



EVENGLOW  
*Legacy Foundation*

# A Year of Impact, a Year of Home

2024 - 2025 IMPACT REPORT



*“I can't express how much respect and love we both encountered during my mother's years at Evenglow. We were all family.”*

— THOMAS MORRISON, FAMILY MEMBER

# Here, We're All Family

As another year draws to a close at Evenglow Senior Living, I am filled with gratitude for the **continued generosity of supporters like you.**

The word that comes to mind when I reflect on our recent accomplishments is **progress.**

With your gifts, our community has grown tremendously— not only in size and space, but also in the quality and breadth of the services we offer to our seniors and their families.

Over the past two years, Evenglow has truly settled into its beautiful new Lodge—filling every corner with life, laughter, and heartwarming moments shared by residents, volunteers, and staff alike. We installed the Growing Evenglow donor wall—a beautiful display of generosity for all to see. We earned the prestigious Eagle Accreditation for the 30th year, honored our caregivers, celebrated milestone 100<sup>th</sup> birthdays, and so much more.

**And while your gifts kept Evenglow moving forward, they also kept many seniors in the homes they love.** Our Secure Living Fund, which is sustained by philanthropy, helps residents afford to remain here at Evenglow when they outlive their financial assets.

All of this, and so much more to look forward to! In the words of Thomas Morrison, whose quote you read on the cover, we are all family here at Evenglow—***especially donors like you.***

Thank you for giving our seniors the precious gift of home.

With gratitude,



**Cindy Wegner**  
President & CEO  
Evenglow Senior Living



## 2025 Evenglow Board of Trustees

**MaLinda Hillman**  
CHAIR

**Robert Walter**  
CHAIR ELECT

**Sharon Arnold**  
TREASURER

**Virginia Dunning**  
SECRETARY

**Tom Ewing**  
BOARD MEMBER

**Carlo J Flessner**  
PAST CHAIR

**Deborah Howard**  
BOARD MEMBER

**Alberta Kinate**  
BOARD MEMBER

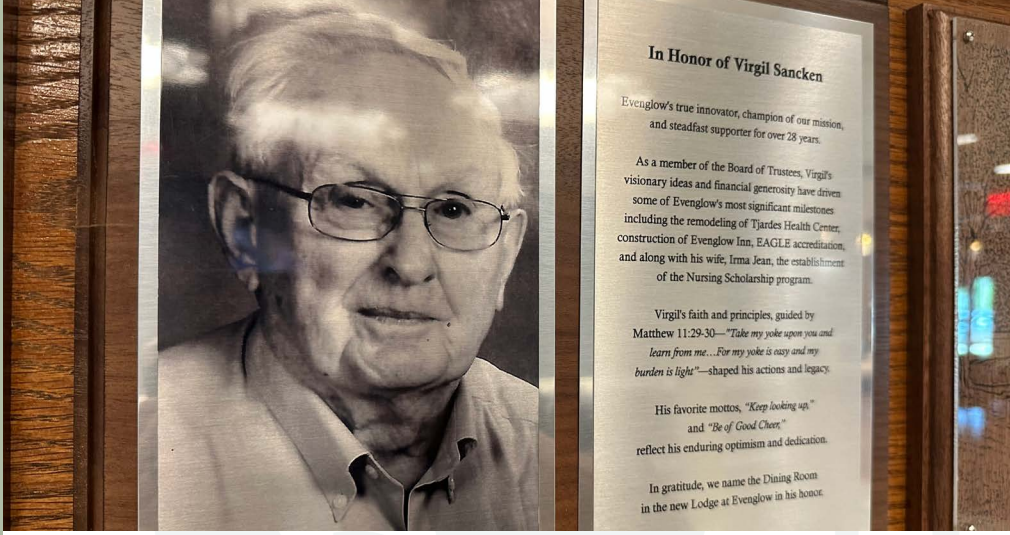
**Douglas McCoy**  
STRATEGY PLANNING  
TASK FORCE CHAIR

**Doug Swartz**  
BOARD MEMBER

**H. Wayne Taylor**  
BOARD MEMBER

**John Trewartha**  
A&E CHAIR

**Joe Vaughan**  
P&R CHAIR



## Honoring the Memory of Virgil Sancken

On May 23, just before residents gathered in the Lodge dining room for lunch, a **special naming ceremony took place in honor of the late Virgil Sancken**—Evenglow’s true innovator, champion of our mission, and steadfast supporter for over 28 years.

