

King's Daughters Circular

March 2024

"Our circles of friendship are committed to the support and well-being of seniors in our community."

It is terrifying how time flies by so fast! I can't believe I am rounding the corner of my second year as President of this fantastic organization. What a privilege it has been to serve alongside of some of the most innovative and inspiring women of **KDO**. They are the future and our inspiration for continued growth as an organization, and I



can't thank them enough for getting us where we are today.

I am pleased to share that the **KDO** Website is in development. We have been working diligently with **Systemax** to create a website that will tell our story, create digital tools and provide an accurate presence on-line. Thank you to the committee for their tireless efforts to help provide this needed change.

The **SWOT** results are in! Thank you all for your invaluable input. This is the first step in the Strategic Planning process. Your feedback allows us to assess the advantages and disadvantages of our organization and find ways to improve and/or understand our struggles better. I am delighted to advise that we will be implementing two new initiatives based upon your input. The first will be a **New Member Orientation**. This will allow all new members to engage and receive an overview of **KDO** and what the organization has to offer. Sixty new members over the last year and a half prompted this response. Secondly, you will find a new column in the Circular called **"Did You Know."** We will be providing "facts" and maybe some unknown tidbits about **KDO**. Something new and fun!

In the fall circular, I shared with you that we celebrated the most successful Luncheon and Style Show since its inception 75 years ago! But did you know the event raised over \$50,000 dollars! This is the most ever raised in the history of the Luncheon and Style Show. Congratulations to the Co-Chairs Laura Carmody (MB), Cathy Schwartz (MB), and Kelly Griffin (PR) for a spectacular day.

There is so much going on, and a lot to keep track of in the very near future. The next **KDO Social** is scheduled for April 20, 2024, at the **Brinkerhoff Mansion** for a "Proper English Tea Party." Look for the Constant Contact invitation and make your reservation early. The **2024 Traditional Donor Advised Grant** program is under way. We are excited to see the outcome of this wonderful process. Thank you for your continued support of **Daily Bread** and **Meals on Wheels** deliveries organized through **Senior Services of Central Illinois** and the **Personal Shopper Program** at **Illinois Presbyterian Home**.

Our future is bright, and without a doubt this organization will continue to make a difference for **Seniors in Sangamon County**.

Rising Up

Kim Cochran

KDO Christmas Treat Bags Illinois Presbyterian Home Communities Fair Hils Residence



KDO Members Filling the Bags Left to Right: Cathy Boerke (MP/N), Alice Nelle (PR), Mary Jo Rappe (MP/N), Susan Fulks (PR), Kim Cochran (WI), Nance Woodward (MG), Julie Alessandrini-Costa (MP/N), Sharon Heflin (FR).

First Vice President Cathy Boerke (NP/N) - Mission Chair Report

* Changes effective 11/27/2024 2023-2024

Executive Committee President: Kim Cochran

1st Vice President: Cathy Boerke 2nd Vice President: Christie Goleman Secretary: Sally Cadagin* Assist. Secretary: Mary Ann Smith* Treasurer: Colleen Stone Assistant Treasurer: Carol Sobeck*

Board of Directors

Friendship Sharon Heflin

Grateful Daughters Brownie Anderson Sandy Bellatti Karen Little

Margaret Garfield Sally Cadagin Donna Jean Gibney Teresa McElwee Nance Woodward

Marjorie Post-Nightingale Cathy Boerke Angela Capranica

> Mary A. Lawrence Stephanie Kent Mary Ann Smith

Mary H. Blackstock Christie Goleman Lisa Coakley* Brenda Staab Patti Thompson*

Polly Roesch Sue Shevlin Frances Tomashavich

Progress Sally Cray Diana Dedrick Terri Hempstead Carol Sobeck

Willing Kim Cochran Colleen Stone Chiffonia White During this Christmas season at the **Illinois Presbyterian Home Communities - Fair Hills Residence**, we were overflowing with holiday cheer. Even with our gift bag size increased, they were not big enough to hold all the generous donations from the circles, **Habitat for Humanit**y, **Leslie Sgro (St. Martin DePorre**), and an anonymous donor! Our circles had a chance to come together again to stuff the bags and had another opportunity to resume Holiday Bingo.



