



# CONNECTIONS

## *GOLDEN CROSS SENIOR MINISTRIES, INC.*

*To Enhance the Quality of Life for All Seniors*

*Served by Wesley Living Communities*

## *Celebrating 26 Years*

*of making a difference for our seniors*

### *What's InSIDE*

**Golf Tournament:  
September 7th at  
Windyke Country  
Club**

**Christmas Giving  
2023**

**The Significance &  
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Support in 2022**

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Golden Cross Senior  
Ministries Board  
Chair**

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Wesley Living Staff**

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President**

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Trustees & Officers**

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Chairperson**

**Dale Sharp  
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**Laurie Garrison  
Executive Director  
Golden Cross Senior  
Ministries**

At Golden Cross, we are proud to have served the senior residents of Wesley Living HUD housing communities for over 26 years. Our mission is simple: to enhance the quality of life for all seniors served by Wesley Living. And we do it by providing the “extras” that help enrich their lives and give them a sense of purpose.

Many of these seniors are living at or below the national poverty line and have little left over after paying rent. That’s where Golden Cross comes in. We rely on the generosity of our supporters to provide funds for field trips, social activities, educational programming, and daily-use items like paper products, hygiene products, cleaning supplies, and incontinence wear. These items are often given out as bingo prizes, so residents can socialize and win things they need without having to ask for them.

But our impact goes beyond just the day-to-day needs of these seniors. We also help new residents who qualify as homeless by providing complete move-in kits that include everything they need to restart their lives. These kits include furniture, household items, and cleaning supplies, and are funded entirely by donations to Golden Cross. In 2022, we were able to provide move-in kits to 34 formerly homeless seniors, turning their new-found shelter into sanctuary.

And we’re not done yet. With the number of seniors in need of assistance on the rise, we need your support more than ever. Your contributions of support, prayers, encouragement, and donations mean everything to those we serve. And because we rely entirely on donations, 100% of your gifts go directly

to supporting the needs of the over 2,200 seniors we serve.

But our work doesn’t stop there. We also have an Endowment Fund that represents a permanent, lasting gift to protect the future of Golden Cross Senior Ministries and provide a lasting legacy for all low-income seniors. As the number of seniors continues to increase and remain independent, more and more assistance will be vital for the future of Golden Cross Senior Ministries.

### *So, Where Do You Come In?*

In 2022 alone, we were able to spend \$79,500 on social events and interactions, \$49,033 on catered Christmas meals and gifts for residents, and \$42,449 on move-in kits for formerly homeless seniors. With your help, we can continue to make a difference in the lives of these seniors for years to come.

Join us in celebrating 26 years of making a difference for our seniors. Donate today and be a part of something truly special.

Your individual donations can make a huge difference!

Convenient ways to donate:

† Website: [goldencross.org](http://goldencross.org), click on the donate button on the home page

† Venmo: @goldencross25

† Cashapp: @\$goldencross25

† Mail a check: Golden Cross Senior Ministries- 1615 Appling Road, Cordova, TN, 38016

† Click on the QR Code:



*Every dollar counts for the  
blessings of your work for  
over 2,200 seniors!*


# *Personal Accounts on How Your Donations Have Changed Our Lives*

Thanks to the generosity of donors like you, Highland Meadows was able to provide shelter to two individuals who were previously homeless. One of the residents expressed her gratitude for the couch she received, which made her apartment feel like a real home. She no longer had to sit in a kitchen chair to watch TV in the living room.

The other resident was unable to live in his apartment because he had no bedding, cooking or eating utensils. However, he was thrilled to come home to brand new bedding, dishes, cleaning supplies, and a couch, all thanks to the timely support provided by Golden Cross Senior Ministries.

Your donations have made a significant impact on the lives of those in need, and we are truly grateful for your continued support. ture of Golden Cross Senior Ministries.

SENIORS  NEED™



A growing number  
of seniors are facing  
financial hardship

**Together we can provide a lifeline**

## *Wesley Living's President & CEO, Brian Harris*

This past year was a year of big changes for Wesley Living. While being in business for over 50 years, Wesley Living has been blessed with consistent and long-term executive leadership. In December 2022 Mr. Jim Nasso, a 25-year employee and CEO for the past 8 years retired. In July 2022 Mr. Brian Harris was hired to be his successor. Brian is a former employee of the company where he served as the first manager of the Martin, Tennessee property. He gained executive experience working as a housing authority executive director for 20 years and had subsequent experience working for another property management firm. Brian is very excited to return and carry on the tradition of providing quality housing and services that enhance the lives of seniors in every community where they serve.

