



SINCE 1974

45



...A STORY TO TELL

The Stories We Tell Ourselves

Over 60 years ago, Dick "Max" Maxwell, fresh from basic training and in his first semester as a junior at OSU, woke up in Dodd Rehabilitation Hospital with the devastating news that he had injured his spinal cord and would never walk again. For the next ten years, the story Max was told was that his only option was to live in a nursing home. He would essentially be confined to a hospital for the rest of his life due to an unfortunate accident during an intramural football game. This was the story that was being told about Max.

However, Max was determined to write his own story. Instead of accepting a life confined to an institution, he envisioned a future of innovation and creativity. Max played a pivotal role in developing the nation's first accessible apartment complex with 24/7 Resident Assistant support. His story was about removing barriers and advocating for those whom society often overlooked, empowering them to contribute meaningfully to their communities. From this vision, Creative Living was born—a unique organization focused on autonomy and personal growth long before independent living was a widely recognized option.

Now, after 50 years, Max's story continues to resonate with all our residents—past, present, and future. While each resident of Creative Living comes from different backgrounds, with diverse needs and life goals, one thing remains consistent: they were once told a limiting story, but through Creative Living, they now live a story of transformation. For some, this narrative was shaped from birth; for others, it began in an acute care hospital. Today, they all share a different story—one of stability, camaraderie, life goal attainment, community involvement, and personal achievement.

I invite you all to be part of this evolving story as we celebrate our 50th year of Creative Living. Together, we continue to redefine what is possible.



Mike Lightbody, MPH
Executive Director



50 Years Can Provide A Lot of Media Coverage

Working in conjunction with media partner, Slide Nine, Creative Living has been able to shine a spotlight on the story of its 50 years – and more importantly its residents – across multiple media channels and their outlets.

With feature stories starting in April with 10TV, coverage of our 50th anniversary and all that is included with it continued through Mobility Awareness Month (in May) across the major local television networks, their social media channels and websites, and cable news media.

Two onsite interviews (one at each CL location) by Kiyerra Lake from 10TV resulted in a broadcast package for Wake Up Columbus, 10TV News and their website, YouTube and Facebook channels.

Interviews with WSYX/WTTE's Stefenech Henok were featured on the Good Day Columbus Weekend Edition and were also posted to WSYX's Facebook page.

Earlier in May, Alexa Maslowski from Spectrum News 1 created a broadcast package of interviews with CL1 resident Dustin Clark and Executive Director Mike Lightbody to appear on Spectrum's website.

A STORY YEARS IN THE MAKING

Creative Living was featured in a report done by Jerod Smalley as part of Mobility Awareness Month on NBC 4. It was first broadcast on Daytime Columbus and later on First at 5, and included posts to NBC4's website, YouTube and Facebook channels.

And finally, Columbus Dispatch reporter, Belinda Paschal created a feature story which ran on June 9th after an interview with Executive Director Mike Lightbody.

Each interview was a wonderful combination of information about Creative Living along with a focus on individual residents, their challenges and their inspirational stories. Much of this coverage can be found on our social media sites.



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GET SOCIAL!

Keep up with the latest media coverage and updates by following us online and through our social media channels!
www.creative-living.org/about/news |    

Burgers, Brats and Bombsicles!

What better way to usher in the Summer than with a cookout and ice cream? And there's no better way to deliver that ice cream than through a real-life, fully-loaded ice cream truck!

So, while grill master Dave Pratt flipped burgers and basted brats, one of our very own resident aids, _____ brought his ice cream truck (complete with musical jingle accompaniment) filled with all those childhood treats we remember!

One of the most fulfilling things about Creative Living is the sense of community among both the care providers and the residents. And the ability to, well, get creative. Often, events like this ice cream social start as a suggestion by one of the RA's or the care providers (thank you, Kat!). Then, with a little planning, some quick notice via email or a flyer, and a round of door knocks to residents on the day-of, and a social event is born!