Holiday Bingo was a great success! This year we were pleasantly surprised to be able to add entertainment. **Springfield Christian School Bellacappella** donated their time and talents to beautifully serenade the group with Christmas carols. Their sweet harmony, with a special performance by **Susan Harris** (ML's KD Lady), warmed up the crowd for **Margaret Garfield Circle** to lead bingo. Everyone was a winner in the end with the distribution of the gift bags. In addition, we were also able to distribute to those who were unable to attend the event.



Springfield Christian School Bellacappella Left to Right: Susan Harris (IPH Resident and ML's KD Lady), Linda Younkin (PRo), Becky Kemp, Kari Jones.

KDO Christmas Bags Goodies!

Note Pads and Post-its Lip Balm Christmas Socks Candy Canes Shower Gel Gloves Hand Sanitizer Pocket Magnifier Body Lotion Wall and Pocket Calendars Toothbrushes Holiday Necklaces Holiday Pens & Pencils

Jewelry Activity Pads/Large Print Puzzle Books Measuring Tapes Pocket Tissues Russel Stover Candy

KDO Grants

The **Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln** has initiated the **2024 Traditional Grant cycle.** It is off to another record-setting year for the number and dollar amount of requests received for a single year! To me, it no longer sounds like we are the best kept secret in Springfield. Rather, it does sound like the non-profit organizations who serve **Seniors** in **Sangamon County** recognize the impact that **KDO** has on our community and appreciate our contributions.

Introducing New KDO Executive Committee Members

In the last issue of the *KDO Circular*, **President Kim Cochran** alluded to the ongoing need to adapt to change. The **KDO Executive Committee** and **Board of Directors** were faced with that need in November 2023. **Amy Rasing** (MB) announced that she was leaving the **Illinois Presbyterian Home** for a new job in the **Mayor's Office** and needed to step down from her position as **KDO Assistant Secretary** because of the demands of her new position. Similarly, **Terry Kolaz** (MB) resigned as **KDO Secretary** because of increased demands on her time traveling for another organization.

At the November 27, 2023 Board of Directors Meeting, **Brenda Staab** (MB), Nominating Committee Chair, announced the following changes to the Executive Committee: **Sally Cadagin** (MG) would move from Assistant Treasurer to Secretary; **Carol Sobeck** (PR) would fill the position of Assistant Treasurer; and **Mary Ann Smith** (ML) would fill the position of Assistant Secretary. These changes were approved by the Board, which also approved **Mary H. Blackstock's** two new directors, **Lisa Coakley** and **Patti Thompson**.



Mary Ann Smith (ML) -- Executive Assistant Secretary (Membership Chair)

A graduate of **Sacred Heart Academy**, Mary Ann grew up in **Springfield**. She retired in 2013 from the **Villa Maria Retreat Center** (Springfield) after a career in marketing, sales, and purchasing. Mary Ann is a professional baker and operated an independent cake decorating and catering business for more than two decades. In addition to volunteering with **KDO**, Mary Ann enjoys donating time to **Helping Hands of Springfield** and other activities that assist seniors. Mary Ann's hobbies include reading, travel, golf, and spending time with friends and family. She has lived in Auburn for over 50 years and has an adult daughter.

Carol Sobeck (PR) -- Executive Assistant Treasurer

(Development Chair)



Carol came to **Springfield** in 1969 and began her teaching career. She taught 3rd grade, 4th grade and reading in **Springfield District 186**, ending her 34 year career as principal at **Laketown School**.

She accepted the position as **Assistant Treasurer** to complete **Sally Cadagin's** term. Carol has served three years on the **KDO Board** representing **Progress Circle**. She has found much gratification in visiting her circle's **KD Ladies** at **IPH**, delivering **Daily Bread** meals, and being a **Personal Shopper**.

Carol has held various offices in the **Springfield Civic Garden Club** and the **Springfield Ceramics and Craft Club**. She is a **P.E.O. Member**.

Carol enjoys volunteering in the community, playing bridge and traveling with her husband.

