CONNECTIONS

at the RESIDENTIAL LIVING CENTER

November 2026



BJC Health

Saint Luke's

Anderson County Hospital

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Contact Us

Want to learn more about living in our Residential Living Center? Call us at **785-204-4049** to schedule a private tour for yourself or a loved one.



Anderson County Hospital
Residential Living Center
421 S. Maple St.
Garnett, Kansas 66032

ACHRLC@bjc.org
SaintLukesKC.org/RLC

A Few Words from Samantha

Samantha Young, Senior Manager, Residential Living Center



November marks the beginning of the season of gratitude, and we have so much to be thankful for this year, including earning a 5-Star CMS Quality Rating!

Achieving a 5-star rating is a remarkable accomplishment, and we are proud to share this news with our residents, families, staff, and community. The overall rating is based on performance in health inspections, staffing levels, and important quality measures including resident hospitalizations, medication and vaccination administration, injuries, and new or worsening health conditions.

A 5-star rating is the highest rating possible and reflects much above average quality. It is a testament to the dedication, compassion, and hard work of our team members, who strive every day to provide exceptional care and create a safe and welcoming place for our residents and their families.

Over the past year, our community has been at full capacity and so full of life, and I am incredibly thankful to serve in a role that fills my cup each day.

In this season of gratitude, I am especially grateful for our residents, their families, and the dedicated team members who make our community such a special place to call home.
—Samantha

If you or a loved one may need long-term care within the next year or two, we encourage you to call us at 785-204-4049 to schedule a tour. Our team would be glad to answer your questions, introduce you to our community, and help you explore your options. Joining our waitlist early can provide added peace of mind and ensure a smoother transition when the time is right.

Welcome New Team Members



Kaitlyn Mayes
Certified Nursing Assistant



Emma Simms
Certified Nursing Assistant



Kelcey Wendt
Certified Nursing Assistant

Culinary Corner



This potato dish looks fancy but is super easy to put together and is sure to impress your holiday guests. The sweet potatoes provide a beautiful color contrast and add a touch of sweetness that pairs so nicely with the cream and herb mixture. Those who don't care for a traditional sugary sweet potato casserole will love this one!

Calico Potato Gratin

Ingredients

2 tablespoons butter
3 medium sweet potatoes (about 2 pounds)
6 small Yukon Gold potatoes (about 2 pounds)
1 yellow onion
1 teaspoon kosher salt
½ teaspoon ground black pepper
2 garlic cloves, minced
½ teaspoon dried rosemary
½ teaspoon dried thyme
8 oz. Gruyère or sharp white cheddar cheese, grated
2 cups heavy cream or half-and-half

Substitute dried herbs with fresh varieties, or use your favorite seasoning blend, to taste.

Instructions

1. Preheat your oven to 375° F. Melt butter in a 2-quart baking dish or cast iron skillet to coat. Set aside.
2. Peel potatoes and thinly slice using a mandolin or electric food processor. Thinly slice onion.
3. In a large mixing bowl, combine sliced potatoes, sliced onion, seasonings, and grated cheese. Gently toss to coat.
4. Working with a small handful of potatoes at a time, organize into a mixed stack and line up vertically in the skillet or baking dish. Continue adding small stacks of potatoes to form a coil around the pan, filling in the middle last.
5. Pour cream over potatoes. Cover with aluminum foil and seal around edges.
6. Bake 50 minutes and remove foil. Bake an additional 15-25 minutes uncovered, or until potatoes are browned on top and tender. Enjoy!

RLC Thanksgiving

One of the highlights of the holiday season is our annual Thanksgiving dinner, and we're excited to continue this cherished tradition. We look forward to bringing residents and families together to enjoy a wonderful meal and time spent together.

This year's event will be held on Friday, Nov. 20, at 6 p.m. in the RLC dining room.

We can accommodate up to two guests per resident. Invitations and RSVP details will be sent soon.



Veterans Day Display

Be sure to visit the veterans display in the hospital's main lobby Nov. 9–13.



Help us honor veterans among our staff, volunteers, RLC residents, and their families by sharing photos or memorabilia that recognize their military service. To contribute items or learn more, stop by the nurses' desk or call Tina at 620-365-1190.

