



# Together

Spring 2022 Newsletter

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## A Mission of Grace

In the past two or three months, I have found myself being tired, weary, and at times having a short emotional fuse. I keep wondering, “Why am I feeling this way?”

It’s in the moments like this that the little voice on my shoulder says, “Really, Stan, just think about it!” So I reflect on the past two years:

- Two years in COVID-19 crisis management
- A sewer spill that caused Timbercrest to have its own internally displaced people
- Construction projects all about our campus
- War in Eastern Europe that threatens life even more than we imagined



These events are enough for anyone to feel stressed. But the drive to continue remains.

More than one of you have said, referring to the pandemic, “I’ll bet you never signed up for this!” Pandemic specifically, that is true, but a leader *does* sign up for times just like this. Sometimes knowing one must lead can propel communities to thrive in times of crisis. But leaders, like those in the community, are human. I confess having times of doubt and disillusion. I’ve wondered when it will all end. Tears occasionally find their way to my eyes, wishing we could emerge from the hardship of this time. This is a powerful emotion. It is a valid emotion. We are in the thick of it, so why would we not all feel this way now?

We are not the first people to experience the emotions of a troubling time. The circumstances have been different, but the raw emotion we are experiencing, is age-old.

In the reading from the Gospel of Luke, we find Jesus traveling to Jerusalem. The scripture tells of Him weeping with painful sobs. He knew the fate that lay ahead of Him and the difficulties His followers would face in the days and years to come. But He went anyway.

We have the privilege of knowing the end to Jesus’ story. But what of our own? Of the Timbercrest Community? Maybe we just don’t know the way that makes for peace in our time. Maybe we do, but we are not able to see the way forward through the heartache.

We share in the grief over the isolation and threat we have felt during this pandemic and in the disruptions in our community. May we invite the Spirit of God to soften our hearts, even as we renew our firm commitment to his mission of grace and peace as we seek to love the Lord our God, and our neighbor as our self.

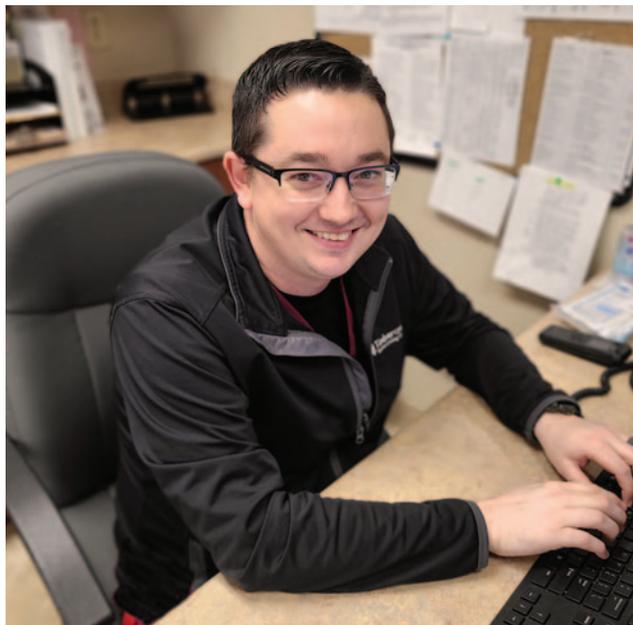
—Stanley Noffsinger, CEO



# Navigating a Pandemic

By Heather Cruz

Senior living communities all over the world were jolted in the spring of 2020 by the introduction of the coronavirus. What quickly became known as COVID-19 became an all-intrusive part of daily life in long-term care facilities. Regulations have always required the existence of an infection control program, but the onset of the pandemic quickly mandated the employment of a certified Infection Control Preventionist. Brent Swan, LPN, holds a Bachelor's degree in Healthcare Administration from Indiana Wesleyan University and had been overseeing the infection control program prior to the start of the pandemic. Brent has been a nurse at Timbercrest for almost six years, transitioning from a floor nurse to Infection Control in September of 2019.



When COVID-19 arrived he completed a licensure course through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to become a certified Infection Control Preventionist.

The announcement of a worldwide pandemic brought great changes to the role. Prior to the arrival of coronavirus, most infection control tasks Brent performed were centered on tracking "typical" infections found in long-term care. This included reporting findings and determining what areas should be focused on in the future. With the onset of COVID-19, the scope of his Infection Control Preventionist role greatly widened. Any and all respiratory illness in residents and staff now had to be tracked, and all positive cases had to be coordinated with the local health department and Indiana Department of Health (IDH). Regulations and procedures surrounding coronavirus were rapidly changing as the world grappled with understanding the mechanics of the new virus, and the Infection Control Preventionist was in charge of tracking and interpreting those, as well as conveying them to the entire staff. The program grew

from tracking the usual infections to coordinating and completing nearly 10,000 COVID tests among residents and staff since the spring of 2020.

