



# FOUNDATION FOCUS

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## New event to benefit memory program

By Becky Fitzgerald

Capitalizing on an extensive art collection featuring well-known local and Kansas artists, Meadowlark staff have joined with several Manhattan community members to plan an inaugural event, **Art Mingle: Manhattan Memories**, to benefit the

Meadowlark Memory Program. Guests at a Friday evening reception, March 9, are invited to mingle with friends among the colorful galleries in the Community Center. Food for thought, lively libations, treasured tunes, and art appreciation are part of the night's plan.

Meadowlark chef John Gasser and his talented team will tempt three of the five senses with an array of eye-catching appetizers, several of which will be as pleasing to the brain as they are to the palate. Craft beers, wine, and a specialty cocktail are on the beverage menu, and two local guitarists are pairing up to deliver jazz and classic pop/rock hits. There's plenty to see, taste and hear, but Minglers won't want to miss an Artists' Showcase, featuring local art legend Oscar Larmer and his former student, Ralph Fontenot. They'll be greeting fans and making new friends while among examples of their work.

In addition, large paintings by the late Elfreda Johnson Peterson will be on display. These paintings, now hidden gems of Meadowlark's collection, previously hung at Scheu's Café, which operated in Manhattan from the 1930s to the

1970s on the southwest corner of 5th and Poyntz (currently the location of the Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce). Even if you don't remember Scheu's, you'll want to see these big beauties.

Silent and live auctions, featuring art-related items and experiences, as well as party favors for all attendees also are planned.

The theme, Manhattan Memories, reflects some of the subject matter of our honored guests and offers a nod to the event's beneficiary. The memory program, now in its third year, provides education and engagement opportunities for persons affected by memory loss. All program

services are FREE and are open to anyone in the Flint Hills region.

A VIP (very important paintings) Experience begins at 6 p.m., with a general Mingle following at 7 p.m. Mingle tickets are \$50 per person. A limited number of VIP tickets are available at \$75 per person and include select food and beverages, a docent-led tour, reserved parking, and a souvenir drinking glass. For more information or to make reservations, call 785-537-4610. Tickets also may be purchased online at [www.meadowlark.org](http://www.meadowlark.org).

### Art Mingle: Fine Art Fair

*Art Mingle: Manhattan Memories* is one of three events during a memorable weekend. On Saturday, March 10, allow your eyes and feet to wan-

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### Don't miss this memorable weekend of events!

- Friday, March 9 — Art Mingle: Manhattan Memories**  
6 p.m., VIP experience; 7 p.m., Mingle  
Meadowlark Hills Community Center
- Saturday, March 10 — Art Mingle: Fine Art Fair**  
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Meadowlark Hills Community Center
- Sunday, March 11 — Numb & Number, staged play reading**  
4 p.m., Manhattan Arts Center

# Change, growth highlights of 2017

By Lonnie Baker

As we welcome a new year, I am pleased to share that Meadowlark has had another exciting and busy 12 months. The organization has experienced change, accomplishment and growth to include the recent acquisition of two local senior living properties.

Effective Dec. 1, 2017, Meadowlark became the new owner of Autumn Hills Memory Care Home. Autumn Hills, a Home Plus model for senior living with a focus on memory care, currently has two locations: one in Manhattan and one in Riley. Meadowlark remains on the forefront of exploring better ways to care for aging adults, not

only on the current campus in Manhattan, but also in the surrounding region. I am delighted about our opportunity to serve more people and more communities through the Home Plus model. As an organization, we are always reinventing ourselves, and, in continuing to grow and expand, this was the next logical step.

Financially, we continue to operate on solid footing despite challenges of government programs. Within the Medicare system there have been significant increases in regulatory pressure and fines. A recent

report indicated that fines in Kansas nursing homes increased from \$52,000 in 2012 to \$4.6 million in 2016. In addition, the number of Immediate Jeopardy citations increased from nine in 2012 to 134 in 2016. Despite the currently regulatory climate in our state, Meadowlark's annual surveys for both Assisted Living (AL) and Healthcare (HC) occurred in October 2017 and were completed with just minor

tags that were corrected within hours.

