

STORYPOINT GROUP Gazette

Issue 4

*Together,
We Make
a Difference*

EXPLORING THE
MANY WAYS WE CAN
MAKE THE WORLD
A LITTLE BRIGHTER

TALK TO
END
ALZHEIMER'S
Alzheimer's association

STORYPOINT GROUP

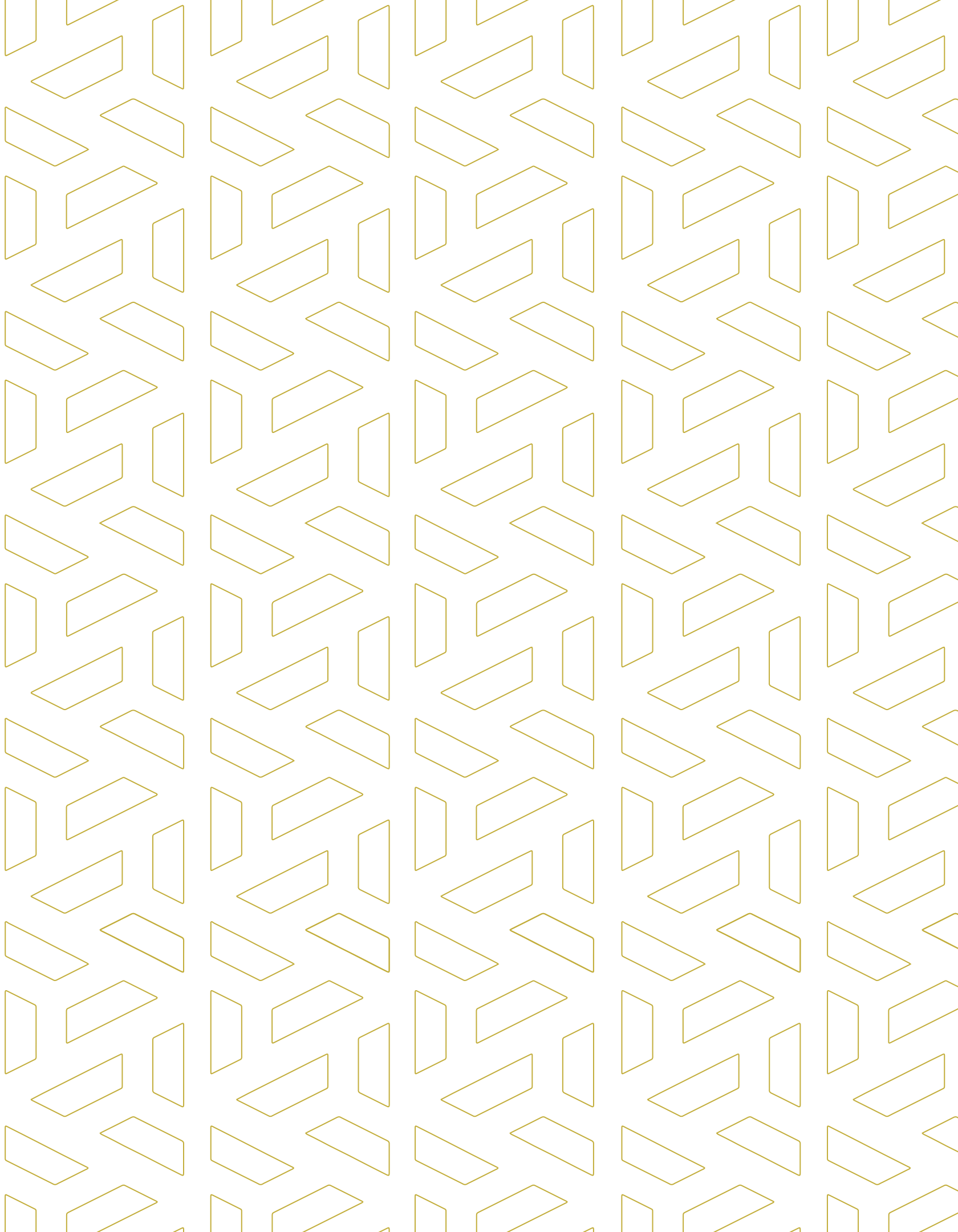




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When we come together with a shared purpose, we can achieve remarkable things. Our StoryPoint Group residents and team members prove that time and time again.