As Timbercrest enters the third spring affected by the pandemic, the focus is shifting to regain a sense of normalcy. The availability of vaccines, boosters and oral medications aimed to prevent serious illness has allowed a less restrictive approach to COVID regulations. There is a worldwide acceptance that coronavirus is likely to be around for a long time, and Brent's role is more predicated upon making sure Timbercrest has the means to stem widespread transmission in the event of a positive test in a resident or employee. This is a welcome change for everyone, including Brent. He states that without question, the most challenging part of his role was balancing

regulations from governing bodies with the emotional and social well-being of residents and their families, as well as employees. He agrees professionally that the strict regulations were put in place with the best of intentions to prevent the spread of COVID. His diligence, and the hard work of the staff, has allowed Timbercrest to greatly mitigate the presence of coronavirus in our community. However, the personal affect has not been lost on him. Brent's own grandmother was a Timbercrest resident near the onset of the pandemic. Explaining to his grandfather why he couldn't come inside to visit definitely shed a different light on the situation, and illuminated how regulations potentially affected the population we are entrusted to care for.

Brent continues to navigate still-changing regulations and ensures that Timbercrest is compliant. When he catches a moment to breathe, he is able to reflect on how much his role has changed since he accepted the Infection control position several years ago. Timbercrest is grateful to Brent, as well as the management team, for all the hard work and additional tasks they have taken on to keep our community safe.



# Bloom Where You Are Planted

By Heather Cruz

Danna Walter brought a beautiful talent to Timbercrest.

Her Irish heritage provided her with two green thumbs that she has used to toil in beautiful gardens for decades. Beginning in 1983, her work was wonderfully displayed at the home she shared with her husband, Kevin, until their move to Timbercrest in 2018. Danna has always been willing to share what she had learned, occasionally presenting at churches and fairs. Danna also served as President of the local Garden Club for a time, where she and the others lent their skills to beautify the North Manchester community. In 2006, after years of garnering an understanding of gardening, she pursued a Master Gardener certification through the Purdue Extension Office.

Danna didn't start as a master gardener though. Her passion sprouted slowly, over a matter of years. At the age of 10, after the loss of her mother, Danna moved to the country with her father. She immediately noticed the beautiful flowers in the yard. She had heard them called flags, and later came to know them as irises. That was her first hint of interest in gardening. Her interest grew and in college she began collecting plant starts from friends.

After the purchase of their home on Sycamore Street, Danna went to work painting her property with colorful gardens that seemed to grow every year. She mixed larkspur, poppies, gas plant and a myriad of other specimens to create bright gardens that seemed to sparkle in the sun. Danna spent countless hours carving paths and pairing plants on every extra bit of yard she could sacrifice. As her children outgrew their swing set, even it was repurposed in to an arbor that supported beautiful blooms year after year.

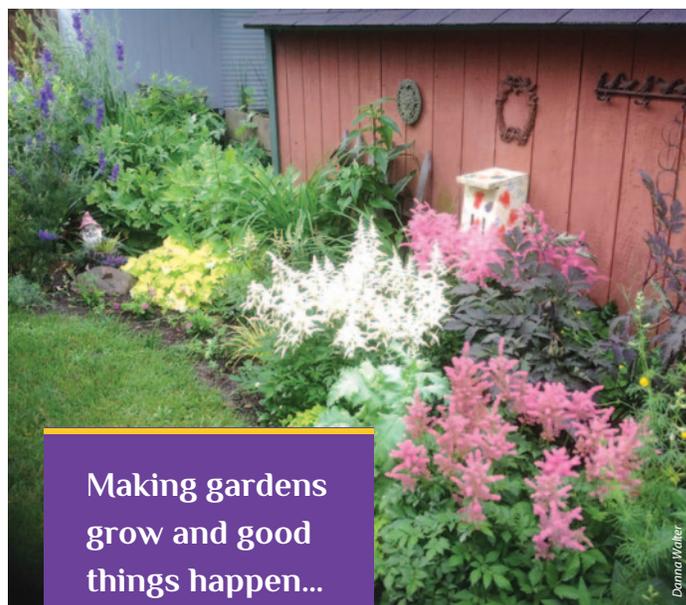
Her care for delicate things isn't limited to plants and flowers. Danna is also a Registered Nurse, working both in hospitals and senior living communities while her children were in school. Obtaining her Master Gardener

certification wasn't a summit for Danna, either. She continued, at the pace of 35 hours per year of continued education, to obtain a Silver level Master Gardener certification by 2019.

