

ILLINOIS PRESBYTERIAN HOME COMMUNITIES

Fair Hills Residence & Fair Hills Apartments - Springfield, IL

DeCastro Apartments – Jacksonville, IL

Assisted & Independent Living for Seniors

With Respect, Honor, and Gratitude

Major hostilities of World War I were formally ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, when the Armistice with Germany went into effect. At the urging of major U.S. veteran organizations, Armistice Day was renamed Veterans Day in 1954.

That same year, 1954, marked the beginning of the Illinois Presbyterian Home Communities offering assisted and independent living for seniors. The stately and unique Fair Hills Residence at the top of the hill at the Corner of Chatham Road and Lawrence Avenue features five Parlors and four Covered Porches that are living space extensions of the spacious resident rooms.

This past year, one of the spaces was repurposed and remodeled as a Veterans Parlor.

Filled with an interesting and revolving series of artifacts on loan from a local collector as well as décor including the classic sailor kissing the nurse photograph, the Veterans Parlor offers a quiet place for residents to sit quietly and reflect or to gather with friends and reminisce.



A Fair Hills Residence resident, Jo Baptist, was a WWII War Army Nurse who assisted in surgery in the late 1930's and early 1940's. Jo refers to the nurses she served with as a "league" - a true alliance of women

helping soldiers feel that someone was there fighting for them at the medical tents and hospitals just as they fought for us all in the field.

Her late husband, Gerald Arch Vasconcellos, was also an Army Veteran who served as a pilot, flying the infamous the B-17 Flying Fortress. His crew referred to themselves as; "Arch Supporters". Jo cared for Gerald until he passed. She cherishes the memories she has their life together and is very proud of their military service.

Jo still believes and states firmly; "when you put a bandage on someone you must always do it with sincerity."

At Fair Hills Residence you can observe her greeting neighbors with a cheery smile and ageless energy. And, her nursing training and experience is evident as she shows compassion and caring with a squeeze of a hand along with a listening ear to everyone. **You are invited to come meet Jo, and her neighbors, anytime! Tours are available daily and be sure to ask about applying for Veterans benefits that can be used to cover the cost of un-reimbursed medical expenses including assisted living care.**

We are grateful to First Presbyterian Church, Springfield, for sharing their sanctuary and fellowship space and to Mark E. Gifford, musician extraordinaire, as we honored our military men and women on Veterans Day weekend with a concert. Thank you to all who supported this fundraising event - we look forward to making it an annual celebration!

1 Peter 4:10

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.



Washing more than 300 windows at Fair Hills Residence assisted living letting even more sunshine in and our residents have even a better view of our scenic 27 acres! *Thanks to First Presbyterian Church, Lincoln, IL*



**A beautiful new addition to our Activity Room décor!
Handmade with love for our residents by youth from *Chatham Presbyterian Church, Chatham, IL***



Landscape and outdoor maintenance completed by our *friends from First Presbyterian Church, Jacksonville, IL* at our independent senior living community located there, DeCastro Apartments.

Signed, Sealed, and Sent With Love ...

The true value of the handwritten note is that it speaks of the sender's love and care. Taking the time to put your thoughts on paper, to buy a stamp, to address an envelope, and not to mention having the patience to send in the mail – knowing you will have to wait as there is not an instant text or email return message – is indeed, a labor of love.

At Illinois Presbyterian Home Communities - Fair Hills Residence, for more than 20 years volunteers have been collecting, sorting, and making greeting cards available for just 10cents each. Most all of the cards are donated, simply ones that were purchased and not used as intended. They are current and beautiful cards ranging from sentimental to humorous.



Part of the "Card Crew" preparing for the Christmas Card Sale.

Sorting and categorizing the cards plus matching a card to an envelope if one was not included takes many, many hours throughout the year, especially when preparing for the Annual Christmas Open House when cards are also available to the public for purchase. In 2019 more than 1,500 Christmas cards were sold plus

hundreds of birthday, sympathy, and other occasion cards throughout the year.

Proceeds from the card sales benefit residents directly as volunteers use the funds to purchase items to enhance social activities and programs offered. One popular purchase annually is postage stamps that are available as BINGO prize options and of course, needed to get that card in the mail on it's way to someone they love.

In addition to preparing cards to be sold, once a week volunteers come to set the cards out for sale and offer their help scribing notes or addressing envelopes for residents who have heartfelt messages to send but feel their hands are not able to write as easily as they used to.

According to Sue Baker, who has been involved now for her fifth year and serves as the coordinator for the Card Crew, "It may be just a dime exchanged for the card, and a few minutes spent writing a note, but it is the relationships we develop with residents that makes it all so very meaningful, and also very fun!"

Indeed, thanks to countless volunteer hours and donations of thousands of cards over the years, mail leaving Fair Hills Residence is sealed with love!

If you have unused, like new, greeting cards that you would like to donate they can be dropped off during office hours, 8am-8pm daily, at 2005 W. Lawrence, Springfield, IL. And, while you are here our volunteers, residents, and staff invite you to take a tour of our assisted and independent living options for seniors – we think you will find it just as beautiful as the cover of a pretty greeting card and that you will feel the warmth of a caring note from a friend!

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DeCastro Apartments – Jacksonville, IL

Founded in Faith ... Focused on Community



Fair Hills Residence - Assisted Living

Spacious rooms & suites, private baths with walk-in shower, bay windows offering scenic views, plus plenty of closet space.

No deposit required, month to month rent.

EXCEPTIONAL VALUE \$1,500-3,000

- 24/7 On-Site Nursing
- Medication Management
- 3 Family-Style Meals Daily
- Laundry and Housekeeping
- Fitness Room
- Beauty & Barber Shop
- Social Events & Weekly Worship Services

Fair Hills Apartments - Independent Living

Newly renovated 1 or 2 bedroom apartments. Close to shopping, banking, and doctor's offices.

No deposit required, month to month rent.

EXCEPTIONAL VALUE \$1,200-2,000

- Daily Dinner Meal
- Light Housekeeping and Linens
- Enclosed Garages & Carports
- Pet Friendly
- Shared Community Space for entertaining
- Complimentary Laundry Room or hookups for your own machines

The Illinois Presbyterian Home Communities is a non-profit, faith-based, senior living community that for more than 65 years has been providing exceptionally priced housing in a homelike atmosphere on 26 scenic acres.

www.iphcommunities.org