

Blooming and growing

Have you ever heard the saying, “bloom where you’re planted?” I’m guessing that most of us have heard this statement at one time or another during our lives. I interpret this expression as, “enjoy your life today.”


Can you bloom where you are planted right now? I mean, really grow vibrantly? If you are unsure or don’t think your current situation provides the setting you need, then consider Touchmark as your new environment for growth.

If you haven’t experienced “self-blooming” in awhile, come for a day and visit. We are experts at “blooming” and will be happy to reintroduce you to the experience!

Please call 920-832-9100, and tell them you are answering the Touchmark ad that reads, “Bloomers Wanted!” ■



Warmly,



Amy Jo Powers
Executive Director

A life of giving

“We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.” — Winston Churchill

As people across the country recognize National Volunteer Week this month, Touchmark salutes all the volunteers who make a difference by sharing their time and talent. Residents, community members, ministers, high school students, staff, and community groups all enrich the lives of others.

Thank you resident volunteers!

Touchmark residents actively participate in a multitude of organizations and contribute to several community causes, such as the local food pantries, Fox Cities Convention & Visitors Bureau, Salvation Army bell ringers, Golden K Kiwanis, area businesses, and more.

Residents generously give their time, talents, and energy to enrich the Touchmark community, as well. They lead groups, assist with events and refreshments, set up for games, teach foreign language groups, help guide special committees, decorate cookies, provide

woodworking, staining, and upholstery expertise, make “secret service projects” gifts for neighbors, write pen pal notes to area school children, offer friendship and assistance to neighbors, and more. *(cont.)*



Resident Betty McDonal (left) and Pastor Judy Deckert of Grace Lutheran Church help with the church service that is held at Touchmark. Betty plays the organ for the service, and Judy volunteers as a minister twice a month. (Betty also plays the piano in the lobby for people’s enjoyment.)

(cont.) **Thank you community volunteers!**

Groups and organizations from the Appleton area offer their services, skills, and talents to the Touchmark community. These organizations include:

- volunteer ministry staff who lead ecumenical church services, which are an extension of Grace Lutheran Church, St. Bernard Catholic Church, St. Thomas More, and an



Volunteer Chris Hammerstad calls bingo. Chris, who is the volunteer coordinator for the Appleton Area Newcomer’s Club, faithfully organizes members of her group to serve at Touchmark. “I enjoy volunteering, because it is rewarding, helps others, and is fulfilling,” says Chris. “It’s fun to share their excitement, stories, and joy.” The Newcomer’s Club members help with special events, decorating, birthday parties, shopping, special services, and bingo.

independent Eucharistic minister, who is a family member of a resident;

- students from Xavier High School and Appleton West;
- The Appleton Area Newcomer’s Club and our local 4-H troop.

Thank you staff volunteers!

Touchmark team members accompany residents on outings, provide musical entertainment in the lobby, offer suggestions on interior decorating and plant knowledge, and more. Staff volunteering not only enhances residents’ lives, but adds vibrancy to the staff members’ lives, as well.

If you’d like to get involved as a volunteer, please call 920-832-9100 and ask for Bobbie or Mary. ■

Changing lives—affecting communities



Marge Coalman, EdD
Vice President of
Wellness & Programs,
Touchmark

There is general consensus from researchers that older adults who consistently participate in activities with youth have very little awareness of the major contributions they are making to the culture of communities. That one-hour-per-week commitment helping an underachieving reader; teaching

a child to knit or crochet; making and baking cookies, or tutoring the struggling math student may seem like a small contribution in light of the many hours spent on other endeavors. But in the aggregate, the impact is enormous

“The following principles have been put forward regarding the civic engagement movement in the second half of life: opportunities should reflect choice, not coercion; meaningful engagement, not exploitation; opportunity, not obligation; and intergenerational benefit.”

—Patrick Cullinane, MS

The intergenerational programs at Touchmark encourage skill building, shared interests, adventure, and friendships. An obvious benefit is the relationships established among the residents and youth. Less obvious but nonetheless beneficial outcomes of intergenerational programming have been studied around the world by the Center for Intergenerational Learning at Temple University. They include improvements in: *(cont.)*

- (cont.) • Academic achievement, school behavior, and life skills of middle-school youth;
- Reading skills of young children;
 - Attitudes of high school and college students toward community service and the elderly;
 - Parenting skills;
 - Caregiver stress;
 - Well-being of older adults.

If you're interested in sharing your talents and changing a young person's life while making a genuine difference in communities, contact Touchmark's Life Enrichment/Wellness department. You'll find opportunities both on our campus and in the broader community. Program offerings include one-to-one, small groups, and large sessions with children and youth of all ages. ■

You said it!

"I'm very fortunate to have such a nice, clean home to retire in. I'm getting so spoiled here."

Char Copps
—Resident

"I haven't found a meal I didn't like."