When it came time to move, Danna knew her new home had to allow some room for her master craft. She wouldn't be whole without dirt to cultivate and a blank canvas to develop. Her Timbercrest Neighborhood Home has an area that was turned in to a small garden. Although noticeably smaller than the garden on Sycamore, Danna has brought it to life beautifully.

Danna has much praise for many of her neighbors and their superb gardening skills, and she counts herself lucky to have landed among like-minded people.

Danna's home, and many surrounding her, are beautiful examples of how those that live at Timbercrest play a key role in elevating the campus. Their expertise, procured through years of hard work and learning, make the community more enjoyable for all that live and visit.



Making gardens grow and good things happen... together!

# A Lot of Life, and a Lot of Love

With roots winding back to 1889, Timbercrest has long been an example of longevity. The individuals that reside at Timbercrest have boasted long, exemplary lives, with countless residents living well past 100 years of age. Currently, of the 247 residents that live among the manor and Neighborhood Homes, 85, or 34%, are 90 years of age or older. That impressive number is only outdone by the six residents that are centenarians. The oldest resident at Timbercrest will celebrate 107 wonderful years of life in May!

It's not just the residents posting remarkable numbers. Currently the employees of Timbercrest and Morrison have a combined employment length of nearly 1,150 years. Of 168 employees, 27 have given 15 years of service or more. Eight of those dedicated individuals have been a part of the Timbercrest family for 25 or more years.

Timbercrest is grateful for every day of service that leads to years of love and care for the residents of our community. Each day, month, and year is as important as the next. The employees working to gain one year are as valuable in the day to day operations as the employee with 44 years! Some employees really have reached milestones that deserve extra celebration.

## 30+ years

**Pam Long** .....44  
**Melissa Shorter** ....39  
**Donna Hartog** .....39  
**Janice Bradley** ....34  
**Jenny Taylor** .....33

## 20-30 years

**Robin Dale** .....28  
**Christy Huiras** .....28  
**Alison Creager** .....25  
**Brian Daniels** .....24  
**Kathy Gahl** .....23  
**Tracey Van Dalsen** .23  
**Beth Wilson** .....23  
**Shelly Vautaw** .....22  
**Nicole Neal** .....22  
**Kathy Dingess** .....21  
**Hilary Wagoner** ...20



**Pam Long**  
*"Timbercrest has become my second family."*



**Melissa Shorter**  
*"One of my favorite things is the relationships we build and the fond memories of the residents I have met over the years."*



**Donna Hartog**  
*"I have enjoyed so many years because we make a difference in the residents' lives every day."*



**Janice Bradley**  
*"I believe God has planted me at Timbercrest to serve and enrich the lives of older adults."*



**Jenny Taylor**  
*"I am enriched every day by hearing resident's stories, learning how they were in a time before the present. Sometimes they can turn my day around with just a few words. I am honored to show them love and care in this season of their lives."*

# A Sparkling Spring Clean All Year Long

By Heather Cruz

For a building, one of the greatest impacts on first impressions is the cleanliness. This is incredibly true for a senior living community, as this is home to everyone living here. A critical piece of success in creating a comfortable environment to live, and visit, is the housekeeping and laundry departments. Timbercrest has long taken pride in the upkeep of our facilities, rivaled only by the care we strive to provide the residents. These departments are responsible for the cleanliness and sanitation of every surface and each piece of laundry. That huge task is distributed among a group of only 14 people. The dedicated individuals follow a rigorous schedule of routine cleaning that is often interrupted by immediate needs that can arise at any time.



Kindra McClure, Director of Housekeeping and Laundry, has been a part of the Timbercrest service team for 11 years, both as a housekeeper and a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) before acquiring the director position. Her different roles have given her different perspectives that prove valuable in her current leadership role. With many years as a housekeeper, she understands fully the challenges her employees face on a daily basis. She knows what tools they need to do their jobs effectively and understands the frustrations as well as the fulfillment that comes from doing such acts of service. Her time as a CNA gave her greater appreciation for the work that the housekeeping and laundry teams do, and how it impacts how everyone else is able to do

their jobs. She learned to provide for the residents at a greater, more personal level and understands the importance of every employee taking their job personally and performing at their best.

Cleanliness has always been incredibly important at Timbercrest, and the pandemic has increased that focus exponentially. Every touched surface must be sanitized multiple times throughout the day. Policies and procedures have been reviewed and reimagined to make it possible for the teams to conquer such a monumental task.

The small things the members of these teams complete every day add up. Their hospitality touches so many parts of the resident experience, making it feel like home.

Next time you are visiting and see someone wiping down a surface or using a vacuum, consider thanking them for their hard work and dedication on each shift, as they have definitely earned it.