At our communities, neighbors look out for one another. Employees ask about your day, fellow residents are excited to get to know you, and everyday moments become opportunities for residents to shine. This commitment to giving back is what makes over 10,000 residents proud to call our communities home.

I'm deeply humbled and honored to be a part of an organization that is so dedicated to serving and supporting one another. Providing the absolute best experience for every person, in every interaction, every minute of every day is my mission, and I know that's shared across our family of communities and extends into the neighborhoods we serve.

After all, when every person thinks of others before they think of themselves, no one is ever truly alone.

As you dive into this issue of the StoryPoint Group Gazette, I hope it brings a glimpse of the joy that residents, families, and employees share every day. From honoring veterans to sharing knowledge and resources on aging, making residents' dreams come true, and more — these moments are all part of our journey and commitment to each other.

Within these pages, you'll see what it truly means to belong within the StoryPoint Group family. The residents, employees, and stories featured here each play a role in creating communities that feel like home.

You belong, and you matter.



A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of the letters 'T' and 'B' intertwined.

Tim Bryant
StoryPoint Group, President



We're More Than Just a Place to Live — We're a Place to Belong

We're all about connection — and we mean it!

Whether it's sparking up a conversation over coffee or planning a surprise dance party, we live to bring people together. Because life's better when you share it with others, right?

It's more than care. It's life, made better.

Our team isn't just checking boxes — they're making moments. From prepping your favorite comfort meal to organizing themed nights, we're here to make every day feel special. Because the small things? They matter big time.

Got Questions? We've Got Answers.

We're the kind of team you can always count on — day or night. Need a quick chat, a helping hand, or a friendly face? We're just a call away, ready to make things easier.

We Love a Good Celebration.

Birthdays, milestones, Tuesdays — you name it — we'll find a reason to celebrate. Because life's too short not to throw a little confetti now and then.

No Place Like Home (Seriously).

StoryPoint Group isn't just a place to live — it's a place to thrive. Across the nation, we're creating spaces where residents find friends, family, and a whole lot of fun.

WELCOME TO THE STORYPOINT GROUP FAMILY!

- StoryPoint Farmington Hills

Flourish Collection



- Oakland Charter Township, MI
- Rochester, MI

Danbury



- Broadview Heights, OH
- Brunswick, OH
- Columbus, OH
- Cuyahoga Falls, OH
- Hudson, OH
- Massillon, OH
- Mentor, OH
- Millersburg, OH
- Mount Vernon, OH
- North Canton, OH
- North Ridgeville, OH
- Tallmadge, OH
- Tipp City, OH
- Westerville, OH
- Wooster, OH

Independence Village



- Ames, IA
- Ankeny, IA
- Des Moines, IA
- Pella, IA
- Waukee, IA
- Avon, IN
- Carmel, IN
- Columbus, IN
- Evansville, IN
- Fishers, IN
- Zionsville, IN
- Brighton, MI
- Grand Ledge, MI
- Midland, MI
- Oxford, MI
- Petoskey, MI
- Plymouth, MI
- Saginaw, MI
- Traverse City, MI
- Waterford, MI
- White Lake, MI
- Aurora, OH
- Avon Lake, OH

Southwick Village



- Southwick, MA

StoryPoint

- Bolingbrook, IL
- Libertyville, IL
- Naperville, IL
- Romeoville, IL
- Chesterton, IN
- Fort Wayne, IN
- Granger, IN
- Schererville, IN
- Louisville, KY
- Middletown, KY
- Prospect, KY
- Union, KY
- Birmingham, MI
- Chesterfield, MI
- Clinton Township, MI
- East Lansing, MI
- Grand Rapids, MI
- Kalamazoo, MI
- Northville, MI
- Novi, MI
- Portage, MI

Leisure Living

- Adrian, MI
- Allegan, MI
- Alma, MI
- Bad Axe, MI
- Bay City, MI
- Canton, MI
- Caro, MI
- Dowagiac, MI
- Grandville, MI
- Greenville, MI
- Grand Rapids, MI
- Hastings, MI
- Lakeview, MI
- Lansing, MI