As a member of the Board of Trustees, Virgil’s visionary ideas and financial generosity have driven some of Evenglow’s most significant milestones, including the remodeling of the Tjardes Health Center, construction of the Inn, EAGLE accreditation, and—along with his wife, Irma Jean—the establishment of the Nursing Scholarship Program.

Joined at the ceremony by many of Virgil’s family members, Cindy Wegner, Evenglow President & CEO, **presented a beautiful plaque to be placed in the newly named Virgil Sancken Dining Room** to keep his spirit and memory alive.

The plaque is adorned with some of Virgil’s favorite phrases, including “keep looking up” and “be of good cheer”—reflecting his enduring optimism and dedication.

We are grateful to everyone who helped make this ceremony possible, and especially to Virgil, **who made a permanent mark on our hearts and our home here at Evenglow.**



Greg Sancken (Virgil’s son) with his wife and kids, Marshall Sancken (Virgil’s brother and Evenglow resident), and other Sancken cousins with their spouses.

**Our FY24  
Collective  
Impact,  
BY THE  
NUMBERS**

**\$1.3M**  
total raised

**\$251,496**  
distributed to residents in  
need through the  
Secure Living Fund

**5,500+**  
Heart to Home  
meals served

**\$4,858**  
generously donated by  
Evenglow employees

**1,235**  
hours contributed by more  
than 65 volunteers at the  
Lodge, Inn, and Health Center

**\$1,000**  
distributed to employees  
through the  
Nursing Scholarship Fund

**100+**  
hours volunteers by  
Evenglow employees in the  
local community

**16**  
businesses and events  
proudly supported through  
sponsorships

# Comfort and Care for Life

Evenglow Senior Living resident, Kenneth Obrakta, has dedicated his life to serving others. He rose to the rank of Lieutenant in the Chicago Fireman's Union and also coordinated emergency procedures at O'Hare International Airport.

Today, he is a proud father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, as well as a beloved member of the Evenglow community.

**During his time at Evenglow, Kenneth has benefited from our Secure Living Fund,** and the generosity of those who support it. His son says it's given their family comfort and peace of mind to know their dad is well cared for, no matter what.

"Our experience with Evenglow has been nothing short of fantastic," he says. **"The Secure Living Fund has given our dad a safe and healthy environment,** where his needs are met and he is treated with dignity—as a member of their family."



*Kenneth Obrakta enjoying various activities in and around Evenglow.*

We are proud to be able to repay Kenneth for his years of service by helping him stay in the home he loves. Donors like you make these stories of gratitude possible, year after year.

If you're inspired, please consider joining us with a gift to support our Secure Living Fund at [evenglow.org/make-a-donation](https://evenglow.org/make-a-donation).

## A Legacy of Care and Compassion

For many of our Legacy Foundation donors, a gift from their estate is a meaningful way of ensuring that **local families will always find a home away from home** at Evenglow Senior Living. Marilyn Benedino is one such donor. We asked her what inspired her generous gift, and this is what she shared:

*"Evenglow is a treasure for the seniors and their families in Pontiac and Livingston County. Here, we can get seamless care from Assisted Living to Skilled Care for serious illness, and specialized Alzheimer's Care. Evenglow has it all—often hard to find in small rural towns."*

Planned gifts like Marilyn's support the future of Evenglow, honor our tradition of giving, and build a **deeply personal, lasting legacy of care and compassion** for generations to come.

