YOUR GIFT BLOOMS INTO A PRAIRIE OF WILDFLOWERS AT OAKWOOD VILLAGE

“Don’t mow it. Sow it.” Lou Laux had a simple idea to turn a weedy field into something beautiful. And then you gave life to the Prairie at Oakwood Village, without even lifting a shovel!

When Lou and Ann Laux moved to Mercy Health’s senior community, they took in the grounds of their new home. They love being in nature, breathing the fresh air. They were nice paths and a beautiful lake to stroll around. But there was also an unsightly overgrown field that begged to be something more.

Lou, a former biology professor, saw the field’s potential as a natural prairie that could be planted with local wildflowers, grasses and native fauna. Only one thing stood in the way of the Prairie becoming a reality... Funding.

Your gifts to the Mercy Health Foundation helped Lou and Ann clean up the Prairie and create a breathtaking natural area that is a favorite place for residents to relax, unwind, meditate.

“It means so much that others give to make Oakwood Village a beautiful, comfortable home for all of us.”

“We’re grateful that people enjoy and appreciate this special space as much as we do. It makes all our hard work very worthwhile,” Ann said.

The Prairie is now teeming with bright yellow goldenrod, Queen Anne’s lace, daisies. And residents aren’t the only visitors who enjoy it. Goldfinches, bluebirds and butterflies are the newest neighbors who frequent the field of flowers. Everyone loves the Prairie!
Braylen Arnold is shy by nature, but that’s starting to change. Little by little, he’s coming out of his shell. Thanks to you, he’s getting therapy at the inclusive playground at Mercy Health – Springfield Pediatric Rehabilitation.

A six-year-old with cerebral palsy, Braylen is most impacted by the condition in his legs, joints and ligaments. “He has opened up a lot more in general,” says his mother, Renee Arnold. “He’s more relaxed when it’s time for him to learn to do things at the playground,” she adds. “He has such a good bond with the other kids. He loves everyone there and looks forward to going.”

The donor-funded playground offers a welcoming environment where children have fun while developing their sensory, motor, social, and emotional skills, and improve strength.

Braylen’s Thursday sessions take place outdoors any time the weather permits. “They work on his self-esteem too,” says Renee. “His confidence level has definitely gotten a boost.”

Because of your gifts, he gets the physical therapy he needs to thrive. “When he started going, he couldn’t jump or run,” recalls Renee. “He couldn’t do anything, really, but he does all that now.” She continues, “Braylen has made such amazing strides, not only physically, but also with occupational and speech skills.”

Braylen’s latest accomplishment—and maybe his proudest—is learning to ride a bike.

Why I give:
SO ALL PATIENTS GET THE COMFORT OF PALLIATIVE CARE WHEN THEY NEED IT

Dala DeWitt is a wife, a grandmother, a nurse, and a former school of nursing director. Everything she does is to make life better for others. She may not be nursing at the bedside anymore, but Dala knows she can still comfort patients and families by donating to palliative care services at Mercy Health.

You may know about the comfort care provided to terminal patients in hospice. Palliative care provides similar comfort measures for everyone facing serious illness. Care to improve the quality of life for patients and their families can begin at any stage in an illness and is provided along with curative treatment.

“I’m in a position to give back,” Dala says. “And I’m passionate about giving to palliative care services to help people gain the strength to carry on with daily life and know that they are supported every step of the way.”

“Donor gifts mean so much for us...I just hope supporters realize the difference they are making.”

MATCH MY YEAR-END GIFT!

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You can DOUBLE your IMPACT now through December 15th!

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A local donor will match your 2018 gift! Double your donation, double your impact, and help twice as many people!