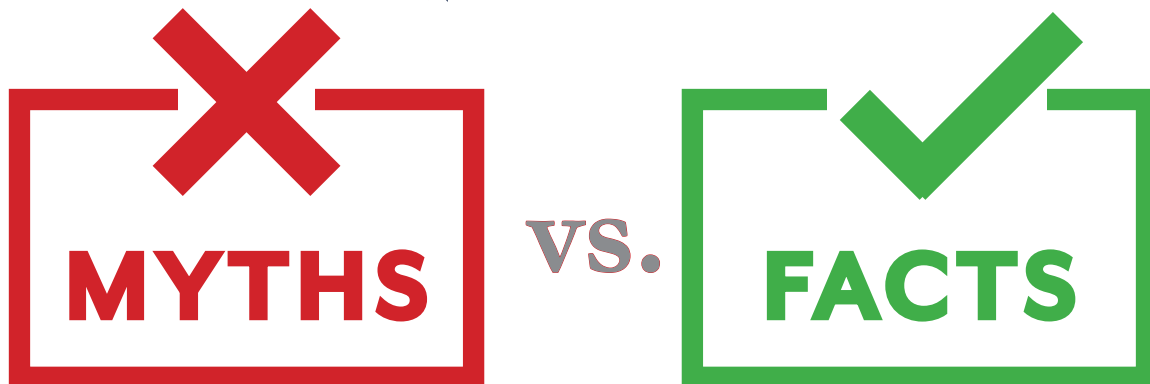


# THRIVE

A PUBLICATION OF BAPTIST VILLAGE COMMUNITIES  Winter 2020/2021



**Snoezelen<sup>®</sup> Room...**  
*What Is It?*



**MYTH:** *"You have to be wealthy to live at Baptist Village."*

**FACT:** At Baptist Village Communities (BVC), there are no expensive move-in fees or long-term contracts for apartments. Monthly service fees (rent) average \$475 to \$750 for a residential living apartment, depending on location. Enhanced life neighborhoods start at \$2,300 per month, while assisted living apartments start at \$3,150 per month. In addition, The Larry and Edwine Adams Assistance Fund is available for residents needing financial help.

**MYTH:** *"You have to be Baptist to live there."*

**FACT:** Your religious preference is not part of the rental application or process. BVC serves people 55 or better, regardless of faith. A wide array of religious backgrounds can be found on our campuses throughout the state.

**MYTH:** *"The Villages are always full with no availability."*

**FACT:** While BVC is one of Oklahoma's favorite places for senior living, we typically have a home available for you.

Please see page 19 for availability per campus as of 11/2/2020. For campuses/services with no current availability, a waiting list is available. The letter "Y" next to each service indicates availability. "W" indicates waiting list.



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THRIVE | Winter 2020/2021

THRIVE is a publication of Baptist Village Retirement Communities of Oklahoma, Inc. For more information, please call (866) 887-2872 or visit [baptistvillage.org](http://baptistvillage.org).

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# TWELVE CAMPUSES ONE MISSION

Will Rogers once said, "If you don't like the weather in Oklahoma, wait a minute and it'll change." I think one can apply Oklahoma's favorite son's perspective to the rules and regulations issued to organizations like Baptist Village Communities (BVC) since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The past eight months have been a whirlwind of regulations and requirements issued, changed before you could implement, implemented, then changed again. When you must follow what seems like competing local, state and federal government regulatory agency mandates, one could begin to feel whipsawed.

Thankfully, the leadership team and team members at all 12 BVC campuses across Oklahoma have adapted well. We have been doing so for 62 years. This ability to adapt has allowed BVC team members (we call them Friends Team) to focus on working hard to serve our residents during this insidious virus.

More than 75 percent of all long-term care facilities in Oklahoma have experienced cases of COVID-19. While I promise this is not the "COVID-19 edition" of our magazine, you will learn how technology has become a crucial component of the day-to-day ministry we perform. Safety measures and social distancing necessitated new approaches to replace in-person visits with loved ones. Electrostatic backpack sprayers and UV light systems are being deployed across our communities. This new technology is much needed. Expensive...but much needed.

Regrettably, you will also read of the loss of two special ladies. Each left her unique mark on the life and ministry of Baptist Village Communities. Only Heaven can count the lives they continue to impact through their involvement helping senior adults.

You will also read about new initiatives, progress made and how you can help us minister to even more senior adults. As you read, I hope you will remember that although we have 12 campuses across the state, we only have one mission. It is what drives us, what impacts every decision made, what permeates every plan we make. That mission is "Enhancing Lives by Serving God, Serving You, Serving Together."

Thank you for serving alongside us.

Because He lives,



President





## SHAPING THE FUTURE.... Through the Power of Technology

>> Story by Dana Williamson

>> Photos by Shelby Sandusky, and courtesy of FlagHouse®

**M**ost grandparents, when faced with a technology problem, turn to their six-year-old grandchildren for a solution.

But that may be changing at Baptist Village Communities (BVC). Many residents in BVC today are becoming tech savvy, thanks to advanced technology and training.

Residents in all 12 BVC campuses are undergoing a surge of watching technological advances unfold before their eyes.

Forward-looking senior living communities are realizing that having access to computer technology for their residents is no longer a luxury; it's becoming more and more of an expectation. Families are spread out all over the country, and the ability to stay in touch with Mom, Dad, Grandma or Grandpa via email is getting stronger and stronger with each passing year. Research is also proving the vital link between mental stimulation and slowing the process of Alzheimer's, and computer-related activities could provide excellent stimulation.

### IT'S NEVER TOO LATE

One of the most interesting and innovative new technologies at BVC is iN2L™ (It's Never Too Late), a system built on a picture-based, touchscreen interface that allows users to simply "touch" their way to find engaging, educational, spiritual and personalized content that is appropriate to their own level of ability. BVC's systems include a 70-inch portable monitor that can be transported between neighborhoods.