- Rockford, MI
- Saline, MI
- Wyoming, MI
- Cincinnati, OH
- Fairfield Twp., OH
- Gahanna, OH
- Grove City, OH
- Medina, OH
- Pickerington, OH
- Powell, OH
- Shaker Heights, OH
- Strongsville, OH
- Troy, OH
- Waterville, OH
- Chattanooga, TN
- Collierville, TN
- Cordova, TN
- Germantown, TN
- Knoxville, TN
- Mequon, WI



- Lapeer, MI
- Ludington, MI
- Midland, MI
- Mt. Pleasant, MI
- Owosso, MI
- Paw Paw, MI
- Rockford, MI
- Sandusky, MI
- South Haven, MI
- St. Johns, MI
- Swartz Creek, MI
- Whitehall, MI
- Zeeland, MI



Giving Back: It's Who We Are

At StoryPoint Group, giving back isn't just something we do — it's part of our DNA. Whether through enhancing the lives of our residents or extending our support to the broader community, our commitment to making a difference runs deep. From within our walls to the world outside, we strive to create meaningful connections and leave a lasting impact through acts of care, kindness, and service.

A little kindness goes a long way in providing the absolute best experience for the seniors we serve!

One of the ways that StoryPoint Group is committed to giving back throughout our family of communities is with our dream big initiative. With this initiative, our organization gives back to residents by sponsoring their dreams (both big and small!) and helps to make them come true.



AT HERITAGE HILL

The team at Heritage Hill know that age is just a number when it comes to making dreams come true! When a 97-year-old resident shared her childhood dream of riding a Ferris wheel, our team knew what they had to do. Finding a Ferris wheel and going for a ride brought back sweet memories and created new ones.



AT STORYPOINT TROY

When Darlene joined our StoryPoint Troy community, she shared not just her health challenges, but also her lifelong love for the Cincinnati Reds. With the amazing support of the Cincinnati Reds, the team was able to fulfill Darlene's wish to attend "one last game."

Darlene and our team spent a fun-filled afternoon together, reliving cherished memories, including the time her husband purchased a special program in 1969 to celebrate the Reds' 100th year!



When I received my diagnosis, they told me I had two to six months... but today was one of the most extraordinary days of my life.

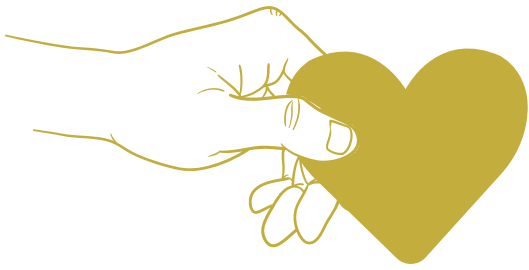


— Darlene, StoryPoint Troy Resident



AT MEADOW LANE

If you have ever had the pleasure of visiting with Doc, a Meadow Lane resident, you know many of his fondest memories are from the summers he spent at his family cabin in Port Austin as a kid. He and his cousin, George, spent every summer together at the cottage on the lake as they grew up. It's been a couple of years since he has been able to get to the cabin, so we arranged a visit. Luckily Doc's cousin was home from California for the summer, and the two shared a heartwarming reunion filled with reminiscing on childhood memories.



Giving Back: Beyond Our Doors

While we pour our hearts into caring for our residents every day, we also love reaching out beyond our doors to make a difference in the broader community. From participating in charitable events to using our talents to help a local organization, our staff and residents come together to lend a helping hand. We believe every small act of kindness helps make our community a little brighter.

WHO KNEW RAISING AWARENESS COULD BE SO SWEET ... AND MESSY?



Residents and staff at Independence Village of Aurora competed to raise funds for Alzheimer's awareness! The top three fundraising champs earned the honor of taking a big, gooey pie to the face — but the fun didn't stop there. Residents joined in on the action by donating money for the chance to throw pies at the staff member of their choice. It was a messy, laughter-filled day, all in the name of a great cause. What a *pie-fect* way to make a difference!





PULLING A PLANE FOR BRAGGING RIGHTS AND A GREAT CAUSE!

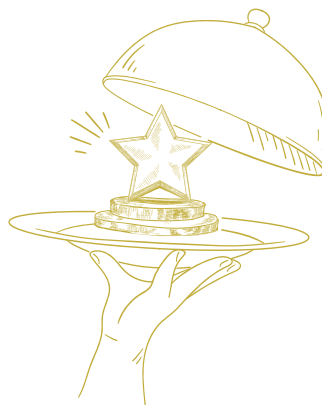
A team of residents and staff from Independence Village of Zionsville West took on the 2024 Plane Pull Challenge hosted by Special Olympics Indiana — and crushed it! They pulled a 164,000-pound FedEx Boeing 757 for 12 feet in 11.96 seconds, finishing 11th in the Open Division. Together, they raised over \$1,000 to support Special Olympics Indiana athletes. What an unbelievable effort!



