



BAPTIST VILLAGE

SUMMER 2018 | A PUBLICATION OF BAPTIST VILLAGE COMMUNITIES | BAPTISTVILLAGE.ORG

331 DAYS

A CAPTIVATING STORY OF FAITH



Serving God

“REFRESH”

BVC LAUNCHES
NEW WEBSITE



Serving You

EXPANDING A TRADITION OF SERVICE

BVC WELCOMES
THREE NEW VILLAGES



Serving Together

LEADINGAGE AWARDS

BAPTIST VILLAGE TAKES
HOME MULTIPLE HONORS

2017 ANNUAL REPORT



Helen Burton and her late husband, Tom, served multiple churches together for over 50 years. Helen will readily attest that the greatest victory they enjoyed was seeing people saved. "To see so many people who didn't know Christ come to know Him - what a blessing," says Helen. Helen and Tom were residents at Baptist Village of Ada. When their needs increased, they journeyed to Oklahoma City. But the denomination Helen and Tom served in did not start a pastor's retirement program until Tom was nearing retirement. This resulted in very few retirement funds available. Their entire family called a meeting to see what they could do to help. It was evident that the aging couple had out-lived their limited retirement income, and the family didn't know what to do. Daughter Karen recalls, "Other (non-Baptist Village) communities couldn't help them."

"We were amazed that Baptist Village came through for us. The Adams Assistance Fund saved us. Mom and Dad have lived a better quality of life because these resources were available."

Helen agrees. "Is the Adams Fund important? Well I should say so! If it wasn't for the Fund, I honestly don't know where I would live." Even at 102 years, Helen has never retired from ministry.

Bob Mann, 70, has called Baptist Village of Okmulgee home for five years. He says he lived a rough life growing up. He had to raise himself since he was seven years old. He was also homeless at times, with little more than the clothes on his back. Bob had no schooling and eventually gained a job on a ranch, working cattle and breaking horses to earn enough money to live. Bob rode in the rodeo circuit for many years and then moved on to the construction business. "Growing up, I never had anyone to teach me right from wrong," says Bob. "But I love living at Baptist Village, where I finally feel like I have a real home." He plays an active role on campus, helping residents and Friends Team members with anything they need. This includes watering and weeding gardens and making sure the fireplace is lit in the winter months. Bob would not be able to live at the Village without the Adams Assistance Fund.



"I pray [the Fund] will always be there for me, because I never want to live anywhere else."

The Adams Assistance Fund has replaced tears of sadness and fear with tears of joy and relief. Last year, BVC assisted dozens of residents with more than \$360,000, and this need is constantly growing. You can change lives with your gift. To support this very important Fund, mail your donation to BVC at 3800 N. May Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK 73112. You can also donate online at baptistvillage.org/donate.



Serving God | Serving You | Serving Together

“Welcome!”

Message from the President

The Baptist Village Communities (BVC) welcome mat is out, so come see us. Experience one or more of BVC's 12 villages across the state. We love having guests and look forward to showing you and your family around.

Welcome! If you are a new resident or family member, thank you for living with us. We are “Serving God”, “Serving You” and “Serving Together.” I so cherish the friendships I have with the folks who live with us...some for 20 plus years!

Perhaps you are a new member of the “Friends Team.” **Welcome** to the future of aging services! Let's **welcome** positive change and engage in “enhancing lives” together.

We **welcome** three new Villages to the Baptist Village family. **Welcome** Baptist Village of Miami, Baptist Village Honey Creek (in Grove) and Baptist Village of Cordell. Village Managers Shane McGhee, Gary Mishler and Lindsay Altenhofel are great friends.

We **welcome** Dr. Hance Dilbeck to the BVC Board of directors. We are thrilled to **welcome** Hance as the executive director-treasurer of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma and the newest member of the BVC Board.

