

Judson
FOUNDATION

Inspire

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*Bringing Community to Life
Through Philanthropy*

Richard Zakin
Inspiration Through Art



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Judson is a not-for-profit senior living organization serving Northern Ohio since 1906. Judson operates three senior living communities—Judson Park, Judson Manor, and South Franklin Circle—and the innovative membership program Judson at Home.

INSPIRE is produced by Judson Foundation and is distributed to the residents, friends, and benefactors of Judson. Dedicated to philanthropy, this publication shares the many ways charitable giving is advancing Judson's mission of *Bringing Community to Life*.

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Even after his Alzheimer's diagnosis, the late Richard Zakin, renowned artist, author, and educator, remained devoted to his craft, a testament to the enduring power of creativity in the face of life's challenges.



Dear Friends,

Aging is a journey we all share—one filled with opportunities for growth, connection, and purpose. As life expectancy increases, more people are seeking guidance on how to navigate this stage with meaning and vitality. At Judson, we believe aging is a lifelong pursuit of discovery and fulfillment. Through mindful aging, we empower residents to embrace life with intention, authenticity, and enthusiasm.

None of this would be possible without our dedicated donors and friends. You are the foundation of Judson, ensuring that our community thrives. In these pages, we celebrate the generosity that fuels valued programs, strengthens connections, and enriches the lives of all who call Judson home. Here, community is more than a place; it's a shared vision and a testament to the power of philanthropy.

Art has long been central to life at Judson, inspiring creativity. We are honored to feature the late Richard Zakin, a visionary artist and educator, whose legacy lives on through Judson's first endowed fund for ceramics, established by his wife, Helen. We also celebrate Cleveland artists George and Christine Mauersberger, whose continued support of the Ken Nevadomi Visiting Artist Program deepens Judson Park's connection to the city's vibrant art scene.

Like art, music has the power to uplift and inspire. In gratitude for the 25 years their father cherished at Judson Park, the Oldenburg family established the Bob Oldenburg Music Endowment in his memory. This fund ensures that residents and guests continue to enjoy live performances that enrich community life. These inspiring stories showcase how philanthropy is redefining senior living.

Wellness remains central to our mission as we continue to set the standard for comprehensive care that prioritizes overall well-being. In this issue, you'll discover how Meredith Seikel is enhancing life at Judson Manor—helping neighbors improve their fitness with new exercise equipment while also supporting associates in achieving their educational goals.

For more than a century, planned gifts have been essential to Judson's success. We extend our deepest gratitude to Harry and Lenore Koppel, Jennie Bemberg, Alex Cook, and Nancy Gorenshek. Their foresight and generosity leave a lasting impact, strengthening the Judson experience for generations to come.

We are profoundly grateful for the generosity of all our benefactors. Philanthropy has shaped this incredible community, and with your support, we continue to write new chapters in this journey, rich with purpose, belonging, and joy.

Thank you for partnering with us to advance our mission of *Bringing Community to Life*. We couldn't do it without you.

With gratitude,

Kendra J. Urdzik
President and CEO

Thomas A. Nobbe
Chair, Board of Directors

Inspiration Through Art

Research shows that engaging in the arts promotes healthy aging, offering therapeutic benefits that extend far beyond the creative process. Whether through music, poetry, or painting, creating art nurtures both body and the mind, enhancing cognitive function and emotional well-being. It provides a renewed sense of purpose, a meaningful outlet for self-expression, and opens new avenues for communication and connection. Thanks to a generous philanthropic gift, future generations of Judson Park residents will have the opportunity to explore one of the world's oldest and most expressive art forms—ceramics.



A highly accomplished artist, the late Richard Zakin is widely celebrated for his significant contributions to the field of ceramics. He spent countless hours in the Judson Park studio, expressing his creativity and passion through his artwork.

Honoring a Legacy in Ceramics

In memory of her late husband, the esteemed artist, author, and professor Richard Zakin, Judson Park resident Helen Zakin has established the **Richard Zakin Endowment for Ceramic Arts**. This landmark fund, the first dedicated to ceramics, will expand and enhance the pottery program, further solidifying Judson Park as a community where creativity flourishes.

Ceramics offers a unique blend of artistic expression and physical engagement. The tactile nature of pottery-making strengthens the hands, wrists, and arms, improving dexterity and joint mobility, particularly beneficial for individuals managing arthritis. Beyond its physical advantages, working with clay becomes a profound medium for self-expression, allowing individuals to convey emotions and ideas that

words alone cannot fully capture. Each piece created becomes a testament to the creator's journey, preserving their story in a tangible, enduring form.

"Richard's impact on the world of ceramics is extraordinary," said Jessica Kulczycki, Executive Director of Community Life. "We are honored that he and Helen chose Judson Park as their home. Helen's generosity is a beautiful tribute to their shared journey, and her gift will continue to inspire creativity and foster connections for generations to come."

Richard Zakin, a respected professor emeritus of art at SUNY Oswego, dedicated 40 years to educating and inspiring students before retiring in 2008. A graduate of Syracuse University and the Brooklyn Museum Art School, he earned his Master of Fine Arts in Ceramics from the prestigious



Richard and his wife, Helen, found joy and inspiration in art and each other.

Alfred University. An accomplished ceramist, mentor, and scholar, Richard authored several influential books and articles that deepened the technical understanding of the craft.

A Shared Passion for the Arts

Helen and Richard's journey together began in 1970 when Helen, having just completed her master's degree from the University of Iowa, accepted a faculty position in the Art Department at SUNY Oswego. There, she met Richard, and their shared passion for art quickly blossomed into a lifelong partnership. Helen went on to earn her Ph.D. from Syracuse University, becoming a renowned expert in medieval stained glass, a published author, and a distinguished Department Chairperson.

As a member of the *Corpus Vitrearum Medii Aevi*, an esteemed international organization dedicated to cataloging stained glass, Helen's career took her across the globe. In the 1990s, she had the unique opportunity to spend six weeks at the Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg, Russia, studying stained glass leads to determine the authenticity of the pieces. Helen retired as professor emerita of art in 2009.

Finding a Home and Studio at Judson Park

In 2015, Richard, affectionately known as "Zake," was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. Yet, this diagnosis never wavered his deep passion for creativity. Even as the challenges of his condition mounted, he remained dedicated to his art, working in his studio daily—a powerful testament to the transformative strength of creativity in the face of life's greatest challenges.

In 2017, Helen traveled to Cleveland for medical treatment and chose to recover at Judson Health Center, close to her sister in Shaker Heights. During her absence, it became increasingly clear that Zake's condition had progressed, requiring more specialized care. The couple decided to make a suite on Ambler Court their new home. The assisted living neighborhood could provide the care Zake needed, while the Audra L. Rose Creative Arts Studio would allow him to continue creating.

"If he wasn't eating or sleeping, he was in the art studio," Helen recalled. "Art therapy truly made a world of difference for him—it was a gift I'll forever be grateful for."

Richard passed away on April 5, 2018, leaving behind an artistic legacy of passion and boundless creativity. After his death, Helen remained on Ambler Court for a time, staying close to a dear friend nearing the end of life.

Today, Helen enjoys an active life in a spacious, light-filled apartment on the eighth floor. Her positive outlook and energetic approach to daily living are truly motivating. She swims every morning, walks, and attends music concerts, drawing daily energy from the vibrant community of Judson Park. "We should have come here sooner," she reflects. "The people at Judson are remarkable."