Lillian Gitter
—Resident

A lifestyle with heart

For more than 30 years, the country has celebrated National Volunteer Week in April. For residents, staff, and friends of Touchmark, volunteerism is celebrated throughout the year.

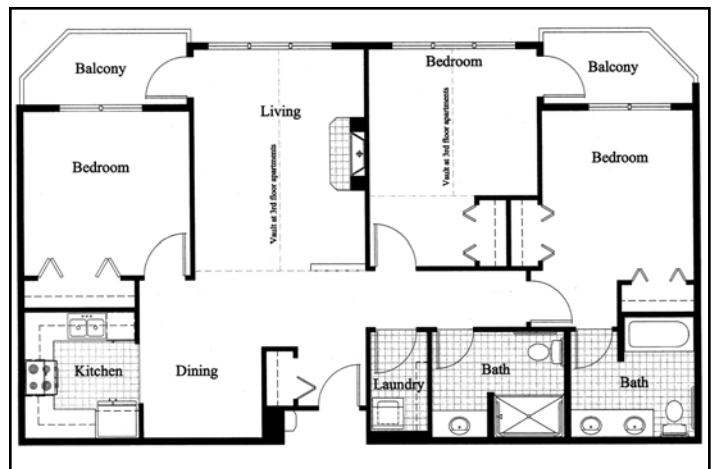
Touchmark on West Prospect welcomes volunteers and provides opportunities for people to assist with programs and services, such as resident committees, musical entertainment, social events, and more. People

use their unique skills and rich backgrounds to help create a vibrant community. Read the story on page one to learn how Touchmark volunteers are making a difference.

Call today to learn more about Touchmark's active lifestyle and spacious homes. ■



The Madison home (2590 Touchmark Court) offers 1,844 square feet, three bedrooms, and two bathrooms. The beautiful open floor plan features cathedral ceilings in the living room and tray ceilings in both the formal dining room and master suite. Enjoy the upcoming summer by relaxing in the sunroom that overlooks a picturesque, wooded backyard.



This 1,305-square-foot floor plan features cathedral ceilings in the living room, a fireplace, and balcony. It also has a large laundry room. Call for your personal presentation today.

Recent events



Paul Krafft (left) and Clay Liddell visit with Joey, the baby kangaroo. Joey, a baby goat, exotic birds, and a spider monkey from Special Memories Zoo, which is located in Greenville, Wisconsin, recently visited Touchmark.



June Jones marvels at how cute a “kid” can be.



Residents had a grand ol’ time at the Hillbilly (Mock) Wedding. The bride (Barb Leslie) was in “a family way” and had three grooms, who all were bidding for her hand. It was finally decided when the father of the bride, shotgun in hand, said that she better pick one and run down the isle. She ended up with her true love (and real-life husband) Stu Leslie. A reception and old-fashioned chivaree followed. Stu carries a big fishing catch in one hand and his “Best Catch, 1950” on the other arm.

Coming Events

Friday, April 18, 10:30 am to 4 pm

Garden & Floral Event. Learn from inspiring speakers about gardening, specialty plants, and personal growth. There will be door prizes, a complimentary floral gift for each participant, and music by The Live Weyers at 3 pm. Enjoy a garden fresh lunch with the

purchase of a prepaid \$10 ticket. Reservation required. Call Kay at 920-832-9100.

Thursday, April 30, 2 pm

Lawrence University presenter Mark Breseman will share about opportunities at Björklunden vid Sjön in Door County. Learn about the intellectually invigorating opportunities that are available to you this summer. No charge.

LET YOUR SPIRIT SOAR

Writers, photographers, and poets live and work in Touchmark communities; some of their talent and creativity is featured in the newsletter.

Speaking volumes

By **Jerri Pitelka, Resident**

“A PICTURE SAYS A THOUSAND WORDS” is true of a recent visit to our fifth-grade pen pals at Butte des Morts Elementary School and the photographs of that great day.

I went there with a few other people from Touchmark to deliver the special Valentine’s Day cards and treats that we made in Arts & Crafts. It was fun for me to visit, because I always have enjoyed volunteering with younger children. You see, younger children have always been a joy to me. This is why my husband and I opened our own child-care center. Can you believe that when we stopped the business we had over 200 children? What a fun time that was!

I also think that it is important to volunteer your time, because people are always looking for a connection—no matter what their age. I used to be very active with my church and went to visit people in need and keep company with those in the hospital.

The picture of me with the fifth-grade children is priceless, because it shows real happiness. Also, the picture shows that we can all make new friends no matter what your age. I keep this picture along with many others in my apartment at Touchmark, because they are great memories and bring me enjoyment. It made my day that morning we went to visit our pen pals.



Resident Jerri Pitelka visits her pen pals at Butte des Morts Elementary School.

May’s focus is personal discovery; the deadline is April 25.