A **welcome** sight on the campus of Baptist Village of Owasso is the construction taking place on a new memory support neighborhood. The building will be known as “The Thompson Family Neighborhood.” It is because of the Thompsons' generosity that this addition is possible. There could be no better friends to BVC.

Welcome! Have I made my point? Here it is: you are **welcome** in BVC. What a privilege to serve in such a kind and loving family of friends! (through love, serve one another...Galatians 5:13b).

*Dr. Bill Pierce,
President*



Baptist Village of Miami welcomes guests to campus.



The Thompson Family Neighborhood at Owasso is underway.



EXPANDING A TRADITION OF SERVICE



Miami Village Manager Shane McGhee (left) and residents.

Cordell Village Manager Lindsay Altenhofel (second from right) and Village residents.

Honey Creek Village Manager Gary Mishler and resident Erma.

November 30, 2017 was a historic day for BVC. In a development unprecedented in BVC's 60-year history, BVC welcomed three new Villages to its ministry in one day. The Villages were acquired from INTEGRIS Health.

BVC added Baptist Village of Cordell, Baptist Village of Miami and Baptist Village Honey Creek, located in Grove. BVC president Bill Pierce said it is an exciting time for BVC, as the scope of ministry has increased from nine to 12 Villages.

"We are very pleased to have this ministry opportunity in three new Oklahoma cities," Pierce said. "BVC and INTEGRIS have roots that go back to the 1950s."

"We are grateful to INTEGRIS for making this opportunity available to BVC," Pierce said. "We view this opportunity as a transaction between organizations that have common roots in ministry in serving God and the citizens of our state. We ask for the blessing of God."

The Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma began both a hospital ministry and a retirement community ministry in the 1950s. Later, a ministry known as Baptist Healthcare was created to operate rural hospitals. Today, the ministries are known as INTEGRIS Health and Baptist Village Communities.

Both BVC and Baptist Healthcare constructed and operated senior living Villages over the years. While BVC was constructing Villages in Cleveland, Ada and Madill, Baptist Healthcare was constructing similar and nearly identical Villages in Grove, Miami, Cordell and Okmulgee. BVC later acquired the Village in Okmulgee and has been operating the community for many years.



BVC WELCOMES THREE NEW VILLAGES

BVC and INTEGRIS have had ongoing discussions regarding the Villages in Grove, Miami and Cordell. The organizations decided, in 2017, that the timing was right for the transition, and BVC was a better fit for the Villages.

“The transaction went so smoothly and was very pleasant,” Pierce said. “It was truly done in a spirit of cooperation between these two not-for-profit organizations that have been cooperating in ministry for 60 years.”

BVC owns and operates 12 Villages located in Ada, Broken Arrow, Cleveland, Cordell, Elk City, Grove, Hugo, Madill, Miami, Oklahoma City, Okmulgee and Owasso.

“Our Board has had a continuing desire to expand the BVC ministry into western Oklahoma,” Pierce said. “We opened a Village in Elk City in 2016 and are excited about expanding our presence in western Oklahoma and Cordell.”

Lindsay Altenhofel is the village manager at Baptist Village of Cordell and said she is excited about “going back to our roots,” mentioning the Cordell Village was a part of BVC in 1985.

“I look forward to working with everybody connected with Baptist Village Communities,” said Altenhofel, who is a longtime member of Cordell, First. “Everybody has been so welcoming and helpful, which is greatly appreciated.”

“I’ve known about Baptist Village for a long time and heard nothing but good things,” Altenhofel continued. “The residents have looked forward to this and have met several people connected with Baptist Village. Everything has been positive.”

BVC has extended its services with existing communities in other areas of the state.



BVC now serves 13 communities, including Entrusted Hearts by Baptist Village in Lawton.

“In addition (to Cordell), we have expanded the ministry into far northeastern Oklahoma,” Pierce said. “Grove and Miami are wonderful communities. INTEGRIS has a hospital in both cities, and we look forward to continuing to serve the community with them there.”