Richard was often the first to greet Creative Arts Coordinator Cathy Bryan, ATR-BC, LTC, when she arrived in the studio each morning.

Shaping the Future

Helen and Richard's shared love of the arts has left an indelible mark at Judson Park. Helen's thoughtful philanthropy has created a lasting legacy of artistic discovery. Through the Richard Zakin Endowment for Ceramic Arts, one of the oldest forms of art will flourish in the hands of those who follow.

Mauersberger Gift Fuels Artistic Legacy of Ken Nevadomi



George and Christine Mauersberger at WOLFS Gallery, where artwork by Ken Nevadomi is featured in a special collection.

Cleveland artists George and Christine Mauersberger have deepened their commitment to the **Ken Nevadomi Visiting Artist Program** at Judson Park with an additional philanthropic gift in honor of their dear friend. In 2023, the Mauersbergers established an endowed fund to create the program in memory of Ken Nevadomi, a nationally recognized artist and former Judson Park resident. Like George and Christine, Ken was a prominent figure in the art world. He passed away on September 8, 2023.

A Lifelong Dedication to Art

The Mauersbergers are accomplished artists with a shared passion for fostering creativity. George, a longtime professor and retired chair of the art department at Cleveland State University, is widely recognized for his masterful works in charcoal, pastel, and watercolor. Christine, equally gifted, has made her mark as a talented textile artist and designer,

creating everything from large-scale installations to intimate embroidered pieces. Together, they have long been strong advocates for the arts and its transformative power.

The establishment of the Ken Nevadomi Visiting Artist Program at Judson Park marks a significant milestone. While visiting artist programs are typically associated with educational institutions, this initiative at Judson Park breaks new ground. It offers emerging artists a unique platform to extend their work beyond traditional gallery spaces. The inaugural Nevadomi Visiting Artist will showcase their work and offer instruction to Judson Park residents later this year.

The Enduring Power of Art

Ken Nevadomi moved to Judson Park in 2021. Despite an Alzheimer's diagnosis, the prolific artist and educator remained deeply passionate about painting and spent much of his time in the Audra L. Rose Creative Arts Studio. As his condition progressed, he transitioned from his signature large-scale figurative works to smaller, introspective pieces that reflected his personal journey.

"The Creative Arts Studio provided Ken with a space where his creativity could continue to thrive, even as he navigated the challenges of Alzheimer's," said George Mauersberger. "Watching him immerse himself in his art was truly inspiring. Christine and I were moved to establish the fund and continue to support it so that Ken's legacy will encourage future generations at Judson Park."

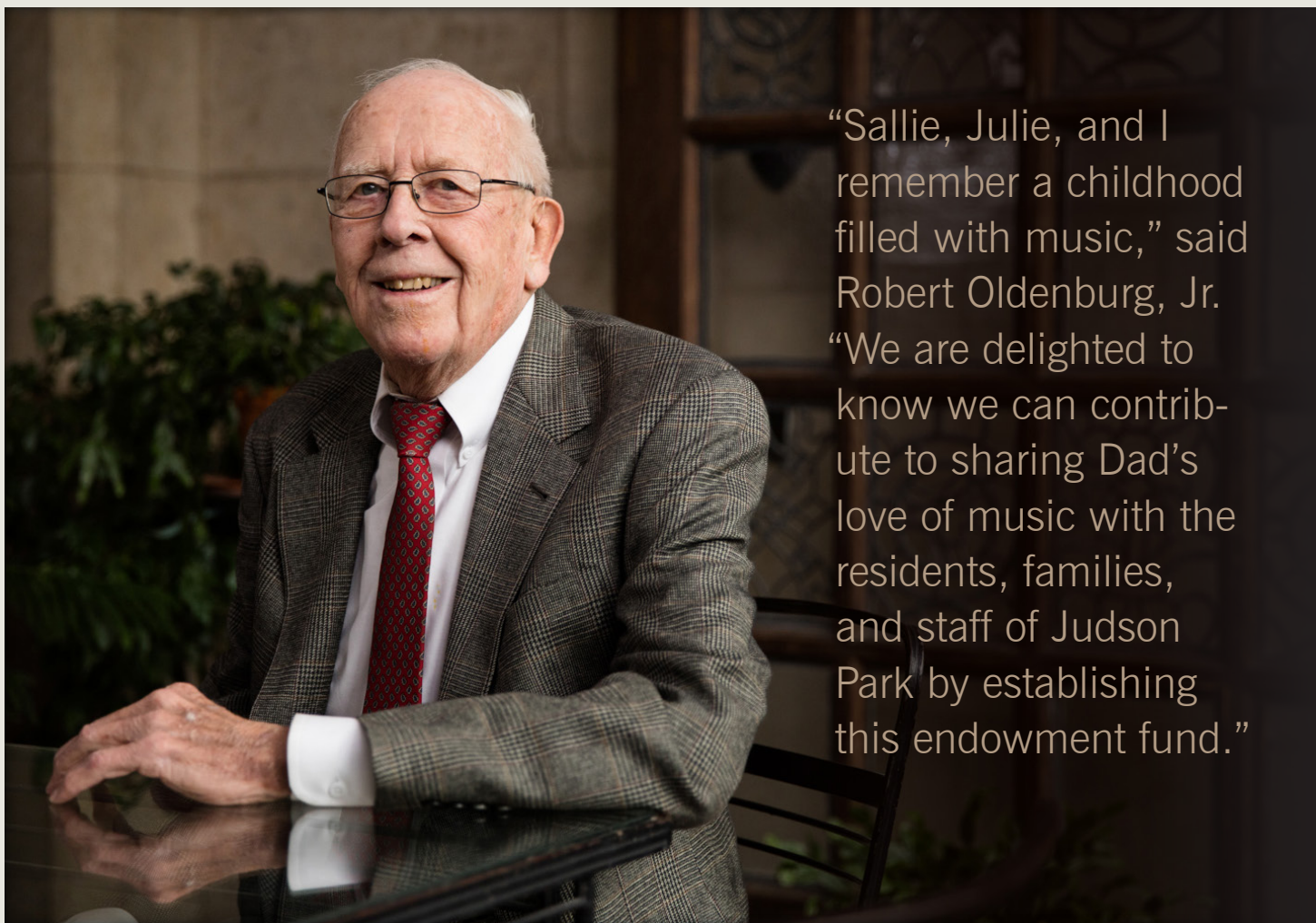
In early 2023, Ken's solo exhibition, *Nevadomi: An Intimate Look*, was featured at Judson Park's Streeter Gallery. The exhibit showcased selections from his personal collection alongside artwork he created at Judson Park. It highlighted his mastery as a Neo-Expressionist and demonstrated how art can sustain identity, even in the face of memory loss.

Throughout his distinguished career, Ken exhibited in over 40 juried shows and 16 solo exhibitions. He earned top honors, including the Cleveland Museum of Art's May Show award in 1986 and the Cleveland Arts Prize for Visual Arts in 1988. He was a dedicated professor at Cleveland State University for decades, retiring as professor emeritus in 2011.

Continuing the Legacy

Through their generous support, the Mauersbergers are ensuring Ken's artistic legacy while strengthening the bond between the arts community and Judson Park residents. The Nevadomi Visiting Artist Program promotes creative expression, underscores the enriching power of art, and highlights its ability to deepen both individual experiences and the collective spirit of the community.