To explore planned giving contact Director of Marketing & Development, David Herkert, at 815-844-6131 or [dherkert@evenglow.org](mailto:dherkert@evenglow.org).



# Grateful to Our Guild

The Guild at Evenglow is a beloved group of volunteers who give their time and talents to support our residents and families.

After a short hiatus, **the Guild returned this year to resume their work** planning events, fundraising, and creating more opportunities for our seniors to connect with one another and to feel at home at Evenglow.

Recently, Guild members coordinated a day to organize items in storage—like lift chairs and dressers—that could be donated to residents in need.

The Guild also launched the **Resident Program Fund** to ensure residents with limited means can join in meaningful community outings. They commissioned and sold personal paintings from resident artist, Harold Cunningham, as a thoughtful way to support this important fund.

**The Guild is always looking for new members** who want to make a difference in the lives of our seniors! For more information and to join, please contact please contact David Herkert at 815-844-6131 or [dherkert@evenglow.org](mailto:dherkert@evenglow.org).

## Thank you to our amazing Guild volunteers!

**David Herkert**  
GUILD PRESIDENT

**Paula Lind**  
SECRETARY / TREASURER

**Jodi Dwyer**  
NURSING SECRETARY/SUPPLY COORDINATOR

**Brenda Elits**  
PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT

**Cindy Fox**  
CERTIFIED OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY  
ASSISTANT-LICENSED, DIRECTOR OF REHAB

**Susan Hazlett**  
RESIDENT'S DAUGHTER

**Bill Killian**  
MARKETING AND MEDIA SPECIALIST

**Bereniece Purden**  
SOCIAL SERVICES DIRECTOR

# Upholding the Highest Standards of Care

For the 30th year in a row, Evenglow Senior Living earned the prestigious EAGLE Accreditation Award! EAGLE (Educational Assessment Guidelines Leading toward Excellence) evaluates non-profits like ours that are specifically focused on older adults and children, **to assure they are operating in a way that reflects their faith foundation and values.**

When Evenglow President & CEO, Cindy Wegner, accepted the award in Memphis earlier this year, she shared these words about our community:

*“What stood out most to me about the accreditation process was the collaboration. It wasn’t just about meeting standards and ticking boxes, it was about honest reflection and a **shared commitment to doing things well** and doing them for the right reasons.”*



Donors like you help ensure we can uphold the highest standards of care, as we serve our seniors and their loved ones each year. Thank you for helping us earn this distinction for yet another year—we couldn’t do it without you!



David Herkert and Cindy Wegner representing Evenglow at the EAGLE accreditation awards in Memphis

# An Unforgettable Day on the Green

In June, on the first official day of summer, we hosted our second annual Golf and Giving Fundraiser at The Oaks at River's Edge in Pontiac. More than 50 players joined us on the green, **raising nearly \$10,000 for the Secure Living Fund**—which helps ensure a safe and comfortable home for Evenglow residents in need of financial support.

We're already looking forward to next summer's event, which will feature a fun new twist: a **"glow golf" tournament at twilight**, played with illuminated equipment, on courses themed with special lighting. Keep an eye out for more information soon!

In the meantime, **we want to thank our golfers, volunteers, staff, and incredible sponsors** for making this year's tournament a hole-in-one for Evenglow!

*Pictured below from left to right: Team Haab Group (Score of 62) - Robert Billingsley, Dave Haab, Charlie Struble, and Rick Mehall.*



## Continue Your Support of Evenglow

We hope you will consider continuing your generous support of Evenglow through a one-time, recurring, or legacy gift. To make your donation, or to learn more about the impact of your giving at Evenglow, please **email [dherkert@evenglow.org](mailto:dherkert@evenglow.org), call 815-844-6131, or scan the QR code** to be taken to our secure online donation form.

Thank you for being a part of our Evenglow family of friends!



 **EVENGLOW**  
Legacy Foundation

215 E. Washington St. | Pontiac, IL 61764 | [www.evenglow.org](http://www.evenglow.org)

