

Brewster () foundation

2024 FALL CAMPAIGN

Dear Residents and Friends of Brewster,

As a valued supporter of Brewster Place, I wanted to reach out to share the incredible impact of your past contributions, and to invite you to contribute to the fall campaign.

Brewster Place is an award-winning retirement community providing maintenance-free, amenity-rich lifestyle opportunities for all its residents – from Independent Living through all levels of health care, including Assisted Living, Memory Support, Brewster Health Center, Rehabilitation and out-patient Therapy services. Our mission is to provide dynamic opportunities for an optimal quality of life for each resident.

We are excited to launch the **Brewster Place** Foundation Fall Campaign to assist with meeting our mission. However, we cannot do this without the generous support of individuals like you. Your previous contributions have been instrumental in helping us. We reach out today for your help in continuing our vital work. Your donation can make a significant difference. The funds listed to the right show how your support can help.

Every dollar you contribute helps us to maintain the award-winning retirement community for Shawnee county and northeast Kansas. Please consider donating by completing the enclosed form and returning to Brewster Foundation 1205 SW 29th Street, Topeka, KS 66611. Additionally, feel free to reach out to the Foundation President directly at 785-274-3392 or maryb@brewsterplace.org if you have any questions or would like to discuss your support further.

Thank you for believing in our mission and for your ongoing commitment to Brewster Place. However you choose to give this year, you can be assured that Brewster residents will benefit from your generous contribution.

Warm regards,

Robert Maxwell Brewster Place Foundation Chair

Mary Blubaugh MSN, RN
Brewster Place Foundation President

Here's how your support can help: Benevolent Care Fund

This fund allows residents to remain at Brewster when their financial resources are depleted. We anticipated \$250,000 will be used this year to assist residents whose funds have been depleted.

Employee Assistance and Support Fund

This fund is available when a staff member needs financial assistance in an emergency. To date this year, 32 staff members have been assisted with your gifts.

Chaplaincy Fund

This fund helps support Vespers services, group and individual chaplain work and programs.

Unrestricted Fund

This fund addresses the greatest needs and highest priority projects and initiatives throughout the campus.

Bus Fund

Our current fleet of buses is aging, and our residents need reliable transportation to access essential services, social activities, and medical appointments. To meet this need, we aim to purchase a bus specifically designed for their comfort and safety. With your support, we can make this a reality! We are seeking donations to help us raise \$250,000 for this vital resource.

To help us kick off fundraising for a new bus, we invite you to attend a luncheon on Tuesday, November 12 at 11:30 am in the Cultural Arts Center. Please see more information on page 5. ■



"To everything turn, turn, turn. There is a season turn, turn, turn And a time to every purpose under heaven." -The Byrds

On the first weekend of this month, we "fall back," ending daylight saving time for the year. Even though we enjoy an extra hour of sleep, the change can be disorienting. We might be early or late to appointments. Our internal clocks can be altered causing us to be hungry or sleepy at different times. Merriam Webster defines time as, measurable period during which an action, process, or condition exists or continues; or a nonspatial continuum that is measured in terms of events which succeed one another from past through present to future.

We often wish that we have more time. Time to spend with friends and family. Time for those bucket list experiences. Time for love, joy, laughter, even tears. No matter how we manipulate the clock, we all know

that one day our time here on earth will end. When we chase the clock, we miss the moments right in front of us.

Falling back reminds us to slow down and be present right now. Take in the sights and sounds all around you. Enjoy activities that make you happy. Be intentional with friends and family. Fill your cup with memories that feed your soul so you can pour that blessing of peace, love and compassion into others.

We can never be certain of changing times or what the future may hold, but when we stay grounded in the present moment, we are connected to a source of peace and joy regardless of what happens next.

JOIN CHAPLAIN JULIE FOR THESE EVENTS

Sunday Supper Club

Sunday, November 3 4:00 pm | The Evergreens Brewster Bean

Bring your dinner and join us for fun, fellowship and curious conversations.

Mindfulness Meditation

Monday, November 11 2:00 pm | Main Street Chapel

The Mindfulness Meditation group offers a chance to slow down and center yourself in the present moment. All are welcome.

