

# GRATITUDE & THE GREATER GOOD

Silver Maples Development  
Impact Report 2024 - 2025



## Acknowledgments

**Writing**

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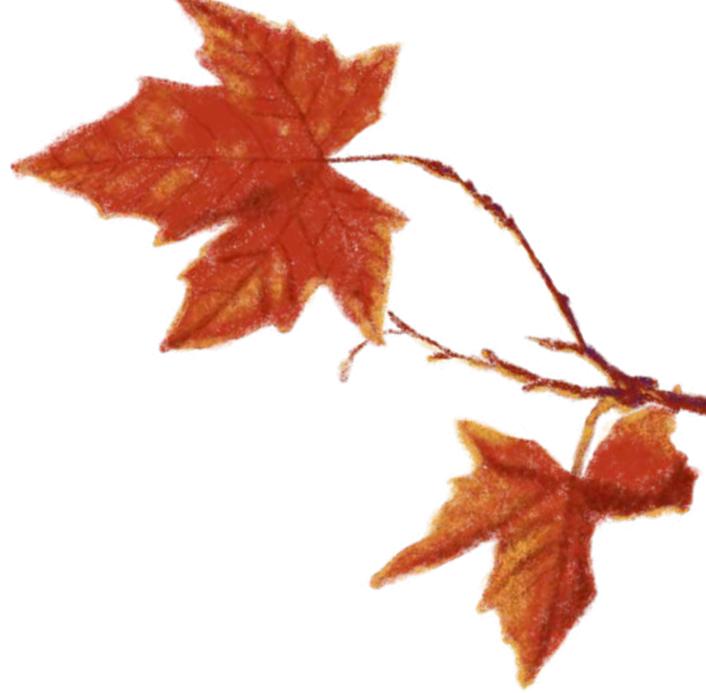
Silver Maples Staff, Residents, & Friends

**Graphic Design**

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**Printing**

Dollar Bill Printing



# WELCOME

## The Silver Maples "Feeling"

At Silver Maples we have a passion for life, our friendships, our neighbors, and for the team of people who provide leadership and caring services.

Silver Maples is known for its warm sense of community, fostered by positive, compassionate leadership and embraced by staff and residents alike. Through enriching experiences, residents develop meaningful relationships among friends, family, and the greater community.

Silver Maples is committed to providing a healthy, secure, and supportive place for older adults to call home. We are proud of and thankful for all that Silver Maples provides and understand that exemplary service is often achieved with a little, or a lot of, help coming from gifts of time, talent, and treasure. Many of our programs are funded in part or fully by generous gifts that help us fulfill our mission.

The pages that follow will summarize the difference that philanthropy has made at Silver Maples of Chelsea between October 2024 and September 2025. We hope you enjoy reading about it.

# OUR MISSION & CORE VALUES

Silver Maples of Chelsea Retirement Neighborhood is a vibrant community that excels at creating and supporting a positive aging experience.

## Create Joy

We will foster enriching experiences that inspire individual growth and fulfillment for residents and team members.

## Build Community

We will create opportunities to build and develop meaningful relationships among our community, family, and friends.

## Promote Wellness

We will provide a healthy, secure, and supportive place to live and work.



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## A Bright And Meaningful Future

Silver Maples of Chelsea is a locally owned 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that is jointly sponsored by 5 Healthy Towns Foundation and Silver Maples, Inc.

Silver Maples operates independently, with a sponsorship structure that paves the way to become independent of any sponsors if desired and allows the organization to remain financially strong, with a very bright future!

Our community is as vibrant as ever, excelling at creating and supporting a positive aging experience as one of the highest performing communities in our industry. This is, in part, because of the generosity of donors who consistently support our organization. Today, Silver Maples Development has fourteen funds totaling approximately **\$2,715,298**.

To you who enhance the lives of many, including mine,

As I reflect on this past year, I'm reminded how deeply Silver Maples is shaped by the people who call it home. Your kindness, engagement, and generosity have continued to move this community forward through a time of learning, transition, and growth.

Every season brings opportunities to adjust, to listen, and to strengthen the way we work together. This year was no different — and it has been heartening to see our team and residents alike remain so dedicated to what makes Silver Maples extraordinary. With new ideas blending alongside longtime traditions, we're finding our rhythm again in ways that feel both fresh and familiar.

Your support — whether through a gift, a kind word, or active participation — makes a tangible difference. It sustains programs that bring joy, comfort, and creativity to daily life, and it reinforces the shared values that define this community.

Thank you for your belief in this place and for being part of its continued story. Silver Maples thrives because of you — your generosity, your patience, and your care for one another.

Wishing you peace, gratitude, and joy in the season ahead,



Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristine Bradley".

Kristine Bradley,  
Director of Development

# THE DEVELOPMENT TEAM

The collective strength of Silver Maples lies in its people: the residents, employees, and volunteers whose individual differences, life experiences, knowledge, and unique talents shape who we are. Together, they form the foundation of our culture, the heart of our reputation, and the source of our continued success.

This year, we've been reminded just how meaningful that diversity of perspective and experience truly is. By embracing and learning from one another's backgrounds, stories, and ways of thinking, we continue to grow as a community—more understanding, more connected, and more whole.

We also take time this year to remember and honor members of our Development Committee who passed away and whose names are marked with an asterisk (\*). Their voices, leadership, and friendship remain a lasting part of the Silver Maples story, reminding us that while time moves forward, the impact of those who helped build this community endures.

## Board of Directors

Holly Ridenour

*Silver Maples President & CEO*

Steve Petty, Chair

James Randolph

Jessica Stubbs

Erik Stalhanske

Elizabeth Pielsticker

Beth Morris

## Staff

Kristine Bradley

*Director of Development*

Holly Ridenour

*Silver Maples President & CEO*

Howard Brooks  
*Villa Resident*

Rick Gerteisen  
*Maples Resident*

Phyllis Green  
*Meadows Resident*

Dan Hunter  
*Maples Resident*

Ross Margeson\*

Judy Osmun\*

Debbie Roberts  
*Villa Resident*

Jack Smythe\*

Dan Stack  
*Villa Resident*

Don Thiel  
*Maples Resident*

Ellen Thompson  
*Villa Resident*

Barbara Zikmund  
*Villa Resident*

## Resident Development Committee

The Resident Development Committee has met nearly every last Tuesday of the month, missing only two sessions over the past year. Each meeting runs about an hour and a half of true, focused work—there's not much fluff. These gatherings are jam-packed with discussion, evaluation, brainstorming, recommending, and reconciling.

What makes this group special is not just their consistency, but their depth of engagement. Every member comes prepared, showing up as a true professional, asking thoughtful questions, raising meaningful concerns, and voicing differing opinions with confidence and respect. Their conversations are spirited yet productive, focused on advancing our shared goals.

Over the past several years, the committee has evolved, becoming

more serious and influential as contributions and funding opportunities have grown. Their insights have helped shape the thoughtful, resident-driven approach that defines philanthropy at Silver Maples today.

The commitment and investment of these individuals is truly invaluable. My work would not be possible without their perspectives and direction. They keep me centered, realistic, and homed in on what residents hope for from philanthropy within our community. Their voices ensure that every initiative reflects not just generosity, but genuine purpose and partnership.

If you ever wish to have a conversation about the work, meaning, or integrity of the development efforts taking place here, I encourage you to reach out to one of the many thoughtful members of this committee. Sometimes, connecting with a peer offers an even deeper and more personal perspective on what this work truly represents.



## In Memory of Valued Committee Members



As we reflect on the strength and dedication of the Resident Development Committee, we also pause to remember and honor three members who passed away this year (pictured left to right):

**Ross MARGESON**

**JUDY OSMUN**

**JACK SMYTHE**

Each of them left a lasting mark on Silver Maples and on the culture of philanthropy within our community.

Jack moved to Silver Maples and quickly made it known that he was deeply interested in our scholarship program. Throughout his professional and personal life, Jack had supported scholarship initiatives for decades, and his passion for investing in people was clear from the start. His detailed knowledge of best practices, creative approaches, and the long-term impact of educational support brought depth and perspective

to our work. Jack was a quiet but powerful advocate for ensuring that our giving efforts uplift individuals and strengthen the broader community.

Judy and Ross served on the Development Committee—among many others—long before I began my work at Silver Maples. In fact, both were part of my interview process, setting the tone and expectation for what resident engagement truly means here: respect, thoughtfulness, integrity, and genuine care for the community's future. They carried a unique perspective on where Silver Maples' development efforts began, where they hoped it would go, and at what pace it should grow.

Judy often joked about feeling a bit of *imposter syndrome* as our fundraising work expanded and became more complex. What she didn't realize was just how valuable her voice truly was. She represented many residents who didn't have fundraising experience but cared deeply about the purpose and boundaries of our work. Her willingness to speak candidly and share how things might be perceived by others helped us stay grounded, inclusive, and respectful of all perspectives.

