



SPOTLIGHT



Seasons of CHANGE

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OUR PROMISE:

To support a lifestyle filled with purpose,
connection, and exceptional care.

**One Campus
One Community
Lifelong Peace of Mind**

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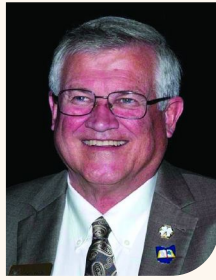
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Greetings from the Board of Trustees



As we finish out the summer and our children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews head back to their various schools, may we all take a step back and count our many blessings.

Grand Chapter is right around the corner for our Eastern Star members, and this year we are celebrating the **75th Anniversary of the Ohio Eastern Star Home** — the shining Star on the Hill in Mt. Vernon.

We welcome our new CEO, **Blu Johnson**, as he begins his journey at the Home, and extend our many thanks to our former CEO, **Michele Englebach**, as she slows down a little but remains highly involved in our Pine Hill Independent Living addition, as well as many other projects.

Be sure to stop by our booth at Grand Chapter and plan to attend our annual meeting on Saturday morning during the Grand Chapter session, beginning at 9 a.m.

Scott Riddle, PGP 2022 – Chairman OESH Board of Trustees

Hello, Sisters and Brothers!

We have been extremely busy in Eastern Star, and although Inspection Season is over, we still have many Visitations and Receptions and Parties to attend. This Order, dedicated to Charity, Truth, and Loving Kindness, has worked very hard creating and maintaining membership; and we welcome the many new members who have joined as a result of the change in Legislation passed at General Grand Chapter. We can now offer membership to those women who are not able to provide a Masonic family connection. It allows for a Master Mason and a Sister in good standing to write letters of recommendation for a new member. So, we hope for many new initiations in the future.



We want to tell Michelle Englebach that we have enjoyed her many years of Dedication to the Ohio Eastern Star Home; we recognize the many improvements she has spearheaded to make life better for the Elders. We welcome Blu Johnson to the Home and wish him much success in the years to come. We know our Ohio Eastern Star Home is in very good hands and look forward to working with him and the wonderful staff.

This year, the Service Project at the Home was to build raised garden beds, accessible for those in scooters and wheelchairs. We truly hope the funds raised so far will accommodate the completion of this project. Digging in the dirt is a joy for some, and all can benefit from fresh produce. We look forward to celebrating the completion of this project. We thank you all for helping us raise the money!

Worthy Grand Patron, Todd Evans, and I have enjoyed this year to the fullest, and we wish all the best for Amy Young, Dennis Evans, and the upcoming 2027 Grand Officers. This year of "Faith is the Fabric" has been a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for us, and we have enjoyed our time with the wonderful members of Ohio Eastern Star. We have received many notes of encouragement, hugs of friendship, and enjoyed many happy hours among our Sisters and Brothers. We thank you all for a fantastic experience and the chance to make a small contribution to the Order. We hope to see you all at Grand Chapter!

Debbie Somerlot – Worthy Grand Matron
Todd Evans – Worthy Grand Patron

A New Season at OESH!



Blu Johnson, CEO
The Ohio Eastern Star Home

As we start looking ahead to cooler weather and all the excitement that comes with fall, I'm excited to begin a new season here at The Ohio Eastern Star Home.

My name is Blu Johnson, and I'm thrilled to be leading the team at OESH. I've already seen how much passion and dedication there is throughout this organization, and I'm grateful to be part of it. With my background in senior living and serving others, I look forward to serving this wonderful community in the years ahead.

If you're attending Grand Chapter, please stop by our booth and say hello! I'd love the chance to meet you, hear your story, and put some faces to the names I've been hearing. I look forward to meeting many of you soon!

From the Editor

Greetings! A conversation

I recently had with our new Administrator turned into something of an impromptu interview — and I thought you might enjoy getting to know him a little better!



Please allow me to introduce you to Kevin Finley, LNHA, our new Administrator at The Ohio Eastern Star Home. Kevin is originally from Central Florida but has spent

most of his life in Central Ohio. Since entering the healthcare field in 2018, he has brought his experience, enthusiasm, and genuine desire to help others to his new role, overseeing the day-to-day operations of the Home. And, as you'll soon discover, Kevin has a special way of describing what makes this place so unique.

"Livin' the Hood Life"

What made you decide to shift your career and go into healthcare?

"I wanted to help people after many years in the technology industry."

What are some of your favorite things about The Ohio Eastern Star Home?

"I love doing rounds in the evening and seeing staff and elders together at the dinner tables. There is a sense of community here that is unrivaled by any setting I have served in. It's incredible!"

Kevin says one of the things that stands out most to him is the feeling of home throughout our campus.

"Elders feel like they are in a home and not a hospital because our buildings foster community instead of long hallways. Warm living spaces allow people to do life together."

And then there's Kevin's favorite part of the day — the moment when he gets to see the **"magic being done in the Hoods."**

"Our staff truly creates a loving, contented environment where people are thriving."

Kevin stepped into a complex role and has embraced it from day one. It's clear that he loves being here, and we are truly blessed to have him as part of the OES Home family.