ART WITH HEART: PAINTING BAGS TO FIGHT HUNGER

Thelma, a 100-year-old resident of Danbury North Canton, helps Compassion Delivered by decorating paper bags for meal deliveries to people with life-threatening or terminal illnesses. Her special bags, each branded with her signature, "Thelma 100," bring happiness and comfort to the recipients. Thelma collaborates with other residents, like "Ruth 98," who adds poetry to the mix.

In all we do, from caring for residents to supporting the broader community, we promote a culture of generosity and compassion. Surrounded by those who help others, we are inspired to spread kindness. This is what makes our communities unique. Together, we're building a stronger, more connected world — one act of giving at a time.



Cooking Up Wins

We're turning up the heat in senior living, and the Independence Village of Plymouth culinary team is on fire! Chefs stole the spotlight at the annual Showcase & Taste of Plymouth, winning Best Appetizer and Best Dessert — proving that our kitchens are where flavor meets flair!

Executive Chef Gerald Bailey, Sous Chef Natalie Miller, and their talented team dished out award-winning masterpieces. Their Fish and Chip Cake with Green Goddess Tartar Sauce — Pacific cod in panko crumb and potato chip batter — reeled in the Best Appetizer title. If that wasn't sweet enough, they wowed with a Sticky Toffee Pudding — bread pudding with crème anglaise and pecan praline — earning "Best Appetizer" and "Best Dessert!"

“ I joined senior living because I felt seniors deserve a great dining experience, like that of a nice restaurant. And I want to create dishes you can't find anywhere. It's nice to showcase what our community is capable of. I love it when people ask if we are a restaurant on the street! ”

— Executive Chef Gerald,
Independence Village of Plymouth



"BEST APPETIZER" WINNING RECIPE:

Fish and Chip Cake with Green Goddess Tartar sauce

INGREDIENTS: FISH AND CHIP CAKE

- 1lb cod fish, steamed and flaked
- ¼ cup scallion, finely chopped
- 1 cup crushed potato chips
- ½ cup panko
- ¼ cup breadcrumbs
- 3 tbsp mayonnaise
- 1 tbsp Dijon mustard
- 2 tsp dry mustard
- 2 tbsp lemon juice
- ¼ tsp cayenne pepper
- ¼ tsp Kosher salt
- ½ tsp black pepper
- 2 egg
- 1½ tsp butter
- 1½ tsp vegetable oil
- Truffle salt for seasoning (when cakes come out of the pan)



DIRECTIONS: FISH AND CHIP CAKE

1. In a large bowl, place cod, scallions and ¼ cup breadcrumbs. Mix very lightly.
2. In a small bowl, mix mayonnaise, mustard, lemon juice, cayenne pepper, salt, pepper, and 1 egg, then whip together until smooth.
3. Pour the mayonnaise mixture over the cod mixture and lightly fold together.
4. Gently shape into 20 cakes (about 2½ inches in diameter). Cover and refrigerate for 30 minutes to an hour.
5. Use three pans: place flour in one, a beaten egg in another, and the panko and crushed chips mixed together in the third. Dip each cake first in the flour, then the egg, and finally in the panko-chip mixture. Set aside after coating.
6. Heat oil and butter in a skillet over medium heat. When tiny bubbles appear, add the cakes.
7. Cook for 2-3 minutes per side until golden brown.
8. Serve with the Green Goddess Tartar sauce.

INGREDIENTS: GREEN GODDESS TARTAR SAUCE

- ¼ cup chopped cornichons
- 2½ tbsp rinsed and chopped capers
- 1 small shallot, chopped
- ½ cup mayonnaise
- 1 tsp Dijon
- 2 tbsp chopped tarragon
- 1½ tbsp chopped dill
- 2 tbsp chopped parsley
- 2 tbsp chopped chives
- 1 tsp lemon juice
- ½ tsp freshly ground pepper
- ¼ cup olive oil



DIRECTIONS: GREEN GODDESS TARTAR SAUCE

1. Coarsely chop the cornichons, capers, and shallot. Place it in a food processor and pulse a few times to combine.
2. Add mayonnaise, mustard, herbs, lemon juice, and pepper and process for about 6 seconds to blend well.
3. Scrape down the sides and pulse a few more times. Open the pour spout and slowly drizzle in the olive oil while the motor runs.
4. Transfer the tartar sauce to an air-tight container and refrigerate until ready to use.