Grief & Gratitude Group

Monday, November 18 2:00 pm | Main Street Chapel

Finding life again after loss through gratitude with Chaplain Julie.

Sunday Morning Devotions

9:30 am | The Evergreens Brewster Bean

Join us for coffee and a short devotion with Chaplain Julie. ■

LONGTIME LEADER MATT BURNS TO RETIRE

f you look around the Brewster Place campus, you will see beautifully main-

tained old and new buildings, wonderful dining venues. amenities, beautiful grounds and gardens, roads and parking lots, lights, signs and a fleet of vehicles. What you don't see is the behind-the-scenes expertise, coordination, work it takes to make this campus hum. After 21 years at Brewster Place, Vice President of Community Services Matt Burns is an expert at the "ins and outs" of what it takes to keep this 35-acre campus fit as a fiddle!



Retirement Reception for Matt Burns Friday, November 15 11:00 am Cultural Arts Center

Matt began his career at Brewster Place in 2003 as a maintenance technician. He says it was the first job he ever had where he looked forward to coming to work on Monday. He served Brewster residents at The Evergreens and the Brewster Health Center before being promoted to the Director of Environmental Services in 2011.

Matt was in charge of construction for Brewster when we built the Beck Rehab, the St Francis Clinic, The Cottonwood Villas, the parking garage, Cultural Arts Center, and the recent Redwood remodel. Matt also watched over Brewster residents during the remodeling of their apartments upon

moving to Brewster and worked with many of you during that time.

"I have enjoyed the Brewster family throughout my time at Brewster Place. They have always treated me as one of their own, with respect and dignity. We have worried over each other and prayed for each other. I will always appreciate the friendships Rhonda and I created here."

Matt's wife Rhonda also was a Brewster employee, serving in security and at the front

desk of Redwood. Rhonda is already retired and spends her time quilting, going to craft fairs, and loving on grandchildren.

Matt is currently the Interim Pastor of the De Soto Baptist Church in De Soto, Kansas where he and Rhonda call home. He is looking forward to being able to give more time to the service of the congregation and the surrounding community.

Matt's last day will be November 15. We hope you will join us for the reception in his honor. ■

4th TUESDAY BOOK CLUB

The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society by Mary Ann Shaffer Tuesday, November 26 10:30 am Main Street Chapel

oin us each month for rich discussion facilitated by Sara Tucker. Books can be picked up/turned in at each meeting and in Chaplain Julie's office. Contact Chaplain Julie with any questions at 785-274-3349. We will take a break in December and resume in the New Year. Read at your leisure and enjoy the coming holiday season. ■

Refresh, Refocus and Right-Size

We invite you to join us for this **Designer Demonstration** with help from the **Furniture Mall of Kansas**. The demonstration will include information on how to measure furniture for proper placement for the largest and coziest apartments on campus. Tips on how to acces-

Refresh, Refocus and Right-Size
Designer Demonstration with
Furniture Mall of Kansas
Monday, November 4
2:30 pm | The Evergreens 313

sorize your home for the upcoming holiday will be discussed; a few well-placed items can add charm and warmth to your apartment this season. We'll also learn how smaller tables can bring more functionality to the setup of your home.

After the demonstration at The Evergreens 313, which is vacated and currently available for occupancy,

we will head down to The Evergreens 113. This is the model apartment, and the designer will explain how this furnished apartment configuration demonstrates spacing and function.

You'll enjoy seeing this apartment in a whole new way, as you become an expert in design, form and function! *This event is free and for our residents only*. Marketing will hold a similar demonstration for the public later in the week. **Space is limited, so please RSVP to Brewster Marketing at 785-274-3321 so we can be sure to accommodate everyone! ■**

HOME OF THE MONTH — EVERGREENS 313

ump the line and enjoy an Evergreens apartment! The waiting list for the pop-

ular Evergreens now has seventeen people interested in moving in. Our Brewster residents always have priority if someone wants to move across campus. For anyone living outside our community wanting to move to the Evergreens in the immediate future, have we got an opportunity for you!