DID YOU KNOW?

KDO's Mission Statement states **"Our Circles of friendship are committed to the support and well-being of seniors in our community.**" When it comes to financial support, this goes to other non-profits serving seniors, not directly to individuals. With that being said, it is imperative for these other organizations to know who we are and what we do. Well, guess what? They do! We are in for another record-breaking grant season. Hold tight and you will see that the secret is out!

KDO's Values Statement expresses powerful and inclusive principles that **KDO** is proud to follow:

- All **KDO** members are entitled to a welcoming environment which
 - Promotes dignity and respect for all its members
 - Empowers members to make decisions that improve and benefit **KDO**, its Members and its Mission
- All **KDO** Members have the responsibility to advance such an environment and to honor **KDO** by representing themselves in a professional and compassionate manner.
- **KDO** does not discriminate. Membership is open to any individual of good intentions who agrees to embrace the Mission and objectives of **KDO**.

Cheers to 76 Years!

76th Annual Luncheon and Style Show

KDO members and local business sponsors will celebrate the **76th Luncheon & Style Show** on **October 7, 2024**, at the **Crowne Plaza**. The theme will be *Cheers to 76 Years*! We are excited to announce that we will be meeting on the first floor this year, which allows easy access and provides seating for an additional 70 people over the previous space. Co-chairs for the event are **Diana Szczepanski** (PR) and **Kelly Griffin** (PR).

Sponsorships are needed to make this event successful. Funds from this event are used to support the **KDO Mission**, including **KDO Grants** to organizations that provide services to senior citizens in our community. There are several commitment levels available. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, or know of a business that might be, please contact **Diana Szczepanski** (217-381-8048, diszcz@hotmail.com). Sponsorships should be received by August 15 to secure priority seating.

The event will open at 10:30 a.m. with a variety of shopping experiences:

The all new **KDO Gourmet Shoppe** will offer a variety of treats (both sweet and savory) handcrafted by **KDO** members. We were excited to have added canned goods last year and want to continue to expand. If anyone knows of someone who is a licensed **Cottage Industry** owner, please contact **Susie Risser** (WI) (217-494-0440) or **Diana Hetherington** (WI) (217-836-1831) so they might be included. In addition to raising money for seniors, we would like to highlight small businesses in our area.

Silent Auction will offer an opportunity to bid on a variety of fun and beautiful items. To donate items, please contact **Amy Rasing** (MB) (217-685-7236, amyrasing@gmail.com) or **Brenda Staab** (MB) (217-725-6465, mbemstaab@hotmail.com).

Marketplace provides a unique shopping experience of new and gently used items such as jewelry, purses, linens, holiday, home, and garden décor, as well as many kitchen/dining accessories. Please contact **Kelly Griffin** (217-299-0747, thegrif1@yahoo.com) if you have belongings that can be donated. It is necessary for us to be selective about what items we accept to make this a spectacular display of goods.

At noon a tasty lunch will be served followed by a spectacular fashion show featuring local boutiques and stores. We hope you plan to come out and enjoy these festivities.

Split-the-Pot tickets will be on sale in May. The price is \$5 per ticket. Tickets will be distributed to each circle to assist in the sales. There will also be tickets available to purchase at the **Luncheon & Style Show**. Please contact **Mary Ann Smith** (ML) (217-891-9896, mas1948@hotmail.com) with any questions or to purchase tickets.

A **Collection Coffee** will be held at **Illini Country Club** on August 22, 2024, beginning at 10:00 a.m. This is the ideal time to drop off any Silent Auction or Marketplace items.

Follow **King's Daughters Organization** on **Facebook** to keep abreast of the latest information, and watch for **Constant Contact** updates.

We appreciate your ongoing support and donations!



.... and THANK YOU to EVERYONE who participated last year in the October 3, 2023 Luncheon & Style Show!!

Because of your efforts and support, **Event Co-Chair Kelly Griffin** (PR) was able to present a check in the amount of \$45,000 to **KDO President Kim Cochran** (WI). (pictured at left)

This plus credit card payments to the **KDO Treasury** account amounted to a record breaking net proceeds of \$50,000!!