BVC has grown by four locations in just one year, greatly increasing its scope of service. Baptist Village Communities now serves more than 2,300 people every day through 12 Village locations, three home health offices and a medical equipment company.

“It is BVC’s prayer that God be glorified and the mission fulfilled—to honor God by creating communities and services to enhance lives and enable people to serve God and one another,” Pierce said.

For more information on any of the Villages, as well as other services provided by BVC, visit baptistvillage.org.

*By Jason Davis
Director of Communications
Baptist Village Communities*



“331 Days”

A Captivating Story of Faith

“General said if we would have had any place to escape... we would have...I was missing for 100 days. Nobody knew where I was.”

Fowler recalls his experiences as a POW in Europe more than 70 years ago.

Picture this. Winter is approaching. The boat you are sailing on zig zags every half minute at 30 knots to dodge German submarines. Weeks of sailing around the world, passing locations some can only dream of visiting - Iceland, Liverpool, England...until finally you see the golden grains of Normandy's beach.

The weight of your 75-pound pack tugs on your back as you scramble from the boat, wading through the water, all the while dodging whizzing bullets that scream past your ears.

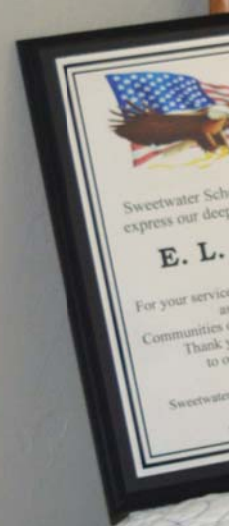
“General said if we would have had any place to escape...we would have...we would have escaped into the ocean. But we didn't have that privilege,” said Edward Levi Fowler, better known as E. L. This is his story.

“I was missing for 100 days. Nobody knew where I was,” recalled the Oklahoma native and Baptist

Village of Elk City resident. Fowler grew up on the Oklahoma-Texas border. Before the draft, he farmed and married his high school sweetheart of three years, Wilma Perry, after he graduated in 1943.

Fowler was drafted into the army in October 1943, where he served as a Browning Automatic Rifleman (BAR). Wilma moved to California where she worked as a real “Rosie the Riveter” in the defense plant. Fowler reported to Fort Sill and was transferred to Camp Wolters, then to Camp Myles Standish and finally to the port of embarkation at Fort George S. Meade. This is where he boarded the *U.S.S. Wakefield* and eventually landed in Normandy.

His company's objective was to take the city of Saint-Lô. Their mission was expected to take just 10 short days to accomplish. Unprecedentedly, the mission lasted until July 18, when they liberated and secured the city. This was a huge success, as Saint-Lô





was the trade center for Normandy. The battalion suffered great losses. Only two-thirds remained. Most were wounded, and of the remaining soldiers, one out of six suffered emotional shock.

The two tanks supported by the company journeyed too far ahead and were knocked out by German forces. The once strong company fell when the German Panzer Tank Division cut them off from the rest of the troops. All 50 men, including Fowler, found themselves as prisoners of war (POW).

The POWs were transferred to East Germany and later Poland. The soldiers were handed picks and shovels and ordered to dig ditches, air raid shelters and water lines for their captors. The coldest winter in 40 years quickly approached. The prisoners' shoes were worn thin and their clothes offered little protection from the frigid cold.

