

A close-up photograph of holly leaves and red berries, which serves as the background for the entire page. The leaves are dark green with prominent veins and serrated edges. The berries are bright red and clustered on thin brown stems.

# CONNECTIONS

at the RESIDENTIAL LIVING CENTER

DECEMBER 2024



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## Contact Us

Want to learn more about living in our Residential Living Center? Call us at **785-204-7115** to schedule a private tour for yourself or a loved one.



**Anderson County Hospital Residential Living Center**  
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Garnett, KS 66032  
ACHRLC@saintlukeskc.org  
saintlukeskc.org/RLC  
Find us on Facebook.



## Greetings from Pat

Pat Patton, Anderson County Hospital and RLC Administrator



Thank you to everyone for making me feel so welcome here at the RLC.

I've been impressed by the atmosphere of our community. The RLC is exceedingly clean, comfortable, and homey. As I walk through the halls I'm greeted with smiling faces and sense a positive energy. I've observed numerous interactions and can clearly see the level of commitment among staff, how much they truly care for our residents, and how our residents feel about them. Simply put, they're family.

With all the good things I hear and see, I also know the holidays can be a difficult time of year for many of you, our residents. You may experience grief from the loss of loved ones and family traditions, and even though you're surrounded by people who care about you, you can sometimes still feel alone. My wish is for all our residents to feel loved and cared for every day, especially throughout the holidays.

We hope that friends and family will always feel welcome to visit at any time. If you're not familiar with the RLC, now is a great time to call and schedule a tour. We have a very special family here at the RLC. I'm glad to now be a part of it, and you can be too.

May your days be filled with peace and joy this holiday season.

—Pat

## 2024 Saint Luke's Hope Award Honoree Susan Roecker, RN



The Hope Award honors employees who add value to the work environment and demonstrate the virtues of spirituality, integrity, and compassion each day in their work. We're so proud to have Susan as part of our RLC family!

*Pictured from left: Jamie Northcutt, Sara Roecker, Marianne Smith, Susan Roecker, Samantha Young, Abigail Kellerman, and Pat Patton.*

## Culinary Corner



This recipe for pecan crispies first appeared in the 1953 edition of the *Better Homes and Gardens New Cook Book*, which resident Mary Lewis received as a wedding gift. When her children were growing up, she would make a batch of cookies weekly, and these pecan crispies appeared frequently in the rotation. The recipe is a family favorite, and while others try to make this special treat, the crispies are never as good as when Nana makes them!

### Nana's Pecan Crispies

#### Ingredients

½ cup shortening	2 eggs
½ cup butter, softened	2 ½ cups all-purpose flour
2 ½ cups packed brown sugar	1 cup chopped pecans, toasted if desired
½ teaspoon baking soda	
¼ teaspoon salt	

#### Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350° F. Lightly grease cookie sheets; set aside.
2. In a large mixing bowl, beat shortening and butter with an electric mixer on medium to high speed for 30 seconds. Add brown sugar, baking soda, and salt. Beat until combined, scraping bowl occasionally.
3. Add eggs to the mixture. Beat until combined.
4. Beat in as much of the flour as you can with the mixer. Using a wooden spoon, stir in any remaining flour and the pecans.
5. Drop dough by rounded teaspoons onto greased baking sheets, about two inches apart.
6. Bake in preheated oven for 10 to 12 minutes or until lightly browned and edges are set.

Makes 60 cookies.

**To store:** Layer cookies between sheets of waxed paper in an airtight container; cover. Store at room temperature for up to three days or freeze for up to three months.



## Welcome to the RLC



### Richard R.

Richard is from Greeley, Kansas, where he owned Greeley Hardware

& Lumber for many years. He moved to the RLC from another care home in the area and has enjoyed playing cards and catching up with old friends.

### Dixie B.

Dixie is also an experienced business owner, having operated Brummel Farm Service



in Garnett for more than two decades. She loves watching sports (especially the Chiefs) and is glad to see so many familiar faces here at the RLC.

## Dine with Us!

**We invite our residents' friends and family members to join us during mealtimes.** Guests may bring in meals from outside, purchase a meal from the RLC kitchen, or purchase items à la carte from the Anderson County Hospital Café. Meals from the RLC kitchen are \$8 for breakfast and \$9.50 for lunch or dinner. Meals must be paid for with cash or check and are available to guests as supplies last. If you will have multiple guests, please call ahead to **785-204-4016**.





# December 2024

Activities are subject to change.