Computers are never easy to learn. However, this adaptive technology can allow individuals with sight issues, tremor issues, arthritic issues and cognitive issues to still be able to take advantage of technology and enhance the quality of their life.

iN2L™ has a targeted library of more than 4,000 content items that are meaningful and accessible at any level of physical or cognitive ability, while also connecting residents with each other, team members and families through significant, fulfilling and high-quality experiences. It offers content-driven engagement to support social interaction, cognitive and physical exercise and therapy, education, reminiscing, areas of interest, memory support and more, ideal for both group engagement and individual experiences.

Through iN2L™, residents can visit with grandchildren, tour museums around the world they thought they would never see, contact buddies from their World War II platoon, read online newspapers from the small towns they grew up in, travel to places they've never been or reminisce about places they've visited, play games and do word puzzles, plus a myriad of other options.

“Our residents love iN2L™,” said Cathy Henderson, campus director at Baptist Village of Elk City.

She recalled the experience of one man, who on his birthday, was able to see all of his family. He has no computer experience, but his family set up the surprise computer visit.

“Because of the huge screen, the family appeared life size,” said Henderson. “He was astonished at the technology, because he had no idea he would be able to visit with his whole family on his birthday.”

Henderson related that she was in her office one day when she heard this tremendous roar of laughter. Stepping out, she discovered several residents, social distancing, and watching “Family Feud,” some of them doubled over laughing at the contestants’ answers.

“They love to watch things like ‘Family Feud’ and other game shows, but they also like to play games on their own. There is one game where you walk up to the screen and pop bubbles, and the bubbles appear faster and faster, which always brings laughter. And there are simpler things, like visiting an aquarium, where there are fish and actual waves.”

Henderson said another advantage of this technology during COVID-19 is virtual doctor visits with residents. She says a lot of residents are doing visits with their doctors face to face and are amazed they can visit over the computer.

Sarah Joyce, life enrichment director at Baptist Village of Owasso, tells how iN2L™ is a hit on that campus also.

“Residents love to play trivia games and word games on iN2L™, as well as look at old commercials,” says Sarah. “They also view game shows, such as ‘Family Feud’ and ‘The Price Is Right,’ as well as watch old TV shows like ‘Petticoat Junction,’ ‘I Love Lucy’ and ‘The Dick Van Dyke Show.’”

“We’ve also watched silly videos on YouTube, like babies laughing, which cracks up our residents, or a video on how much things cost in the 1950s,” said Joyce.

Joyce said one of the most moving things iN2L™ was used for was the viewing of a resident’s grandson’s wedding.

“She wasn’t able to attend the wedding, but the family videotaped it, and she watched the proceedings on a huge screen,” Joyce said. “She could identify all the family members. It was a precious time, and all the Friends Team members were standing back, watching and crying.”



**OPPOSITE PAGE:** Team member Adriana and resident Terry exploring the iN2L™.

**ABOVE:** Johnny connects with his grandchildren through a tablet.

## KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH FAMILY

Joyce said during the COVID-19 isolation, residents used iPads for FaceTime visits with family members.

“They have been amazed they can see their loved ones on tiny screens,” she said. “One 105-year-old resident loved to visit that way. Her face lit up every time she saw her family.”

A lot of residents don’t understand video technology, but they do understand getting a letter from loved ones (via email), Joyce explained. “They will read those emails over and over.”

*Story continues on page 6...*

Joyce added that a lot of family members will email pictures to residents to be printed.

“One lady had a great-grandchild born during this time, and it was very hard on her that she couldn’t hold that baby,” Joyce related. “But through pictures, she was able to show everyone her new great-grandson.”

Joyce said they also use Bluetooth speakers to play music up and down the neighborhoods. “When residents come out of their apartments to investigate, we serve them ice cream and other snacks,” she said.

### TECHNOLOGY TO FIGHT COVID-19 AND OTHER VIRUSES

In addition to technology designed to interact with residents and their family and friends, BVC has purchased ultraviolet light systems with the goal of targeting zero infections in the environment around residents. The units are used in any areas where harmful pathogens may be present. There is a 99.9 percent pathogen reduction at 10 feet distance to the object for Coronavirus in less than five minutes.

“This is a technology that has been used for years in tuberculosis hospitals, as well as other medical settings,” said Wendell Short, BVC vice president - planning and project management. “We are using these UV light towers to kill viruses in rooms and on surfaces to ensure a clean, disinfected and safe environment.”

While technology is improving the lives of those living in Baptist Villages, it doesn’t come cheaply. Friends and donors are needed to help keep the Villages in the thick of new technology. The Bill and Susan Pierce Aging Services Technology Fund was created to provide funding for resident-centric technology, with an emphasis on cognitive skill retention. This is especially important in the memory support neighborhoods.

**To help provide technology for residents at BVC campuses, please see pages 14 and 15.**



Learning how to pronounce the name of the room may be the only obstacle to enjoying the soothing, calming effects the room provides.

Thankfully, residents at Baptist Villages don’t have to worry about the name; they can just benefit from its relaxing and sometimes stimulating sensations.

The idea of Snoezelen® rooms was developed by two Dutch psychologists in the late 1970s, as a therapy for those with learning disabilities. Over time, this idea merged with the use of a wide range of multi-sensory stimulation to provide special environments for people with a variety of disabilities, disorders and conditions, including dementia, autism, intellectual disability, brain injury and chronic pain. Using light, sound, scents and music to initiate sensual sensations, the idea of Snoezelen® is to have both relaxing and activating effects that promote well-being.