GETTING



SO SOCIAL

A Social Safety Net

Events like these provide residents with social opportunities they may not otherwise have. General socialization for people with disabilities can be difficult due to a variety of reasons. Creative Living understands and addresses these concerns by providing a community where individuals can develop authentic friendships and connections with other residents and staff. This is just one of the benefits of being a resident here.

And we love feedback and input! Working with our residents, we've developed game nights at Perry Street, tailgates at 10th Avenue, and are planning even more upcoming events for socialization and fun.

All of our events – impromptu or not – are designed to foster a welcoming, supportive and inclusive community where residents are provided opportunities for growth and fulfillment.

Besides, who doesn't love ice cream!?



NEWS

With 34 residents, nearly as many RA's and care assistants, and two facilities, there's a LOT going on at Creative Living.

It's been nearly a year since our last newsletter – and a lot has been going on! Here's a quick review of some of those things...

Raised Gardens Are Growing On Residents

4 beds (and some other planters) are currently positioned throughout the 10th Ave. courtyard



The 24-inch high beds are the perfect height for residents, and provide enough bed depth and space to accommodate nearly any root system our residents want to grow.



The success of the Necko Community Gardens near our Perry Street location created the idea of having a garden opportunity at the 10th Avenue location for residents there to put on their gardening gear and test their green thumbs.

Every plot in the beds is occupied, and produce from lettuce to hot peppers has already begun to sprout. In addition, we've struck up a relationship with the Ohio State Horticultural Department for some collaborative help and education, deepening our relationship with the University.

Continuing Education and Collaboration

Mallory Kasper PT, DPT, NCS and Outpatient SCI Team Lead from the OSU Wexner Medical Center led presentations for Creative Living residents about preventive measures and best practices following spinal cord injuries and for prolonged wheelchair or bed confinement



Ongoing education and practical application from presentations and workshops provided through collaborative partnership with the Wexner Center have always been popular among residents. Centered around

topics focused on resident care, the Wexner team provides helpful information as well as availability to answer questions resident have about their particular condition or situation.

Renovations and Resurfacing

The facelift and lobby renovations at Perry Street have prompted a similar upgrade and renovation to the lobby and offices at 10th Avenue. New wall treatment, rail, paint and lighting will mirror what was done at Perry, providing a welcome upgrade to Creative Living II.

In addition, much needed resurfacing and paving in both Creative Living parking lots is being done in late June. Both projects have been subsidized through grants and assisted funding.

& NOTES





A Story Written by Community

More often than not, stories written by several authors which have multiple storylines become confusing with mixed messages and a plot that's hard to follow.

Every once in a great while, however, a collaborative masterpiece is written which resonates with its readers. Even more rare is that story which tells of real-life triumphs where readers can relate to the heroes on such a level that they want to get involved and contribute. After all, who doesn't love an underdog story?

One such story, a one-of-

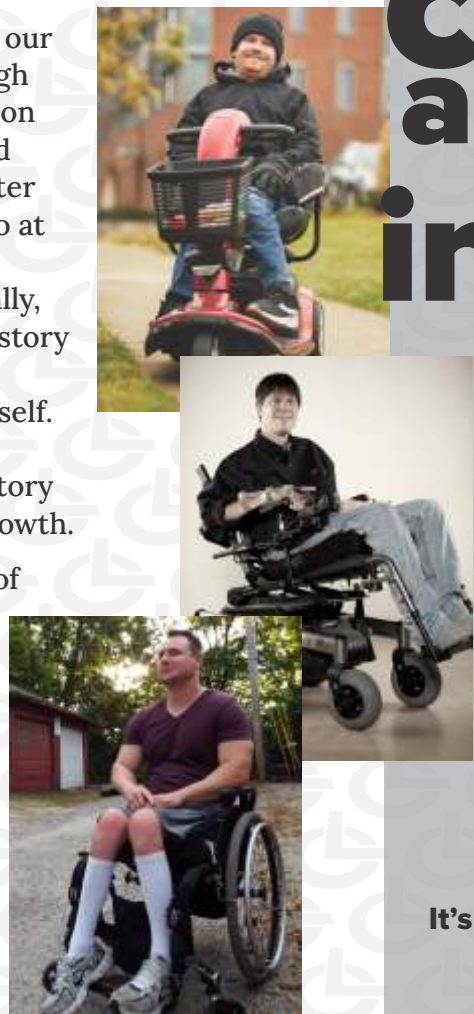
a-kind anthology, is currently being written by 34 residents who live a life they never thought they could have had. It's a collective effort being written by individuals who live their story and add to it every day while they pursue an education, a career, or other opportunities that provide them with fulfillment and accomplishment.