The Oldenburg Family's Tribute to a Beloved Community Leader



“Sallie, Julie, and I remember a childhood filled with music,” said Robert Oldenburg, Jr. “We are delighted to know we can contribute to sharing Dad’s love of music with the residents, families, and staff of Judson Park by establishing this endowment fund.”

In a heartfelt tribute to their father, the children of the late Bob Oldenburg, a beloved and influential figure at Judson Park, have established the **Bob Oldenburg Musical Arts Endowment Fund**. This enduring gift celebrates Bob’s remarkable legacy and the deep love he and his family shared for music.

Following Bob’s passing in August 2023, his daughters, Sallie Adams and Julie Bramble, his son Robert Oldenburg, Jr., and their spouses, came together to create the fund. Contributions made in Bob’s memory to Judson Foundation were added, ensuring that his passion for music will continue to inspire future generations. The fund will significantly enhance and expand music-related programming at Judson Park, a community Bob treasured deeply.

Bob and his wife Barbara, affectionately known as “Buster,” were among the first to call Mansion Courts home. In 1995, they learned about plans to convert the historic Bicknell Mansion into independent living apartments. One evening on a whim, they visited the property and wandered the grounds. As they relaxed by the waterfall out front, they decided that very night to make the mansion their new home.

Over the next few years, the stately 1920s Tudor mansion was transformed into a collection of unique living spaces, and by 1998, Bob and Buster moved into their spacious second-floor suite. They quickly became integral members of the Judson Park community. An avid gardener, Bob could often be found with a trowel in hand planting flowers and vegetables in the garden or tending to plants in the conservatory and solarium.

In 2020, Bob was honored with the Judson Award for Philanthropic Leadership, a well-deserved recognition of his unwavering dedication to the community. During his 25 years at Judson Park, he made more than 300 tribute gifts, celebrating and honoring the lives of friends, neighbors, and loved ones.

“The Bob Oldenburg Musical Arts Endowment Fund is a beautiful and enduring expression of Bob’s legacy— a legacy that continues to live on through his family’s commitment to keeping the joy of music alive at Judson Park,” said Kendra Urdzik, Judson President & CEO. “His life was one of service and connection, and this fund will create shared experiences that foster joy and bring the community to life—just as Bob always did.”

Meredith Seikel's Commitment to Wellness and Education

Longevity is influenced by many factors, but the choices we make each day hold the greatest power. While genetics play a role, studies reveal that 80% of our lifespan is influenced by lifestyle—specifically, what we eat, how we sleep, and how we manage stress. Meredith Seikel understands this deeply, embracing a life of purpose and intention. Her lifelong commitment to fitness and mindful living has been the foundation of her health, keeping her active and engaged in what she loves.

For Meredith, movement has always been more than just exercise—it's a way of life. Growing up on the open plains of Colorado, she learned to ride horses at an early age. In high school, she discovered a passion for skiing and slalom racing. Later, she became an avid cyclist. When she met Oliver, her late husband, she introduced him to cycling, and after just one ride, he was hooked. Together, they pedaled across Europe and North America, championing greenway development and supporting organizations like Rails-to-Trails. In 2008, Meredith and Oliver chose to make Judson Manor their home, drawn by its historic charm, vibrant community, and proximity to world-class healthcare and cultural attractions.

Meredith's influence reaches far beyond her personal journey. Through her generosity, she is helping others realize their health and career aspirations. In 2020, she made a significant contribution to the Judson Manor Wellness Center, funding the purchase of four new fitness machines to support residents in their pursuit of wellness. In the past year, she reaffirmed her commitment to fitness with two generous donations for new equipment, ensuring that the wellness center remains an accessible resource for everyone.

Meredith's philanthropy also extends to education, reflecting her belief in the transformative power of learning. She has invested significantly in Judson's scholarship program to help associates advance their careers. Her passion for education is deeply personal. "I received an educational grant that enabled me to attend graduate school," Meredith says. "I know firsthand how access to education can open doors, which is why supporting educational opportunities for associates is important to me."

One of the many lives touched by her kindness is Rosanna Eliser, Wellness Coordinator at Judson Manor. A registered yoga teacher and certified Pilates instructor, Rosanna joined the Judson wellness team in 2019 and quickly became a beloved mentor in the community. Passionate about working with older adults, she aspired to build on her bachelor's degree in exercise physiology with a master's in health administration. Meredith's support helped make that possible.

"I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to complete my graduate degree," Rosanna shared. "Scholarship support from Judson truly made a difference, giving me the chance to advance my education and grow in ways I never thought possible. Continuing education is essential to advancing our mission of Bringing Community to Life, and I'll always be thankful for the generosity of Meredith and all those who support Judson's scholarship program."

From helping residents stay active to empowering associates in their professional growth, Meredith's philanthropic spirit continues to change lives. Her generosity is a testament to the profound impact one person can have, inspiring others to pursue their own paths to wellness and success.





Glenmede Amplifies Judson's Mission

While many stories highlight the generosity of individual donors, Judson's mission is also advanced by corporate partners. Glenmede has been a trusted advisor and sponsor of Judson's work. The leading wealth management and investment advisory firm exemplifies how strategic partnership, sound financial management, and shared values can turn generosity into enduring impact.

Elevating Signature Programs and Celebrating Generosity

As a longtime supporter, Glenmede has played a key role in elevating signature programs that enrich and inspire the Judson community. The community-minded firm was the first corporate sponsor of the highly regarded South Franklin Circle Dialogue Series, helping bring bold ideas and influential voices to campus. Their ongoing support of Judson Foundation's annual *Celebration of Generosity*, most recently as Platinum Sponsor, continues to advance Judson's purpose by honoring those whose unwavering support creates a future full of possibility. The firm's involvement underscores the importance of recognizing philanthropic leadership and inspiring donors to give with clarity, intention, and heart.

Reflecting on What Matters Most

This spring, Glenmede deepened its engagement through a powerful presentation at South Franklin Circle. "*What legacy will you leave behind?*" That question guided a heartfelt conversation led by Ken Spruill, Director for Family and Wealth Education, and Bethany Bryant, Regional Managing Director of the Ohio market. Residents and their families were invited to reflect on the lasting influence of their values, stories, and generosity, whether expressed through family, philanthropy, or community. The program offered inspiration and practical tools for thinking about legacy with purpose.

Glenmede's long history of guiding generational giving began in 1956, when it was founded to serve as the Trustee and Administrator of The Pew Memorial Trust. This enduring partnership with The Pew Charitable Trusts set the tone for Glenmede's deep commitment to philanthropic leadership and long-term stewardship—values that continue to shape their work today.

What Is an Endowment, and Why Is It Important?

An endowment is a pool of charitable gifts invested to generate income in perpetuity, providing long-term financial stability for nonprofit organizations. At Judson, these funds support cherished programs like art and music and help ensure that residents can remain in their homes, regardless of financial changes. Donors who give to the endowment make a powerful statement of trust and vision—investing not just in today, but in Judson's future. Their generosity, guided by trusted partners like Glenmede, sustains the promise of a community for life.