The word “snoezelen” (pronounced SNOO-zen-lehn) is a contraction for the Dutch words for sniffing out (snuffelen) and dozing (doezelen). Sometimes called multi-sensory stimulation rooms, Snoezelen® rooms are felt to be calming and soothing for people with Alzheimer’s and dementia, especially those with late-stage dementia who wander, experience confusion and are agitated. Snoezelen® can aid learning development, help to relax an agitated person or increase energy and raise alertness levels of someone who has sensory processing disorders, but they can also



# Room

## Extraordinary Technology

engage and delight the user, stimulate reactions and encourage communication.

Snoezelen® rooms are structured environments. They may contain a panel of colorful lights, bubble tubes or walls and a projector and color wheel, which throws images across the ceiling and walls of the room.

### NEW TO BAPTIST VILLAGES

The rooms are new to Baptist Villages, but the first one installed at Baptist Village of Owasso is already having success. It is located in The Thompson Family Neighborhood, a memory support neighborhood.

“It is designed to stimulate residents to become more aware, alert and conversational,” explained Nathan Purifoy, campus director at Baptist Village of Owasso. “It actually has two uses, calming or stimulation, although you don’t accomplish both purposes at the same time.”

Purifoy said the room is all sensory with different sights, sounds and touch. For example, up high in the room are fiber optic strands bunched together, which light up in different colors.

“It’s a neat effect, because you can hold them or just sit under them and let them drape over your shoulders,” said Purifoy.

The room, Purifoy noted, is all about letting the resident be in charge. There is a controller with buttons, and the resident can push different buttons which change the colors in the room.

“One of my favorites is a button that fills the room with stars,” Purifoy disclosed. “It feels really cool and very relaxing.”

Choice of music, which can be relaxing or stimulating, is unlimited. There’s a CD player as well as an iPod, so the resident (with help from a Friends Team member) can put in appropriate music to the resident’s liking.

In addition, there are oils in cartridges which give off different aromas, and various things to touch, such as soft, fuzzy blankets, offering invigorating smells and textures to explore.

“It’s a great tool for getting away from other people,” said Sarah Joyce, life enrichment director. “We have one resident who loves to go in there and sing Alan Jackson hymns. She’s content to rock, close her eyes and sing.”

“All the sensory tools in the room give residents something interesting, something that stimulates them when other things don’t seem to,” added Purifoy. “They tend to ‘come alive,’ and you can have a conversation with them.”

### HELPING ALZHEIMER'S RESIDENTS

The time one spends in a Snoezelen® room can vary. Small groups may experience the room, or one person at a time may work with a therapist. A short session, lasting from 15-30 minutes, has been found to be helpful for people with Alzheimer’s by decreasing the tendency to wander for up to four hours afterward.

While not a cure for Alzheimer’s by any means, Snoezelen® promotes well-being without resorting to medications. Random controlled trials have shown that Snoezelen® therapy for dementia-related agitation is reasonably good, showing positive short-term benefits and help in reducing challenging behaviors.

The Snoezelen® room is one of many innovations in which BVC shapes the future of aging services.

**PIONEER | LEADER | MENTOR | VISIONARY**

BVC celebrates

# 30 YEARS

of faithful service



>> By Dana Williamson

**W**ords are powerful. They have the capacity to make or break relationships, heal hurts, fuel and diffuse arguments, calm fears, encourage hearts or explain facts.

Baptist Village Communities (BVC) President Dr. Bill Pierce is a master with words. In his 30 years with BVC, he has used words to shape aging services in Oklahoma. Today, BVC is the largest not-for-profit provider of senior housing services in Oklahoma and ranks in the top 50 in the United States. It was the state's first "network of services" senior living community.

BVC has been known by numerous names in its 62-year history—Golden Age Homes, Baptist Retirement Centers, Adult Care Ministries, Baptist Village Retirement Communities and simply Baptist Village Communities.

As the names and culture have changed over the years, so has the vocabulary. Instead of wings or halls, it's neighborhoods. Rather than activities, it's life enrichment. BVC doesn't have employees, but Friends Team members. This positive vernacular promotes resident dignity and honors those BVC serves every day.

None of the terms focuses on aging, but on community, neighborhoods and enhanced living. It is a common perception that retirement homes are places one goes to die, but Baptist Villages are places one goes to live.

## **PIERCE BRINGS ENERGY, POSITIVITY, FINANCIAL STABILITY**

Bill Pierce, a Muskogee native, graduated from Northeastern State University and received a Master of Education degree from Southwestern Seminary and a Doctor of Philosophy degree from Louisiana Baptist University. His first job was as minister of education at Hugo, First.

"God led me to a town with a Baptist aging ministry," said Pierce. He began volunteering at Baptist Village of Hugo (incidentally, where BVC all began), and then was called to Sapulpa, First, where he continued his volunteer work at Baptist Village of Owasso. It was then he enrolled in the long-term care administration school at the University of Oklahoma, which led to him being named associate director of adult care ministries for Oklahoma Baptists in 1990. He was elected the first president of what was then called Baptist Retirement Centers of Oklahoma in 1993.

Since then, Pierce has been recognized as a leader in aging services, not only in Oklahoma, but throughout the nation.



AARP Oklahoma identified him as one of 50 Oklahomans making a difference in the state. He was only the second licensed administrator in Oklahoma to receive a Health Services qualification through the National Association of Long Term Care Administrator Boards, designed to allow the nation's most talented administrators to practice along the continuum of health services and supports. He served two terms as president of LeadingAge Oklahoma, the state association for not-for-profit senior living communities, and on the Board of directors and as treasurer for the national association of LeadingAge. Pierce was appointed a member the Oklahoma Long Term Care Services and Supports Advisory Committee, serving as chair of the committee in 2019.