Ross served as the committee's treasurer, ensuring that financial reports were requested and reviewed in time to share with the Resident Council, where he also held the treasurer role. Though he often joked that he was "too retired" for the work we were moving into, he consistently reaffirmed his desire to stay involved and provide continuity. His commitment to keeping the committee organized and transparent was unwavering. In fact, Ross helped establish the *Development Ambassador* role—a position designed for residents who have served diligently on the committee and wish to stay connected and contribute as consultants or ambassadors, without the full responsibilities of monthly meetings and events.

Their absence is deeply felt, but their influence continues to guide how we approach this work—with humility, collaboration, and heart.



## RESIDENT IMPACT

At Silver Maples, our mission has always centered on our residents. Every initiative we pursue and every program we enhance is rooted in one purpose: enriching the daily experiences of the people who call this community home. The Resident Enrichment funds embody that commitment, bringing meaningful opportunities for joy, learning, creativity, and connection to our campus.

These funds are especially powerful because they reflect a unique partnership between residents and staff. Coordinating resident committees thoughtfully explore ideas, identify opportunities, and offer recommendations on how each fund can best serve the community. In practice, their insight guides the vast majority of decisions, ensuring that resident voice sits at the heart of each investment.

Directors also play an important role in stewarding these funds well — helping ensure that suggestions are feasible, sustainable, and aligned with community needs. While it is rare for an idea to be turned down, this shared approach provides both creativity and stability, allowing the funds to be used in ways that are thoughtful, effective, and beneficial for all.

Together, these funds — and the collaborative spirit that shapes them — strengthen the vibrant, resident-centered life that defines Silver Maples.

## Peace of Mind in Every Emergency

### HURON VALLEY AMBULANCE MEMBERS PLUS PROGRAM Sponsored by the Greater Good Fund

Between October 2024 and September 2025, the Greater Good Fund sponsored **\$12,162** to provide every household at Silver Maples with a membership to the Huron Valley Ambulance Members Plus Program—a simple but powerful way to ensure that residents can access emergency medical care without hesitation or financial worry.

This valuable membership covers out-of-pocket expenses for ground ambulance transportation during a medical emergency, as well as two “Life and Assist” calls per household each year. These non-emergency assists include situations such as help after a fall or other times when residents need professional support but not transport to a hospital.

Over the past year, there were more than 54 ambulance transfers from Silver Maples. Thanks to this membership, residents collectively saved thousands of dollars that would have otherwise been billed directly to them. In one instance, a single resident was spared a \$1,028 out-of-pocket bill—a powerful example of the financial protection and peace of mind this program provides.

Last year, Silver Maples participated in the Community Paramedic Program, which was intended to function as a comprehensive “urgent care at your door” service. While the concept was promising, it did not provide the level of coverage or consistency that our residents needed. In practice, the program often resulted in multiple ambulance rides, lift assists, and out-of-pocket charges that were not covered.

In response, we began tracking usage and researching alternatives—ultimately discovering the Huron Valley Ambulance Members Plus



Program. Though not specifically marketed for group participation, it turned out to be a perfect fit for a senior living community of our size. At less than half the cost of the Community Paramedic Program, it has proven to be far more useful, efficient, and widely utilized.

Beyond the financial benefits, this initiative offers something even more valuable: confidence and peace of mind. Residents no longer hesitate to call for help, knowing that cost will never stand in the way of safety or timely care. Whether in an emergency or a moment of uncertainty, they can reach out without second-guessing if an ambulance ride or lift assist is "worth it."

The HVA Members Plus Program stands as a powerful example of how the Greater Good Fund enables Silver Maples to act swiftly, responsibly, and creatively—ensuring that resident well-being remains at the center of every decision we make.

## Restoring Confidence, Connection, and Joy

### SAIDO LEARNING AT SILVER MAPLES Sponsored by the Greater Good Fund

Silver Maples is proud to be among an elite group of just 27 senior service providers in the entire United States offering the innovative SAIDO Learning program—out of roughly 46,000 providers nationwide. Even more remarkable, we are one of only four communities in Michigan to bring this transformative program to life, with the other three all located in the Grand Rapids area.

SAIDO Learning is a non-pharmacological program focused on cognitive engagement through reading, writing, and math. It is designed to help prevent memory loss and slow cognitive decline, while also restoring confidence and dignity for those already experiencing symptoms.



At its core, SAIDO is about more than mental stimulation—it's about human connection. Each session creates opportunities for residents and staff to engage in meaningful, purposeful interaction, strengthening relationships and deepening trust.

Since launching just six months ago, Silver Maples has nearly tripled the number of learners participating in the program. Today, 15 trained Supporters guide 13 residents through the SAIDO learning experience, with more being added each month.

To help bring this program to life, the Greater Good Fund has invested **\$7,250** since its implementation in April 2025, including a one-time **\$4,500** onboarding fee. As the program continues to grow, we anticipate an annual cost of approximately **\$14,500** per year, ensuring its continued impact and sustainability.

From our SAIDO Master, Nicole Sickafoose:

*That kind of growth speaks volumes about your commitment to innovation and quality care. SAIDO Learning is still a rare and forward-thinking approach to cognitive support, and your residents are fortunate to benefit from it.*

By embracing SAIDO Learning, Silver Maples continues to lead with compassion, innovation, and a deep respect for the individuality of every resident—proving that learning, curiosity, and purpose can thrive at every stage of life.

## Building Bridges: Honoring Julie Deppner

### A LASTING TRIBUTE TO LEADERSHIP AND CONNECTION

This year, a new landmark was added to the Silver Maples campus—a rock and plaque installed at the bridge connecting our community to the Professional Building. The plaque honors Julie Deppner, who served as CEO of Silver Maples of Chelsea from 2016 to 2024, and whose extraordinary leadership helped strengthen the connections between Silver Maples and the greater Chelsea community.

The idea for this tribute began at Julie's farewell reception in August, when the Board of Directors expressed a desire to recognize her unique ability to "build bridges." One Board member shared during the celebration:

*We wanted a plaque installed at the near end of the bridge over the creek connecting Silver Maples to the Professional Building property—an inscription acknowledging Julie's extraordinary ability to build bridges between Silver Maples and the Chelsea community.*

What makes this tribute even more meaningful is that it was funded through personal contributions from members of the Silver Maples Board of Directors. Their collective generosity reflects both their admiration for Julie's leadership and their deep appreciation for the relationships she fostered among residents, staff, and the broader community.

Julie announced her transition in the summer of 2024 with the same grace and sincerity that defined her leadership.



In her message to residents and staff, she wrote:

*I truly love our mission, the wonderful residents, and all the incredible team members at Silver Maples of Chelsea! I am so grateful for the opportunity I have had here. I believe I am leaving Silver Maples in a better place, and I am committed to the successful transition of a new leader.*

The bridge, now marked in her honor, stands as both a literal and symbolic connection—a reminder of Julie's talent for bringing people, ideas, and organizations together for the greater good. Her legacy continues to inspire collaboration, compassion, and excellence throughout the Silver Maples community.

Julie may have crossed a new bridge in her own journey, now leading Heritage Community of Kalamazoo, but her presence and impact remain deeply woven into the heart of Silver Maples—where connection, purpose, and people will always come first.



## Resident Life Enrichment Fund

BROADENING POSSIBILITIES, ENRICHING DAILY LIFE

The Resident Life Enrichment Fund, established in late 2024, was created to fill in gaps, strengthen programs, and bolster enrichment across all areas of life at Silver Maples. This flexible fund allows Winn Nichols, Director of Life Enrichment, and Chip Grover, Assistant Director, to respond to resident interests, form new community partnerships, and ensure that every program offered is engaging, meaningful, and well-organized.

Since its establishment, a total of **\$10,039** has been invested from the fund to directly support programs and opportunities that enhance daily life for residents—an early but powerful indicator of its value and impact. As the fund continues to grow, so too will its ability to expand and enrich the experiences available to residents. Every dollar contributed has a direct and visible effect on daily life at Silver Maples, opening new doors for creativity, connection, and well-being.

In its first full year, the fund supported thirty new educational and wellness programs, each designed to expand horizons and spark connection. These included:

**INTELLECTUAL ENGAGEMENT:** A robust lineup of lectures from regional experts—ranging from University of Michigan professors teaching about Alzheimer's and current research, to the Detroit Historical Society, the Chelsea Historical Society, and a retired American history teacher whose programs regularly draw 30+ residents from both The Meadows and The Maples.

**CULINARY EXPERIENCES:** The return of the Dining Through the Decades series with Keegan from The Lakehouse Bakery—one of the most consistently popular programs on campus, averaging thirty-five to forty attendees.

**MUSIC AND CULTURE:** A six-part Opera History lecture series led by a cellist from the Ann Arbor Symphony, plus a performance highlighting the life and work of a Jewish composer that captivated audiences.



**NATURE AND ANIMAL PROGRAMS:** After residents expressed interest in animal-themed programming, the fund supported presentations by Creature Conservancy and the Leslie Science & Nature Center. These two events alone drew nearly 120 residents combined.

**HEALTH AND WELLNESS:** Partnering with Breathe Yoga of Chelsea to bring a new monthly yoga class to Silver Maples, encouraging participation from residents who had never joined exercise programming before—now averaging 15 attendees per class.