A True Champion of Judson's Mission

"Glenmede has been more than a financial partner; they've been a true champion of Judson's mission," says Beth Embrescia, Vice President of Judson Foundation. "Their thoughtful stewardship ensures that our endowment continues to grow, offering the stability that allows residents to thrive with purpose and belonging. We are deeply grateful for their insight, their generosity, and their unwavering commitment to carrying forward our founders' vision."

Meet Tim Reynolds, Judson Foundation Board Chair



The greatest lessons I've learned?
Persevere, embrace every stage
of life, and always keep smiling.

Leadership, experience, and a passion for service—Tim Reynolds embodies all three. For the past decade, Judson has benefited from his expertise and dedication as a board member and now as board chair of Judson Foundation. Since joining the volunteer board of Judson Services, Inc. in 2015, Tim has brought a wealth of knowledge and insight gained from an impressive and multifaceted career spanning finance, corporate strategy, and technology.

A graduate of Macalester College, Tim began his career at The Cleveland Trust Company, where he rose to the role of lending officer in the international division, traveling extensively to the Far East, Australia, and New Zealand. In 1980, he pursued an MBA at the University of Michigan School of Business, which led to a path through corporate strategy to oil trading at Standard Oil of Ohio (SOHIO) and British Petroleum (BP).

Building on his wealth of experience, Tim took an entrepreneurial leap in 1994, acquiring Tribute, Inc., an enterprise resource planning (ERP) software provider that supports everything from sales order entry to inventory management and producing financial statements for industrial distributors. He successfully led the company for over 25 years before selling it in 2020.

Today, he and his wife, Mary, divide their time between Gates Mills, Ohio, and Charleston, South Carolina. He and Mary are the proud parents of three sons and grandparents of three grandchildren. Read on to learn more about Tim and his commitment to Judson's mission of *Bringing Community to Life*.

Nonprofit board members are vital in providing strategic guidance, fiduciary oversight, leadership, and advocacy. What compelled you to join the Judson board, and why are you passionate about Judson's mission?

I joined the Judson Board at the urging of my good friend Chip AuWerter—a force of nature who is hard to refuse—shortly after my parents, Bill and Jo Reynolds, moved to South Franklin Circle. It felt like a natural fit, not only because I wanted to support my parents but also because of my long-standing commitment to nonprofit leadership. I believed that, with my experience, I could bring value to Judson.

Judson's compassionate and all-encompassing approach to senior living truly sets it apart. As we age, our needs evolve, and Judson provides the right level of support at every stage, whether through independent and assisted living, memory care, or hospice. This adaptability offers residents and their families invaluable peace of mind, knowing that care will always align with their changing needs.

But Judson is much more than just a care provider. Judson fosters a vibrant community where residents can continue to grow, learn, and engage in meaningful ways. The organization empowers individuals to lead fulfilling lives, embracing new opportunities and connections. Judson's mission of *Bringing Community to Life* isn't just a tagline; it's a philosophy that genuinely defines Judson's impact and approach.

How does philanthropy influence our society, particularly in meeting the needs of older adults?

It's neither possible nor desirable to rely solely on the government to meet all of society's needs. Philanthropy plays a crucial role in bridging gaps, providing essential services, and addressing challenges that may be too complex, localized, or costly to tackle within a political framework.

When it comes to older adults, it's important to recognize that they are not a homogeneous group. Their needs are diverse and evolving. For Judson and its supporters, the key is to focus on the segments of the senior population we are best equipped to serve. Within that framework, philanthropy allows us to go the extra mile, enhancing programs, expanding services, and embracing innovative approaches that would otherwise be out of reach.

Adapting to new and growing needs would be far more challenging without philanthropy. It provides the flexibility and resources necessary to ensure organizations like Judson continue to thrive and evolve in an ever-changing landscape.

Your family has demonstrated a deep commitment to advancing memory care, including an unprecedented gift from your parents in 2020—the largest in Judson’s history. What inspires you about Judson’s vision for the future of memory care?

I am deeply passionate about the memory care neighborhood. Our vision for its programs is firmly rooted in both scientific research and Judson’s philosophy of care. This initiative will position Judson at the forefront of memory care and provide an innovative and compassionate environment for residents. The need for memory care is growing, even within the current Judson community. To uphold Judson’s mission, we must expand our memory care services to meet this increasing demand.

In your view, what is the most significant challenge Judson faces today?

I believe our greatest challenge now and in the future is attracting and retaining high-quality employees. We are committed to addressing this in every way possible, from refining job roles and recruiting strategies to enhancing training, career development, compensation, and workplace culture. The stronger we are in each of these areas, the stronger Judson will be as an organization, ensuring the highest level of service to our community. It all begins with our people.

You’ve served on numerous boards, including the Council on Smaller Enterprises (COSE) and the National Small Business Association. You were also elected and re-elected as Treasurer of the Village of Gates Mills. When you’re not supporting small businesses, organizations, and communities, how do you enjoy spending your free time?

I’m passionate about the outdoors and have long enjoyed activities like hunting and fly fishing, which take me to some of the most beautiful natural locations. I’m also an enthusiastic cook and have been the primary cook for my family for quite a while. Cooking is an ongoing passion, so I regularly take cooking classes to refine my skills, and I love entertaining friends and family. I’m also a modest wine collector and currently serve as the head of the Cleveland *Sous-commanderie of the Confrérie des Chevaliers du Tastevin*, an esteemed international organization dedicated to promoting the wines of Burgundy.

Has your perspective on aging evolved since becoming involved with Judson? And what lasting lessons have you taken from this experience?

Absolutely—if nothing else, I’ve experienced aging firsthand! But more importantly, my time with Judson and its residents has given me a fresh perspective on the opportunities that come with growing older. I’ve seen what it truly means to age with grace, which has given me a sense of confidence and anticipation as I enter my 70s—far more than I might have otherwise.

Thank You,

Judson Board of Directors

With deep gratitude, we celebrate the dedicated volunteer leaders who have served on Judson’s Boards this past year. Your unwavering commitment, wisdom, and generosity of spirit have strengthened our organization and enriched the lives of those we serve. Your guidance helps us navigate challenges, seize new opportunities, and build a brighter future for Judson and our community. We are stronger because of you.

Thank you for your leadership and partnership!

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**We honor the memory and lasting impact of our late board members. Their leadership, vision, and belief in Judson’s mission continue to inspire and guide us.*



Events and Happenings

Celebration of Generosity

A Night of Gratitude

A record number of Judson's friends and benefactors gathered at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History on September 12, 2024, for the **9th Annual Celebration of Generosity**. The special event celebrated the transformative power of philanthropy and provided an opportunity for Judson Foundation to express gratitude to the donors who support Judson's mission of *Bringing Community to Life*.

Judson Foundation Board Chair Tim Reynolds opened the evening with a warm welcome and words of appreciation. "Throughout our history, gifts of all types have strengthened Judson's ability to empower older adults to lead richer and fuller lives," he pronounced. "Because of your remarkable kindness, Judson residents continue to find and build community, connection, support, and purpose."

Following dinner, Judson President and CEO Kendra Urdzik highlighted the collaborative achievements made possible by more than \$1.5 million in philanthropy over the past year. Notable accomplishments included the creation of an innovation fund supported by board members, the establishment of three new donor-endowed funds to advance arts-inspired programming, and unrestricted gifts that ensure all residents have a community for life.

One of the most anticipated milestones was the transformation of an underutilized greenspace at Judson Park into an inviting garden retreat—a project funded entirely by philanthropy.