When Pierce became president, he faced several financial and logistical challenges. Baptist Retirement Centers and Oklahoma Baptist Homes for Children had been under the same umbrella for several years, and neither had their own Board of directors.

“The first thing we did was create separate Boards,” said Pierce. “Our goal was a Board focused on retirement, with people who had experience in this challenging field. Over the years, God has brought people onto our Board in fields like business and health care, and we are assisted by donors who have helped create our communities.”

At that time, there were seven Villages; today there are 12, plus three home health care offices and a medical equipment provider, all of which serve about 2,300 people daily.

### **BVC A PIONEER IN RAPIDLY CHANGING FIELD**

“We have an opportunity to get a lot better at serving older adults,” Pierce noted. “We want to move into the future with everyone enjoying life together regardless of age.”

Pierce acknowledged that people want to serve, and those who come to Baptist Villages are mostly those who have amassed a lifetime of service.

“When residents come to our campuses, they come to serve,” he said. “We never lose our spiritual gifts, and our ministry teams give people a focused purpose to serve the Lord. This is a dramatic difference in how we operate as opposed to other senior living communities.”

The challenges for the future of aging services are staggering when you consider that 100 Oklahomans turn 65 years of age each day; the number of senior adults in Oklahoma will increase by 40 percent by 2035; senior adults age 85 or greater will increase by 123 percent by 2040, and by 2030, senior adults in Oklahoma will outnumber children for the first time in history. Add to this the fact that approximately 79 percent of middle-income Baby Boomers have no savings for their retirement years, and needs become enormous.

“We have to be able to discern needs,” Pierce asserted. “Most Oklahomans are not able to afford assisted living, which is not supported by Medicaid.”

Always the visionary, Pierce said BVC developed a plan that is an intermediate step between residential living and assisted living. Called enhanced life neighborhoods, it includes a private residence in a secure apartment home with indoor hallway, three meals daily in the dining room, maintenance, housekeeping and laundry service, among other amenities. The unique service is also considerably less expensive than assisted living.

“We can serve a lot of people through enhanced living. If we don't provide reasonable cost living, the only choice is a nursing home,” Pierce pointed out. “We have campuses in rural areas, which are particularly hard-hit by low incomes, and we are working to create mid-level services at a reasonable cost. We already have the buildings. No one else in Oklahoma can do this. There's not anyone in the world going into Cordell, Oklahoma to create affordable services. But God already has us there. We just need to remodel what God has already provided.”

To remodel buildings into enhanced living communities will require converting an existing serving kitchen into a commercial kitchen, and conversion of a common area into a dining room. Pierce emphasized that a key thing people need to understand is the fact most organizations are constructing buildings to minister to people who can afford them.

“In contrast, we are trying to create ways to serve people with moderate incomes. Seniors in Oklahoma don't have the finances to live in luxury senior living communities,” he explained.

***Story continues on page 10...***



**TOP: Bill Pierce with wife, Susan, receiving his doctorate in 2008.**

**BOTTOM: Named 2014 Alumnus of the Year, Pierce graduated from Northeastern State University in 1976.**

BVC's primary focus, while upgrading to remain relevant to current and potential residents, will remain on people, not possessions. Most of the 12 campuses were built in the mid 1980s or before. Maintenance is a continual process with carpet, plumbing, HVAC, etc. wearing out and needing to be replaced. Add in remodeling many of the primarily residential living campuses into those providing more enhanced neighborhood services, and this means BVC needs the help of partners and fellow Oklahoma Baptists to accomplish this.

## HELPING OTHER NOT-FOR-PROFIT PEERS

While BVC is not opposed to the acquisition of additional campuses should opportunities arise, Pierce said BVC is providing management services to other not-for-profit senior living communities.

"With this concept, we don't have to spend millions for buildings, but still we have a presence and influence...without a firm commitment," Pierce noted. "We provide assistance and guidance so they can learn our culture."

BVC began providing management consulting services for like-minded, not-for-profit communities in 2016. Currently, two campuses in Enid and Tahlequah receive these consulting helps, which are designed to improve management, financial operations, marketing, facility utilization, etc. The approach allows BVC to greatly influence other organizations working to improve aging services.

## A HUMBLE LEADER, PIERCE LOOKS TO THE FUTURE

Many leaders, after 30 years of service, tend to direct their thoughts toward retirement, but not Pierce.

"I am looking forward to shaping the future of aging services with the BVC Board of directors, donors and friends, and the people who serve," said Pierce. "We have an interesting, challenging and aggressive five-year plan designed to enhance the lives of the people of Oklahoma in many areas of the state. We are incredibly blessed by the donors and friends of BVC who have indicated their enthusiasm and willingness to make a significant difference in this high calling we all have to serve seniors. It is still the calling of God in my life, and I ask God daily what He wants me to do."

Pierce acknowledged that the Bible is full of leadership lessons on humility and service.

"Ministry to older adults is still in the infancy stage," said Pierce. "We are learning so much...growing so much. It's a fabulous, fascinating and rewarding place to invest your life and money. ***Think how far we've come together. Imagine where we can go.***"

That's the visionary Bill Pierce.



# Saying Goodbye

## TO TWO SPECIAL FRIENDS

>> Story and photos by Jason Davis

**LEFT: Larry and Edwine Adams receive the Baskett Legacy of Love Award in 2012.**

**RIGHT: Richard and Patty Thompson open The Thompson Family Neighborhood in 2019.**

When God prepares the hearts of people to leave a legacy of love, this ministry-minded spirit blesses generations to come. Baptist Village Communities (BVC) is saddened to have lost two incredible servants and friends who embody this philosophy – Edwine Adams and Patty Thompson.

“Edwine was such a gracious, kind and generous lady,” says Dr. Bill Pierce, BVC president. “She loved the Lord and her family. She and her husband Larry invested many, many years in the Baptist Village Communities ministry.”