**COMMUNITY STORYTELLING:** Continued support for the Silver Maples is People interview series with Linda Meloche, which consistently draws 35–50 attendees and remains one of the most treasured resident traditions.

**ARTISTIC ENGAGEMENT:** Partnering with Eli Zemper of Curiouser Clay to develop a regional grant supporting collaborative art programming between Silver Maples, Chelsea Retirement Community, and the Chelsea Resource Center—plus a hands-on clay ornament workshop offered in November.

The fund also helped launch Music Therapy in The Meadows, a new program that brings comfort and connection to residents through individualized and small-group sessions. The visiting therapist—approved by Chip and the Life Enrichment team—tailors each visit, performing in resident rooms or common areas to create moments of calm and joy.

But the impact of this fund extends far beyond the programs themselves. It has also reshaped the way Life Enrichment operates. In the past, Winn and Chip personally led many of the classes and programs. Thanks to this fund, they've been able to hire professional instructors and expand the expertise on campus, while stepping into more strategic roles.

Today, Winn and Chip serve as curators and directors of the resident experience—balancing vision, quality, and logistics while continuing to participate in programs alongside residents. This shift ensures higher-quality programming, stronger partnerships, and more consistent scheduling—all

while preserving the personal, relational touch that makes Silver Maples unique.

The Resident Life Enrichment Fund is the connector behind it all—making it possible for Silver Maples to be nimble, responsive, and inspired. Whether it's a new lecture series, a yoga class, a moment of laughter shared over animal encounters, or quiet music filling a resident's room, this fund ensures that every day at Silver Maples offers something meaningful and memorable.

In just its second year, the Resident Life Enrichment Fund has proven itself indispensable—broadening what's possible, elevating quality, and enriching daily life for every resident who calls Silver Maples home.



## Kaleidoscope Concert Fund

### BRINGING THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER THROUGH MUSIC

Music has always held a special place at Silver Maples—it fills the halls, lifts spirits, and brings people together in ways few other things can. The Kaleidoscope Concert Fund ensures that this joy continues to echo across campus by supporting the beloved Kaleidoscope Concert Series, a long-standing tradition that offers residents and community members free access to exceptional live performances throughout the year.

Between September 2024 and September 2025, the Kaleidoscope Concert Series presented 10 concerts, including four held between September and December 2024 and six more from January through September 2025. Together, these performances drew a combined audience of more than 700 people, with average attendance reaching 90 guests per concert.

Each performance welcomed not only Silver Maples residents—who accounted for more than 450 attendees—but also music lovers from across the Chelsea area, including:

- 10–15 guests from Chelsea Retirement Community
- 4–10 residents from The Pines
- 10 members from the Chelsea Senior Center

Over the past 12 months, **\$12,975** was distributed from the Kaleidoscope Concert Fund to support these live performances, covering artist fees, sound and equipment needs, and professional coordination. This ongoing investment ensures that every concert remains free for residents and community members, continuing a tradition that brings joy and connection to all who attend.



In August 2025, the Kaleidoscope Concert Fund hosted a special fundraising event featuring the Rhythm Society Orchestra, whose lively big band performance filled Ron Mead Auditorium at Chelsea High School with energy, nostalgia, and pure joy. The evening raised more than **\$13,000**, ensuring the series will continue to flourish and that live music will remain an integral part of life at Silver Maples.

One particularly touching moment came when a special couple stood up to dance together in the aisle in front of the stage—not once, but multiple times throughout the night. As the orchestra played and they swayed to familiar tunes, the love between them seemed to fill the entire room. It was a scene that perfectly captured what the Kaleidoscope Concert Series is all about—connection, joy, and the shared beauty of music that moves both heart and soul.

These concerts have grown beyond entertainment—they've become a hallmark of connection and culture at Silver Maples, uniting residents, neighbors, and friends in the shared joy of live music. The series presents a diverse range of talents, from classical and jazz to folk and contemporary performances, creating something for every listener to enjoy.

For many, these concerts are more than just events—they are shared experiences that make life at Silver Maples feel rich, connected, and alive. Residents often arrive early to claim a favorite seat, greet familiar faces, and settle in as the music begins to fill the room—a simple but powerful reminder of how deeply art can unite people.

Thanks to the Kaleidoscope Concert Fund, that spirit of unity continues to thrive. Each note played, each hand clasped in applause, and each shared smile reaffirms what Silver Maples stands for: community, connection, and joy.





## Art Matters Fund

### GALLERY 100: WHERE CREATIVITY AND COMMUNITY MEET

Since its founding in 2009, Gallery 100 has become one of the most beloved and enduring features of Silver Maples—and, notably, the only remaining public art gallery in Chelsea. What began as a quiet hallway has grown into a true exhibition space that celebrates artists from across Michigan and beyond, thanks to the passion and dedication of residents and staff who believe in the power of art to connect and inspire.

While the original concept for the gallery was sparked years ago by resident architect Glenn Paulson, it was Lois DeLeon who brought the vision fully to life. Through her leadership, creativity, and unwavering commitment, Gallery 100 transformed from a simple display area into a professional, thriving gallery. Lois continues to be the heart of the gallery—its champion, organizer, and advocate—ensuring that every show reflects both artistic excellence and the spirit of community that defines Silver Maples.

Today, she works closely with Winn Nichols, Director of Life Enrichment, and the Gallery 100 Focus Group to plan and coordinate new exhibits. This partnership marks the next chapter in the gallery's story—one that honors its roots while positioning it for long-term sustainability and growth.

This year, **\$1,412** from the Art Matters Fund was used exclusively for the purchase of four new original works for Silver Maples' permanent collection:

- Two landscape paintings by Michael Dority, capturing the quiet beauty of Michigan's natural scenery.
- One landscape by Ruth Krzyzowski, radiant with color and light.
- One realism piece by Craig Cossey, with striking depth and precision.

Each piece now hangs in shared spaces across campus—bringing color, conversation, and reflection to residents, staff, and guests alike.

Though all 2024–2025 Art Matters expenditures supported new acquisitions, the fund also plays an essential role in ensuring that Gallery 100 remains a vibrant, welcoming, and professional gallery space. In the past, the gallery has benefited from local arts grants and community partnerships, but as Silver Maples looks ahead to 2026 and beyond, it is anticipated that the Art Matters Fund will take on a greater share of financial responsibility to maintain the quality of programming, promotion, and exhibit operations that residents and visitors have come to love.

Lois's thoughtful touch and deep care are evident in every exhibit that graces Gallery 100's walls. While she continues to mentor and guide the gallery's evolution, her influence will always be woven into its fabric—her eye for beauty, her sense of balance, and her belief that art can connect people in profound ways. She may not have the heart to step fully away just yet, and the gallery is all the better for it.

The Art Matters Fund ensures that Silver Maples remains a place where art is not simply admired—it's lived with, talked about, and shared. Through its support, the creativity, curiosity, and community spirit that Lois helped nurture will continue to thrive for years to come.



## Library Plus Fund

### A NEW CHAPTER OF CONNECTION AND DISCOVERY

The Silver Maples Library has always been more than a room filled with books—it's a reflection of our community's lifelong love of learning, conversation, and connection. For years, it has been lovingly managed by a team of resident librarians and volunteers whose care and attention have made it one of the most treasured spaces on campus.

This past year marked an exciting new chapter for the library with a complete renovation and redesign—a capital project completed by Silver Maples. The newly refreshed space provides a bright and welcoming environment that supports exploration, reflection, and social engagement. It stands ready to evolve alongside the community it serves.

While the renovation itself was funded by Silver Maples, **\$2,775.46** from the Library Plus Fund was used to enhance and personalize the space beyond the construction project. These funds supported the purchase of new





books, puzzles, and other thoughtful upgrades—the kinds of details that will help the library feel welcoming, comfortable, and uniquely ours.

Looking ahead, the Library Plus Fund will continue to shape the library's ongoing evolution. Future support may include upgrades to technology, curated reading collections, and creative additions that make the space even more functional, inspiring, and reflective of the community.

The fund also helps maintain and expand the library's media and online catalog offerings, ensuring that residents have continued access to the stories, information, and resources that enrich daily life.

The story of the Silver Maples Library has always been written by the people who care about it most. With continued creativity, collaboration, and support through the Library Plus Fund, the next chapter promises to be one filled with curiosity, connection, and renewed pride in a space that truly belongs to the community.

## Landscaping & Memorial Garden Fund

### CULTIVATING BEAUTY, MEMORY, AND CONNECTION

The Landscaping & Memorial Garden Fund helps Silver Maples stay beautiful, accessible, and welcoming throughout the year. This fund supports the plantings, upkeep, and enhancements that make our outdoor spaces such a cherished part of community life. From walking paths and courtyards to the tranquil Memorial Garden, these spaces invite residents and families to enjoy nature, reflect, and connect.

In the past year, **\$1,312.32** was directed from the Landscaping & Memorial Garden Fund, made possible through donor contributions tied to memorial paver placements and through requests from the Resident Garden Committee for improvements to the Memorial Garden specifically. These thoughtful investments continue to nurture one of Silver Maples' most beloved spaces.