The Evergreens 313 is a two-bedroom, 1,180 square foot apartment. It has lovely cove lighting and a beautiful built -in bookshelf in the living room. Both showers are low step in onyx.

The location is directly above where the original building and new event center join, and the deck was removed during construction. A Juliet balcony now brings in additional light and air to the apartment. The Evergreens 313 is across from the elevator on the east side of the hall which means no

long hallways to navigate to get to the Brewster Bean and Evergreens Grill. Location is everything for this newly vacated apartment.

Brewster Place is offering a 10% discount on the entrance fee for Evergreens 313 only. That is a savings of more

than \$6,000 for the Life Accommodation Plan or a \$20,000 savings for the Estate Preservation Plan 75.

If you would like more information on the investment plans and to take a tour, give Brewster Place Sales and Marketing a call at 785-274-3351.

Residents in Independent Living who make a new referral to Brewster Place will receive one month's free rent once the friend moves in.



WELCOME, KATHY PFLAUM

CREATIVE ARTS COORDINATOR

We are pleased to announce the hiring of our new Creative Arts Coordinator Kathy Pflaum. Kathy will begin her duties on Thursday, October 31 with new employee orientation. The timing is perfect for Kathy to begin her work with us because it's just in time for the last preparations for the Brewster Place Annual Holiday Craft Bazaar which is Friday, November 8.

Kathy has an extensive background in business and most recently worked as the Director of Purchasing at Washburn University. After her retirement, Kathy wanted to find a role that would combine her passion for art and desire to serve others, and Brewster Place seemed like a great fit.

Kathy is an accomplished fiber mixed media artist — working with fiber, metal, ceramics and found objects. She has shown her work locally and regionally and is an active member of the Topeka arts community including the Topeka Art Guild and NOTO, where she serves on the board of directors. Kathy is also a quilter and is looking forward to facilitating classes in other media as well.

As a community that has a rich history of supporting the arts and providing programming for artists of all skill levels, we look forward to Kathy's ideas as she continues the legacy of our strong arts and crafts program.

Help us welcome Kathy to the Brewster Place family! Her office is located at The Evergreens and she can be contacted at 785-274-3317. ■





Nature Wars: Human Conflicts with Wildlife, Vegetation and Water

Tuesdays, November 19, 26; December 3 1:00—3:00 pm | Cultural Arts Center

Please call Jamie at 785-274-3398 to register. Brewster Place residents and BrewsterConnect members attend for free.

FUTURE EVENTS • RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY!



2025 SPRING TRIP GRAND CANYON

March 31—April 4 \$2,200 per person

This spring imagine joining Jamie and Julie on an exciting adventure to the Grand Canyon, where the journey is as thrilling as the destination. The Grand Canyon is a marvel of nature, celebrated for its immense scale, intricate rock formations, and stunning palette of colors. This trip is for active seniors with a mix of gentle walks, guided tours, and scenic relaxation. Please call Jamie at 785-274-3398 for reservations as space is limited. We must have 18 participants to proceed with trip planning.

TRIP INCLUDES:

- Amtrak train trip to Williams, Arizonia
- Two nights at the newly refurbished Grand Canyon Railway & Hotel
- First class train ride to the awe-inspiring Grand Canyon
- Two nights at a hotel at the Grand Canyon
- Guide-narrated rim tour of the South Rim to scenic viewpoints on a bus
- A plane ticket home from Phoenix, Arizona
- Many meals, laughs and fun ■

TOPEKA CIVIC THEATRE

The Game's Afoot: A Sherlock Holmes Christmas Comedy

Thursday, December 5

6:00 pm | Shuttle pick up EV and RW west side Tickets are \$38. Please call Jamie at 785-274-3398 as space is limited.

MERRY MARKET

Tuesday, December 10

10:00 am | Cultural Arts Center

We're excited to invite you to join us for our annual **Merry Market**, a festive holiday celebration filled with seasonal cheer, shopping, and delicious treats! Please contact Jamie at 785-274-3398 if you would like to be a vendor.