Their story is being written by the way they live, and Creative Living gets to be a major part of their plot lines. Consider us a kind of editor who gets to help the author tweak their greatest work.

Every Resident Has a Story to Tell

Whenever we can, we feature our residents at events and through our media channels, focusing on their stories of inspiration and independence. There's no better way to learn about what we do at Creative Living than learning about who we serve. Technically, the story written is more the story of our 34 residents and not so much about Creative Living itself. Their individual trials and triumphs create a collective story of compassion, service and growth.

By learning more about each of our residents, everything we do becomes "more real" to our benefactors, donors and supporters. It helps everyone become part of the story - through every volunteer effort, every donation and every ticket sold to our events - and we couldn't be more grateful for your help.



a STORY made up of STORIES SINCE 1974



creating a LEGACY of inspiration

From the tireless work begun by Dick "Max" Maxwell starting in 1963, through the groundbreaking of the first Creative Living location in 1974, to the 50-year landmark of empowered, independent living, the story of Creative Living is constantly being written with words of strength, encouragement, and inspiration.

This isn't the story of a single place. It's an anthology of many stories that make up a legacy of creative living.



A Story that Advocates Growth

Starting with Dick Maxwell championing independent living for individuals with disabilities back in 1963, and continuing with groundbreakings at two facilities in 1974 (Perry Street) and 1986 (10th Ave.), Creative Living provides 34 residents with optimized, accessible housing.



A Story Always Featuring Residents

Our residents have fuller, richer lives because of the opportunity to develop their potential and write their own stories. And Creative Living continues to be the only facility of its kind to provide the type of care and assistance we do - 24/7 and 365 days a year.

We are proud of what we do, but more important, proud of the unique stories that we get to help write.



good times & wine

THE 2024 BOUQUET OF FLAVOURS RETURNED TO THE AUDUBON CENTER

Great Food. Great Wine. Great Time.

The Bouquet of Flavours returned to the Grange Audubon Center for 2024, and welcomed over 100 guests who enjoyed an evening filled with fine wine, good friends and great fun.

Two of our favorite vendors returned for the sampling: Southern Glazer's and Wine Distributors, Inc. and brought more than 30 different featured wines – offering something for even the most discerning palate. Add the Wine (Bottle) Pull and offerings available from the Silent



Personally meeting and hearing from several of our residents, and getting to meet some of their assistants helped showcase what Creative Living is all about: providing help with the little things so that they can focus on the big things in their life – education, employment and pursuing their passions and dreams. It is an amazing community where every individual has an incredible story of individuality, empowerment, and inspiration...stories we love to share!

Auction and Ticket Raffle, and wine poured from the beginning to the end of the event!

Gourmet charcuterie and hors d'oeuvres provided by Metro Cuisine were perfect accompaniment to beautiful cello music provided by Flute Cocktail and an entertaining program hosted by special guest (media personality) Shawn Ireland. As part of the program, Shawn led interviews with several Creative Living residents.



"Fun" In Fundraising

The Bouquet of Flavours is one of two major fundraisers for Creative Living, and helps us pay for our Resident Assistance program – the primary way we provide support for our 34 residents.