At the heart of this effort is the Resident Garden Committee, a dedicated group of volunteers who have operated independently for many years — curating and managing the Memorial Garden with creativity, care, and pride. Their thoughtful work ensures the garden remains both beautiful and meaningful, with plant selections, arrangements, and maintenance guided by residents' own vision and touch. While the committee takes the lead, Silver Maples coordinates designated times to provide staff support—offering strong hands and backs for heavier or more physically demanding work when it's most useful and safe to do so. This planned collaboration reflects the mutual respect and shared commitment that defines the relationship between residents and staff.

Each year, the committee and Winn Nichols, Director of Life Enrichment, lead the much-anticipated annual trip to Turners Landscaping in Ann Arbor, where residents hand-select plants and flowers to refresh the



Memorial Garden. The most recent trip resulted in nearly \$800 worth of new perennials, many of which have taken root and flourished—despite a few hungry deer along the way!

The Memorial Garden has long been a meaningful space within Silver Maples—a place for remembrance, gratitude, and quiet connection. In recent years, it has taken on an even deeper sense of significance as more residents and families choose to honor loved ones through memorial pavers. These engraved stones, each one representing a life and legacy, are placed throughout the garden and together create a powerful visual story of the community's shared history. As more pavers are added, the garden has come to feel even more special—a living reflection of the people and memories that shape Silver Maples.

Thanks to the Landscaping & Memorial Garden Fund, and the dedicated residents who bring it to life, Silver Maples continues to flourish with natural beauty and heartfelt meaning. Every bloom and every stone tell a story of love, connection, and care—a lasting reminder that what grows here is nurtured not just by soil and sunlight, but by the hands of our community.

## The Silver Lining Fund

### A FULLY FUNDED PROMISE OF SECURITY AND CARE

The Silver Lining Fund was conceived by residents for their neighbors at Silver Maples who may one day outlive their assets. None of us can know what the future holds. With longer life expectancies, rising healthcare costs, and ever-changing financial markets, the possibility of outliving one's savings is real.

The goal of the Silver Lining Fund is to ensure that residents who have spent their resources can continue to call Silver Maples home. This fund provides not just financial support, but peace of mind—reflecting the heart of our mission and our community's deep commitment to caring for one another.

This year brought a welcome pause in distributions, as no charitable care assistance was needed. This reprieve allowed the fund to continue growing and strengthening its capacity for the years ahead. For all intents and purposes and for long-term forecasting, we are proud to share that the Silver Lining Fund is now **fully funded and self-sustaining**—a milestone achievement that ensures lasting stability and security for future generations of residents.

Importantly, the Silver Lining Fund is reserved for situations of genuine and unforeseen hardship. Through a careful and thorough review process, Silver Maples ensures that each request for assistance is evaluated with compassion, accuracy, and discretion. This diligence protects the integrity of the fund and ensures that it is used only when truly needed.

To date, the Silver Lining Fund has provided **\$61,313.50** in charitable care—each dollar a reflection of the compassion, foresight, and generosity that make Silver Maples so special.





## EMPLOYEE IMPACT

In the pages that follow, we share examples of the extent to which employees are supported and cared for through Silver Maples Development Funds.

## Hotel Stays During Inclement Weather

### SUPPORTING EMPLOYEES WHEN IT MATTERS MOST

Michigan winters can be unpredictable, but at Silver Maples, our commitment to care never takes a snow day. Through the Greater Good Fund, we were able to provide hotel accommodations for employees during two severe winter storms, ensuring that essential team members could remain close to campus and continue caring for residents safely.

Between the two storms, the Greater Good Fund invested **\$1,071** in hotel stays to keep our staff safe and to ensure that resident care continued seamlessly, no matter the weather. This simple but impactful support helped remove the stress of dangerous commutes and uncertain travel conditions, allowing employees to rest, recharge, and arrive ready to provide the compassionate care our residents depend on.

By covering hotel stays during snow and ice events, the Greater Good Fund once again demonstrated how philanthropy strengthens our daily operations—helping us care for the people who care for others. It's a meaningful reflection of what the fund was created to do: respond to real needs in real time, improving life for both residents and staff alike.



## Educated Generations Childcare Assistance

### SHARING THE COST, STRENGTHENING THE COMMUNITY

At Silver Maples, we understand that caring for others begins with caring for those who serve our residents every day. For many employees—especially working parents—the cost of quality childcare isn't just a challenge; it can make maintaining employment financially impossible. Thanks to the generosity of Silver Maples donors, the Educated Generations Childcare Assistance Program is helping change that story.

Through participation in the Michigan Tri-Share Childcare Program, the cost of childcare is shared equally among three partners:

- One-third is paid by the employee,
- One-third is covered by the State of Michigan, and
- One-third is funded by gifts from Silver Maples residents and community donors through the Educated Generations Childcare Assistance Fund.

This donor-funded portion is what allows Silver Maples to participate in Tri-Share. It's our community's contribution to making high-quality childcare affordable for the employees who make our mission possible.

Between October 2024 and September 2025, the Educated Generations Fund distributed **\$13,098.53** in childcare assistance. These funds have consistently supported six children for more than a year, helping to cover daycare, before- and after-school programs, and summer day camps. Two additional families are currently in the process of enrolling, ensuring that even more children will soon benefit from this vital support. As the program continues to grow, we anticipate this amount will increase over time due to higher childcare costs and additional children being supported through the program.

The impact has been immediate and deeply personal. Families have found stability, employees have felt truly cared for, and parents have gained the freedom to focus on their work knowing their children are safe, happy, and thriving.

Building on the success of Tri-Share, Silver Maples has also joined Michigan's Duo-Share Program, developed in response to employers like us who were willing to pay their one-third share even for employees whose income exceeded the Tri-Share eligibility threshold. Duo-Share helps those "in-between" families—those who earn too much to qualify for Tri-Share but still face childcare costs that make maintaining employment financially unsustainable.

This commitment has made Silver Maples stand out—not only as a senior living community, but as a leader in employee support and



workplace innovation. Each time a job posting mentions our “generous childcare support,” it draws attention across social media and within the greater Chelsea and Washtenaw County area. People share the posts with friends, tag family members, and comment about how rare and meaningful this benefit is. For many, it’s more than an incentive—it’s life-changing.

The Educated Generations Program has become one of our most powerful recruitment and retention tools. It reassures current employees that they are valued and supported while attracting new applicants who are searching for an employer that truly invests in their families. For some team members, this program has even made it possible to start or grow their families—something that once felt completely out of reach due to childcare costs.

In today’s world, where childcare expenses often determine whether people can afford to work—or whether they can afford to have children at all—Silver Maples donors are helping rewrite that reality. Their generosity ensures that our employees can care for their loved ones while continuing to do the work they love: caring for our residents.

Every dollar given to the Educated Generations Fund is an investment in stability, compassion, and community. It’s a tangible expression of what makes Silver Maples different—a place where care flows both ways, enriching the lives of all who call it home.

## Employee Hardship Fund

### HELPING STAFF THROUGH LIFE'S UNEXPECTED CHALLENGES

Life can change in an instant. Even the most careful and hardworking people sometimes face challenges they couldn't have planned for — a medical emergency, car breakdown, family crisis, or unexpected expense that threatens their stability. The Employee Hardship Fund exists to help in those moments, providing short-term financial relief to employees experiencing serious and unmanageable situations beyond their control.

Between October 2024 and September 2025, six applications were submitted to the Employee Hardship Fund — and all six were approved, resulting in **\$4,134.40** in direct support to employees in need. Requests went through a confidential review by the Employee Hardship Fund Committee, which includes the CEO, Director of Finance, Director of HR, Director of Development, and a resident representative.

Employees treat the fund with deep respect and seriousness, applying only when facing a true crisis. They understand that the fund's ability to endure depends on using it responsibly — ensuring it remains available for others who may one day need the same support.

For those who received help, the assistance provided stability and peace of mind during times of real difficulty — keeping families secure, vehicles repaired, and basic needs met.

The Employee Hardship Fund continues to demonstrate what's possible when residents, leadership, and staff come together to care for one another in practical, meaningful ways. Each distribution reflects both generosity and trust — a reminder that even in hard times, no one at Silver Maples has to face challenges alone.

## Employee Recognition Fund

### CELEBRATING THE PEOPLE WHO BRING SILVER MAPLES TO LIFE

The Employee Recognition Fund was created to show appreciation for the incredible staff who bring care, dedication, and heart to Silver Maples every single day. This fund allows us to celebrate and support employees in meaningful ways that enhance their experience, strengthen team morale, and remind every individual how valued they are.

Between October 2024 and September 2025, **\$5,606.21** was used from the fund to support a wide variety of events and gestures of gratitude—each one designed to recognize the hard work and spirit of our staff. From pizza parties that bring teams together to coffee and cocoa days that start the morning with a smile, every act of appreciation helps build connection and joy across departments.





National Employee Recognition Day gifts and annual employee gifts have become special traditions, offering tangible reminders of gratitude and belonging. The fund also supported work anniversary meals, providing opportunities to celebrate long-standing team members who continue to shape the heart and quality of life at Silver Maples.