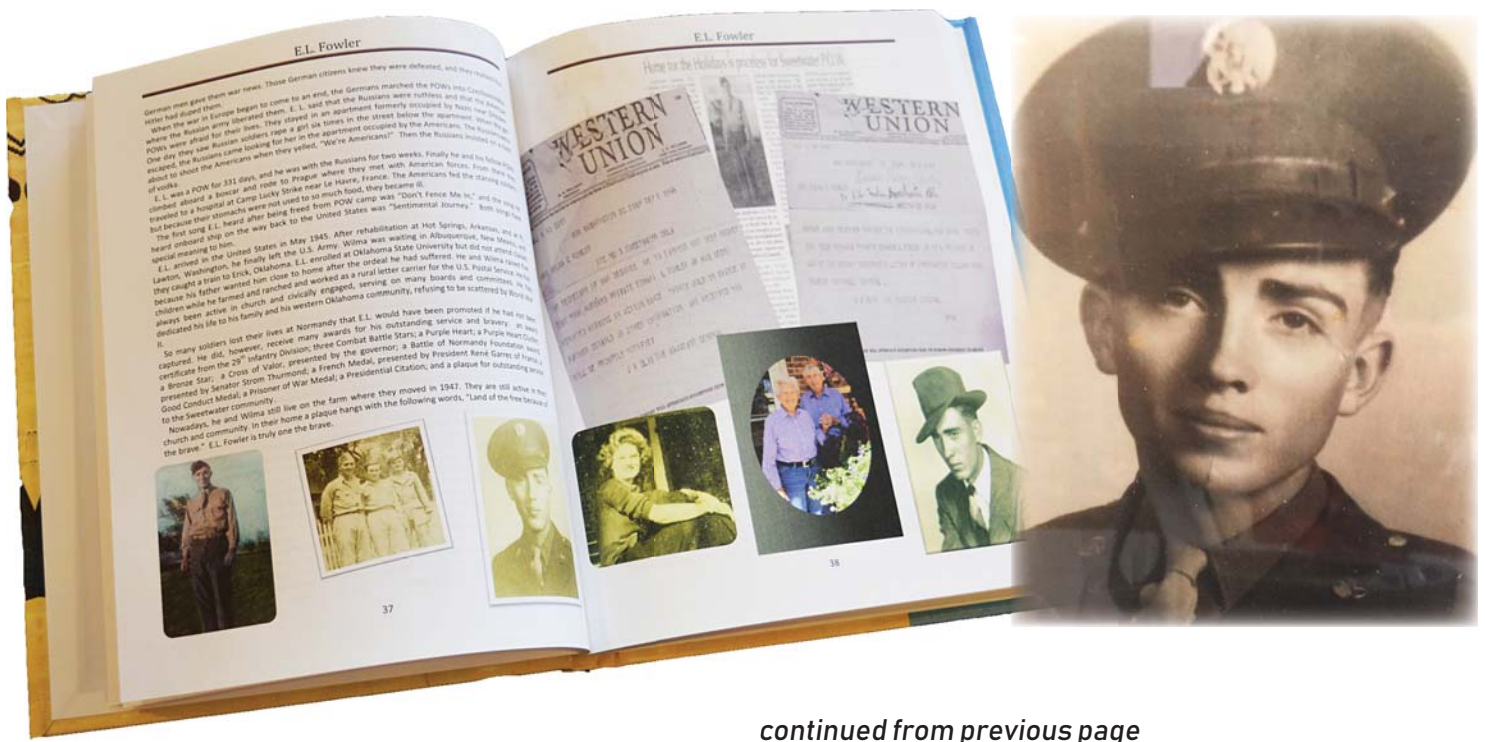
When the snows came, the men began clearing the

railroad tracks. As their imprisonment continued, their minds began to wander to better times and places. It was all they could do to keep their minds off their dysentery and their lice-infested, sore-ridden bodies. Their only nourishment? Watery soup. They savored each drop, trying to make it last longer and seem better than it actually was.

Fowler chose to spend much of his time talking to God. He had always been a man of faith. His time as a soldier and now as a POW never lessened that fact. When asked about his faith and how he came to know the Lord, Fowler responded, "It just came naturally. I thought that was the way it was supposed to be."

The war in Europe drew near an end, and the POWs were marched into Czechoslovakia. After a total of 331 days of imprisonment, Fowler and the other soldiers were liberated in May 1945.

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“When the war was over, we were on our own,” recalled Fowler. The now free soldiers made their way to the box cars where they rode out to the American lines.