Originally from Kentucky, Edwine and Larry married in 1953. Larry served his country in the U.S. Navy. He then attended seminary. Throughout his schooling, Edwine lovingly supported him and took care of their home. She continued to support him when he was called to pastor Oklahoma Baptist churches in Eufaula, Shawnee and Piedmont.

Edwine and Larry have always had a heart for senior adults, and God called Larry to faithfully serve BVC, including roles as campus director at Baptist Village of Oklahoma City and as vice president – development. While campus director, Larry and Edwine frequently took care of residents with financial challenges personally, buying necessities for them out of their own pocket. Eventually, an endowment was established through The Baptist Foundation of Oklahoma. The fund was named for Larry and Edwine in 1998. Through the fund, the Adams have assisted countless residents all over the state who, without the fund, would be unable to afford their monthly bills.

The Adams were awarded the Will and Nora Baskett Legacy of Love Award in 2012, BVC’s highest recognition and named for BVC’s founders and pioneers, who established the ministry in Hugo more than 60 years ago.

Patty Thompson and her loving husband, Richard, enjoyed 61 years of marriage together. In the early years of their marriage, Patty worked for her father’s company, Wynn Construction Co. Faithful members of Oklahoma City, Southern Hills, the Thompsons have long supported many Oklahoma Baptist ministries. Perhaps the greatest example of the Thompsons’ heart for BVC can be found at Baptist Village of Owasso. Opened in 2019, The Thompson Family Neighborhood serves people with Alzheimer’s and other memory-related challenges.

“Patty was such a wonderful friend to senior adults and BVC,” says Pierce. “She and Richard have blessed us in so many ways. The Thompson family wanted to have a significant part in what BVC does and made the building of The Thompson Family Neighborhood possible. It was an honor to name it after Patty and her family. We are so grateful.”

Though Edwine and Patty have gone to be with the Lord, their legacy of love and humble service lives on, blessing numerous others for generations to come.



# Enhancing Quality of Life

THE ADAMS FUND

>> Story by Dana Williamson

>> Photos by Shanna Rumburg, and courtesy of WatersEdge

**S**imilar stage of life...but very different quality of life. Consider the outlooks of two senior adult ladies.

Martha wakes up every morning with a heavy heart. Her eyes open to a ceiling riddled with water stains from a roof in bad need of repair. She steps out of bed onto thread-bare carpet. As she slowly makes her way to the kitchen, she again notices the cracked linoleum, the chipped paint on the cabinets. Looking out the window, she sees that the lawn needs mowing again and the bushes are growing too fast. She has lived in this home for 50 years, but it needs so many repairs, and on her limited Social Security and small pension, she can't afford to fix all the problems.

A few miles away, Rose awakens with a smile on her face. She is so grateful for a beautiful, secure place to live, with neighbors who have become her close friends. Today, she will go shopping with some of them, and later will meet for lunch. Tonight is game night, with everyone bringing their favorite board game. It is always so much fun. Tomorrow, she will go the learning center to check out some books by her favorite authors, then meet with some ladies to fill goodie bags to take to a children's ministry. And she must not forget the Bible study she looks forward to on Wednesday, again with her close friends.

Though their situations appear opposite, both Martha and Rose are living on restricted incomes. The difference? Rose discovered an enhanced life at Baptist Village and is receiving financial assistance from the Adams Fund.

Neither Martha nor Rose imagined they would find themselves needing help as they reached retirement age. Nor do most Oklahomans.

While Martha and Rose are not real people; Martha's story represents the plight of thousands of seniors whose future is perilous, while Rose is an example of those who have found a great place to enjoy what should be their best stage of life.

Statistics show that approximately 79 percent of middle-income Baby Boomers, who have reached the age of 65, have no savings for needs during their retirement years.

## A GROWING NEED

"That's why the Adams Fund is so important," said Bill Pierce, president of Baptist Village Communities (BVC). "Even if people have thought about retirement, the fact is, seniors in Oklahoma don't have a lot of money."

Pierce said the need is growing all the time.

"I can't tell you how serious the gap is between what services to the aging cost and their income," he said.

The Adams Fund was established in 1998 and named for Larry and Edwine Adams. Larry served as administrator of Baptist Village of Oklahoma City from 1986-95. He said as he walked through the Village every week, he met residents who were worried because their finances were dwindling, and they didn't know how they were going to live.

Because of Adams' concern and persistence, eventually an endowment was established through The Baptist Foundation of Oklahoma, dedicated to aiding seniors who need financial help to live at Baptist Villages.

The Adams' son, Pat, an enthusiastic supporter of his

parents' work, says the Bible mandates us to honor our parents. "There are a lot of widows, former pastors, etc. who need help and are struggling in the season of life they should be enjoying."

## A BIBLICAL MANDATE

The Adams Fund carries out the mission given in James 1:27 – "to look after widows in their distress." Many Adams Fund recipients are in fact widows facing stressful financial futures. Some of these widows were pastors' wives, who are forced to live on Social Security checks now that their husbands have gone to be with the Lord. Even some pastors who served small churches didn't make enough to support themselves after they retired, and many outlive their limited retirement income.

It is BVC's belief that finances should not be a barrier to living at Baptist Village, where residents can experience an enhanced life in a Christian environment.

At any given time, the Adams Fund assists more than 70 residents throughout Oklahoma. The average monthly service fee at Baptist Villages is \$800, and the Adams Fund averages \$250 in individual assistance monthly to residents. Subsidizing the fund is the annual Mother's Day Offering, which is split 50/50 between Baptist Villages and Oklahoma Baptist Homes for Children. All that is received by Baptist Villages goes to the Adams Fund.



