

5. Clubhouse Kitchen Remodel

Cooking Classes, Dining Events, Group
Meals, Lunch & Learns

If you are interested in making an impact on the Kingdom
through your tax-deductible donation,
please contact Sharalene Roper (770) 463-2460