Thank you to all that add to Timbercrest's sparkle!



## Housekeeping

Rebecca Brown  
Angela Brubaker  
Robin Dale  
Helen Hile  
Kaylee Pace  
Michelle Shrock  
Jo Swisher

## Laundry

Debby Barrett  
Maggie Gang  
Regina Elliott  
Pam Rhoades  
Nikki Walls  
Ronda Williams

# The Rewards of Giving Now

by Steve Hammer  
Timbercrest Board of Directors

As we look to the future, many of us have included charities that are dear to our heart in our estate planning process. Our intent may be to share the “left-overs” from a lifetime of accumulation with organizations that reflect our values and priorities. Perhaps, instead of waiting, we might consider for a moment the rewards of sharing today.

While we know Timbercrest will honor the intentions of our bequest, seeing it put to work now is a special joy. Lifetime giving offers us the thrill of actually seeing our dream become a reality. It is a chance for us to witness our life’s work and accomplishments create possibility in others’ lives.

As a practical matter, lifetime contributions to Timbercrest can reduce our income tax liabilities. Your tax advisor can help guide your charitable planning, and for donors with IRAs, the tax savings are especially appealing. Appreciated assets offer an added opportunity.

The sooner Timbercrest is able to use your contribution, the sooner all of us – current, and future, residents and staff – can benefit from improvements, new initiatives, and broader support of seniors needing assistance.



**For more information on giving to Timbercrest, including bequests and gift annuities, contact Stanley Noffsinger at 260-982-2118.**

**To give a gift online, visit [www.timbercrest.org](http://www.timbercrest.org).**

## Special Thanks

On the last day of November 2021, Timbercrest experienced a significant sewer backup. It necessitated the relocation of residents and their belongings from 13 apartments. Work has only just begun as plumbers remove and replace water pipes in E Wing and remove and replace all water shutoff valves in each apartment. Timbercrest is working closely with the insurance

adjuster and project managers to finalize bids for all the remaining renovations, which are extensive.

A special thanks to the **Liberty Mills Church of the Brethren** and the **Manchester Church of the Brethren** for significant gifts to help offset the \$50,000 deductible. Their generosity comes at a time when Timbercrest is experiencing the financial impact of the pandemic and a high vacancy rate.

If you or your congregation wants to support Timbercrest with this unexpected and untimely expense, send your gift designated for “Water Damage Renovations” to Timbercrest, 2201 East Street, North Manchester, IN 46962. Thank you in advance for your support.



# Whole Person Wellness

As a senior living community, Timbercrest is highly aware of the importance of personal wellness. As a provider of around the clock health care, the physical approach to wellness is a given. However, being a home to seniors since 1889, much has been learned about the other aspects of wellness, including psychological, emotional, social and spiritual. Timbercrest's dedicated staff commit to continued education in these areas, vastly enriching the lives of all.

Timbercrest offers activities and events that appeal to a wide array of tastes and interests. On any given month, the calendar is filled with something for everyone. There are activities that cater to hobbies, such as billiards, sewing, and ceramics. Other groups meet to explore mutual interests, such as book club, memoir writing, and learning how to paint from a local artist. Devotions, a time of interdenominational worship, and EvenSong, a time for inspiration and reflection, are aimed to meet spiritual needs, along with numerous other events each month. For all those



that aim to stay active, daily exercise classes are available and include strength training, Tai Chi, and Walking Club, among others.

Other happenings are peppered through the month as well. Sweet treats are often up for grabs. Shopping and dining out are available to anyone that is interested. The Program and Services department does a great job of sprinkling fun days in, often related to a holiday or other special event.

All of this barely scratches the surface of all that is available at Timbercrest. The campus is beautiful

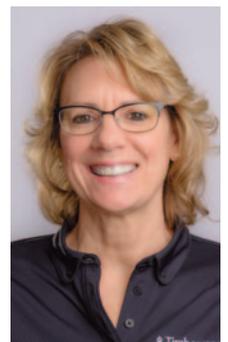
to explore on its own, and the greater community of North Manchester offers swimming, golf, and other activities just minutes away.

More than just maintenance-free living, Timbercrest knows how important it is to tend the whole individual.

If being a part of an active and involved community is what is important to you, call and schedule a tour of Timbercrest today.

**Mary Beth Gast**

Director of Admissions  
mbgast@timbercrest.org  
260-982-2118  
www.timbercrest.org





*Sustaining a vibrant community that  
values a culture of dignity and compassion.*



260-982-2118 • [www.timbercrest.org](http://www.timbercrest.org)

**Our Mission**

Building a trustworthy, collaborative,  
and innovative future together.

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