"Thanks to the generosity of many here tonight, our dream of a community-focused outdoor destination for education, recreation, relaxation, gardening, and wellness at Judson Park has

been fulfilled," Urdzik shared. "The new garden advances our mission and helps shape the Judson experience by providing a space where residents, their families, caregivers, and associates can interact and enjoy the healing benefits of spending time in nature."

The evening also celebrated the power of planned giving. **Harold and Lenore Koppel** were welcomed as the newest members of the **1906 Legacy Society**, recognizing their commitment to shaping Judson's future through an estate gift. **Jennie Bemberg** and **Alex Cook** were recognized posthumously for their recently realized legacy gifts. More about these visionary donors can be found on pages 16 and 17.

The night concluded with the **Judson Foundation Award for Philanthropic Leadership** presentation to **Kevin Shaw**, marking the sixth time the award was announced. First presented in 2017, the award recognizes individuals who demonstrate an extraordinary passion for Judson's mission through their generosity and leadership.

An esteemed business leader and philanthropist, Kevin has played an integral role in advancing Judson's mission for over two decades. Joining the Judson Foundation Board in 2002, he served as chair from 2016 until May 2024. Inspired by his experience, Kevin and his wife Joyce made an unrestricted leadership gift in 2016, enabling Judson to focus on areas of strategic importance and implement innovative approaches to care. Currently, Kevin serves on the Judson Services Board and is an executive committee member.

Thank You 2024 Celebration of Generosity Sponsors

It is an honor to come together annually to celebrate philanthropy and its impact. Judson Foundation extends heartfelt gratitude to the corporate partners listed below for their generous support and unwavering commitment to *Bringing Community to Life* at Judson.

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Don and Dottie Kuhn, Dana Lorenz, Theresa Pretlow, Judy Henderson, Ruth Severiens, Harry Koppel, Margi Robinson, Mary Margaret Brennan, Helen Zakin, and Natasha Field



Judson Award for Philanthropic Leadership recipient Kevin Shaw and his wife, Joyce, and Kendra Urdzik



Front Row: Roger Kallock, Richard Moore, Davis Young, Kendra Urdzik, Don Kuhn, Cyndy Dunn, Back Row: John O'Brien, Christopher Smythe, Rex Mason, Kevin Shaw, Tom Brick, Tom Nobbe, Rick Bamberger



Kemp Smith, Tony Oliverio, Nancy King Smith, Sylvia and John Yankey



Kendra Urdzik with 1906 Legacy Society inductee Harry Koppel and his son, Ted



Alice Hannon-Taylor and Alex Taylor



Peggy Culp, Don and Anne Palmer, Sally Chisholm, Jim and Molly Weaver



Suzanne Teague, Caren Dalton, and Virginia Poirier

Community in Harmony: Judson Park's Piano Celebration



Pictured Above Circle: Phyllis Carter, former Resident Association President, and Jim Smith, joined by Judson Foundation Vice President Beth Embrescia, cut the ribbon, marking the beginning of a new era of musical enjoyment at Judson Park.

Judson Park residents who contributed to the acquisition of the new Steinway piano were treated to a performance by Artist-in-Residence Maggie Johns (right).



Maggie Johns captivated the audience with three movements from Debussy's *Suite Bergamasque*.

On October 7, 2024, Judson Park residents celebrated the arrival of a “new” Steinway baby grand piano, marking a significant enhancement to the Judson Park Auditorium. Though pre-owned, the ebony Steinway—a brand renowned for its unmatched quality and craftsmanship—is in excellent condition and promises to usher in a new chapter of musical enrichment for the community.

“The residents of Judson Park are sophisticated classical music enthusiasts, and we turn out in droves to concerts in our auditorium,” shared Jim Smith, resident and chair of the Judson Park music committee. “Music is a vital part of our lives here at Judson Park. It enhances our sense of community and well-being.”

The acquisition of the piano was made possible by the generosity of more than two dozen Judson Park residents, who attended the afternoon reception and ribbon-cutting ceremony. Their contributions underscored the community’s shared passion for music.

A captivating performance by Judson Park Artist in Residence Maggie Johns made the event even more special. Maggie showcased the piano’s rich, resonant sound with three movements from Claude Debussy’s *Suite Bergamasque: Prélude, Menuet, and Clair de Lune*. Maggie, a rising talent who completed her Master of Music in Piano Performance with a piano pedagogy concentration at Cleveland Institute of Music (CIM) in 2024, is now pursuing her Doctor of Musical Arts degree.

Jim Smith, the visionary behind the campaign, noted the profound impact of the acquisition. “We are indeed blessed to have the student musicians of the CIM perform here regularly, many of whom are destined for concert stages around the world. Elevating their performance experience with a Steinway enhances the joy and appreciation of both the performers and their audience.”

Cultivating Connection: Judson Park Celebrates New Outdoor Retreat

On Thursday, July 25, 2024, the Judson Park community gathered for a ribbon-cutting ceremony and dedication to celebrate the official opening of the Judson Park Garden. Over 100 residents, donors, and associates attended the event, marking the completion of an accessible green space thoughtfully designed to enhance well-being and foster community connections.

Judson Board Chair Tom Nobbe warmly welcomed guests to the outdoor celebration and shared how the outdoor retreat will impact the community. “A growing body of research points to the many physical, mental, and social benefits of gardening and spending time in nature,” he noted. “Working in the garden, walking in the garden, and even looking at the garden provide tangible benefits for everyone.”

Judson President and CEO Kendra Urdzik expressed gratitude to the donors whose generosity brought this dream to life. “Creating this distinctive outdoor space to be enjoyed now and for generations to come was a challenging proposition, and it would not have been possible without philanthropy,” she said. “This garden is a wonderful example of how philanthropy has the power to accelerate ideas into actions that uplift our community.”

Located behind the historic Bicknell Mansion, the garden spans nearly three-quarters of an acre and blends natural beauty with functional design. It features three named spaces: the expansive **Patience and Lansing Hoskins Great Lawn**, the meandering **Lou Anne Rayburn Pathway**, and the serene **Ilse and Herman Strnisha Meditation Garden**. The soothing cascade of water from a new fountain installed in the original Bicknell fountain basin not only adds a timeless touch to the outdoor retreat but also honors the enduring legacy of the Bicknell family.

Carefully designed with sustainability and accessibility in mind, the garden showcases a vibrant array of perennials and foliage native to Ohio, carefully selected to enhance the local ecosystem. The beds were brought to life through the collaborative efforts of residents and a team of Master Gardeners. Along the circular pathway, benches dedicated to loved ones offer serene spots for rest and reflection. A new community garden area featuring raised beds and easy access to water and tools allows residents to embrace the joy of hands-on gardening.

Cordy Taylor, Patience Hoskins, Natasha Field, Lansing Hoskins, and Anne Rayburn Smith cut the celebratory ribbon.



Theresa Pretlow, Dalia Zemaityte, and Bennett Brown enjoy the sunshine and celebration festivities.

Pictured right:
Siblings Stephen Strnisha and Liz Ferro relax in the Ilse and Herman Strnisha Meditation Garden.



Community Life Assistant and Master Gardener Heather Alexander (center), joined by Master Gardeners Jeanne Menger (left) and Nancy Donley (right), led tours of the garden and dedicated many hours to planning native plantings for the space.