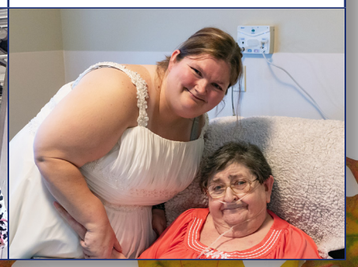
Organized by the Anderson County Hospital Spiritual Wellness Committee

RESIDENTIAL LIVING CENTER AT ANDERSON COUNTY HOSPITAL

Saint Luke's Anderson County Hospital

BJC Health

November 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 3:15 p.m. First Christian Church Service **3:25 p.m. Chiefs/Broncos —CBS**	**2** 10:30 a.m. Group Exercises 1:30 p.m. Karaoke | Richard	**Election Day 3** 10:30 a.m. Phase 10 1:30 p.m. Globe Craft	**4** **10:30 a.m. Activity Committee** 2 p.m. Happy Hour 4:15 p.m. Bible Study | Josh	**5** 10:30 a.m. Coloring & Music 1:30 p.m. Turkey Craft	**National Donut Day 6** 10:30 a.m. Watch a Movie *(Resident Choice)* 1:30 p.m. Bingo & Donuts	**7** Manicures & Music
8 3:15 p.m. Mont Ida Church Service **12 p.m. Chiefs/Jets —CBS**	**9** 10:30 a.m. Group Exercises 1:30 p.m. Milkshake Monday	**10** 10:30 a.m. Group Exercises 1:30 p.m. Noodle Ball	**Veterans Day 11** 10:30 a.m. Veterans Social 2 p.m. Happy Hour 4:15 p.m. Bible Study | Josh	**12** **10:30 a.m. Food Committee** 1:30 p.m. Hot Cocoa Bar	**13** 10:30 a.m. Bingo 1:30 p.m. Turkey Coloring Contest	**14** Music & Coloring
15 3:15 p.m. Hope Anthem Church Service **12 p.m. Chiefs/Falcons —CBS**	**16** 10:30 a.m. Guest Activity 1:30 p.m. Play Rummikub	**17** 10:30 a.m. Pumpkin Painting 1:30 p.m. Van Adventure	**18** **10:30 a.m. Resident Council** 2 p.m. Guest Activity 4:15 p.m. Bible Study | Josh	**19** 10:30 a.m. Shopping Trip 1:30 p.m. Coffee with Friends	**20** 10:30 a.m. Bingo Auction 1:30 p.m. Friday at the Movies **6 p.m. RLC Family Thanksgiving Dinner**	**21** Movie Day *(Resident Choice)*
22 3:15 p.m. Beacon House of Worship Service **12 p.m. Chiefs/Cardinals —CBS**	**23** 10:30 a.m. Group Exercises 1:30 p.m. Coloring & Music	**24** 10:30 a.m. Noodle Flowers Craft 1:30 p.m. Ice Cream Floats	**25** 10:30 a.m. Make No-Bake Cookies 2 p.m. Happy Hour 4:15 p.m. Bible Study | Josh	**Thanksgiving 26** 10:30 a.m. Watch Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade 1:30 p.m. Wii Bowling **7:15 p.m. Chiefs/Bills—NBC**	**27** 10:30 a.m. Bingo 1:30 p.m. Beading Fun	**28** Individual Activities
29 3:15 p.m. Holy Angels Catholic Church Service	**30** 10:30 a.m. Group Exercises 1:30 p.m. Card Bingo	**DAILY** **10 a.m. Devotional Group** **Activities are subject to change.**				



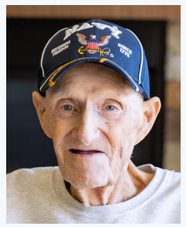
Honoring Our RLC Veterans

This Veterans Day, we are proud to recognize and honor six veterans who call the RLC home.

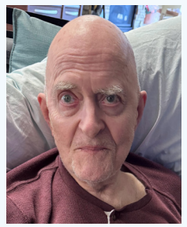
Thank you for your dedication, bravery, and commitment to our nation. Your sacrifices have helped protect the freedoms we enjoy today. We salute you.



John D.
U.S. Army



Tommy E.
U.S. Navy



Frank F.
U.S. Army



Darrel H.
U.S. Navy



Patrick L.
U.S. Marine Corps



Sonny W.
U.S. Army

Resident Spotlight: Tommy Emerson

Tommy Lee Emerson grew up in Pittsburg, Kansas, and graduated from Pittsburg High School in 1961.

At 17, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy during the Cuban Missile Crisis and was stationed aboard the aircraft carrier USS Wasp. During a holiday leave, Tommy accompanied a fellow sailor to visit his family in upstate New York. That's where he met Sally, his friend's younger sister.



Last month, Tommy had the opportunity to revisit Legends Field with his family.