Even larger gatherings—like the annual Employee Family Party—were made brighter through enhancements funded by this program, ensuring that staff and their loved ones could celebrate together in a way that truly reflects the warmth of this community.

Each of these moments, big and small, serves as a reminder that appreciation matters. The Employee Recognition Fund helps create an environment where staff feel genuinely valued, fostering connection, positivity, and a shared sense of purpose.

By turning gratitude into action, the fund ensures that those who care for residents feel equally cared for in return.



## Silver Maples Scholarship Program

### EMPOWERING EDUCATION THROUGH RESIDENT-LED GENEROSITY

The Silver Maples Scholarship Program, supported by residents and donors through the fundraising efforts of the Resident Council, continues a long and meaningful tradition of investing in the educational goals of Silver Maples employees.

The program began in 2010, when Resident Council members came together around the idea of helping employees further their education. What started with a single \$1,000 award has since grown into a cornerstone of the Silver Maples community—one that celebrates both hard work and generosity.

Much of the early success of the program can be credited to Esma Cronin and Joe Eisley, two residents whose leadership, heart, and dedication helped bring the idea to life. They gave their time and creativity to raise funds and awareness, including through the sale of Joe's handcrafted woodwork, with proceeds going directly to the scholarship fund. Their spirit of care continues to inspire the Resident Council's efforts today.

Over the past seven years, **\$264,291** has been awarded to Silver Maples employees pursuing higher education, certifications, and professional development. Each scholarship reflects the shared belief that learning changes lives—not just for the recipients, but for everyone they touch through their work.

This year, 19 Silver Maples employees and their children or grandchildren received scholarships totaling **\$52,000**, made possible entirely through the generosity of residents and donors.

## Employee Scholarship Funds Available for Silver Maples Employees in 2025

### THE SILVER MAPLES SCHOLARSHIP

Top Scholar Award in Memory of Esma Cronin & Joe Eisley (\$4,500)  
Multiple Resident Council Awards of up to \$3,500

### DR. BRUCE & JUNE JOHNSON SCHOLARSHIP

\$1,000 award – open to all SM employees

### MACGREGOR RCA SCHOLARSHIP

\$1,500 award for SM Resident Care Associates

### WILL JOHNSON SCHOLARSHIP

\$1,000 award for a child or grandchild of SM employees

### SCHOLARSHIPS MANAGED BY THE ANN ARBOR AREA COMMUNITY

### FOUNDATION (AAACF) FOR THE BENEFIT OF SILVER MAPLES EMPLOYEES:

\$3,000 awards - The Joe Jacobs Employee Scholarship Education Fund

\$3,500 awards - The Silver Legacy Scholarship Fund (for SM Culinary employees)

*Did you know scholarship recipients at Silver Maples are proudly identified by a special badge on their name tag? Be sure to look for these badges and know that your contributions are making a lasting impact on their education, growth, and future success.*



# 2025 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

## Top Scholar Awards

### BOAZ STRONG | GROUNDS MAINTENANCE AND CULINARY SERVICES



Boaz is a freshman at **Grace College**, pursuing a degree in Business and Marketing. He was a three-year varsity football player, a three-time Academic Letter recipient, and earned First Team Academic All-State honors. He also served in National Honor Society and co-founded the CHS Bible Club.

At Silver Maples, Boaz has worked in both Grounds Maintenance and Culinary Services, where his reliability, initiative, and positive attitude have consistently shone. Known for his maturity and strong work ethic, he has balanced academics, activities, and volunteering while maintaining an impressive GPA above 4.0.

### KATLYN WILLIAMS | CULINARY LEAD SERVER & SUPERVISOR



Katlyn is completing her general education courses at **Lansing Community College**, taking an intentional and practical path toward a future degree in Hospitality.

Katlyn hopes to become a Director of Culinary Services one day, building leadership skills, financial independence, and professional experience along the way. She has been part of the Silver Maples team since age 14, showing exceptional dedication and a strong work ethic. Known for her caring nature, she often volunteers to attend events even when she isn't scheduled and naturally leads her peers with confidence and kindness.

## Silver Maples Scholarship

### ANNA REISNER | CULINARY WAITSTAFF



Anna is a sophomore at **Western Michigan University** majoring in Business and a member of the Lee Honors College. A strong student and former National Honor Society member, she is actively involved on campus through volunteering, fundraising, mentoring peers in Leadership Business Strategy, and participating in the Financial Services Association. She also serves as Chief Production Officer for Bronconess, a student-run wine company that gives her valuable leadership and business experience. This past summer, Anna interned at Northwestern Mutual as she works toward becoming a financial advisor, and she continues to stay connected to Silver Maples by returning to work during school breaks. Through these experiences, she is building independence, confidence, and a clear sense of purpose.

### BRANT MALEY | LINE COOK



Brant is a Chelsea High School graduate now attending **Washtenaw Community College**. He has worked at Silver Maples while also spending more than three years as a woodworking apprentice, gaining valuable hands-on skills. A dedicated athlete, he ran cross country all four years of high school, earning a varsity spot and serving as captain, and also competed in track, baseball, and basketball. After moving from Ann Arbor to Chelsea his sophomore year, he pushed himself to adapt, build new connections, and grow more confident socially. His supervisors at Silver Maples consistently note his kindness, reliability, and calming presence.

## JORDAN TRIMBLE | CULINARY WAITSTAFF



Jordan is in her second year at **Washtenaw Community College**, completing nursing prerequisites with plans to enter the Radiography Program. She has been a dedicated Silver Maples employee for five years and also works at Chelsea Hospital as a Patient Care Assistant, gaining valuable bedside experience.

After moving from California during high school, she learned to adapt quickly, build strong relationships, and navigate new environments with intention—skills that continue to support her in college, where she fully funds her own education through hard work and scholarships. Her supervisor praises her as exceptionally cross-trained, sincere, engaged, and empathetic toward both residents and coworkers.

## LEA BODIFORD | CULINARY WAITSTAFF

Lea is a first-year student at the **University of Michigan**, exploring general education courses as she builds toward a future major. Her internship with the Public Defender's Office in Atlanta sparked a strong interest in public service and a desire to support people affected by an often inequitable legal system. She hopes to join a student newspaper, drawing on her love of writing and journalism, and credits her high school study-abroad experience with helping her grow more independent and confident. Her references describe her as someone who consistently exceeds expectations, including a counselor who noted her initiative in beginning college planning well before her peers.



## MAGGIE MCKALE | CULINARY WAIT STAFF



Maggie is a first-year student at **Alma College** and an accomplished student-athlete who captained the Chelsea Volleyball Team, earned MVP and “Most Reliable Player,” excelled in basketball and softball, and received Academic All-State and academic excellence honors. She balanced athletics with work at Silver Maples and volunteer service in youth sports camps and the Special Olympics. Guided by a strong commitment to serving others and inspired by the care her late grandfather received, she has long known she wants to be a teacher and is building the leadership and interpersonal skills needed for that path. She is also continuing her athletic career on the Alma College volleyball team.

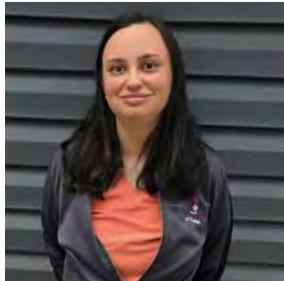
## RILEY MACIEJEWSKI | CULINARY WAITSTAFF TEAM LEADER & SUPERVISOR



Riley is a junior at **Western Michigan University** studying Business Marketing, a field that reflects her creativity and strong attention to detail. She has been a dedicated member of the Silver Maples team for nearly four years, consistently returning to work on weekends, school breaks, and summers. Her supervisor notes that she can step into any situation in the dining rooms and be immediately helpful, and her coworkers look up to her professionalism, reliability, and steady presence. Riley is also a multiple-year Silver Maples Scholarship recipient, demonstrating her ongoing commitment to both her education and the Silver Maples community.

## Dr. Bruce & June Johnson Endowed Scholarship

### ANN COBB | CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT (CNA)



Ann recently used her Silver Maples scholarship to earn her **Certified Nursing Assistant credential** and has already begun applying her new training to strengthen the care we provide. She is consistently kind, attentive, and intuitive with residents, often anticipating needs before they are spoken. Resident family members frequently share that they feel especially at ease when Ann is caring for their loved one. She is deeply committed to building trust with everyone in the Silver Maples community and works hard each day to create a warm, cheerful environment where residents feel supported and valued.

## Nancy MacGregor RCA Scholarship

### MADDIE QUINN | CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT (CNA)



Maddie began her career at Silver Maples in Culinary Services before becoming an RCA after high school and starting her path toward a nursing degree. Over the past year, she has advanced even further by earning her **Certified Nursing Assistant credential** through our scholarship program, a key requirement for nursing school. Now a CNA, she continues her nursing coursework while bringing valuable clinical skills back to Silver Maples. A multi-year scholarship recipient and winner of the LeadingAge Michigan Emerging Leader Award, Maddie is a natural caretaker who willingly shares her knowledge with coworkers. Residents appreciate her attentiveness, growing expertise, and commitment to helping others.