Koppel Legacy Expands Opportunities at Judson Park

Legacy gifts are profound expressions of gratitude, trust, and a deep commitment to future generations. Harold and Lenore Koppel have created a lasting legacy at Judson Park through their enduring generosity by establishing the **Harold and Lenore Koppel Music Fund**. Their generous \$50,000 bequest ensures that music, an essential part of the community, continues enriching residents' lives for years to come.

In addition to supporting the music program, the Koppels also designated an unrestricted \$50,000 contribution to Judson in their estate plans. This gift will allow Judson Park's leadership to flexibly allocate resources where they are needed most, further demonstrating the couple's unwavering dedication to the community and their appreciation for the welcoming, home-like environment.

"Legacy gifts like those from Harry and Lenore are essential to ensuring the long-term sustainability of the programs and services that make Judson Park an exceptional place to live," said Tom McGraw, Judson Park's Executive Director. "Their foresight and generosity will leave a lasting impact, not only on the well-being of our residents but also on the vibrancy of our community. We are deeply grateful for their vision and desire to help shape Judson's future."



A Story of Resilience and Determination

Harold, a Holocaust survivor, nuclear scientist, and businessman, and his wife Lenore, a dedicated special education instructor, principal, and school administrator, made Judson Park their home in 2017. Though new residents, the Koppels were already familiar with the community. Harold's father, Siegfried, was one of the first occupants of the Jordan Gardner Tower's tenth floor when it opened in the late 1970s. The Koppel family's journey to Judson Park is a testament to their strength, perseverance, and unwavering spirit in overcoming adversity.

Born in Cologne, Germany, in 1927, Harold and his family fled Nazi persecution in 1939. Before their U.S. visa could take effect, Siegfried, a respected physician, was arrested the day after Kristallnacht and sent to Dachau. This tragic turn of events forced the family into action. Determined to save him, Harold's mother managed to secure a temporary visa for the family to England. She courageously traveled to the concentration camp, where she paid a steep ransom for his release and permission to leave Germany.

Upon his father's return, the family quickly packed their belongings and departed. They traveled to Holland, crossed the English Channel, and arrived in England on January 10, 1939. Harold's older sister, Anne, had already reached safety in England via Kindertransport the previous year. Months later, the family embarked on a perilous transatlantic journey aboard the Dutch liner Statendam, reuniting with relatives in the United States. They eventually settled in Cleveland, where Siegfried re-established his medical practice in the 1940s.

Finding a Home at Judson Park

When choosing a retirement community, Harold and Lenore explored several options before deciding on Judson Park. They were drawn to Judson's nonprofit mission and its vibrant, engaging, and supportive atmosphere that could accommodate their evolving needs while fostering a deep sense of community.

The couple quickly immersed themselves in Judson's active lifestyle. Lenore enjoyed swimming, while Harold relished walking the tree-lined streets of Ambler Heights. He also became a key figure in the community, joining the Men's Discussion Group, serving as president of the Resident Association, and contributing as a member of the editorial committee for *Connections*, Judson Park's resident-produced publication.

A Gift for the Future

Harold and Lenore's gift reflects their compassion, love for music, and deep connection to Judson Park.

"My father was also very interested in music, and we've enjoyed living at Judson Park," Harold shared. "This is our first legacy gift, and it's something we could do that wouldn't affect our current situation or impact our kids."

Harold's words demonstrate his practicality and deep commitment to giving back. Through their generosity, Harold and Lenore have ensured that the harmony of music and the strength of community will continue to thrive at Judson Park.

Harold Koppel passed away on Friday, May 2, 2025, shortly before this issue went to press. We share this story with gratitude and admiration for his generous spirit and lasting impact.

"This is our first legacy gift, and it's something we could do that wouldn't affect our current situation or impact our kids."

- Harry Koppel



Honoring Legacies of Generosity

This past year, Judson Foundation was deeply honored to receive generous bequests from three cherished residents who fully embraced Judson's mission of *Bringing Community to Life*. With foresight and compassion, **Alexander Cook**, **Nancy Gorenshek**, and **Jennie Bemberg** included Judson in their estate plans, leaving legacies that will extend far beyond their lifetimes. We invite you to learn more about these visionary donors and their lasting impact.

An Artist's Enduring Gift

Alexander Burns Cook, a celebrated Great Lakes Marine artist, sailor, teacher, and historian, leaves an artistic legacy that stretches far beyond the canvas. The esteemed Judson Park resident passed away on January 23, 2024, at the age of 99. Through his paintbrush and pen, Alex captured the beauty of life along the Great Lakes.

Growing up along the shores of Lake Michigan, Alex developed a fondness for sailing early in life. While in high school, he was hired by celebrated cartoonist Arthur Poinier to do lettering for the national comic strip *Jitters*. That early experience ignited his lifelong love of art.

In 1942, Alex enrolled at Ohio Wesleyan University, but his education was interrupted when he volunteered for the U.S. Army. Assigned to the 3rd Engineers Special Brigade in New Guinea, he used his artistic talents to draw landing maps. He was awarded the Good Conduct Medal and the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Ribbon with two stars for his service.

After the war, Alex completed his degree in political science at Ohio Wesleyan University, where he was twice named the *Top Ohio College Editorial Cartoonist*. He later joined *The Plain Dealer* as an editorial cartoonist, where he developed four popular series: *Buckeye Corner*, *Fellow Travelers*, *That's Life*, and *Cap'n Scupper*, which humorously chronicled the daily adventures of a Great Lakes ship captain. Alex went on to earn a master's degree in art and dedicated the remainder of his career to teaching art in Cleveland Public Schools.

Alex was a dedicated volunteer with the Great Lakes Historical Society. He served on its Board of Trustees and curated exhibits for the Inland Seas Maritime Museum in Vermilion, Ohio. A prolific maritime painter, Alex created murals, ship portraits, and a series of fifty-five watercolor holiday-inspired scenes for the Great Lakes Historical Society's annual holiday card. His illustrations also brought to life *The Adventures of Kitty Smoke and Her Friends*, a heartwarming children's book about a boy and his grandfather restoring a dilapidated steam tug.



In 1992, Alex married Marilyn, the love of his life. The devoted couple moved to Judson Park, where Alex continued to paint. During the pandemic, confined to his apartment, Alex created intricate three-dimensional shadow boxes depicting maritime and local scenes. Alex and his beloved "Marigold" celebrated 30 years together before her passing in 2022.

Now, through his generous unrestricted estate gift, Alex's spirit of creativity and dedication to the community will continue shaping Judson's future. His legacy ensures that Judson can allocate resources where needed most, fostering a thriving environment for residents to engage, create, and connect.



Nancy Gorenshek's Bequest Strengthens the Phelps Collaborative

Nancy Gorenshek's lifelong commitment to healthcare and education continues to make an impact through a generous \$100,000 bequest to support Judson's partnership with the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing at Case Western Reserve University. The devoted nurse and proud South Franklin Circle resident passed away on November 22, 2023. Her passion for caregiving extends well past her professional career.

Earning both her Bachelor and Master of Science in Nursing ('65, '69) from Case Western Reserve University, Nancy worked in several Cleveland hospitals before retiring from the University Hospitals Health System. Beyond her professional accomplishments, Nancy was an avid outdoors enthusiast, enjoying camping, fishing, biking, and RV travel. At home, she delighted in the serene nature surrounding her South Franklin Circle cottage and embraced Florida's warmth during the winter months.