Aging Gracefully Symposium

Maintaining an active lifestyle, planning for the future — those are all keys to healthy aging, and so is having a community to support you. That's why Independence Village of Petoskey hosts an Aging Gracefully Symposium.

This event is a way for seniors, families, and experts to come together and navigate the aging process side by side. The symposium covers topics like estate planning, wellness and safety, aging with confidence, and more.

"One topic we brought to the forefront was "How to have Difficult Conversations within Family Dynamics," because the average adult son/daughter struggles in this area. Let's face it," Heather Nalbock, Community Specialist at Independence Village of Petoskey continued, "navigating family dynamics when facing difficult topics can be challenging, even for the best of families. Audience members left the event feeling heard, but more importantly, they were empowered. That's our mission with the Aging Gracefully Symposium — to bring helpful experts and families together so Northern Michigan families have support and resources they need."



A Word from Our Resident

We sat down with Ruth Grass, a resident from Independence Village of Petoskey in Petoskey, Michigan, to hear more about her senior living experience.

> Tell us about yourself.

"My name is Ruth Grass, and I moved into Independence Village a year ago with my husband, Peter, who was in the early stages of Alzheimer's. We are both in our late 70s."

> Why did you decide to move to senior living?

"People told me that we were way too young to go into a senior living community, and I should stay at home, and I should get help to take care of Peter. There were parts of me that liked that idea, but the weight of the house and the maintenance issues brought me to the decision that it was time to move."

> How did you feel once you moved?

"Our three-story house was a big burden because I was taking it on by myself. I was struggling with all the upkeep and maintenance... When we sold the house and let go of everything, except what would fit into 817 square feet, I felt a lot lighter in many ways. It felt like freedom. And guess who else felt relieved? Our four sons."



> How are you both doing now?

"Now it's 12 months since moving into Independence Village. Peter is in a more accelerated decline as his neurologist predicted, and I'm so grateful that I made that decision to move in when I did. When we think it's too soon, it's probably just the right time."

> What has Peter's diagnosis taught you?

"Well, I've learned to say I love you more, to hold hands more, to find daily moments of close connectedness more. One of the more difficult things for me was accepting life as it gives it to me, just as it is, whether I like it or not."

I started a support group here in the village for caregivers. Knowing we are not alone in this journey is so helpful and a great advantage of living in a caring village. Most important of all, I've learned to be brokenhearted on one hand and grateful in the other. It's really learning that those two hands are perfect together."



To hear all that Ruth had to share, scan the QR code with your mobile device.

Live the Retirement You've Dreamed of With Active Adult Living

Active adult senior living, sometimes called 55 plus living, is a newer senior housing option for older adults. With a variety of benefits, many seniors choose active adult living because it allows them to pursue their retirement dreams.

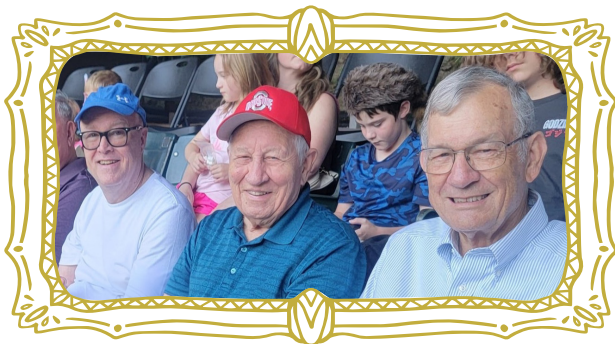
"What is different about these active adult communities is the programming," wrote Forbes. "They are more than just a place to live amongst people of similar age. They are designed with active living built into the plan."

It's true! Active adult living offers more opportunities to try new things, get involved and experience life exactly as you want to. For seniors who are overwhelmed with the cost of owning a home or the ever-growing list of household chores, active adult apartments can also provide a maintenance-free lifestyle to enjoy retirement.