NEW THEATRE AND RESTAURANT

Wednesday, January 22 9:30 am | Shuttle pick up at BEC

New Theatre presents Vicki Lewis in Nunsense. Nunsense is a hilarious comedy spoof about five nuns who get caught up in a series of misadventures. Tickets are \$40 and include lunch. Transportation is \$13. Please call Jamie at 785-274-3398 as space is limited. ■

RECYCLING QUESTION

Many of you have already received your new Kansas license plate and have wondered if the old plate can be recycled. The answer from the Shawnee County Recycling Office is "no." Your old plate should be put in the trash. ■



2010—2019 | MAJOR EXPANSION ACHIEVED

THE BREWSTER PLACE STORY PART 11 | COMPILED BY JANIS SWANSON, EDITOR

2010-2019

A decade of expansion!

Brewster Rehab

St. Francis Clinic

Main Street

Cottonwood Villas

Parking Garage

Brewster Bean

Construction on

Cultural Arts Center

s 2024 winds down and Brewster's 60th anniversary year nears its end, it's evident the common denominator of each decade since 1964 has been *steady progress* based upon a

mission of providing excellent care and services to seniors in our area.

Highlights of the year 2010 included a \$9.765 million tax exempt bond issue by the City of Topeka to fund construction of the Rehab Center at Brewster Place, demolition of the Fairway Apartments, and refinancing 2002 series bonds. A new main entrance on the south end of Brewster Health Center marked the start of construction of the rehab

center on the north end. The Fairway Apartments site was returned to greenspace and planning began on health and wellness facilities to be built on that site.

In 2011 the Main Building (Redwood) lounge and dining area were redecorated and the arts and crafts program moved from the basement to the Penthouse. The Rehab Center opened and gained Joint Commission Accreditation. The following year brought significant capital improvements to older buildings which added greater efficiency and safety throughout campus. Also in 2012 an agreement was reached with St. Francis Health to build a new building in which St. Francis would operate an immediate care clinic. The clinic was completed in late 2013.

In 2014 a new 40-year Campus Master Plan was approved by the board of directors and implemented, and the 50th anniversary of Brewster Place was celebrated throughout the year. Additionally, the name "Brewster" was adopted to refer to The Congregational Home to recognize that the organization is more than just a retirement community.

The Stone House was converted to a welcome center in 2015 and was home to the marketing department and executive team. Other highlights included renaming the mem-

bership program Brewster at Home to Brewster-Connect and work began on the major remodel and addition now known as Main Street.

Main Street at Brewster Place, a \$1.2 mil-

lion addition and remodeling project, was completed in 2016, adding an additional 1,920 square feet of social gathering space as well as the new Market, chapel, salon and Winchell Wellness Center. This space provides a central gathering spot for residents and guests and continues to be very popular. In addition, planning for a major campus expansion began in 2016.

In 2017 plans were finalized and construction began on the

Cottonwood Villas. Construction also began on the three level parking garage which when complete, would make way for the last phase of expansion, construction of the cultural arts center which would be home to a performing arts center, new restaurant, central state-of-the-art kitchen, indoor pool, wellness center and woodshop. Brewster's two tallest buildings, Main Building and Brewster East, were renamed Redwood and The Evergreens, which continued the "tree" theme names of buildings on campus.

The year 2018 saw completion of the Cottonwood Villas — where all but one unit had been sold before opening. The parking garage was also completed and construction on the new cultural arts center began. The end of 2018 was also the end of an incredible legacy of vision and progress with the retirement of President and CEO David Beck. One only has to look around the Brewster Place campus to see the impact David Beck had on the mission and vision of our community.

As 2019 rolled along, Brewster Place continued its outstanding programs and services while watching the construction of the cultural arts center unfold. A highlight of the year was the opening of the Brewster Bean at The Evergreens — a great space for gatherings and games!

Brewster Place Annual Holiday Craft





Friday, November 8
9am—3pm
Brewster Place
Cultural Arts Center
900 B SW 31st St

Quilt Drawing | Bake Sale | Silent Auction

- Hand-embroidered tea towels
- Knitted and crocheted items
- Charming gifts for babies and kids
- Wonderful quilts, throws and runners
- Handmade kitchen and home goods
- Holiday accents
- Hand-painted crafts, ornaments

Proceeds support Brewster Place Service Committee projects.

istory and tradition matter, and at Brewster Place, an incredible example of this is the Annual Holiday Bazaar. Over our 60 year history, Brewster Place has been home to many talented artists, woodworkers, sewers, and crafters. Their work has been showcased in a variety of ways, including the Holiday Bazaar.