Nancy's forward-thinking generosity will help advance the Charlene Phelps Collaborative for Older Adult and Family Engagement. Established by her dear friend Charlene Phelps in 2016, this pioneering partnership fosters research and clinical advancements to improve older adult health, educate future nursing students, and address pressing issues related to aging. Through this meaningful gift, Nancy's legacy will shape the future of care for older adults and inspire future caregivers.

Jennie Bemberg's Lasting Legacy of Care

Jennie Bemberg's spirit of service and generosity will live on through her generous bequest to Judson. A beloved South Franklin Circle resident, Jennie dedicated her time and energy to strengthening her community. Whether through her involvement with the Middlefield Historical Society or her work with the Burton-Middlefield Rotary Club, Jennie's passion for giving back was evident in every aspect of her life. Jennie passed away on September 17, 2023.

Jennie and her husband established the Frederick W. and Jennie Bemberg Endowed Master Clinician in Medical Oncology at University Hospitals Geauga Medical Center, demonstrating her unwavering commitment to ensuring access to quality healthcare in her community. Recognizing the positive impact Judson had on her life, Jennie chose to include the organization in her estate plans, an expression of gratitude for the vibrant community she found at South Franklin Circle. Having cared for her husband through his journey with Alzheimer's disease, Judson is designating Jennie's \$300,000 bequest to support memory care at South Franklin Circle, ensuring individuals facing cognitive challenges receive the compassionate, home-like care that they deserve.



Leaving a Mark of Meaning

The generosity of **Alexander Cook**, **Nancy Gorenshek**, and **Jennie Bemberg** exemplifies the power of planned giving. Their legacies will continue to uplift the Judson community, supporting essential programs and services that enhance the lives of older adults. We are profoundly grateful for their philanthropy, which ensures that Judson remains a place where community, care, and innovation thrive for generations.

Judson Strong

DONNELL PARKER is the Dietary Manager of Crane House, where he brings his passion for cooking to the residents of South Franklin Circle's assisted living and memory care neighborhoods. His journey with South Franklin Circle began in 2015 as a part-time cook, but his dedication to serving older adults spans nearly two decades. With support from Judson's career and professional development scholarship program, Donnell earned his Dietary Management Certification from Cuyahoga Community College. Today, he oversees food safety, menu planning, and a talented culinary team, ensuring that residents enjoy delicious, nutritious meals every day. Learn more about Donnell's inspiring career and the joy he finds in creating meals that are *Bringing Community to Life*.



INSPIRE:

Tell us about your family.

I grew up in a big family with four sisters and a brother—I'm the second oldest. Family has always been an important part of my life, and that's something I carry into my work every day. I live in Warrensville Heights and am a father of three amazing kids. My two sons, Donnell III, 16, and Dylan, 12, and my daughter, Chloe, 10, are bright, caring, and kind. They are terrific kids and my proudest accomplishment.

INSPIRE:

What inspired you to pursue a career in culinary arts?

My initial career path was quite different. In 2006, I began working as a nursing home aide while taking classes at Cuyahoga Community College. At the time, I thought I would follow my older sister's path into accounting. She was the first in my family to graduate from college. However, during the 2008 recession, I had to find a new job, so I took a position as a dishwasher in the kitchen at the senior living facility where my dad worked as a cook. This was a turning point in my life. At first, it was just a way to earn a paycheck. But as I learned more and worked my way up, I discovered a real passion for cooking. I loved the creativity, the ability to bring joy to others through food, and the sense of purpose that came with preparing meals for residents. That experience changed the course of my career—and I've never looked back.

INSPIRE:

You clearly have a passion for people and share your love for others through cooking. What is the most satisfying part of your job at South Franklin Circle?

I enjoy working and appreciate my team's camaraderie and the great space we work in. Most of all, I genuinely enjoy caring for our residents and making sure they feel valued and well-nourished. While food is essential for survival, it's also so much more than that—it brings comfort, joy, and a sense of connection. Meal times are a special part of the day where residents can come together, share conversations, and build relationships. Knowing that the meals we prepare create these meaningful moments is incredibly fulfilling.

INSPIRE:

What's a dish you love to cook, and why?

One of my absolute favorites is catfish with black-eyed peas, cabbage, peppers, onions, shrimp, and kielbasa. It's a dish that brings together bold flavors and comforting textures—savory, smoky, and just the right amount of spice. I love how each ingredient complements the others, creating a soulful, hearty meal. Plus, cooking it fills the kitchen with an incredible aroma that instantly makes you hungry!

INSPIRE:

Looking back on your career journey, what's one key takeaway?

Education provides a strong foundation, but experience is invaluable. The best way to truly learn is by doing. Hands-on experience is what ultimately shapes your skills and confidence in the kitchen and life.

INSPIRE:

What are some of your favorite ways to unwind and have fun?

I lead an active and social life, always seeking new adventures and experiences. I love creating my own "one-tank trips," exploring hidden gems—whether it's a unique restaurant, a lively bar, or an unexpected spot that adds something special to the Cleveland area. I'm also a big baseball fan and hope to visit every Major League stadium someday. For me, life is about exploring new places and enjoying the journey.

INSPIRE:

What does *Bringing Community to Life* mean to you?

To me, *Bringing Community to Life* is about fostering positive energy. It's about creating an environment where everyone—residents, families, guests, and associates—feels happy, supported, and cared for. Whether through a warm meal, a friendly conversation, or a shared experience, it's the small moments that make a community feel like home.

LAURA TEMPLAR, Director of Volunteer Services, has been creating meaningful volunteer experiences at Judson for nearly 26 years. She leads a remarkable team of dedicated residents and community members who generously share their time and talents to advance Judson's mission. With Laura's guidance, volunteers make a profound and immeasurable impact. Her exceptional ability to match volunteers' unique skills and interests with the organization's needs ensures fulfilling and engaging opportunities that benefit both the individuals and the community. Though volunteers aren't compensated for their services, Laura's heartfelt appreciation and gratitude ensure they feel genuinely valued and rewarded for their time, energy, and passion.

INSPIRE:

Tell us about yourself and your family.

I hold a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work from Cleveland State and am a Licensed Social Worker (LSW). I've been happily married to my husband, Mark, for 37 years, and we live in Willoughby Hills. We raised two wonderful sons, both of whom are married, and now we have two fabulous daughters-in-law.

INSPIRE:

What did you want to be growing up?

I always wanted to be a social worker. In high school, I organized social events and community service projects through a Jewish youth group. After college, I joined Jewish Family Service Association, working in eldercare. I visited older adults in their homes to assess their well-being and connect them with the support they needed to live safely and independently.

INSPIRE:

You've built a career managing volunteers. It is no secret that you possess strong communication and organizational skills, not to mention attention to detail and the ability to roll with unexpected changes. What led you to this role at Judson?

I met Janet Hall, who founded Judson's Volunteer Services Department, while earning a certificate in volunteer management. She became a mentor to me. I had planned to pursue a master's in social work, but I fell in love with volunteer management instead. I joined Judson in 1999 as Associate Director and became Director in 2001 when Janet retired.

INSPIRE:

What do you find most fulfilling about your job?