Mr. Fowler returned home to the states and his loving wife, where they raised their five children: Charlotte, Vikki, Kathy, Doug and Jill.

Fowler’s story and legacy will live on with his family and throughout history. His message and wish to future generations is that they, “get in a church and live an honorable life. One that [they’d] be proud of.”

Fowler’s faith carried him through the war, and he firmly wishes that we would never forget that Jesus Christ is Lord.

“He is the One Who created, and He is the One Who sustains. He is the One Who is coming again. He owns our lives, and we must recognize His ownership.”

“There is an old saying - the only thing required for evil to prevail is for good men and women to do nothing. He must be first in our lives.”

E. L. Fowler, a true hero and true servant of God. 

Top left photo:

Heroes in Our Midst, written by Judy Haught, features Mr. Fowler’s story, as well as actual telegrams sent to his wife during the war.

Top right photo:

A young E. L. Fowler in uniform.

Bottom photo:

Some of the many medals and patches belonging to Fowler, including the Purple Heart, Bronze Star and Prisoner of War Medals.



By Sierra Cleverdon
Marketing / Development Assistant
Baptist Village Communities



“Refresh”

BVC’s New Website Brings Clean Look, Greater Presence

by Jason Davis

Baptist Village Communities (BVC) proudly launched our new website in January.

The new website features a clean, modern, mobile-friendly design. The easy-to-navigate layout features information and life enrichment photos for all 12 Villages.

“Our new website is much easier to navigate and offers visitors a glimpse of what it is like to live at the Village,” says Ava Baggett, BVC’s director of marketing. “It is a quick and easy way for us to instantly connect with people who are looking for information about BVC.”


But perhaps the most exciting aspect of the new site is its obvious success.

Since going live in January, BVC has seen a substantial rise in the amount of Online inquiries. The new website is garnering about 500% more inquiries per week than the previous site. This has been exceedingly helpful to the marketing team, and it’s proof of BVC’s greater online presence with the site.

Further proof of the new site’s effectiveness is the new online career application. The application has been streamlined and simplified. The result has been a drastic improvement over the previous site - about 700% more applications. This includes many CNA and CMA applicants, an area sorely lacking on the old website.

A new feature of the site is email marketing. “We are excited to now utilize digital marketing,” says Ava. “It allows us to make a great impression by welcoming new visitors to our website, connecting with specific groups of people and reconnecting with people who have visited the website.”

The industry average email open rate is about 26%. Even though digital marketing is still relatively new for BVC, our open rate is 67%. BVC is very grateful to see this success.

If you haven’t checked out BVC’s wonderful new site, go to baptistvillage.org today! 

Connect With Us!

Join our mailing list to receive the latest news and updates from our team.

First Name

Last Name

Email

SUBSCRIBE!



Ben, center, with (from left) James Duehning, Dr. Bill Pierce, Steve Thomas and Martin Hall.



Linett, center, with (from left) BV of Oklahoma City Administrator/Assistant Campus Director James Duehning, BVC President Dr. Bill Pierce, BVC Vice President - Operations Steve Thomas and BV of Oklahoma City Campus Director Martin Hall.



Annie, center, with Dr. Bill Pierce and Steve Thomas.

LEADING THE WAY

BVC Takes Home LeadingAge Honors

by Jason Davis

Baptist Village Communities (BVC) is a regular award recipient of LeadingAge Oklahoma, the Oklahoma state association of not-for-profit senior living organizations. This year was no different, as BVC took home three awards, more than any other organization in Oklahoma.

Baptist Village of Hugo's Annie Wickson was named environmental employee of the year. Baptist Village of Oklahoma City boasted two honorees. Ben Lacy was named resident volunteer of the year, while Linett Bledsoe was honored as direct care employee of the year.