**OPPOSITE:** Resident Jean enjoys an enhanced life thanks to the Adams Fund.

**ABOVE:** Larry and Edwine.

The need is growing because people are living longer, and it's harder to keep up. Pierce reiterated that very few people have enough money to be sure they will not need a fund like this, and because of that, consistent giving is important.

And the need for assistance is outgrowing availability.

"There are growing numbers of older people," explained Pierce. "And it's a fallacy to think people in their 80s have money. All people love their parents and grandparents, and all want them to have a comfortable retirement. If they don't have the finances, the financial assistance can make a dramatic difference in their lives."

## FUND AIDS BOTH RESIDENTS AND FAMILIES

Not only are those receiving help from the fund grateful, but so are their families.

"The Adams Fund has been a lifeline for our 89-year-old mom," said one son. "It has helped our family to afford to allow her to stay in the assisted living neighborhood. At this point, we don't want to interrupt her life by moving her to a different [senior living community], and she does not need long-term care nursing. I don't know what we would have done without the help from the Adams Fund. It's truly a blessing to our family and especially our mom."

## A HUGE BLESSING

"To keep people from going without groceries, medicine, rent money, utilities, health insurance and other living expenses is such a rewarding thing," said Larry Adams. "Anyone who stops and thinks about people in this situation would want to help. It's a heart fund, and if it doesn't tickle your heart, you won't care to be involved, but if it touches your heart, you'll want to be involved."

"We should thank God we can do something for others. And one of the things we can do is help loyal senior adults, who have worked and served all their lives, and who now have no place to live, no place to go and no one to help them. What a huge blessing to both the recipients and the givers."

**To learn how you can support the Adams Fund, please see the next page.**

# Will you help?

## **BILL AND SUSAN PIERCE AGING SERVICES TECHNOLOGY FUND**

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Gifts to this fund are used to acquire technologies that enhance the lives of residents on BVC campuses.



### **HANDHELD COMPUTERS**

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Allow residents to video chat with loved ones when they are unable to visit in person.



### **MOBILE ULTRAVIOLET (UV) LIGHT SYSTEMS**

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Often used in medical offices, hospitals and on airplanes, these special light systems kill viruses living on surfaces. The light systems are especially helpful to BVC campuses.



### **SNOEZELEN® ROOM**

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Residents often experience stress because they cannot effectively communicate or partake in everyday activities. Snoezelen® rooms use sensory stimulation activities to engage the residents with Alzheimer's and dementia challenges. Sight, sound and smell is used to reduce stress and agitation in ways that are fitting to each resident.



### **iN2L™ INTERACTIVE**

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Offers content-driven engagement through over 4,000 technology items to support social interaction, cognitive and physical exercise and therapy, education, reminiscing, areas of interest, memory support and more, ideal for both group engagement and individual experiences.



### **TOUCHTOWN VIDEO STREAMING**

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Touchtown can stream video straight to residents' televisions. Residents can participate in Bible studies, church services and even fitness using this streaming service.

## **THE LARRY AND EDWINE ADAMS ASSISTANCE FUND**

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Gifts to this fund provide rental assistance to residents on BVC campuses.

Hardship has prevented many senior adults from saving for their retirement years. The Adams Fund lightens their load.

Although not required, gifts can be designated for any of BVC's 12 campuses.

One hundred people turn 65 years old every day in Oklahoma. Seventy-nine percent of those middle-income Baby Boomers have no savings for retirement care. Because of this, the Larry and Edwine Adams Assistance Fund is needed now more than ever. Without growing support, we cannot continue to provide assistance to those who need it most.



**5%**

average percentage of Baptist Village residents receiving assistance through the Adams Fund



**\$800**

average monthly cost for residential living at Baptist Village



**\$250**

average amount given in individual assistance monthly to residential living residents

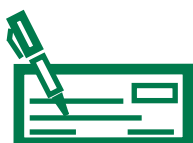
Gifts can be given to the General Fund for each Baptist Village campus. These gifts are used to enrich everyday living.

## Ways to give



### CASH

Take your gift to the business office at any campus. You will be issued a gift receipt.



### CHECK

Make your check payable to “Baptist Village Communities.” Write the specific fund or campus name on the memo line. If you are a resident, you may take your gift to the business office on your campus.

Mail your check to: **BVC, 3800 N. May Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK 73112.**



### CREDIT CARD

Give on our website at [www.baptistvillage.org](http://www.baptistvillage.org). Click on the “Donate” button. Or to process by phone, call (405) 942-3000 ext. 4205.

Go to [www.baptistvillage.org/donate](http://www.baptistvillage.org/donate). You can specify the fund and/or campus you would like to give to. You can also specify if you would like to make your gift a recurring gift.

Baptist Village Communities is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization.

## OTHER GIVING OPTIONS

When people think of donating to charities, cash is the likely method most often thought of. However, many other options exist. Baptist Village Communities accepts gifts of:

- ✓ Real estate
- ✓ Life insurance policies
- ✓ Stocks and securities

In some cases, you may even be eligible for a double tax break, should the assets have appreciated in value.

If you are 70½ years of age or better, it is possible for you to donate directly to the Adams Fund from your individual retirement account (IRA). Donating from your IRA can reduce your taxable income. And unlike other charitable gift options, this method of giving benefits you regardless if you itemize or not.

# Peace of mind (and happiness) for YOU

## THE ENTRUSTED HEARTS DIFFERENCE



Anita Thompson enjoys an enhanced life through home health care services provided by Entrusted Hearts.

>> Story by Jason Davis

>> Photo by Tina Shelly

Living at home brings pride of ownership or comfort. It gives us a good feeling.

And of course, whether the home is owned or rented, maintenance issues will undoubtedly arise. Dripping faucet? Call a plumber. Leaky roof? Contact the roofing company.