KDO Grants Making a Difference in the Lives of Seniors!

Habitat for Humanity

When Mary applied to have a wheelchair ramp installed, she hoped it would be done quickly. Mary had not been able to safely leave her home for 12 months! Her

world was looking out her window and watching life go by. Mary's first trip leaving her home safely for the first time in a year was to visit her granddaughter, in her granddaughter's home.

Senior isolation is one of the most deadly impacts we face today. Having accessibility to get in and out of your home safely makes all the difference ... thanks to **King's Daughters Organization**.

KDO 2023 Grant: \$15,000 Wheelchair Ramp Installation Program

Contact Ministries

King's Daughter Organization funds have helped so many people in many ways. The medication co-pay portion of the grant has helped people get their life saving medications that they otherwise would not have been able to afford. In addition to diabetes medications, there are a host of other medications that insurance either does not cover or only minimally covers. Senior men and women no longer need to make the choice between paying for their medication or eating.

The eyeglass portion of the funding has been amazing. This grant money has given many senior men and women the ability to see clearly, sometimes for the first time in years! Occasionally, the client will return to show us their eyeglasses because they are so thankful and proud of them. One client in particular has been here four times in the last two weeks to show us her new eye glasses! Her appreciation and excitement are welcomed every time we see her. She has asked that we extend our thanks to those responsible for making it possible for her to have received such "cool new glasses!" So ... thank you from this very happy senior lady wearing her cool new glasses.

KDO 2023 Grant: \$10,000 Medication Co-pay Assistance \$6,000 Eye Exam & Eye Glasses Assistance

Sangamon County Community Resources

One household that was assisted through **KDO's** grant to **Sangamon County Community Resources** was a woman with a disabled adult child. The head of household has dialysis four times per week. Due to her mounting medical bills, she took a part time job to supplement her Social Security benefits. This put her over income to qualify for **LIHEAP** assistance. As you can imagine, she was in tears when told that she did not qualify for this assistance.

She was told about the **KDO Grant** and that she could be assisted through this generous funding. She was tearfully grateful to receive the assistance towards her utilities. This illustrates how the **KDO Grant** can provide life changing assistance to those who fall in the gap. This household barely survives. Because the **KDO** members cared, a smile was brought to someone who had not smiled in a long time.

Thank you **KDO** for providing these wonderful funds.

KDO 2023 Grant: \$25,000 to provide assistance to Seniors not meeting the Federal Income Guidelines for the **Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program**.



Thank You to these generous KDO members and friends who have made contributions to the King's Daughters Organization.

GIFTS TO KDO TREASURY

October 2023 through February 2024

Gifts in Memory of:

Cassie Burnett Bonnie Bloom

Patricia Cross Progress Circle

Gale Fixmer Progress Circle

Maxine Whitlock Willing Circle

Donation Gift: Lynne Ewan

<u>GIFTS TO CFLL-KDO</u> DONOR ADVISED FUND

October 2023 through February 2024

Gift in Memory of: Bill Parr Margaret Garfield Circle

Donation Gifts:

Sandy Bellatti Sally Cadagin Terri Hempstead Mr. & Mrs. Steven Rahn Jacqueline Price

If interested, you may provide support for **KDO** and its **Mission** through donations to either:

> KDO Treasury or

CFLL- KDO Donor Advised Fund.

You may mail a donation payable to **KDO** <u>or</u> **CFLL-KDO DAF** to: KDO Treasurer P.O. Box 2087 Springfield, IL 62705

KDO and Circle Activities

KDO Socials



The **KDO Holiday Social** was held at **Boccardi's Italian Imports** on December 7, 2023. Forty-eight members attended and enjoyed tasty food and enthusiastic company. By all reports everyone had a good time. Santa even made an appearance ... and was very popular! **Amy Rasing** (MB) handed out "Simmering Potpourri" treat bags so that holiday scents could be enjoyed at home.

Thank you to **Amy Rasing** for organizing this event, to

Sally Cadagin (MG) for accepting the RSVP's, and to **Colleen Stone** (WI) and **Frances Tomashavich** (PRo) for collecting money at the door.