RESIDENTIAL LIVING CENTER AT ANDERSON COUNTY HOSPITAL



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><b>1</b></p> <p>9:45 a.m. Devotional Group  <b>3:15 p.m. First United Methodist Church Service</b></p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>9 a.m. Devotional Group            10:30 a.m. Decorate for Christmas  <b>2 p.m. Karaoke   Richard</b></p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>9 a.m. Devotional Group            10:30 a.m. Lifelong Learning  <b>2:30 p.m. Blue Hat Club</b></p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>9 a.m. Devotional Group  <b>10:30 a.m. Resident Council</b>            2:30 p.m. Happy Hour            4:15 p.m. Bible Study   Josh</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>9 a.m. Devotional Group            10:30 a.m. Gingerbread Houses            2:30 p.m. Snowflake Crafts</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>9 a.m. Devotional Group            10:30 a.m. Van Ride            2:30 p.m. Bingo</p>	<p><b>Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day 7</b></p> <p>9:45 a.m. Devotional Group            10:30 a.m. Music + Coloring            2:30 p.m. Independent Activity</p>
<p> <b>8</b></p> <p>9:45 a.m. Devotional Group  <b>3:15 p.m. Trinity Baptist Church Service</b>  <b>7:20 p.m. Chargers at Chiefs</b>  <i>Broadcast on NBC</i></p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>9 a.m. Devotional Group            10:30 a.m. Wheel of Fortune            2:30 p.m. Bake Christmas Cookies</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>9 a.m. Devotional Group            10:30 a.m. Popcorn Garlands            2:30 p.m. Manicures</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>9 a.m. Devotional Group  <b>10:30 a.m. Food Committee</b>            2:30 p.m. Happy Hour            4:15 p.m. Bible Study   Josh</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>9 a.m. Devotional Group            10:30 a.m. Make Christmas Candy            6 p.m. Christmas Lights Tour</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>9 a.m. Devotional Group            10:30 a.m. Make Christmas Ornaments            2:30 p.m. Bingo</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>9:45 a.m. Devotional Group            10:30 a.m. Music + Coloring            2:30 p.m. Independent Activity</p>
<p> <b>15</b></p> <p>9:45 a.m. Devotional Group  <b>3:15 p.m. Church of the Nazarene Service</b>  <b>12 p.m. Chiefs at Browns</b>  <i>Broadcast on CBS</i></p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>9 a.m. Devotional Group            10:30 a.m. Trivia            2:30 p.m. Bake Cherry Pie</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>9 a.m. Devotional Group            10:30 a.m. Christmas Cards  <b>2:30 p.m. Men's Mugs</b></p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>9 a.m. Devotional Group  <b>10:30 a.m. Activity Council</b>            2:30 p.m. Happy Hour            4:15 p.m. Bible Study   Josh</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>9 a.m. Devotional Group            10:30 a.m. Letters to Santa            2:30 p.m. Christmas Movie</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>9 a.m. Devotional Group            10:30 a.m. Wrap Gifts            2:30 p.m. Bingo</p>	<p> <b>Winter Solstice 21</b></p> <p>9:45 a.m. Devotional Group            10:30 a.m. Music + Coloring            2:30 p.m. Independent Activity  <b>12 p.m. Texans at Chiefs</b>  <i>Broadcast on NBC</i></p>
<p><b>22</b></p> <p>9:45 a.m. Devotional Group  <b>3:15 p.m. First Christian Church Service</b></p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>9 a.m. Devotional Group            10:30 a.m. Card Bingo  <b>2:30 p.m. Christmas Party</b></p>	<p><b>Christmas Eve 24</b></p> <p>9 a.m. Devotional Group            10:30 a.m. Manicures            2:30 p.m. Christmas Carols</p>	<p><b>CHRISTMAS DAY 25</b></p> <p> <b>12 noon Chiefs at Steelers</b>  <i>Streaming on Netflix</i></p>	<p><b>Hanukkah Begins Kwanzaa Begins 26</b></p> <p>9 a.m. Devotional Group            10:30 a.m. Crafts            2:30 p.m. Make Ribbon Salad</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>9 a.m. Devotional Group            10:30 a.m. Snowball Games            2:30 p.m. Bingo</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>9:45 a.m. Devotional Group            10:30 a.m. Music + Coloring            2:30 p.m. Independent Activity</p>
<p><b>29</b></p> <p>9:45 a.m. Devotional Group  <b>3:15 p.m. Mont Ida Church Service</b></p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>9 a.m. Devotional Group            10:30 a.m. Uno            2:30 p.m. Bake Fruitcake</p>	<p><b>New Year's Eve 31</b></p> <p>9 a.m. Devotional Group            10:30 a.m. Bulletin Board            2:30 p.m. Pin the Tail on the Reindeer</p>				





## Activities with Abby

Abigail Kellerman, Activity Coordinator



We're ready to spread some holiday cheer, and now that December is here, we can officially deck the halls! It's so fun to have our residents help decorate our home for the holidays. As we complete our

Christmas crafting projects, more and more will be added to our décor.

We're all looking forward to time-honored traditions that come with the holiday season: singing Christmas carols, wrapping presents, and baking (and eating) delicious holiday treats top our list. We'll also bundle up for a drive around town to look at Christmas lights and play some silly reindeer games. Resident families should keep an eye out in the mail for a very special Christmas card coming your way.

Remember that friends and family are always welcome to visit, share a meal, and join in any of our activities. We hope you will feel right at home with us throughout the holidays and always.