Those enhancements were evident in 2022 where Wesley Living completed major modernization programs to two properties. Improvements included new kitchens, bathrooms, HVAC units, windows, LED lighting and appliances in every unit. Community spaces were adorned with new fitness equipment, a library, a small theatre and expanded community rooms. Three new projects will begin in 2023.

Onsite medical clinics were also added to four communities with two more expected in 2023. These clinics provide primary care and prevention services for residents. The clinics have access to telehealth services for specialist consultations. The services are provided at no cost to the resident and is expected to improve the health of residents due to the ease of access and the scope of services available. More services like these and others are expected in the future.

# *Key Women of the United Methodist Churches*

The purpose of the Key Women's Group is the partnership with Golden Cross Senior Ministries to be the hands and voice by enhancing the daily lives of the residents that reside in the Wesley Living 33 communities. This is done in the following ways:

- \* Serve as an advocate in the churches
- \* Coordinate with Golden Cross on Mission Outreach in the church to promote Golden Cross and the ministry for basic need-ed items, Giving Sunday, Gold tournament, Christmas Dinner for over 2,200 Wesley Living residents.
- \* Volunteering with assembling Move in Kits, assisting with calls or mailers, going to a community to volunteer to read, call Bingo.

Currently, with the support and helping hands from the Key Women, Golden Cross has been hardworking to meet the growing demand for everyday living supplies of over residents at Wesley Senior Living communities. To facilitate this demand, Golden Cross has recently added a storage unit to store the necessary inventory needed for creating Move-In Kits under the Homeless Initiative Program and supplies for Bingo gifts, and other necessary items that support the senior residents. Additionally, a sorting and packing room has been established at St. Mark's Church, which provides ample space for Key Women and Men from various churches to assemble Move-In Kits, which contain over 50 items. Hundreds of Bingo gifts are stored as well and are assembled by the Key Women, Men volunteering their time to make wonderful Bingo gifts to distribute to the 33 communities of Wesley Living residents.

Golden Cross is always looking for more ways to allocate support. One of the ways support is promoted is within the United Methodist Churches' Key Women and Men Groups. The individual churches are encouraged to assemble the kits at their community churches and deliver them to the Golden Cross office for distribution. These kits are much needed support for the Homeless Initiative Program supporting seniors who are being housed coming off the streets. In the past year, 34 Move-In Kits, valued \$325, were delivered to homeless new residents experiencing a new home by helping them make their living spaces feel like home, with love. Additionally, hundreds of Bingo gifts have been delivered to enrich the lives of the residents.

**What additional steps could you and your Church or Organization take to help continue to transform lives?**

**Community Involvement:** Help the Golden Cross mission increase community involvement: Who do you know that could partner with as a local businesses, perhaps a school or college, and other organizations to increase community involvement to support Golden Cross programs? Help us raise awareness of the work that Golden Cross does for the 33 residential communities under Golden Cross care support catering to around 2,200 people by encouraging more people to get involved.

**Ask Us:** Would you like to engage with residents and their families: Take the time to engage with residents and their families to better understand their needs and concerns. This can help the churches and classes identify new ways to support the residents and improve their quality of life.

“By donating or volunteering with Golden Cross mission, you have the power to make a meaningful impact on the lives of those we serve. Your generosity and time will help us continue our crucial work and create positive change in the 33 communities we serve. Join us today in making a difference that will last a lifetime.” please reach out to Laurie Garrison.

Together, let's continue to make a difference in the lives of senior citizens in our community!

# *Announcement of New Executive Director for Golden Cross Senior Ministries & a Message*

Greetings from Golden Cross Senior Ministries!

I hope this newsletter finds you well and filled with joy. As we enter the beautiful summer season, I wanted to take a moment to express our unwavering support for seniors in Wesley Living housing and share some exciting news with you. Announcement of New Executive Director: Laurie Spurlin Garrison.

We are thrilled to announce the appointment of Laurie Spurlin Garrison as the Executive Director of Golden Cross Senior Ministries. Laurie officially assumed her new role on November 7, 2022, bringing with her a wealth of experience and a compassionate heart for serving seniors in need.

Laurie has an impressive background in senior care and leadership. Her previous positions as the Recuperative Care Director at Room in the Inn of Memphis and Executive Director of senior living communities in the New Orleans area have prepared her well for this important role. With over 14 years of experience, Laurie has demonstrated her dedication to enhancing the lives of seniors and ensuring their well-being.