Annie has served on the Baptist Village of Hugo Friends Team since 1984. Through the years, she has influenced thousands of people and ministered to residents and their families through the environmental services team. She is a mentor and trainer assigned to new Friends Team members. She guides new Friends Team members and patiently instructs them in the proper way to do the job, while serving them and their families.

Annie is very intuitive to the feelings of residents. She takes the time to know them while taking care of their home. She strives to provide for residents' personal needs and preferences. Time and time again, Annie

has changed residents' lives with her kind touch. She exemplifies a life of service to others.

Ben Lacy moved to Baptist Village of Oklahoma City in 2015. He wasted no time getting plugged into service. Ben's background as a school principal and bi-vocational minister meant he was already familiar with a life of service.


While visiting guests in the Rehab Neighborhoods, Ben noticed that families of guests could use calming reassurance and a listening ear. He was asked to organize a Volunteer Rehab Greeter Program. Not only does Ben oversee a team of 45 volunteers, but he also recruits and leads orientation for all resident volunteers.

Each morning, Ben prepares the volunteer stations and coordinates schedules and shifts. Through his efforts, the welcome area of the Neighborhoods has transformed into a vibrant focal point of warm conversation and fellowship. His devotion and unselfish commitment to Baptist Village of Oklahoma City has improved many individual lives and the community he calls "home."

Linett Bledsoe began serving at Baptist Village of Oklahoma City in 2000 as a certified nursing assistant (CNA). Her determination and devotion led her on a successful career path, which has included advanced certified medication assistant, restorative aide, supply coordinator and more.

A passion for senior adult services and impressive leadership abilities have helped Linett regularly exceed expectations. She is an advocate for residents and guests who trust her and respect her. Whenever a need or difficult situation arises, the response is always, "ask Linett."

Linett has purchased items with her own money for residents in need of clothing or other necessities. She gives without expecting anything in return. She brings her generous spirit and fun-loving attitude to all interactions with residents. She goes the extra mile without complaint and won't back down from a challenge.

Annie, Ben and Linett are just three more examples in BVC's long tradition of outstanding service. This passion is carried out daily to more than 2,300 residents, clients and guests. 



Experience an Enhanced Life!

Many Baptist Village residents say living at the Village is the happiest time of their lives. They even say, "I really wish I'd moved here a long time ago!" Call the location nearest you today to find out why!



Toll-Free: 866.887.2872 • baptistvillage.org



Serving God | Serving You | Serving Together



Annual Report | 2017

BVC BOARD OF DIRECTORS | 2017-2018

"serve one another in love." Galatians 5:13b (NLT)



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Sheri Carter
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Dennis Dawson
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Hance Dilbeck
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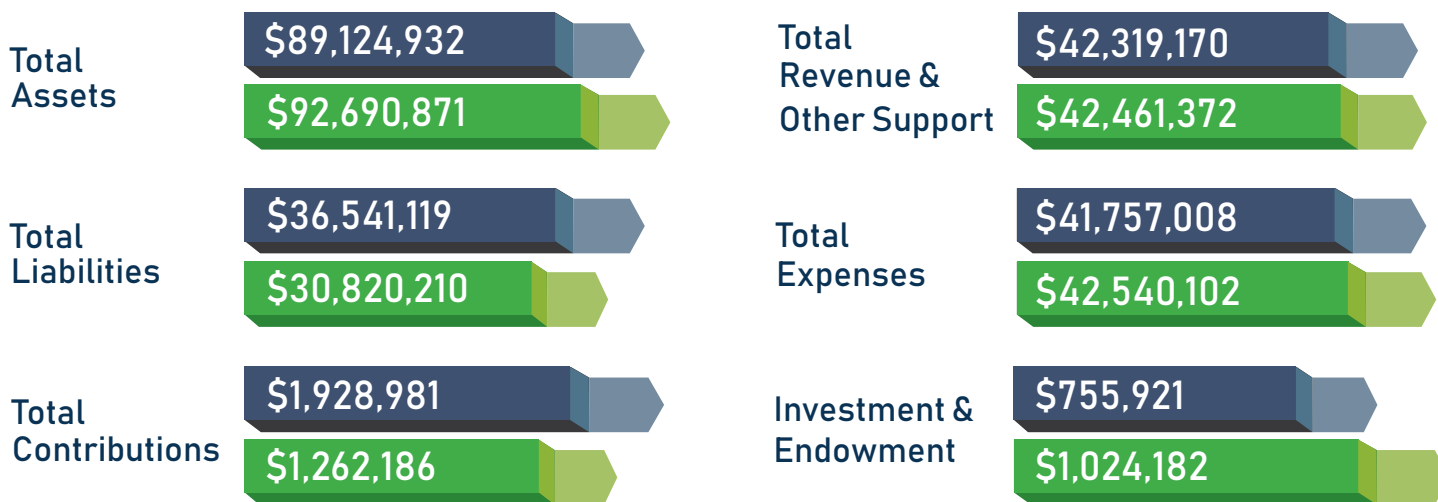
Ruth Walker
Director