But what about practical, day-to-day tasks? Cleaning the bathroom and vacuuming? Running errands? Cooking dinner? Washing and folding laundry?

Or even further, what if there is a real need for physical assistance?

Many senior adults and their families aren't sure where to turn when these situations arise...especially when those that need services live far away from family.

Not to worry! Entrusted Hearts by Baptist Village (EH) helps you help the ones you love.

Entrusted Hearts provides a wide variety of home health care services, with experienced professionals and dedicated team members. For more than 25 years, EH has been the answer for thousands of clients who want to experience an enhanced life in the comfort of their own home.

"At Entrusted Hearts by Baptist Village, we are person-focused first," says Shannon Ryan, Entrusted Hearts director. "Our desire is to create real connections with our clients and their families to build lasting relationships. We pride ourselves on service that promotes wellness, social engagement and interaction while empowering our clients to be a part of the process. It's the togetherness that makes it special."

Anita Thompson is one of Entrusted Hearts' many satisfied clients. She makes her home at Baptist Village of Oklahoma City, and with one of the EH offices right on campus, it is a natural fit.

"I had surgery and couldn't drive for a while after it. I wanted to heal at home, and home health care was the perfect solution for me," recalls Anita. "Our friends, who are also residents at Baptist Village, told us about Entrusted Hearts."

Ms. Thompson receives skilled nursing and physical therapy services. She looks forward to seeing her nurse and physical therapist and describes Entrusted Hearts as "a treat."

"It has given me and my family peace of mind. We know that I can count on them to come help me and take care of me."

The services provided by Entrusted Hearts are extensive. Services to assist with daily tasks include light housekeeping and laundry, grocery shopping, meal preparation and more. In addition, EH can provide



services to improve quality of health, such as skilled nursing, assistance with bathing and dressing, and physical, occupational and speech therapies, to name a few.

If the need arises for medical equipment, Entrusted Hearts Medical Equipment by Baptist Village (EHME) has you covered. EHME conveniently provides medical equipment and supplies to clients across the state of Oklahoma. Services are available to individuals, health centers and assisted living communities, as well as other medical providers.

It is rewarding to know the difference the team is making.

“One of the greatest gifts we get from working here is getting the chance to help others,” indicates Darlene Maxey, EHME program supervisor. “Often by the time someone needs equipment, they are compromised, hurting and tired of feeling like people don’t listen. The art of listening helps you to get a good feel for what a client needs, and being willing to meet those needs is what sets us apart from many other suppliers in the medical equipment field.”

“In today’s environment, it really helps the clients when they get a chance to talk to someone who can give professional counsel about what it takes to get the right equipment for a client or family member. It helps so much to be able to take the time to work with family, the doctor and their insurance to make it as easy as possible.”

Darlene and her team experience regular success stories and testimonials of gratitude. Recently, she answered a phone call from a client who was able to get her first night of good sleep in months because she received a new hospital bed. Her old bed was broken down, and she had been sleeping with a board under her mattress.

“With tears, she told me how much it meant to her,” says Darlene. “Those are the kind of moments that stay with you in knowing that we often can and do make a difference to someone...and in doing that, it helps me sleep better too.”

At any given time, Entrusted Hearts serves 900 to 1,000 clients. And word is certainly getting out, especially if Anita has anything to do with it.

“Would I recommend Entrusted Hearts? Absolutely yes! I love the team members and the program. I am healing very well at home...and I am very happy.”

## AN ARRAY OF SERVICES IN THE PLACE YOU CALL HOME

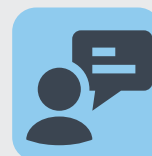
Entrusted Hearts' goal is to assist you in reaching and maintaining the highest level of independence. Services are available 24/7, including on holidays.



Certified Home Health Aides



Bathing and Dressing Assistance



Companion Services



Medication Management



Meal Preparation



Light Housekeeping and Laundry



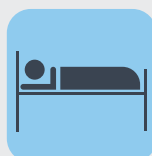
Errands and Shopping



Skilled Nursing



Physical, Occupational & Speech Therapies



Live-in or Overnight Respite Services



Transportation Available to Clients



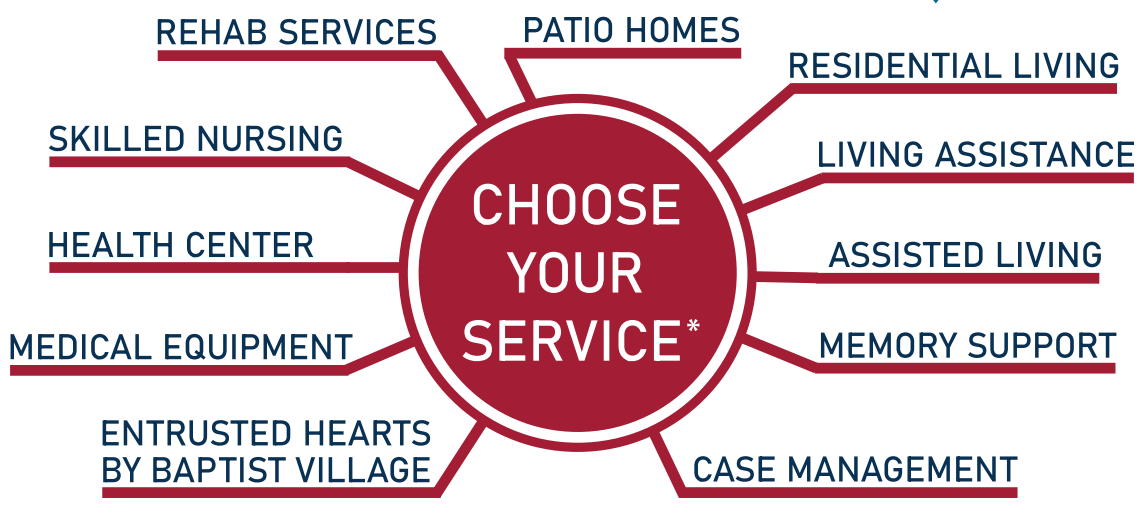
Medical Equipment

Entrusted Hearts service areas are within a 50-mile radius of the Lawton, Oklahoma City and Tulsa/Owasso areas. Private pay, long-term care and private insurances are accepted.

