Kirsten Lundgren has lived at Valley View Village in Des Moines, Iowa since 2010 and donates generously to her community. In this interview, she and Cassia Vice President of Philanthropy Matt Crawford share thoughts on giving.

Continued inside...

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For more information, please contact Corporate Director of Adult Day Services Gail Skoglund at Gail.Skoglund@cassialife.org or 612-843-4940.

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Live Oaks Community Church Welcomes Trinity Springs Residents and Others in “Encore Years”

If you’re a congregant, you’re familiar with encore, which usually offers the last, best songs of the evening. At Live Oaks Community Church in The Villages, Florida, people say they’re experiencing their encore years and want to use their time for giving to others.

Thelma grew up in Minneapolis near Lake Nokomis, living in the house where she was born most of her life. She loves photography and can talk at length about light, camera angles and composition.

Thelma wants to share the joy she experiences as a resident at our Minneapolis campus. She is a mentor to students such as Katherine Tilton from Augsburg College. Katherine, who is learning how to become a physician assistant, visits Thelma to learn about older adults. In turn, Katherine finds a willing listener and friend who teaches her a lot about life.

Giving comes naturally to Thelma. “When I donate to Cassia, I know it’s going to someone who needs it,” she says. “That makes me feel good about my life.” It’s why Thelma chose to include the organization in her long-term plans with an estate gift in memory of her brother, James “Jim” Joy.”

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Live Oaks Community Church began with a couple who moved to the retirement community The Villages from Green Bay, Wisconsin. They purposefully attended the Evangelical Free Church in Wisconsin and missed worshipping there. After contacting the church’s district supervisor, they connected with Pastor Chris Holck, who was researching Boomer Generation ministries.

When the Baptist retirement community Prairie Pointe opened in summer 2018 on the Baptist Health Care Center campus, Phyllis Rockefeller and her husband were among the first residents. “We’re not regretting it one minute,” Phyllis says. “The staff is fantastic and nobody is a stranger here. We are all close.”

Life-changing Gifts

What’s the best way to leave a legacy conveying your values while helping others for generations to come? Gifts by bequest enable us to improve the quality of life for those who give so much of themselves. Donations may be made using cash, securities, IRA and other retirement accounts, real estate or tangible personal property.

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Giving to Friends, Neighbors and Community

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What brought you to Valley View?

Kirsten: My brother and his wife lived here many years, and I visited often. When I could no longer live at home, it made sense to be here. This is a real community where everyone takes care of each other. I have a feeling everybody is happy to be at Valley View.

You’ve been a generous supporter of Valley View. Why?

Kirsten: I feel we all should contribute to the well-being of the community. Donations really make a difference in people’s lives—for example, I helped support a new skilled nursing building. It provides more privacy, new equipment, and even helps with hiring. That’s good for everyone!

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How do donations help those we serve?

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We are grateful to Thelma for everything she does to help others. Thank you, Thelma, for your kindness and generosity.

If you would like to support Thelma’s commitment to helping others, you can make a donation to Cassia’s mission.”
If you could answer one question from donors across the organization, what would it be?

Matt: Don't ask me to answer that one. That’s a loaded question. How do donations help those we serve?

With just 50 apartments, Prairie Pointe has a cozier atmosphere than larger assisted living settings. Residents can choose specific services they need and are not charged for services they do not use. Prairie Pointe is also one of the few communities offering an option called basic care, which can be paid by Medicaid in case residents outlive their funds.

Those who require skilled nursing have access to all the care available at Baptist Health Care Center. Couples with differing needs can now see each other daily. At Prairie Pointe, a trained personal care team is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to help with bathing, dressing, taking medications and other tasks. To learn more, contact Melanie Soupir at Cassialife.org or call 701-401-5770.

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Stones Throw Golf Course, Milaca, MN

Benefiting: Elim Care & Rehab, (Milaca, MN)

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Wild Marsh Golf Course, Buffalo, MN

Benefiting: Lakeside Oasis, End of Life (Buffalo, MN)

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The Wilds Golf Club, Prior Lake, MN

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The Links at Northfork, Ramsey, MN

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Cornerstone Assisted Living (Plymouth, MN)

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