Jeff Thomason, Chairman of the Golden Cross Board of Trustees, has expressed his utmost confidence in Laurie's ability to lead our organization. Her expertise in managing senior care and daily support, combined with her skills in budget management, donor cultivation, growth planning, and meeting the daily needs of seniors, make her a perfect fit for our current and future endeavors. Laurie is committed to upholding the 26-year legacy of Golden Cross Senior Ministries, continuing to provide seniors with the means to enjoy their lives with dignity and peace. Her comprehensive leadership skills and unwavering passion will guide our organization towards even greater heights of service and support.

Outside of her professional responsibilities, Laurie finds joy in spending quality time with her family. She embraces the outdoors, finds solace in cooking, takes pleasure in swimming, and shares adventurous travels with her husband. Her vibrant spirit and personal experiences have further fueled her dedication to making a positive impact in the lives of seniors.

## *Personal Note from Laurie*

I am so excited to have the position as the new Executive Director. My vision for Golden Cross Senior Ministries is to utilize my previous skills to enhance and grow the ministry. I will strive to lead the organization by continuing to build on the strong foundation that is established to create and achieve even greater things in the years to come.

I am so grateful to share my personal passion and my commitment to serving seniors. As we embark in this new chapter, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for all the continued support. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of seniors in low-income housing, ensuring they receive the care, love, and respect they deserve.

Thank you, for being part of our community and for your unwavering commitment to Golden Cross Senior Ministries. Stay tuned for updates and upcoming events!

Warm regards,

Laurie & the Golden Cross Senior Ministries Team

# *Wesley Living's Pastoral Care Program Collaborates with Gold Cross Senior Ministries*

Did you know that all Wesley Living offers spiritual care to its Residents and collaborates with Golden Cross to help enhance the Residents' quality of life?

Hi! My name is Reverend Camille Bradley. I am an ordained clergy person in the United Methodist Church and trained for two years at the Memphis VA to become a Chaplain. I now serve as the Chaplain for Wesley Living. I visit our Wesley Living Senior Communities in Shelby County on a weekly basis. Wesley Living Communities outside of Shelby County are served by other ministers we call "Field Pastors."

I facilitate a group activity called "Food for the Soul: Spirituality for Everyone." We enjoy singing and sacred texts and quotes regarding our topic of the day. After our discussion, we share intercessory prayer. Once a month I offer Bible Trivia or Holiday Trivia at the end of our time together to help exercise memory. Each participating Resident receives a prize provided by Gold Cross which is always something they can use and is greatly appreciated.

As the Chaplain, I attend lots of special events at Wesley Living Communities and one of my favorite collaborations between Wesley Living and Golden Cross is the funding for entertainment. Your donations to Golden Cross enable them to pay for groups like Creative Aging who provide live instrumental and vocal artists. For example, there is a group that has a singer that does great Elvis songs bringing many of the Residents to their feet. This Chaplain has been pulled by Residents onto the dance floor at a number of these functions!

Golden Cross enhances the quality of life of Wesley Living Residents by its ongoing fundraising that allows them to continually give game prizes, entertainment, holiday meals and gifts, move in kits and furniture. And that's not all they do!

Thank you, Golden Cross and to all of your donors for sharing God's love and making each day a little brighter for the Residents at Wesley Living Communities!

Rev. Camille Bradley, Chaplain  
Wesley Living



## *Remember About Giving This Christmas Season*

The holiday season is fast approaching and we at Golden Cross Senior Ministries would like to share an opportunity to make a significant impact on the lives of many seniors in our community.

As you have read, there are over 2,200 seniors in our Wesley Living Communities who are living on a low income and struggling to meet their basic needs. This holiday season, we have a unique opportunity to provide these seniors with a special gift - the gift of Christmas Dinner and socialization.

We are seeking your support in our efforts to feed the senior residents in our community during the Christmas season. By providing nutritious meals to these individuals, we can ensure that they have the energy and resources they need to stay healthy and happy during the holiday season.

We are asking for your help by marking your calendar to make this gift a reality to feed over 2,200 seniors a Christmas meal. Your donation will go towards covering the costs of the meals, delivery services, and any additional resources needed to ensure that each senior receives a warm meal during the holidays.

Your gift will make a significant difference in the lives of these seniors, providing them with a sense of community, care, and compassion during the holiday season. We appreciate any support you can provide and thank you for considering this important opportunity to give back to our community.

**Save the Date**



***Golden Cross  
Senior Ministries  
Golf Tournament***

**Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**Windyke Country Club**

**Go to:**

**[events.golfstatus.com/event/gcsm2023](https://events.golfstatus.com/event/gcsm2023)**

**To Register**



**GOLDEN CROSS  
Senior Ministries**

1615 Appling Road  
Cordova, TN 38016



*Every dollar counts for the  
blessings of your work for over  
2,200 seniors!*

Stay up to date with all happenings

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