OKLAHOMA CITY AREA: (405) 720-2401  
OWASSO/TULSA AREA: (918) 272-4694  
LAWTON AREA: (580) 355-2440  
CASE MANAGEMENT: (405) 516-4888  
MEDICAL EQUIPMENT: (918) 274-4310



# Baptist Village Communities offer a range of services across Oklahoma



\*not all services offered at every location

Residential Living & Patio Homes	Residents live independently in a secure apartment or patio home, free from home repair and outdoor maintenance concerns.
Living Assistance	An intermediate step between residential living and assisted living. Residents remain independent while receiving all meals, housekeeping and laundry service.
Assisted Living	Residents receive all meals, medication assistance, housekeeping and a care plan prepared especially for them.
Skilled Nursing & Rehabilitation	Residents benefit from physical, occupational, speech and aquatic therapies.
Health Center	Residents receive 24-hour care, administration of medication, assistance with daily living needs and all meals (state licensing designation is nursing home).
Memory Support	Accommodates the unique needs of residents with dementia, Alzheimer's and other memory-related challenges.
Entrusted Hearts by Baptist Village, Case Management & Medical Equipment	Entrusted Hearts is a licensed home health care agency providing personalized services such as assistance with shopping, housekeeping and much more. A wide variety of medical equipment and supplies are available. In addition, case management services are available to those who qualify. These include individual goal planning and links to community resources.

# Come home to Baptist Village

## ADA

3501 Oakridge Dr. | Ada, OK 74820  
(580) 332-6004

- » Residential Living **W**
- » Assisted Living Neighborhood **Y**

## BROKEN ARROW

2801 N. Birch Ave. | Broken Arrow, OK 74012  
(918) 355-0099

- » Residential Living **Y**
- » Assisted Living Neighborhood **Y**
- » Memory Support Neighborhood **Y**

## CLEVELAND

1001 Baptist Village Dr. | Cleveland, OK 74020  
(918) 358-2575

- » Residential Living **Y**

## CORDELL

701 E. 12th St. | Cordell, OK 73632  
(580) 832-5831

- » Residential Living **Y**

## ELK CITY

1500 W. Country Club Blvd. | Elk City, OK 73644  
(580) 225-5555

- » Assisted Living Neighborhood **Y**
- » Memory Support Neighborhood **Y**

## HONEY CREEK

2620 W. 13th St. | Grove, OK 74344  
(918) 786-2223

- » Residential Living Neighborhood **W**

## HUGO

1200 W. Finley St. / P.O. Drawer 608 | Hugo, OK 74743  
(580) 326-8383

- » Residential Living **Y**
- » Skilled Nursing/Rehabilitation **Y**
- » Health Center **Y**
- » Memory Support Neighborhood **Y**

## LAKE TEXOMA

10777 Village Dr. | Madill, OK 73446  
(580) 564-3776

- » Residential Living **Y**

## MIAMI

2525 N. Elm St. | Miami, OK 74354  
(918) 542-7124

- » Residential Living **Y**

## OKLAHOMA CITY

9700 Mashburn Blvd. | Oklahoma City, OK 73162  
(405) 721-2466

- » Residential Living **Y**
- » Assisted Living Neighborhood **Y**
- » Skilled Nursing/Rehabilitation **Y**
- » Health Center **Y**
- » Memory Support Neighborhood **Y**

## OKMULGEE

1500 W. 6th St. | Okmulgee, OK 74447  
(918) 756-5377

- » Residential Living **Y**
- » Enhanced Life Neighborhood (Living Assistance) **Y**
- » Assisted Living Neighborhood **Y**

## OWASSO

7410 N. 127th E. Ave. | Owasso, OK 74055  
(918) 272-2281

- » Residential Living **Y**
- » Enhanced Life Neighborhood (Living Assistance) **Y**
- » Assisted Living Neighborhood **Y**
- » Skilled Nursing/Rehabilitation **Y**
- » Health Center **Y**
- » Memory Support Neighborhood **Y**

The letter "**Y**" next to each service indicates availability. "**W**" indicates waiting list.

Information as of 11/2/2020.



3800 N. May Avenue  
Oklahoma City, OK 73112

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Does your church have a heart for ministry to mature adults?  
If you answered yes...LINC<sup>®</sup> your church today!

A ministry of Baptist Village, LINC<sup>®</sup> (Loving, Inspiring, Nurturing, Caring) empowers churches to go and spread the Word of God by connecting churches with local senior living communities in their area.

With LINC<sup>®</sup>, a church forms a link with a campus, enlisting a team to minister, which is trained by Baptist Village. It doesn't have to be a Baptist Village campus that the church forms a partnership with. In fact, this gives a better opportunity to have a Christian voice in the community and to minister to senior adult communities all over the state.

We want to have a Southern Baptist church linked with every senior living community in Oklahoma. This would mean about 250,000 residents, families and employees being touched.

Hundreds of churches have already partnered with LINC<sup>®</sup>. **To learn how to LINC<sup>®</sup> your church, contact Chris Finley, director of chaplain services, at (405) 721-2466 ext. 2115 or [cfinley@baptistvillage.org](mailto:cfinley@baptistvillage.org).**