Amy Rasing (MB) and Mary Ann Smith (ML) with Santa!

A Proper English Tea Party

The next **KDO Social** will be held on **Saturday, April 20** from **2:00 to 4:00 p.m.** at the **Brinkerhoff Mansion** (1500 N. 5th Street). The cost is **\$15.00 per person**.

Please RSVP to Mary Ann Smith at 217-891-9896.

Seating is limited, so reserve your spot early. Your check, payable to **King's Daughters Organization**, is your reservation. (Mail to Mary Ann Smith, 3755 Moose Cry Road, Auburn, IL 62615)

Tea Party attire is encouraged, especially hats!

Margaret Garfield Circle

Members of the **Margaret Garfield Circle** gathered at **Illini Country Club** on **December 5**, **2023** for the circle's annual Christmas Luncheon. Happily, **Carolyn Ferrell**, Margaret Garfield Circle's KD Lady from **Fair Hills Residence**, was able to join the group as a guest. As usual it was a lively gathering! Rather than hosting a gift exchange, members brought toys to donate to the **Grandparents as Parents Program** at **The Parent Place** along with some items, such as cutlery, for the similar program with **The James Project**. (Both these programs were **2023 KDO Grant Recipients**.) A collection was also taken to purchase items for **The James Project**. Circle members **Susie Price**, **Vicki Howard**, and **Sue Davis** volunteered to be the "shoppers." They purchased several restaurant and movie gift cards along with a variety of linens and kitchen items (pots, pans, glasses, etc.) and delivered them to **The James Project** office where the items where gratefully accepted.



Seated Left to Right: **Carolyn Ferrell** (MGC's KD Lady), **Sue Davis, Wanda Keil**. Standing Left to Right: **Nance Woodward, Pat Strow, Donna Jean Gibney, Sandra Leahy, Ann Senger, Sally Cadagin, Susan Madison, Joan Hodde** (peaking from behind Susan), **Vicki Howard, Norma Lawley, Terrie Greenwald, Sarah Goleman, Jan Parr, Pilar Mayorga**.

Standing on stairs in back Left to Right: Janet Plohr, Susie Price, Marlys Knox. Diane Cycholl, Nancy Blunk.

Toys from under the tree were loaded into the trunk of **Donna Jean Gibney's** car and delivered to **The Parent Place**. **Bridgett Hammen**, Executive Director, was thrilled to see both the number and variety of the gifts.





King's Daughters Circular March 2024 ~ Page 6

Circle and Member News

Marjorie Post / Nightingale Circle

Illinois Presbyterian Home Communities resident Nancy Canady passed onto the Marjorie Post / Nightingale Circle the holiday tree decorating duties at Fair



Left to Right: Vicki McHenry, Pamela Frazier, Nancy Colantino, Pam Walters, Sharon Poynter, Angela Capranica (in front), and Yolanda Rice. Not pictured: Emily Lynch, Terri Snider

Hills Residence. With the help of Nancy and **Ginger Webb**, **IPH** volunteer, a total of nine trees were placed in different areas for the residents to enjoy. This year the main parlor's tree was topped with a **KDO** crown.

Left to Right: Mary Jo Rappe (MP/N), Cathy Boerke (MP/N), Ginger Webb (IPH Volunteer), Nancy Canady (IPHC Resident)



Pamela Frazier, new Marjorie Post / Nightingale Circle Member



Pamela Frazier and Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs

Pamela Frazier (MP/N) was recognized during Black History Month by Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs for Outstanding Service in Business. She is the President and CEO of All in One Management and Services. Pamela owns All in One Laundry Center and Services on Eighth and South Grand Avenue where, along with her husband Robert, she has served and provided outreach to the community through free laundering and distribution of linens and other vital items to those in need. Robert Frazier is the Executive Director of Clean Slate Advocates. He was also recognized during Black History Month for service by Comptroller Susan Mendoza.



Mary A. Lawrence Circle

Mary A. Lawrence Circle held its circle meeting and Christmas Party on December 12, 2023, at **Chesapeake Restaurant**. The meeting had singing, gifts, and good food! It was the perfect gathering to put everyone in the holiday Spirit.