While every community is different, many active adult senior living communities offer private apartments, condos or cottage-style homes. They can include large kitchens, open floor plans to entertain, and multiple apartment styles to choose from.

Other perks of an active adult community may include:

- Monthly neighborhood dinners and outings.
- Private active adult community events.
- On-site services and amenities.
- Discounted access to local restaurants, gyms, travel agents and more.





Introducing Flourish Collection

Flourish Collection is a new, luxurious addition to our StoryPoint Group family!

It includes Flourish Collection at Oakland Charter Township, offering assisted living, and memory care, and Flourish Collection at Rochester, offering active adult living, independent living, and assisted living lite.

Both communities are located in Michigan and are upscale, welcoming communities with the highest standards of personalized care. Residents can choose from a variety of accommodations with stunning cottages, duets, ranches, residences and apartments.





Honoring Our Heroes: Giving Back to the Veterans in Our Community

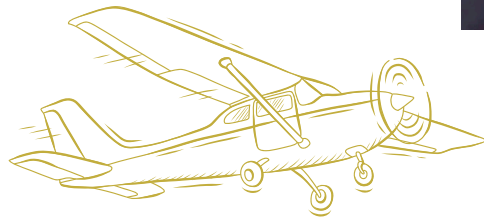
At StoryPoint Group, we're honored to have veterans, including many who served in World War II, as part of our community. These courageous individuals played a crucial role in shaping our nation's history, and it is our ongoing commitment to honor their sacrifices and contributions every day.

With heartfelt activities and special events, we're dedicated to honoring their past service while crafting new, meaningful experiences. Our goal is to make sure that our veterans feel truly valued and cherished as beloved members of our community.

HONORING HISTORY THROUGH WORDS

At a Veteran's Day Luncheon at Independence Village of Plymouth, resident John Claussen shared a moving glimpse into history through his cherished collection of WWII letters. These heartfelt correspondences exchanged between John and his parents came alive in a touching, in-character reading, serving as a powerful reminder of the personal sacrifices made during times of war. The Daughters of the American Revolution Plymouth Chapter added a meaningful touch by crafting thank-you cards for our veteran residents.



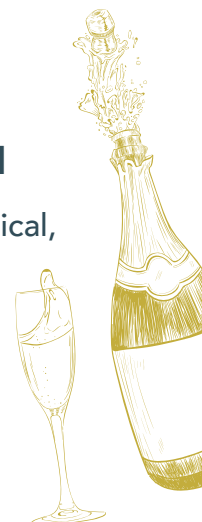


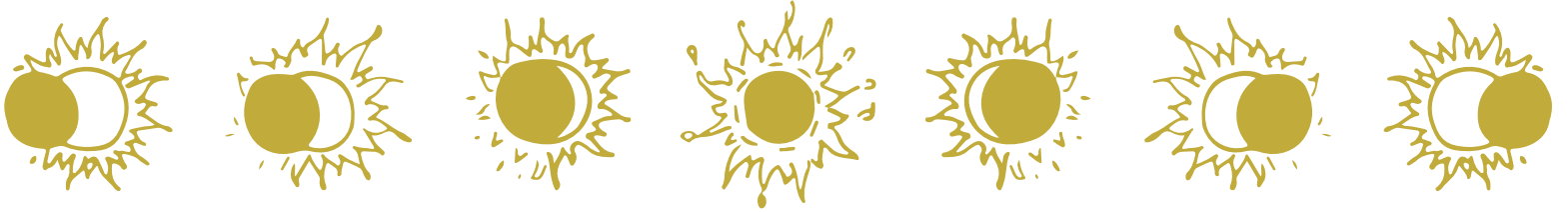
FLYING HIGH: WWII VETERANS SOAR AGAIN

For six of our veteran residents, we took giving back to new heights — literally! Thanks to Dream Flights, our veterans had the incredible opportunity to take flight in a WWII-era Boeing Stearman Biplane. With the wind in their faces and the sky as their view, these veterans relived the thrill of their flying days. It was an honor to be part of such a meaningful experience and see their joy as they soared through the sky.

WWII VETERANS SHINE AT PROM

Prom Night at StoryPoint Portage was magical, especially for our WWII veteran residents who either relived their prom experiences or enjoyed prom for the first time! Dressed to impress, residents shared their creative “prom-posals” and danced the night away. The evening was filled with laughter, joy, and wonderful moments.