## Will Johnson Scholarship

ALEXIS YORK | DAUGHTER OF CHEF KARL



Alexis is completing her Bachelor of Science in Nursing at **Capella University** and is deeply dedicated to advancing her education, skills, and professional credentials. She is committed to becoming a highly proficient nurse and believes that continued learning and additional certifications are essential to providing the highest quality patient care. Known for her diligence, focus, and strong work ethic, Alexis approaches her studies with a tireless desire to grow and stand out as a leader among her peers. She is also the daughter of Karl, our Executive Chef, who is thoughtful, fun, and consistently accommodating, and whose leadership has already made a strong impact on our dining program. Through her determination and drive, Alexis is preparing to make a meaningful difference in the lives of the patients she will serve.

## Greater Good Supplementary Scholarships for Employees' Children

ANNE ROESCH | DAUGHTER OF ANNE ROESCH, ACCOUNTING SPECIALIST



Anne earned her degree in Biomedical Engineering from the **University of Michigan** and is now pursuing her master's degree in Systems Biology and Biotechnology, where she holds a 4.0 GPA and a place on the Dean's List. Alongside her demanding academic work, she plays tenor saxophone in the Michigan Marching Band and has spent two years as a rank leader, teaching and supporting new members while helping lead

the preparation of new shows each week. One of her favorite experiences was traveling to the Rose Bowl in January 2024 and marching the full 5.5-mile parade route—a physically challenging but unforgettable highlight of her college career. Anne is the daughter of Kara Roesch, our Accounting Specialist, and brings the same dedication and drive to her studies that Kara brings to Silver Maples.

#### HAYDEN KIM | SON OF CHRISTINA KIM, VP OF SALES & MARKETING



Hayden is a freshman at **Eastern Kentucky University**, pursuing a degree in Professional Golf Management, a specialized Business Marketing program that aligns perfectly with his passion for the sport. He is also a member of the EKU golf team, where he is performing well and steadily checking off the goals he set for himself. In high school, Hayden served as a four-year captain of the varsity golf team, earned All-Conference honors for both golf and academics, and was an active member of the National Honor Society. Known for his strong academic performance and leadership, he set high expectations for himself and for his team. Hayden is the son of Christina Kim, the longtime leader of our Sales and Marketing team and a cornerstone of Silver Maples for more than 16 years. Hayden clearly carries forward her strong sense of leadership and team spirit.

## Silver Legacy Scholarship

### CARTER EDWARDS | CULINARY WAITSTAFF



Carter is a freshman at **Brigham Young University**, where he is working toward a degree in Marketing. In high school, he was a decorated varsity wrestler for Chelsea, earning Academic All-State honors and serving in the National Honor Society during his junior and senior years. He also participated in crew, baseball, and the Economics Club. Carter challenged himself with AP classes, learning more effective study strategies and seeking tutoring when he needed support—an effort that helped him grow academically and become someone his peers turned to for help. He is proud to set a strong example for his three younger siblings and values the work experience and relationships he has built at Silver Maples, which he believes have strengthened his character and leadership.

### MARINA HINZ-JOHNSON | CULINARY WAITSTAFF



Marina is now a sophomore at **Western Michigan University** and remains deeply committed to a career in special education. After struggling more than she expected while adjusting to college last year, she has embraced the idea that growth comes from discomfort and has pushed herself to get more involved and put herself out there. Inspired by teachers who model inclusivity and encourage students to seek help without hesitation, she continues to approach her coursework with clarity, purpose, and growing confidence. A multi-year Silver Maples Scholarship recipient, she brings that same dedication to our community, consistently going the extra mile for residents and coworkers. Marina has also

volunteered at the Special Olympics for the past two years, strengthening her passion for supporting individuals with diverse needs. Her warm, steady presence and natural spirit of service enrich Silver Maples every day and reflect the compassion she hopes to bring to her future students.

### AMELIA ROBINSON | CULINARY WAITSTAFF



Millie is continuing her studies in Human Biology at **Michigan State University** with plans to attend dental school after graduation, driven by her desire to positively impact human health through new treatments and technologies. She remains active in the university's Human Biology Club and is building a strong academic foundation for her future career.

Millie first joined Silver Maples in Culinary Services, later training as a Resident Care Associate to gain experience more closely aligned with her goals. Although she is now back to serving as waitstaff during the school year, her RCA training and compassionate approach continue to benefit residents and staff. Her kind, steady presence across our community makes it clear that she is deeply committed to helping others, no matter the role she fills.



## Silver Maples Educational Scholarship (Joe Jacobs)

### CAROLINE KNIGHT | RESIDENT CARE ASSOCIATE (RCA)



Caroline is entering her second year at the **University of Notre Dame**, where she is a College of Science Dean's List student with a GPA in the top 30 percent of her class. She earned her place on the university's rowing team after a rigorous 45-day tryout with very limited spots available, despite having no prior experience in the sport. She took the risk, put in the work, and it paid off. Caroline returns to Silver Maples during holidays and summer breaks, staying closely connected to our community. She is pursuing a degree in neuroscience and has taken courses in regenerative medicine and research focused on finding cures for Alzheimer's disease and cancer. Her long-term goal is to become a physician and help improve the lives of people who might otherwise suffer from two of the most challenging and widespread diseases of our time.

### MADDIE MCKALE | CULINARY WAITSTAFF AND RESIDENT CARE ASSOCIATE



Maddie is a freshman at **Michigan State University** and a dedicated member of the Silver Maples team. She began in Culinary Services but quickly transitioned to a Resident Care Associate to better align her work with her plans to become a nurse. An excellent student in high school and a three-sport athlete, she has carried that same discipline into her first semester of college.

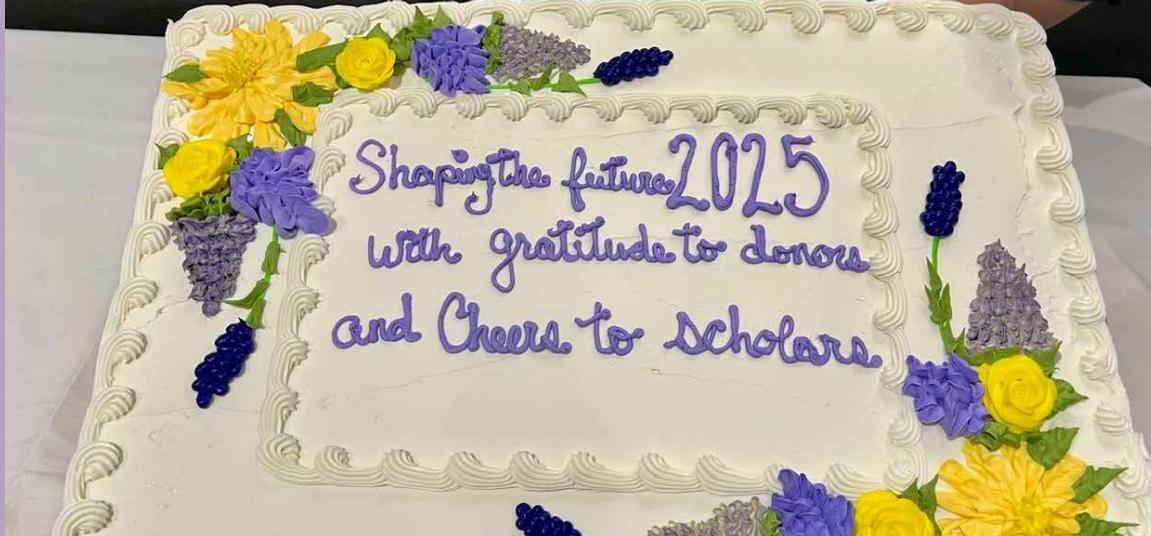
Maddie hopes to become a nurse who supports children with chronic conditions. Her work at Silver Maples has strengthened her customer service skills in a healthcare environment and reaffirmed her commitment to a career in nursing.

## KAYLEE ROEHM | RESIDENT CARE ASSOCIATE



Kaylee graduated from **Grand Valley State University** in 2023 with a Bachelor of Science in Allied Health Sciences and a minor in Psychology, and she is now planning to continue her education in radiology. Throughout her academic career, she consistently earned high grades, made the Dean's List, graduated Cum Laude, and was recognized as a Thompson Scholar for her community service and strong academic performance. As she moves into her next phase of schooling, she is enjoying the chance to experience college without the constraints of COVID. Her supervisor at Silver Maples shares that she exceeds expectations in every way and demonstrates compassion, curiosity, and an eagerness to learn each day she is here.





## Celebrating Education and Community: The 2025 Scholarship Reception

Silver Maples of Chelsea was delighted to host the 2025 Annual Scholarship Reception, a heartfelt celebration honoring this year's scholarship recipients and their families. The evening brought together students, their loved ones, and the generous donors whose support makes these educational opportunities possible.

The reception highlighted the accomplishments of our hardworking student employees while expressing deep gratitude to the donors whose generosity continues to shape the future of Silver Maples' scholarship program. It was an evening filled with joy, pride, and connection — showcasing the power of education and the relationships that make our community so special.