Left side, front to back: Mary Ann Risser, ML Guest, Debbie Crowe, Mindy Semple, Jennifer Buhlig, Virgene Fair.

Right side, front to back: **Stephanie Kent, Cindy Davies, Susan Harris** (ML's KD Lady), **Kandy Grafton, Janet Carey, Joan Rothfuss, Rebecca Keck**. **Mary Ann Smith** (reflection in mirror, taking the picture)

Joy Beath passed away at the beginning of January 2024. Joy was Mary H. Blackstock's KD Lady and was the last of the ladies who moved from the King's Daughters' Home on Black Avenue when it closed in 2006. A moving memorial service, conducted by Cindy Lash (FR) was held in the Fair Hills Residence dining room on February 5. We were all very sad to say goodbye to such a special lady.



In Remembrance of members who are gone but not forgotten. (October 2023 through February 2024)

Current Members

Grateful Daughters Circle Patricia Ann Shafer

> Progress Circle Patricia Jane Cross Willing Circle Maxine Y. Whitlock

> > <u>KD Lady</u> Joy Beath

Welcome New Members!

(October 2023 through February 2024)

Grateful Daughters Circle Esther Bruns Lois Dunbar

Mary A. Lawrence Circle Rebecca Keck Olivia Hayse

Mary H. Blackstock Circle Diane L. Bergeron

Marjorie Post/Nightingale Circle

Julie Alessandrini-Costa Pamela Frazier Rosa Harper-Davis

Progress Circle Michele D. Anson-Cimarossa LaVonne Mau

KDO Associate Member Judy Farley

KDO Membership Roster

If you would like to receive a **digital copy** of the **Roster**, please contact **Teresa McElwee**, KDO Database Manger. <u>tmcelwee5@comcast.net</u>

And please, immediately **notify your circle leader** (or email Teresa directly) if your **contact information changes**.

Reminder: The roster is for **members'** personal use only and not to be shared or used for any other purpose.



Non-Profit Organization U.S. Postage PAID Springfield, Illinois Permit No. 746

Find us on Facebook or at www.kdospringfield.org

VERY IMPORTANT -- WATCH FOR EMAILS FROM CONSTANT CONTACT!!

Constant Contact is the primary way KDO keeps in direct touch with its membership. Help us make sure the KDO Membership Database has up-to-date email addresses for ALL members. Please notify your circle leader of any changes, or email Teresa McElwee at <u>tmcelwee5@comcast.net</u>.

Please Note: Unless you <u>indicate otherwise</u>, your contact information will be included on the **KDO Membership Roster** in the **Members Only** section of the **KDO Website**.

Save these Dates!

Proper English Tea Party Saturday, April 20, 2024 The Brinkerhoff Home

KDO Annual Corporation Day Luncheon & Meeting Monday, May 13, 2024 at 12:00 PM Westminster Presbyterian Church Hall Details to be provided on Constant Contact and by circle leaders.

<u>IMPORTANT</u>: Distribution of the *King's Daughters Circular* is now primarily **DIGITAL**, either through email using **CONSTANT CONTACT** or on the KDO WEBSITE (www.kdospringfield.org).

If you DID NOT receive a PRINTED version and wish to do so, please contact TERESA McELWEE. Also, please notify Teresa if you have a NEW MAILING or EMAIL ADDRESS, if you will be <u>temporarily away</u>, or if you wish to be <u>removed</u> from the mailing list.

Be aware that if you are removed from the email list, you will miss notifications from KDO.

Contact **Teresa McElwee** at <u>tmcelwee5@comcast.net</u> or through CFLL at 217-523-4332

Newsletter Editor: Donna Jean Gibney (MG).

Assistance with this issue : Cathy Boerke (MP/N), Sally Cadagin (MG), Kim Cochran (WI), Christie Goleman (MB), Kelly Griffin (PR), Teresa McElwee (MG), Mary Ann Smith (ML), Brenda Staab (MB), Colleen Stone (WI), Carol Sobeck (PR) Photo editing assistance provided by Vincent Zuck (KDO Associate Member)