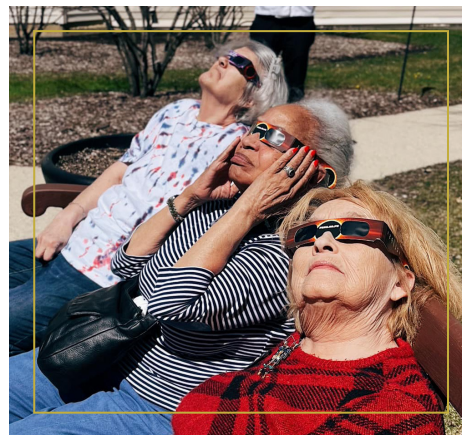




Shining Every Day

WITNESSING A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME EVENT

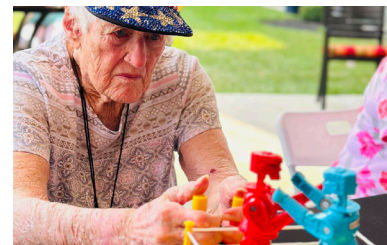
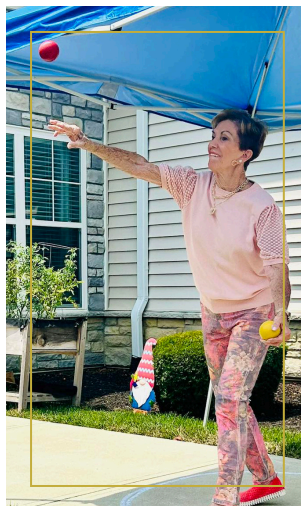
Across multiple communities, residents and staff came together to witness the solar eclipse in style! Equipped with solar eclipse glasses and plenty of excitement, residents and team members enjoyed watch parties featuring glow-in-the-dark accessories, fun games, and themed treats. In some communities, residents played games like LED volleyball while others snacked on space-inspired appetizers. As the moon moved to cover the sun, everyone gathered to witness the awe-inspiring sight. It was an out-of-this-world celebration!



GOING FOR THE GOLD ... AT STORYPOINT UNION



StoryPoint Union kicked off the 2024 Olympics with its version of the games! Residents gave it their all, competing in games like Nerf "target shooting" and Rock 'Em Sock 'Em "boxing," showing impressive skills and fierce determination. The champions received well-deserved medals, and everyone enjoyed the friendly competition. To celebrate, they indulged in a French feast, with classics like coq au vin and crème Brulé. It was très magnifique!



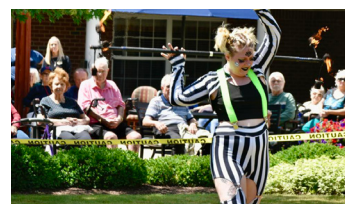
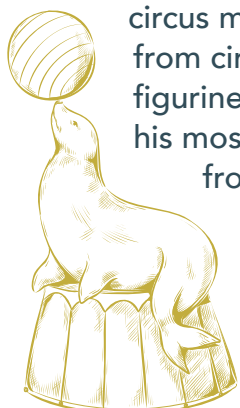
Thanks, Gary, for the dedication and care you show every day!

SHOUTOUT TO A TRANSPORT CHAMPION

For years, Gary has been a steady, smiling presence behind the wheel, safely driving StoryPoint Cincinnati residents wherever they need to go. Rain or shine, Gary brings a positive attitude and genuine love for helping others. It's people like Gary who help our communities flourish, brightening residents' days and creating new experiences.

STEP RIGHT UP! ED'S CIRCUS SHOWCASE

Independence Village of Aurora honored resident Ed with a Dream Big Circus Showcase to celebrate his lifelong passion for the circus. On display was Ed's incredible collection of circus memorabilia, collected over 50 years from circuses worldwide, from statues and figurines to vintage games, posters, and his most coveted piece — a headpiece from Sadie or the Shipp and Feltus Circus. Interestingly, Ed also has a connection to John Ringling III, having helped with marketing for his circus during its stay in Aurora.







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- @FlourishCollectionRochester
- @IndependenceVillagesSeniorLiving
- @LeisureLivingSeniorCommunities
- @SouthwickVillageResidentialLiving
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