Each year, one top scholar is selected to speak on behalf of all recipients. This year, however, two extraordinary students stood out equally, and both were invited to share their reflections. Their words offered an inspiring glimpse into how working at Silver Maples has shaped not only their goals, but also their sense of purpose, confidence, and belonging.

We are proud to share their reflections in the following pages, beginning with Katlyn Williams, followed by Boaz Strong.



## Katlyn Williams

### SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT, TEAM LEAD & WEEKEND SUPERVISOR

*My name is Katlyn Williams, and I started working at Silver Maples in 2022, when I was just 15 years old. I was young, nervous, and not quite sure what to expect. I didn't know then that I was stepping into a place that would shape who I am today.*

*In the nearly three years I've worked here, I've grown so much—not just in my role as a team lead and weekend supervisor, but as a person. I've learned things I never could have picked up in a classroom: how to care deeply, how to listen with patience, how to lead with kindness, and how powerful a simple smile or kind word can really be.*

*Silver Maples has taught me what love, family, and true support look like. Not just in how we care for our residents, but in how we care for each other. There have been days when I've walked through those doors feeling tired or overwhelmed, and every single time, someone here has lifted me up—whether it was a coworker who made me laugh, a resident who shared a kind word, or just a quiet moment of teamwork that reminded me why I love being here.*

*Work has become more than a job to me. It's been a joy, a safe space, and a second home. That's because of the amazing people who make up this community. You've supported me, encouraged me, and inspired me in ways I can't fully put into words.*

*Outside of work, my journey hasn't always been easy. Since my freshman year of high school, I've been finishing school online—a path that's taken a lot of dedication and discipline. Balancing school and work taught me how to manage my time, stay focused, and keep pushing forward even when things felt hard.*

Now, I'm proud to say that this fall, I'll be attending Lansing Community College to complete my prerequisites. I'll be living right next door to my grandpa, which means a lot to me. After that, I plan to transfer to Michigan State University to major in Hospitality and Tourism Management, with the dream of becoming a Culinary Director someday.

And tonight, I'm especially grateful because I've been honored with a scholarship. To be recognized in this way means more than I can express. It's not just financial help—it's a vote of confidence. It's a reminder that the work I've done here matters, and that there are people who believe in me and want to see me succeed beyond these walls.

Silver Maples isn't just where I work.

It's where I've grown, where I've connected, and where I've built some of the most meaningful relationships of my life.

I'm beyond grateful to be part of this family—and to everyone who has helped me along the way, thank you for believing in me.

## Boaz Strong

### SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT, CULINARY SERVICES TEAM MEMBER

*My name is Boaz Strong, and on behalf of all the scholarship recipients, I just want to say thank you. We're truly honored and incredibly grateful for the support we've received—it means so much to all of us.*

*I've lived in Chelsea, Michigan my whole life, and I'll be graduating from Chelsea High School this year. Growing up here, I've always known that this is a town that values community, kindness, and looking out for one another—and working at Silver Maples has only deepened that belief. It's been an amazing place to learn and grow.*

*Many of us have had the chance to work in different roles here at Silver Maples, and each experience has taught us something valuable. Personally, I spent a summer working in the maintenance department, where I learned how to problem-solve, work with my hands, and appreciate the behind-the-scenes work that keeps a place like this running smoothly.*

*This past year, I've been working in culinary services, which has been a very different experience. As a bonus, I get to take home leftovers sometimes! One part of the job I especially enjoy is delivering meals to residents. It gives me the chance to connect with them one-on-one—even if it's just for a moment—and those quick chats and smiles are a great part of my day.*

*But what's made the biggest impact on all of us has been the residents. The kindness, wisdom, and stories you've shared have left a lasting impression. Whether it's a simple smile, a conversation during a meal, or a piece of advice shared in passing, these moments have helped us grow—not just as employees, but as people. Those interactions have taught us*

*more than any classroom ever could. You've shown us the importance of patience, respect, and compassion.*

*This fall, I'll be heading to Grace College to study business, and I know my fellow recipients are also moving forward on their own paths—each of us taking what we've learned here into the next chapter of our lives.*

*To the donors—thank you for investing in us and believing in our futures. Your generosity is opening doors that might have otherwise stayed closed.*

*To the staff and residents—thank you for your support, your encouragement, and the example you've set. Silver Maples isn't just a workplace; it's a place that's shaped who we are and who we're becoming.*

*From all of us—thank you for making a difference in our lives.*



# DONOR IMPACT

## Remembering Donna Stohl

A LIFE OF WIT, WISDOM, AND WHOLEHEARTED LIVING

Donna Stohl didn't just live at Silver Maples — she helped shape its spirit. She was funny, fierce, and wonderfully unapologetic. A natural leader with a quick wit and sharp insight, she had a way of commanding a room without ever trying. When Donna spoke, people listened — not because she was loud, but because she was honest, clever, and always spoke from the heart.

She was a feminist long before it was fashionable — confident in who she was and deeply committed to helping others find their voice. She volunteered, led committees, shared her opinions freely, and helped keep the rest of us “in line,” all with a twinkle in her eye and genuine care for the people around her.

Her love for the arts and the choir ran deep, and she understood how creativity brings people together. In fact, Donna was the reason I ended up at Silver Maples. At the time, I worked for another organization, and she invited me to visit the Art Committee she was leading here. That visit was my introduction to this place — and to her. I remember thinking, if this is the kind of person who calls Silver Maples home, this is where I want to be, too.

Donna was also one of Silver Maples’ earliest and strongest donors. Long before there was a formal Development Department or designated funds beyond the Silver Lining Fund, she found ways to make things happen. She bolstered programs and projects, quietly supporting residents and staff, and then helped chart a path for others to do the same. She offered insight, advice, and challenge — always pushing me to consider different perspectives and to be fair to those who might see things differently. Her wisdom shaped not only our philanthropic programs, but the philosophy behind them.

Every so often, Donna would wander down our quiet administrative hallway, settle into the chair beside my desk, and chat as if that space had always been hers. It never felt out of place — she never did. Her presence made every room feel more purposeful, safer, and more comfortable.

Even as her memory began to fade, Donna handled it with something beyond grace. She remained grateful — grounded, kind, and beautifully content. In the years I had the privilege of knowing her, she showed me

what it looks like to age with humor, confidence, and peace. I can only hope to one day feel as fulfilled and certain that my life, like hers, was rich with purpose and meaning.

I already miss hearing her laugh echo through the lobby. Silver Maples won't sound quite the same without her — but it will always carry her warmth, her wisdom, and the strength she left behind.



# CAMPUS IMPACT

The impact Silver Maples residents have on our community is impressive. Organizations depend on the generous volunteerism of community members to run smoothly and efficiently. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered time and talent to our committees listed in the coming pages, without which we would not be the community that we know and love today.

## Silver Maples Resident Council

The Silver Maples Resident Council continues to play an active role in shaping community life, representing residents' voices, and fostering a spirit of collaboration and gratitude throughout Silver Maples. Meeting monthly in the Maples Room, the Council provides a space for open conversation, thoughtful feedback, and shared problem-solving that helps strengthen life for everyone who calls Silver Maples home.

Beyond their monthly meetings, Council members serve as leaders and connectors, working to ensure that resident perspectives are heard and that ideas are transformed into meaningful action. Their dedication extends beyond discussion—they invest time, energy, and creativity into initiatives that strengthen community bonds and enhance daily life.

A cornerstone of that effort is their commitment to supporting the Silver Maples staff through hands-on fundraising. Each year, the Council organizes bake sales, rummage sales, and bottle and can drives. The proceeds from these events support the Silver Maples Scholarship Fund.

The Council also manages the Resident Council Staff Gratuity Fund—often referred to informally as the “tip fund.” Because tipping individual staff members is not permitted throughout the year, this collective effort gives



residents the opportunity to express their appreciation in a meaningful and equitable way. The Gratuity Fund is operated entirely by the Council and is not affiliated with Silver Maples' nonprofit Development program. Since the funds are distributed directly to hourly staff based on hours worked, contributions are not tax-deductible.

In 2024, residents contributed more than **\$53,000** to the Gratuity Fund—a remarkable testament to their generosity and gratitude. The Council has set its sights on matching that success again in 2025. As the Council wrote in their most recent reminder to residents:

*We think you will all agree that our Silver Maples staff members deserve this small token of appreciation for a job well done. Your participation is greatly appreciated.*

And if you're reading this hot off the press in November 2025, it's probably not too late to join in! Contributions to the Gratuity Fund are still being

accepted, and every dollar goes directly to staff as part of the much-anticipated holiday party in December.

This year's Council is led by Chair Nancy Metcalf, Vice Chair Bill Roberts, Treasurer Howard Brooks, and Secretary Susan Whitelaw. Together, they have guided the Council through a year of reflection, renewed purpose, and ongoing efforts to make Resident Council more meaningful and effective in ways that reflect residents' priorities. Looking ahead, Bill Roberts is slated to assume the role of Chair in the next election cycle, ensuring steady leadership and continuity of effort.