Kevin was drawn to The Ohio Eastern Star Home because of its passionate commitment to **deinstitutionalizing healthcare** and creating environments where people can truly live, rather than simply receive care. He looks forward to helping maintain The Ohio Eastern Star Home's position as a leader in the industry while making sure the word **"home" never gets lost in nursing home.**

When Kevin isn't pursuing his passion for helping others, you'll likely find him outdoors. He is an avid hiker and fisherman and has a particular fondness for birds of all kinds.

Welcome to the OES Home family, Kevin! We're glad you're here—and we're excited to see all that you'll bring to our Hoods!

Making Memories with Friends

Patriotic Sing-Along



Fourth of July BBQ



Barefoot McCoy Concert



ends, Laughter, and FUN!

At The Ohio Eastern Star Home, our Life Enrichment Team knows that every day is an opportunity to make memories, share laughter and bring a little extra joy to our Elders. Throughout the year, the team keeps the calendar filled with activities and events designed to bring everyone together!

From Cinco de Mayo celebrations and a festive luncheon, to a visit from a petting zoo, our Elders have enjoyed opportunities to celebrate and have fun. When summer

arrived, the team took the festivities to the next level with balloon toss games, s'mores, and a Fourth of July BBQ filled with good food, fellowship, and patriotic spirit.

One of the highlights was our Patriotic Sing-Along. Dr. Bob added a special touch by playing the full drum score to "Stars and Stripes Forever" — a performance that had everyone smiling and tapping their toes!

We've also enjoyed visits from local

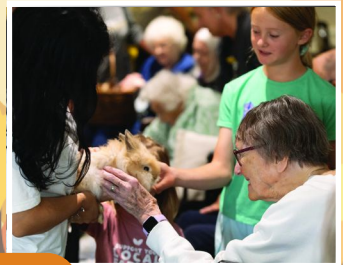
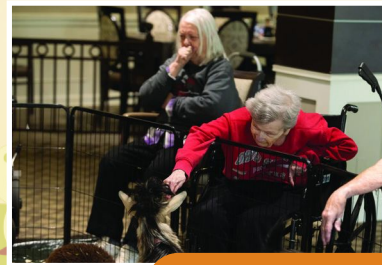
entertainers, including Barefoot McCoy, a local artist who brought classic songs to life and had our Elders singing along to favorites from years gone by.

The Life Enrichment Team continues to create meaningful moments that make life at The Ohio Eastern Star Home special.

Because sometimes the best memories are made in the simplest moments — together, with friends, laughter and a whole lot of fun!



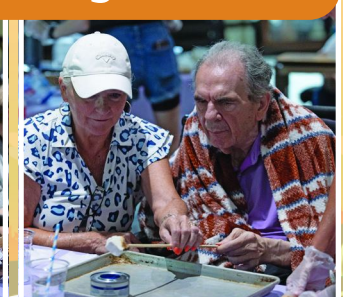
Balloon Toss



Petting Zoo



Making S'Mores



Pine Hill residents make a difference in the community

Sorting Books, Building Bright Futures

Pine Hill Independent Living residents recently rolled up their sleeves to support a wonderful community project. Residents gathered to sort books by grade level that the Kiwanis Club of Mount Vernon collected for the newly built Salvation Army Day Care Center.

From picture books to early readers, these books will provide young children with stories, imagination, and opportunities to learn.



We extend a heartfelt thank-you to the Kiwanis Club of Mount Vernon for organizing this generous book collection and to our Pine Hill residents for volunteering their time to help prepare the books for their new readers.

It's a wonderful example of what can happen when neighbors work together—building brighter futures, one book at a time!

Pine Hill Resident Receives Volunteer of the Year Award!

Excerpt from an article published in Knox Pages by Cheryl Splain

Compassion, leadership, mentorship, generosity and commitment are among the qualities Mayor Matt Starr used to describe the 2026 Mount Vernon Volunteers of the Year: Marcy Rinehart, Randy Cronk and Jerry Scott.

Starr said the three repeatedly go above and beyond, sharing their time, talents and resources to make a difference in the community.

"Our community is better, stronger and more connected because of these three amazing individuals who care deeply about Mount Vernon and want to give back," Starr said.

For nearly six decades, Jerry Scott has served Ohio law enforcement and the Knox County community with integrity, compassion and humility.

Following a distinguished career with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Scott continued serving as a special deputy with the Knox County Sheriff's Office and through statewide public safety initiatives. In 1982, he helped establish Ohio's poacher tip line, becoming its first tip coordinator and later serving as a permanent tip trustee for more than 40 years.



From left, Marcy Rinehart, Randy Cronk, Jerry Scott, and Mayor Matt Starr

Locally, Scott is known for his work as a law enforcement chaplain, responding to tragedies and offering support to grieving families, officers and first responders. He has also served with the First Responders Bridge Retreat, the local loss team, The Salvation Army, Gideons International, Kiwanis, Boy Scouts and numerous other civic organizations.

"What distinguishes Jerry is not only the length of his service, but the way he serves with compassion, consistency, faith, and no desire for recognition," Mayor Matt Starr said.

SPOTLIGHT

on Our Donors

Gifts noted below were given to Operations, Memorials, StoryWalk® Trail, Wish List and the WGM/WGP Project, May – July 2026. THANK YOU for enriching the lives of every resident at The OES Home.

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www.oeshome.org



***Someone's having
a birthday!***

**Stop by our OESH booth at
Grand Chapter, September 25-27,
and get the scoop!**



***We can't
wait to
see you
there!***