If you are interested in hosting a small group for a daytime outing or have a talent or hobby you'd like to share, we'd love to hear from you! Please contact Abby at **785-204-4031** or [akellerman@saintlukeskc.org](mailto:akellerman@saintlukeskc.org).



## Favorite Christmas Memories

To get everyone into the holiday spirit, we asked residents to share their favorite thing about Christmas. Some shared a special memory or cherished family tradition, while others are looking forward to decorating, singing, and spending time with loved ones.

*Hosting my family for Christmas was special to me.*—Michiko N.

*Anything Christmas is my favorite! We always celebrated on Christmas Eve.*—Nancy S.

*I loved seeing the smiles on my kids' faces Christmas morning.*—Sonny W.

*I liked to surprise my family with special gifts for Christmas.*—Dion L.

*It was just me and my sister for Christmas. It was always so nice to have her around.*—Patrick L.

*It's so special to celebrate Jesus' birth with all my family.*—Norma N.

*I like getting to open presents!*—Marjorie M.

*My favorite thing was decorating the tree with my kids.*—Wanda Y.

*I enjoy listening to Christmas music.*—Buddy T.

*I liked tasting all the candy and sweets my wife made for Christmas!*—Rich R.

*My favorite thing about Christmas was getting to spoil everyone in my family.*—Frank F.

*Christmas was a special time when I could be home with my mom, dad, and siblings.*—Eddie L.

*I like making different Christmas crafts.*—Georgia D.

*I really enjoy spending time visiting with my loved ones around Christmastime.*—Joan H.

*I always enjoy singing Christmas carols.*—Betty Rees

*I like to drive around and look at Christmas lights!*—John D.

*The best thing about Christmas is being surrounded by family.*—Tom D.

*I love being with my kids and their families at Christmas.*—Mary L.

*I love decorating and setting the table for Christmas dinner.*—Leona H.

*I look forward to seeing my relatives this Christmas.*—Arlene B.

*I enjoy sending out Christmas cards.*—Sharon B.

*We always had a huge family Christmas with lots of laughter!*—Dixie B.

*I love baking Christmas cakes and pies.*—Betty Rockers

*I know it's Christmastime when I hear "Deck the Halls."*—Janet K.

*My favorite memories are of preparing a traditional Christmas dinner for my huge family.*—Maryanne R.



## RLC Resident Reveal

Our mystery resident from November is Mary Lewis!



Mary was born in Poplar Bluff, Missouri, in 1933, the hardest year of the depression. She was the first child born to Frieda and Arthur Buff. Her sister, Carolyn, came just a year later.

Mary's father owned a small shoe repair business, and people from all over would mail in their shoes for Arthur to fix. The store was successful, but times were still tough. "We did not have much," said Mary, "but it was more than enough."

Mary was in the third grade when WWII started, but her parents shielded the girls from its effects. She remembers playing with neighborhood children who were close in age. "We all liked playing kick-the-can and hide-and-seek. We had a wonderful childhood in Poplar Bluff!"

Mary went on to graduate from high school in 1951, then attended Missouri Baptist College where she earned a degree in English. It was during her first year of college that she started dating Charlie. Charlie graduated in the spring. That summer, he received a draft notice from the U.S. Air Force. Charlie went off to training and Mary stayed in Poplar Bluff to finish school.

Having a college education under his belt, Charlie advanced quickly to become a lieutenant radar observer on a B-29 bomber. When the Korean War ended in 1953, Charlie was stationed in Bangor, Maine. As soon as he was able to come home, they married. The next day, the couple loaded their belongings and drove more than 1500 miles northeast to Maine.

"This is when our life of moving began," said Mary, and for the next 30 years they would travel all over the world, living in places like Germany and Greece.

Mary and Charlie welcomed three daughters and a son. Mary stayed busy raising the children and bonded with other military wives. "As a military wife, it was important to be active in different clubs and exercise groups."

Charlie retired in the 1980s, and they moved back to Missouri. Shortly after, the couple separated, and later divorced. Mary settled in the Belton-Raymore area near her daughter, Karen, and began a new career as an executive assistant for Hallmark, where she worked for 16 years.

A few months ago, Mary moved to the Residential Living Center to be closer to another daughter, Jeannie. (Jeannie worked as an executive assistant at Anderson County Hospital for many years and knows that the RLC is the place to be!) Mary enjoys reading in her room, going on van rides, and joining in the different activities and events the RLC has to offer.

"I love everyone here," said Mary, "I feel like I have gained a bonus family."



Can you use these clues to unmask our mystery resident?

- I was born in Frankfurt, Germany, while my father was stationed there.
- I was in the U.S. Army for 27 years and have traveled all over the world.
- My favorite hobby through the years was rebuilding hot rods.
- At the RLC, you will find me watching TV, playing bingo, and going on any outing I can!

Find the answer and more about our mystery resident in next month's Connections!

If you would like to receive this newsletter sooner each month, please sign up for our digital edition by emailing Traci at [tplumlee@saintlukeskc.org](mailto:tplumlee@saintlukeskc.org).





# RLC Review

RECENT EVENTS  
& PHOTOS

