



Evenglow News April 2018

We Turned 60!

It's not every day we celebrate a 60th birthday. In fact, we are more used to celebrating 70th, 80th, 90th, and 100th birthdays! We opened our doors in 1958, though, so we decided to do it again in October 2018. More than 200 guests from points near and far helped us mark the occasion and recall our history.



Evenglow's founding donor, Ada Swords, thought seniors of all faiths in Livingston County and beyond needed a home where they could be safe and enjoy companionship with others. Evenglow opened the doors of the renovated Illinois hotel building to serve those needs. We then built a brand new, seven-story Evenglow Lodge, with 89 one- and two-room units, and with a 43-bed health center on the seventh floor. Gifts from Mary Etha and Herbert Tjardes and many other generous donors later allowed completion of the adjacent two-story Tjardes Healthcare Center. Renovations then converted the original, seventh-floor health center into seven independent-living apartments.

Fun Facts:

- Each year we
- make 26,832 pots of coffee, 52,000 servings of ice cream, and 67,392 helpings of mashed potatoes;
 - welcome 3,627 hours of volunteer help;
 - wash 109,200 pounds of laundry; and
 - offer more than 3,000 activities!

Due to increasing numbers of Alzheimer's and dementia patients, Evenglow, with the help of faithful contributors, built the 26-bed Evenglow Inn in 2001, a facility with specially trained staff to care for these conditions.



In other words, Evenglow has grown into a state-of-the-art retirement community that offers a full continuum of care so that residents do not need to move elsewhere, even if their needs change. Sixty years after its founding, it continues to become a new home to residents.

At a time when many organizations are unable to reach high standards such as the EAGLE accreditation we hold, we are grateful Evenglow is able to reach these standards because of its dedicated staff, Board of Trustees, and supporters. Thanks to each and every one of you!



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us on Facebook!

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Our Mission: "Offering a continuum of retirement choices and services in a Christian environment"

If you would rather receive this newsletter electronically, send email to:
kalexander@evenglowlodge.org



Flood Buckets

You might recall Bible verses about the raging of water, the fury of wind, or the cleansing burn of fire. Imagine what ancient peoples must have thought when they encountered these natural phenomena.

Or you might have heard of the popular 70's singing group "Earth, Wind and Fire." Imagine what flood and hurricane victims these days think even though modern understanding helps us recognize these weather events are not due to any sins of our parents. But they do cause lots of trouble.

The Vermilion River runs through Pontiac. Although Evenglow is safely located on high ground, neighborhoods near the river sometimes flood. So the difficulties faced by hurricane victims felt especially close to our hearts. Evenglow staff pitched in supplies to fill four flood buckets, which we delivered to the East Bay Camp drop-off site for the Midwest Distribution Center. Some also contributed individually to UMCOR (United Methodist Committee of Relief), which is still on-site in many affected areas.



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Renovations Rock!

“Wow! This looks like a high-end restaurant in Chicago!” says a new volunteer, referring to the Lodge dining room. She loves the beautiful new carpeting, window treatments, and wood-look flooring. And she does not even know what the “before” looked like!



Left and right: Not only the look of the Lodge dining room changed. Menu options also changed, to add some new healthy choices to the many traditional favorites.



The Evenglow Inn reception area received a refresh, too, making it feel even more like home.



Left: Marilyn Pritchard, Evenglow Activities, helps unpack the new chair cushions for the chapel.



Residents sit in comfort on new chair cushions provided by a generous, anonymous donor for the Evenglow Chapel. The room also received new carpeting, freshening its look. Not only religious services for various faiths are held here. Speakers, musical performances, and Wii-bowling are other popular uses for this room.

Transformational!

“Transformational” is the word that best describes the total overhaul of the first and second floor dining rooms in the Tjardes Health Center .



Attractive wood-look room dividers separate the large room into cozy nooks. The dividers feature lush green plantings that are “faux” for safety reasons but look so real one is tempted to water them occasionally.

Below: The new sound system, funded by the Evenglow Guild, uses Bluetooth technology to deliver wireless sound to each speaker at a volume tailored to that area, anywhere in the dining room or adjacent hallways.

Window coverings allow natural light in but keep harsh sun and glare out. They may be easily raised or lowered with one hand.



Left: Chuck Muir and Jim Dawson enjoy some of their favorite tunes with Kelsey Grieff, one of the staff who receives a Virgil and Irma Jean Sancken nursing scholarship at Evenglow.

Thanks to the Evenglow Guild, residents of both first and second floors of the Tjardes Health Center enjoy background music as they linger in the privacy of separate conversation areas after meals, joining in social interaction with their table mates. Music selections are unlimited, and special requests are available. Have you ever dreamed of being a dee-jay? Now is your chance to volunteer your talents!

A Few of the Couples at Evenglow More than 530 years of marriage!



Don and Shirley Zehr

Harvey and Barb Gallup



Alfred and Mary Lou Meng



John and Kathryn Langhoff

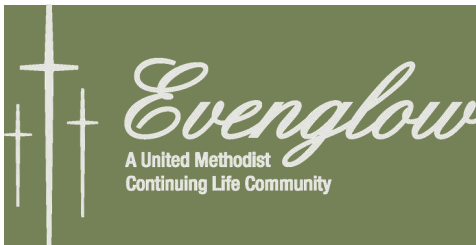


Center:
Richard and Jeanette McCabe



Richard and Mary Todd

Left:
Don and Josephine Ely



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Evenglow's Tjardes Health Center

is a fully certified Medicare Skilled Care Facility offering rehabilitation services after hospitalization for a wide range of illnesses and accidental injuries

Mark's Remarks

Many of you came to Evenglow to help us celebrate Evenglow's 60th birthday. It was wonderful to see lots of friends from near and far! Countless hours of planning go into arranging such a large event. Thank you to the many staff members for their extra efforts behind the scenes to prepare to welcome our guests and mark the occasion. By the way, in case you have not already heard, we are pleased to announce Amy Eppel, Evenglow's wellness and marketing coordinator who was the event coordinator, welcomed a healthy baby girl with her husband not long after that. Congratulations to her for her great timing and for both successful events.

So many renovations are taking place here lately we almost feel like we should hang a permanent "Under Construction" sign on our front door. Amazingly little disruption has occurred to our routines, however, due to careful scheduling of groups of internal and external construction workers and decorators. Thanks to our Environmental Services team for arranging and completing all the enhancements so far, and for even more improvements coming soon.

Visit our website to request electronic copies of our newsletter, call our Reception Desk at 815-844-6131 to request paper copies, "Like" us on Facebook, or call us to arrange an individual or group tour or to volunteer. We welcome your interest!



**Mark Hovren
President & CEO**

The United Methodist Church Illinois Great Rivers Conference Advance Special status allows ministries to contact local congregations for financial support. Methodist churches may send financial support through the conference treasurer's office and thereby participate in the IGRC 5 Star Giving Challenge. 100% of Advance donations are sent to designated ministries. The Advance Special number for gifts designated for Evenglow is: #0044.