On August 19, 1965 a group of 15 Brewster Place residents met to decide the possibility of having a Christmas Bazaar. The purpose would be to give residents and employees the chance to purchase handcrafted items and for the proceeds of the Bazaar to be used for service projects. The first Bazaar was held on December 3, 1965 and was deemed a great success with proceeds of \$300.

Over the years, the Brewster Holiday Bazaar has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars to benefit the Topeka and Brewster Place communities. We hope to see you on November 8 as this holiday tradition continues!



Doris Davidson enjoyed a beautiful day outside and a delicious hotdog at the recent Hot Diggity Dog event. As you can see, Doris was wearing one of the many Brewster Place tshirts that have been given to residents and staff over the years.



Barbara Bunten and Kay Stephens also enjoyed being outside on a beautiful Kansas day with friends and neighbors at the Hot Diggity Dog event. Sometimes something as simple as eating a grilled hotdog with friends can be the most joyous time.



Van Crary along with his wife Pam (not pictured) are new residents at The Evergreens. They have jumped right in and gotten involved and, by his smile, you can tell Van enjoyed the fellowship and food at the Hot Diggity Dog event.







OFF CAMPUS — A few highlights!

TOPEKA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Saturday, November 2 | 6:45 pm | Shuttle

They are puttin' on the ritz with a night of musical fireworks, including Rimsky-Korsakov's triumphant Procession of the Nobles and Grieg's Piano Concerto, which is always an audience favorite, performed by former TSO Young Artist Competition winner, Chaeyoung Park. They will also perform, for the first time in the Topeka Symphony's history, Shostakovich's Tenth Symphony, a deeply-moving musical portrait of life in Russia under Stalin, which has been hailed as a work encompassing both lofty principles and great artistry, and also a deep and poignant humanity. For tickets, please call 785-232-2032 to purchase. Please call Jamie at 785-274-3398 to make a transportation reservation as space is limited.

TOPEKA CIVIC THEATRE — THE HAUNTING OF HILL HOUSE Thursday, November 7 | 6:00 pm | Shuttle

This is a story about being cut off from the outside world by its remote location and shunned by all who know its forbidding and sinister reputation, Hill House has remained empty and silent except for the daily visits of its grumbling caretaker, Mrs. Dudley. Its isolation is broken by the arrival of Dr. Montague, an investigator of supernatural phenomena who has been granted a short lease by the present owner. His mission is to delve into the morbid history of the house and to come to grips with the occult forces that have made it uninhabitable for many years. He is joined by three others, all unacquainted, but all having their particular reasons for accepting Dr. Montague's invitation to share his Hill House sojourn. Their visit begins with jovial informality, but their sensibilities are soon jolted by strange and eerie occurrences. As they struggle to disguise their mounting fears, they are joined by Dr. Montague's wife and a friend, who have come to Hill House for purposes of their own. Tickets are \$38. Please call Jamie at 785-274-3398 as space is limited.

NEW THEATRE AND RESTAURANT Wednesday, November 13 | 9:30 am | Bus loaded at BEC only

New Theatre presents Sally Struthers in An Old-Fashioned Family Murder. In 1942, a junior homicide detective stumbles upon the murder of a famed mystery writer. Trapped in a mansion with several suspects, he finds himself outmatched by the cunning of the killer. His only hope in solving the case -- his mystery-loving mother, who luckily is trapped in the mansion with him. Tickets are \$40 and include lunch. Transportation is \$13. Please call Jamie at 785-274-3398 as space is limited.