Tommy was immediately smitten.

"I knew it was all over but the shoutin'," he smiled.

While Tommy was still serving in the Navy, 18-year-old Sally packed her belongings and flew to Kansas to marry him. The couple wed on Tommy's 20th birthday and went on to raise two children, Tommy Jr. and Christi. On Nov. 28, Tommy and Sally will celebrate both their 63rd wedding anniversary and Tommy's 83rd birthday.

After his Navy discharge, Tommy returned to Pittsburg and took a job as a police officer. While he valued the work, he soon realized it wasn't where his passion lay. Tommy loved building things and working with his hands. After five years, he and Sally moved to Kansas City so he could pursue a career in construction.

After gaining valuable experience in the industry, Tommy decided to strike out on his own.

"I started my company with my first unemployment check," he says.

Tee Jay Construction was a partnership between Tommy and his uncle, John, who was five years younger than him. What began as a small home remodeling business eventually grew into a very successful company.

As a project manager and subcontractor for Titan Construction, Tommy worked on numerous large-scale projects throughout the Kansas City area, including Louisburg High School and the Johnson County Criminal Justice Building in Olathe.

His most memorable project was helping build the minor league baseball stadium now known as Legends Field in Kansas City, Kansas.

"They were on a tight timeline and wanted it done in 10 months," Tommy says. To meet the deadline, he hired two contractors to work simultaneously.

"They both started at home plate," he explains. "One worked toward third base and the other worked toward first base. Nobody believed they'd line up at the end, but they met in center field exactly where they were supposed to. It worked out perfectly."

Life took a turn when daughter Christi married, moved to Garnett, and welcomed the family's first grandchild.

"I drove from Overland Park every evening after work just to hold that baby," Tommy says. "Finally, we decided we'd buy a place in Garnett so we could be closer." For the next two years, Tommy commuted from Garnett to Kansas City for work before retiring.

Tommy has played an active role in the lives of his two grandchildren and now delights in spending time with his two great-grandchildren.

"I never missed anything those grandkids did. Not one iota!"

Even in retirement, Tommy remained busy. He worked as a consultant during construction of the new Garnett Elementary School and later served as interim maintenance director. He retired for a second time just before his 80th birthday due to declining health.

Tommy was an active member of the American Legion and Forty & Eight, serving in state and national leadership positions. He was especially honored to participate in an Honor Flight through a program coordinated by Central Heights High School.

Recently, Tommy moved to the RLC for additional care and support. He can often be found working on a jigsaw puzzle and enjoys participating in community activities. While he likes the musical entertainment, he insists he has no plans to join in the singing.

"I'm treated wonderfully here," he says. "It doesn't matter what time it is, day or night, they check in on me. I'm very appreciative."

Navigating the Holidays with Grief and Grace

Susan Hawk, LMSW, Saint Luke's Home Care & Hospice



The holidays are often wrapped in images of joy, celebration, and treasured traditions. But for families caring for a loved one with a terminal illness or grieving the loss of someone dear, this season can feel very different. Familiar songs and festive gatherings may bring comfort while also serving as reminders of what has changed. In these moments, it is natural to feel a mix of emotions, including sadness, gratitude, loneliness, hope, love, and even joy. All those feelings can exist side by side, and each one deserves grace.

If someone you love is seriously ill, try letting go of expectations and instead focusing on what matters most: being together. A meal shared around the table, a beloved holiday movie, or a quiet conversation can become special memories. Allow your loved one's comfort, energy, and wishes to guide your plans, and remember that simple moments of connection can be just as meaningful as long-standing traditions.

For those who have lost a loved one, grief can feel especially intense during the holidays, whether that loss occurred recently or years ago. Many families find comfort in creating new, meaningful traditions to honor the memory of loved ones. Consider lighting a candle, hanging a special ornament, displaying a favorite photo, or preparing a cherished recipe. You may even want to leave an empty chair or place setting for someone who's missing from your table as a way to outwardly acknowledge their presence in your heart.

Above all, be gentle with yourself. Give yourself permission to celebrate, grieve, reflect, and rest in whatever way feels right. The holidays may look different this year, but they can still be filled with comfort, connection, cherished memories, and love.

If you or your family are facing the challenges of terminal illness or grief during the holiday season, please know that you do not have to walk this path alone. Saint Luke's Home Care & Hospice is ready to provide the support, comfort, and guidance you need.

To learn more, call our Garnett office at 785-448-2573 or visit: SaintLukesKC.org/Hospice









RLC Review

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