Ben White
Sage

FINANCIALS | 2017

"And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others." 2 Corinthians 9:8 (NLT)



2016 2017

CHAPLAINCY REPORT | 2017

"I pray that the faith you share may make you understand every blessing we have in Christ." Philemon 6 (NCV)

Lives were changed...

- 62 affirmations/re-dedications
- 16 professions of faith
- 4 baptisms

Campus life was enhanced...

- Festivals and concerts
- Intercessory prayer ministry
- Lunch and learn presentations
- Resident choirs and bell ringers
- Resident ministry teams
- Resident newcomer fellowships
- Revivals/VBS/Holy Week
- Spanish language ministry
- Summer youth projects
- Support groups
- Volunteer greeter coordination

The Gospel was presented...

- 1,982 opportunities for worship and Bible study
- 2,021 spiritual resources distributed

Encouragement was offered...

- 21,267 ministry team visits to residents
- 456 hospital visits or calls to residents

Relationships were cultivated...

- 18,958 resident/client/rehab guest and family member visits
- 2,933 Friends Team visits
- 481 churches participated in ministry

SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY | 2017

*"And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."
Hebrews 13:16 (NASB)*

Opportunities to provide community services are multiplied every day throughout Baptist Village Communities (BVC). They are the natural activities of our organization, whose mission is to honor God by creating communities and services to enhance lives and enable people to serve God and one another. These services help meet unmet needs in communities.

Since our founding 60 years ago in 1958, we have grown to include 12 Villages, three home health agencies and a medical equipment company. The number of people ministered to daily has grown from 1,150 in 1993 to more than 2,300 in 2018 - a 100 percent increase.

The social accountability report allows you to understand how BVC impacted its surrounding communities, providing charitable services in the locations BVC serves.

Annually, we document our social accountability. Team leaders record charitable services and community programs. In 2017, BVC provided benefits to residents, Friends Team members and the surrounding areas.

BVC also provides outright benevolence to residents who need financial assistance. Along with the generosity of Friends Team members and other residents, financial needs are being met. Senior adults, families and children are assisted with basic needs, such as provision of food, health services and housing.

Meeting community needs includes, but is not limited to:

- Caregivers supporting the elderly in the community
- Elderly living alone or with few social opportunities
- Homebound senior adults having difficulty with daily living activities
- Widows and couples with limited resources and income
- People in need of services they may otherwise be unable to receive

Using the Adams Assistance Fund to assist with monthly service fees, BVC blessed others with

approximately \$360,000 last year. Those assisted through this Fund are residents who, without it, would be unable to meet monthly expenses.

Friends Teams and residents participate and volunteer their time regularly. BVC helps provide services for residents receiving Medicaid, where there is a shortfall in reimbursement.

BVC provided charitable services to the broader community by meeting financial, health and community needs - serving approximately 4,921 people with an estimated value of \$2,582,362.27.