TOUR OF FORT RILEY — WAIT LIST ONLY Wednesday, November 20 or December 4 | 8:15 am | Shuttle

We are excited to visit the US Army Base at Fort Riley: Home of the 1st Infantry Division with historian Bob Smith. We will take guided tours of both the US Cavalry Museum and the 1st Infantry Division Museum, with a lunch break in-between. These Fort Riley museums serve to collect, preserve, exhibit, and interpret those materials that are integral parts of the history and traditions of the U.S. Cavalry from 1775 to 1950. In addition, the Museum Division is responsible for exhibiting and interpreting the history of Fort Riley from its establishment to the present, to include its various schools, major commands, and community life. To attend the tour you must register, please provide Jamie Fritz a copy of your Drivers License as soon as you register for the trip. Lunch is a Dutch treat. Transportation is \$13. Please call Jamie at 785-274-3398 as space is limited.

THE KREADY HOLIDAY SPECTACULAR Saturday, November 30 | 12:45 pm | Shuttle

Jeff Kready, along with his wife Nikki Renée Daniels and their children, will perform in holiday concerts that blend their Broadway flair with festive music. These concerts will feature a mix of classic holiday songs, Broadway hits, and a few duets that showcase their vocal chemistry. To purchase tickets please visit the TPAC box office. Please call Jamie at 785-274-3398 for transportation only.

ON CAMPUS — A few highlights!

SATURDAY SPECIAL BINGO

Saturday, November 2 | 11:00 am | Main Street Pavilion

Janet Rice, our best bingo caller, has graciously agreed to host a monthly Saturday Bingo during the fall and winter months. She will be here for Bingo on the following dates: November 2, December 7, January 4, and February 15. Please bring \$.25 for each Bingo card that you would like to purchase. We will have some extra prizes.

RESTROOMS AROUND THE WORLD: A GLOBAL JOURNEY Tuesday, November 5 | 2:00 pm | Main Street Chapel

Resident Thaine Hoffman will give a detailed presentation about the restrooms he has encountered on his travels around the world as restrooms are an essential part of everyday life. We will learn about cultural norms, technology and attitudes to hygiene.

BREWSTER HOLIDAY CHOIR PRACTICE

Tuesdays, November 5, 12, 19 and 26 | 3:30 pm | Main Street Chapel

The holiday season is upon us, and we are thrilled to invite you to be a part of our **Holiday Choir**, led by the incredibly talented director, Dorothy Iliff. Whether you're an experienced singer or just love the joy of holiday music, this is a fantastic opportunity to come together and share the festive spirit through song! She brings a wealth of experience and passion, ensuring a fun and rewarding experience for all choir members. Our choir will perform on Thursday, December 12 at 2:30 pm in the Cultural Arts Center. No formal experience is required—just a love for singing and a willingness to join in the fun! We can't wait to create some magical music together this season.

VETERANS DAY REMEMBRANCE Monday, November 11 | 10:00 am | Cultural Arts Center

Veteran's Day Remembrance is an observance that honors and pays tribute to military veterans who have served in the United States Armed Forces. It takes place on November 11 each year, coinciding with the anniversary of the end of World War I, which was formally recognized in 1918. Join us as we honor and remember the brave men and women who have served our country.

MUSICALE: ONE PIANO FOUR HANDS Thursday, November 14 | 2:00 pm | Cultural Arts Center

We are delighted to host Marjorie O'Konski and Char Taggart for a piano concert. We have been trying for over a year to get these outstanding pianists to Brewster. Come and enjoy the captivating sounds of the piano as they perform a repertoire that promises to inspire and entertain. This event is open to all, so feel free to bring a friend or loved one to share in this musical experience!

FRAUD ALERT TALK

Tuesday, November 19 | 10:00 am | Cultural Arts Center

Seniors are often targeted by scammers and fraudsters for several reasons, making fraud alerts and awareness essential for protection. Please join Community Bank in educating us about common scams in our community. They are also bringing donuts and coffee.

KU OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING SERIES

Tuesdays, November 19, 26; December 3 | 1:00 pm | Cultural Arts Center See article on page 5 of this issue.

BUCK MUSIC RECITAL Tuesday, November 26 | 6:00 pm | Cultural Arts Center

Director, Crystal Buck, is a music teacher at Washburn University. These are her personal students of all ages and abilities. The concert will showcase the student's abilities and will include both piano and voice.