Through their leadership, collaboration, and care, the Resident Council continues to demonstrate what community looks like in action—neighbors working together to support one another and the staff who make Silver Maples feel like home.

## Resident Council Fundraising

COOKIE SALE:

\$ 373.00

BAKE SALE:

\$ 537.00

POP CAN RETURN:

\$ 417.00

CROCK POT COOKOFF:

\$ 375.00

RUMMAGE SALE AND CLOTHING SWAP:

\$ 2,267.17

ART SALES:

\$ 601.00

TOTAL RC SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISING:

**\$4,570.17**



## Silver Maples Resident Committees:

### 3Rs COMMITTEE

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. This committee is invested in helping Silver Maples become a more sustainable and environmentally conscious organization through recycling and education.

### ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Plans events, outings, and programs to meet the social, physical, intellectual, spiritual, creative, and vocational needs of residents.

### ART COMMITTEE

Seeks to enhance the beauty and spirit of Silver Maples by selecting, mounting, and replacing works of art throughout our community.

### DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

An advisory committee that works with the Silver Maples Director of Development to discuss, promote, fundraise for, and celebrate projects that enhance life at Silver Maples.

### FOOD COMMITTEE

Serves as a conduit for constructive suggestions from residents to assist the Culinary Service Staff in providing the best dining experience possible.

### HAPPY HOUR COMMITTEE

Helps to plan and host resident-coordinated events.

#### HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

Welcomes and serves as primary contacts for new residents, ensuring they know about programming opportunities. This Committee also assists Marketing with open house and VIP Waitlist events.

#### LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Seeks to provide an inviting space which offers both print and electronic resources.

#### MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

Provides an avenue for the flow of information between residents and staff related to grounds, building maintenance, and housekeeping.

#### MEMORIAL GARDEN COMMITTEE

Gives maximum resident support to Silver Maples maintenance and development of the Memorial Garden.

#### SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT COMMITTEE

Works with the Chaplain to plan and implement gatherings and activities that add to the depth and meaning in the life of the individual and surrounding community.

#### SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Reviews scholarship applications and determines awards to employees annually.

## TRIBUTE GIFTS & GARDEN PAVERS

Each year we receive gifts in honor or memory of another. Below are all those who were named in tributes in the last year.

*\* indicates that a memorial paver has been placed in the Memorial Garden*

Esma Cronin\*

Judy Osmun

Jeff Crowder

Fran Parker

SILVER MAPLES CHAPLAIN

Alice Rhodes

Julie Deppner\*

Young Ai Shinn

Joe Eisley

Silver Maples Staff

Henrietta "Babe" Elgas

Connie Smythe

Dr. Bruce & June Johnson

Jack Smythe

Ed "Coach" Klum

Donna Stohl

Ross Margeson

Shirley Wahlstrom

Roseanne McElroy



## HONOR ROLL OF GENEROSITY

It gives us great pleasure to recognize those who together contributed **\$144,127** to Silver Maples of Chelsea between October 1st, 2024, and September 30th, 2025.

Edward Adams	Susan Cunningham	Virginia Gillette	Willard Johnson &
Joan Alford	Lois DeLeon	Nick & Percy Golna	Diane Kurtz
Catherine Alter	Carole DeMarco	Esther Goudsmit	Gerard & Emma Kabzinski
Anonymous Donors	Dennis & Julie Deppner	Bonnie Gould	Four The Kids
Toby Arons	Mike & Tami Dettling	Barbara Graning	Luise Kienzle
Norman Augustine	Prudy Dittmar	Kimberlee & Jeffrey Green	Steve & Christina Kim
Jim Baneroff	Rita Dunlop	Phyllis Green	Sun-Kee & Sandra Kim
Jerilea Bordt	Lorna Eberts	Bonnie Griffith	Kathleen Klinge
Kristine & Phil Bradley	Kathy Faber-Pitts	Kathleen Griffiths	Mike Klos
Howard & Pat Brooks	Virginia Fielder	Keith & Amy Haab	Patricia & Daniel Kucera
Thomas & Colleen Carey	Beverly & Gordon Flynn	Walt & Peggy Hamilton	Kate Kukpatrick
Dorothy Chan	Heidi Ford	Paul & Ruth Hays	Traudel Kummer
Chelsea Area Players	Dawn Forsythe	Leah Herrick	Carol Kvarnberg
Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan	Denise Frost	Jim & Deanna Hicks	Karen Ledbetter
	Rick & Janie Gerteisen	Betty Hopkins	Cynthia Lefort
	Kenneth & D'Ann Gietzen	Dan Hunter	Janet A. Leonard
		Gary Jacobs	
		Jessica Stubbs	

Chi Li & Sherry Chiang	Winn & Justin Nichols	William & Deborah Roberts	Brian & Tracy Swartzendruber
Anne Losby	Cynthia Norton	Mark & Mary Royce	Wayne & Geraldine Swartzendruber
Gay MacGregor	Judy Oake	Janet Schnierle	
Mama G's Catering	Leslie & Joe Olivarez	Paul & Mary Schudel	Barb Terwilliger
Robert & Elisabeth Marcinkowski	Judith Osmun	Julia Shea	Don & Jean Thiel
Ross Margeson	John Parker	William Shipman	Robert & Ellen Thompson
Jim & Ann Mattson	June Parker	Silver Maples Silent Auctions	Mary Ann Vinton
Judith McArthur	Teri Passarello	Staff Jeans Day at Silver Maples	Chris & Ann Wadsworth
Roseanne McElroy	Liz Pielsticker	Sipzee LLC	Mary Jane Way
Marjorie Mead	Todd Raehtz	Diane Smith	June Weiland
Art Meissner & Lila Westenberg	Mary & Jim Randolph	Mike & Clara Smith	Susan Whitelaw
Bernice Merte	Hans & Marianne Rauer	Samantha Snyder	Connie Widmayer
Rosemary Mignano	Diane Reed	Robert & Linda Spitler	Lois Wightman
Kay Miller	Carole Van Reesema	Eric Stalhanske	Jerry & Chris Wilczynski
Joe & Isla Mitchell	Silver Maples	Donna Stohl	Tanya Wilson
David & Betty Murphy	Resident Council	Lois Storrer	Megan Wojton
Susan Murray	JoAnne & Michael Reynolds	Kay Swank	Charlotte Wyche Joseph & Barbara Zikmund

*Note: It is our intention to mention every donor who made a gift between the dates mentioned. If we have left out your name or listed your name incorrectly, it was an error and we offer our sincere apology. Please let us know at 734-433-5214 how we should correct the error.*

This year, unrestricted contributions totaling

**\$46,759**

empowered Silver Maples to respond to emerging needs in the community with

**\$24,077**

towards community services and staff trainings this year.

Funds dedicated to resident enrichment received a generous outpouring of support in the amount of

**\$40,355**

and funded

**\$28,513**

worth of programming, campus improvements, and other investments in resident life at Silver Maples.

# FACTS & FIGURES

OCT 2024 - SEP 2025

## Greater Good Unrestricted Fund

Raised **\$46,759.00**

Distributed **\$24,077.00**

## Resident Enrichment Designated Funds

### RESIDENT LIFE ENRICHMENT

Raised **\$6,955.00**

Distributed **\$10,039.00**

### ART MATTERS

Raised **\$5,672.79**

Distributed **\$1,412.00**

### KALEIDOSCOPE CONCERTS

Raised **\$20,687.00**

Distributed **\$12,975.00**

### LIBRARY PLUS

Raised **\$4,669.00**

Distributed **\$2,775.46**

### LANDSCAPING & MEMORIAL GARDEN

Raised **\$2,370.00**

Distributed **\$1,312.32**

## Employee Support Designated Funds

### EDUCATED GENERATIONS CHILDCARE ASSISTANCE

Raised **\$3,706.12** 

Distributed **\$13,098.53** 

### EMPLOYEE HARSHSHIP

Raised **\$3,700.00** 

Distributed **\$4,134.40** 

### EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Raised **\$8,880.81** 

Distributed **\$5,606.21** 

### SCHOLARSHIPS

Raised **\$34,817.42** 

Distributed **\$32,888.00** 

## A Year by the Numbers:

**186**  
donors making  
a difference

**339**  
impactful  
gifts made

**30**  
new resident  
programs

**19**  
employee  
scholarships

**6**  
children in  
childcare

**4**  
new works  
of art

Residents and donors  
showed their support  
for Silver Maples  
employees with  
donations totaling

**\$51,104**

and funds dedicated  
to employees  
provided

**\$55,727**

in events,  
recognition,  
and support for  
employees.

**In total**, this year Silver  
Maples Development  
received

**\$144,127**

in donations and spent

**\$109,218**

enriching the Silver Maples  
community.

**Total Funds:**

**\$2,715,298**



# SILVER MAPLES DEVELOPMENT

Community • Passion • Legacy

Kristine Bradley  
*Director of Development*

734-433-5214  
[kbradley@silvermaples.org](mailto:kbradley@silvermaples.org)

We welcome  
your feedback!