What truly fulfills me is the opportunity to engage with the residents and form meaningful relationships over the years. It's been a privilege to learn about their lives, their accomplishments, and the challenges they have overcome. Many of our residents are pioneers in their fields, and their stories



are incredibly inspiring. What's most heartwarming is seeing them continue to give back, whether through volunteering or simply being a supportive neighbor.

INSPIRE:

As Director of Volunteer Services, you help create experiences that leave a lasting impact. Can you share a particularly memorable moment?

There have been so many moments that stay with me. Whether it's a one-on-one visit, an art program, a music session, or a pet visit, it's incredibly moving to see how these interactions affect both residents and volunteers. Knowing I've helped create meaningful connections is one of the most fulfilling parts of my work.

INSPIRE:

What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

In my free time, I enjoy cooking, but I love baking—and sharing the treats I make! I also cherish any opportunity to spend time with my family and friends. Hosting gatherings that bring loved ones together to celebrate and create lasting memories brings me joy.

INSPIRE:

What does *Bringing Community to Life* mean to you?

Volunteers play a leading role in Judson's mission of *Bringing Community to Life*. Their dedication strengthens our communities, making them more vibrant and connected. Residents form meaningful friendships with volunteers, expanding their social circles and engaging with others who share common interests. Whether through programs, activities, or lending a helping hand in various ways, volunteers help create a true sense of community.

THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS In a world where every minute matters, choosing to volunteer speaks volumes about your generosity. In 2024, 269 individuals and 12 groups dedicated 16,481 hours to Judson Manor, Judson Park, and South Franklin Circle. The Independent Sector values this time at \$551,949—but to Judson, it's priceless. **Thank you for *Bringing Community to Life* at Judson.**

Stuart and Susan Crampton Embrace Community with Purpose



From the moment Stuart and Susan Crampton set foot in South Franklin Circle on a cold January day in 2014, they felt something familiar. The welcoming atmosphere, the easy conversations, and the sense of belonging reminded them of home. The Massachusetts couple, both in their seventies, were searching for a senior living environment near family. Their son, David, a professor at Case Western Reserve University, led them to explore Judson, but it wasn't until they visited Chagrin Falls that everything fell into place. "It just felt like Williamstown," Susan recalls, referencing the picturesque college town they had called home for 50 years. Six months later, they settled into a bright, third-floor apartment, where, as Susan happily notes, "all of our furniture fit perfectly."

Bold Choices, Defining Moments

For Stuart and Susan, making bold choices has always come naturally. Originally from Colorado, Susan met Stuart in 1961 through a mutual friend. Stuart, a Williams graduate, was completing his Ph.D. in physics at Harvard, while Susan, a Smith College alum, was preparing for Union Theological Seminary in New York. A whirlwind romance led to their engagement and marriage that same year.

Stuart built a distinguished career as a physics professor and later as provost at Williams. Meanwhile, Susan balanced raising their three children, David, Rebecca, and Alexandra, with her lifelong dream of becoming a pastor. In 1977, she

earned a master's degree in divinity and, a year later, became the first woman ordained as a priest in the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts.

New Beginnings, New Connections

From the moment they moved in, Susan and Stuart were impressed with the amenities and services of South Franklin Circle. The community offered everything they had envisioned for their retirement, along with the reassurance that their future needs would be met. But what made the biggest impact was the people.

"Ohio really does have a Midwestern friendliness, and we immediately felt like we were part of the community," said Susan. "We have as many friends here now as we did in Williamstown," Stuart added, highlighting the strong sense of belonging they have found in Ohio.

Having cared for her aging mother, Susan deeply values the seamless senior living experience and the peace of mind it provides. Since moving in, both she and Stuart have been tested by serious health challenges. Susan has undergone three joint replacements, while Stuart is recovering from a series of falls. Through it all, they have found strength in this community and each other.

Leaving a Lasting Impact

True to their lifelong commitment to service, Stuart and Susan have enriched life at South Franklin Circle from day one. Stuart serves on the Judson Home Care Board of Directors and contributes to the Resident Life and DEI committees while also playing a role in leading two men's groups. As a Hospice Companion, he offers comfort and support to residents. Beyond the community, he has volunteered as a math tutor and mentor to Cleveland eighth graders, guiding them through the high school selection process as a crucial step toward college and career readiness.

Susan stays just as active. She walks daily with a group of friends, has chaired the dining committee, and helps fill a spiritual need in the community. Drawing on her background as a clergy member, she helped establish South Franklin Circle's Sunday Vespers. This simple monthly worship service, featuring hymns, scripture readings, and meaningful reflections from guest clergy, has grown to nearly 50 attendees. During a portion of the service dedicated to healing, Susan offers individuals a blessing and prayer for healing.

Living Life to its Fullest

For Stuart and Susan, life at South Franklin Circle isn't just about where they live. It's about how they live. "Making new friends, even at our age, is possible," Susan shares. "All you have to do is get involved." Their story proves that purpose and connection don't fade with time; they grow stronger when you say yes to new experiences, new friendships, and new ways to make a difference. And in doing so, they've found what everyone hopes for—a place where they truly belong.

"Through philanthropy, you strengthen our community, build resilience in older adults, and foster collaboration."

- Beth Embrescia and Tim Reynolds



Dear Friends,

We want to reflect on the remarkable difference your generosity has made in the lives of older adults within our community. Philanthropy holds a unique power—it addresses immediate needs while reshaping what's possible. Thanks to your unwavering support, we are transforming how aging is experienced. Together, we are creating vibrant, connected communities where older adults can thrive, celebrate life, and stay deeply engaged with the world around them.

Your contributions have enabled us to offer opportunities for social connection, lifelong learning, and access to music, art, and wellness programs. You have helped bring joy through shared meals, empower minds through technology, and strengthen bodies with fitness programs designed for all abilities. These are not just activities. They are essential ways to connect with others, combat isolation, and foster a profound sense of purpose and belonging.

Each day, we see stories of transformation made possible by you. Friendships bloom as new residents join our Judson communities, and with each connection comes a renewed zest for life through

enriching programs. Every life touched by your support is a testament to the lasting impact of your compassion and commitment.

As we look ahead, we are excited to continue exploring innovative ways to help older adults flourish. With your ongoing support, you position Judson to take thoughtful strategic risks, fund bold ideas, pilot new care solutions, and test better models. Together, we can ensure that aging is not merely a stage of life, but a vibrant, fulfilling journey.

Thank you for your belief in our mission of *Bringing Community to Life*. You are more than donors—you are the cornerstone of this movement to transform the aging experience in ways that matter most.

Sincerely,

Beth Embrescia
Vice President
Judson Foundation

Tim Reynolds
Board Chair
Judson Foundation

Judson Foundation gratefully acknowledges all of our benefactors for the impactful role they play in *Bringing Community to Life* at Judson. Visit judsonsmartliving.org/foundation/honoring-our-donors/ to view our Honor Roll of Donors.



Throughout his distinguished career, Bob Brucken guided families in estate planning. When updating his own plan, the Judson Park resident showed his gratitude by leaving a bequest to Judson.

"Judson has given my late wife and me a wonderful home," Bob said. "This gift lets me give back while keeping my assets available if needed."

Create a Legacy That Inspires

Your support already makes a difference at Judson—why not extend it for generations? A planned gift, such as a bequest, charitable trust, or life insurance, ensures your lasting impact while offering financial benefits.

Explore your options today. Contact Judson Foundation at 216-791-2013 or visit judsonfoundation.org to learn more.