That type of support comes with significant costs. Consider these basic numbers for the cost of care:

-  **\$110** Helps One Resident For One Week
-  **\$275** Helps All Residents For a Half-Day
-  **\$550** Helps All Residents at One Location for One Day
-  **\$1100** Helps All Residents at Both Locations for One Day

Thanks to your generosity, more than \$40,000 was raised at this year's Bouquet. We appreciate your contributions and your dedication to helping us continue to tell an amazing story.

THE BOUQUET OF FLAVOURS



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SAVE THE DATE FOR GOLF!

SEPTEMBER 9, 2024
NEW ALBANY COUNTRY CLUB

We're barely a few months away from what is one of the most anticipated golf events of the year for many of our community followers and supporters - *the Creative Living Golf Classic!*

Golfers gather your foursome as our Golf Committee prepares for what is shaping up to be another amazing outing at the New Albany Country Club on September 9th. The Jack Nicklaus-designed course at New Albany offers challenges that will appeal to all skill levels on the links, as golfers can enjoy quick play on an idyllic course.

More Than an Outing

The annual Golf Classic is one of two fundraisers held by Creative Living, and typically provides the biggest opportunity to support our community, staff and programs. This year, we hope to fill the course, as we strive to register 145 golfers for the event, which includes a day of golf (round of 18), lunch, dinner, and social program! Golfers get to test their skills at our putting contest, hole-in-one, and skills games throughout the course, and enjoy a cocktail reception along with dinner, our staple Fund-A-Need program and other special prizes and offerings!

Don't Plan on Playing?

You can still join the fun by becoming a volunteer!

Registrations will be available online at www.creative-living.org.



The New Albany Country Club will once again be our home for this year's Classic



Several Sponsorship Packages and opportunities are available



meet Cl 2 resident **Natalie Thiebert**

THE MICROBIOLOGY OF A TEACHER

Since Natalie Thiebert moved into Creative Living in January, 2024, she's adopted a cat, acquired some fish, expanded her culinary skills and, (oh, by the way) come one semester away from earning a degree in microbiology and mycology.

And with graduation so close, she shows no signs of slowing down, with plans to earn a PhD and someday teach at the collegiate level. It's that drive and determination which brought her to Creative Living as our most recent resident, and one of the many reasons we know that we can learn a lot from this future teacher.

"I really see Creative Living as a stepping stone for myself. I have independence, but I also never feel like I'm alone, and know that I always have access to help if I need it. It's the perfect middle ground for this stage in my life as I work toward living fully on my own."

After sustaining a neck injury as a high school student in 2018, Natalie found Creative Living while touring wheelchair-accessible facilities through her physical therapy at OSU. After an apartment became available in November of 2023, we were thrilled to welcome her. Creative Living proved the perfect combination of accessibility and "just enough" help to be the ideal place for Natalie to continue her education and fulfill (one of) her dreams.

And during the little time she has lived here, Natalie has been an incredible example of autonomy, inspiration and empowerment to staff and residents.

We're excited to be part of Natalie's story and can't wait to see what she has to teach us next!



#ResidentSpotlight



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A Little Giving Makes a Big Impact...

Annual Campaign is Another Way to Give

Donor contributions are the primary way we provide support for our residents, and our Annual Campaign is the primary way we provide information about Creative Living to current and prospective donors and patrons.

Every gift – no matter how small – makes a big impact on the lives of our residents and the services provided by our Resident Assistants. We ask that you consider a giving option as part of our ongoing fundraising efforts. Whether a one-time gift, annual contribution, or ongoing donation such as a legacy fund or honorarium, 100% of the proceeds are used for services that benefit our residents. And, all gifts are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

To learn more, or provide a donation, go online at www.creative-living.org or call us at (614) 421-1226.



Please Give to Our Annual Campaign



Creative Living provides affordable, wheelchair accessible housing for adults with physical disabilities who desire to further their education, pursue careers and contribute to the community. Our residents are empowered to be self-sufficient and lead full, productive lives while independently managing their disabilities.

SUPPORT OUR MISSION | CONTRIBUTE TO OUR COMMUNITY | CREATE A LEGACY FOR TOMORROW