In 2017, BVC provided hundreds of services in Oklahoma communities. These needs were met by providing the following services, among others:

- Alzheimer's support groups
- Blood pressure and blood sugar clinics
- Chamber of commerce breakfast
- Classic car show
- Clinical site for vo-tech students
- Creative Beginnings toddler music class host site
- Diabetes seminar host
- Emergency responders appreciation banquet
- Fall festival
- Flu shot clinic
- Fun Treat Night
- Health screenings for the community
- Game days with middle school children
- Operation Christmas Child toy drive
- Piano recitals
- Rotary Club host
- See You at the Pole
- Tai chi classes
- Tax seminars
- Teddy bears for foster/adopted children
- Voting site

OUR FRIENDS HELPED US ENHANCE LIVES IN 2017. THANK YOU!

"Your heart will be where your treasure is." Matthew 6:21 (NCV)

LEGACY PARTNERS

(\$50,000+ Lifetime)

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Oklahoma
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(\$5,000+ in 2017)

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Southern Hills Baptist Church,
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Bill and Kay Stiles
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(\$1,000-\$4,999 in 2017)

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Surrey Hills Baptist Church, Yukon
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Dennis and Janet Taylor
Steve and Billie Thomas
Rusty and Syndy Thrash
Milton and Frances Vaughan

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(\$500-\$999 in 2017)

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Mustang
Loretta Cowger
Dennis and Misty Curtis
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First Baptist Church, Broken Arrow
First Baptist Church, Dougherty
First Baptist Church, Weatherford
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Kendall and Deborah Suiter
Dolores Taylor
Roberta Taylor
Matt and Antoinette Trentham
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(\$100-\$499 in 2017)

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First Baptist Church, Pond Creek
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Darlene Logsdon
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Laura Mackey
Whitney Mandrigues
Margaret Manley
Don and Nina Mauch
Craig and Janice McCleery
Stephanie McDaugle
Sheryl McKinney
Mark and Sherry McLeod
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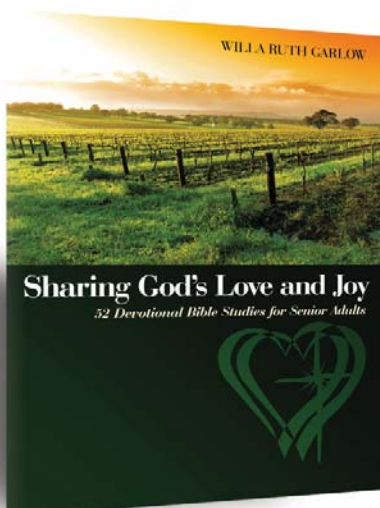
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SERVING TOGETHER

Baptist Village Communities (BVC) is thrilled to have chaplains serving at all Village campuses. There are 15 full-time, part-time and volunteer chaplains currently serving. Chaplains facilitate ministry by organizing ministry teams and equipping them for service.

One way you can get involved in ministry is through BVC's LINC[®] ministry. LINC[®] (Loving, Inspiring, Nurturing, Caring) is a proven strategy to reach unreached people groups in your community. A LINC[®] consultant works with senior living team members to open doors of ministry and tailor it to meet residents' specific needs. The goal of LINC[®] is to give every Oklahoma Southern Baptist church the opportunity and knowledge to extend its current ministry in the community.



A great resource for those in the senior adult ministry is the devotional book *Sharing God's Love and Joy*. This book is full of Bible studies written specifically for residents in senior living communities. The book contains 52 studies - one for each week of the year. If you lead Bible study for senior adults, this resource is very helpful and rewarding. To order your copy, contact Chris Finley at (405) 470-8915 or email him at cfinley@okc.baptistvillage.org.

You can also contact Chris for more information on LINC[®] and other chaplaincy ministries.

BVC gives God all the glory for the good work of chaplains and ministry teams in reaching out and enhancing lives.