Our campus census consistently has remained higher than 92 percent. As a result, Meadowlark has been able to control rate increases for residents.

Over six years, the average rate increase has decreased by 59 percent compared to the preceding 10-year average.

Our Memory Program has completed its second year with continuous growth. The program has made it possible for Meadowlark to foster a fruitful relationship with the Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art at Kansas State University. The Beach assists with ArtFull Memories, a monthly session with Kim Richards from the museum, who leads a discussion about specific art pieces.

About 110 people attended

the Legacy Society Banquet on May 15

at Bluemont Hotel, where we honored four award recipients for their gifts of time, talent, and treasure to Meadowlark. Honorees were Don Rasmussen, Legacy Award; Duane and Patricia Miksch, Good Samaritan Award; Bonnie Nespor, Margaret Wheat Spirit of Meadowlark Hills Award; and the late Marla Bugbee, Johanna Lyle Excellence in Service Award.

Our 4th annual HOGtoberfest benefiting the Good Samaritan Fund generated \$27,294.07 in revenue. This total is about \$9,000 more than 2016's tally. Five representatives from local real estate agencies competed in the HOG & Kisses Contest, raising \$16,530.07 collectively. Foundation board member Cindy Sloan received "votes" totaling \$6,580.50, with Jodi Thierer and Travis Hecht proving to be her closest competition.

In October, Meadowlark was awarded the Friend of the College Award from the College of Human Ecology at Kansas State University. I accepted the award on behalf of Meadowlark at their annual banquet. It was a lovely evening, and the organization was honored to be recognized as a significant partner in the growth of students at KSU.

Best wishes for a peaceful 2018.




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Recognized as a significant partner in the growth of K-State students, Meadowlark received the Friend of the College Award from the College of Human Ecology at Kansas State.

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### Konza United Way

Meadowlark Memory Program is receiving a financial boost in 2018 with a \$2,250 grant from Konza United Way.

The funding will help the program expand its FREE public education and arts-related opportunities. A new class, Memories in the Making, will begin in February. Participants with memory loss create works of art in a non-judgmental setting.

For more information, contact Michelle Haub, Memory Program Leader, at 785-323-3899.

## Meadowlark staff give to local charities

In 2012, a Meadowlark employee diagnosed with leukemia prompted a plan to raise money to help with her medical bills. Staff members were invited to pay a dollar to wear jeans on a few weekdays usually reserved for business attire. About \$900 was raised.

"The employees liked being able to give back, and we started having Jeans Days every month," remembers Jayme Minton, Support Services Director.

In December, staff members voted for 2018 Jeans Day beneficiaries.

Here are their selections:

January: Konza United Way  
February: Ronald McDonald House

March: Boys & Girls Club of Manhattan and Purple Power Animal Welfare Society

April: Meadowlark Parkinson's Program

May: Helping Hands Fund  
June: Sunflower CASA Project

July: Meadowlark Memory Program

August: Manhattan Emergency Shelter

September: Flint Hills Breadbasket

October: Good Samaritan Fund  
November & December: Local sponsored family

### ➡ MINGLE, from Page 1

der at Art Mingle: Fine Art Fair. Local and area sculptors, painters, jewelry makers, etc., will exhibit and sell their work from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Meadowlark's Community Center.

There is no charge to attend the Fair, and the public is invited. Plan to spend a few hours and cure your cabin fever!

A list of participating artists will be released as names and their media become available. If you're an artist and would like to participate, contact Ginny Young at [artbyginny@gmail.com](mailto:artbyginny@gmail.com).

### Numb & Number play reading

A third opportunity for art appreciation is to occur on Sunday, March 11, when Kansas State University theater students present a staged reading of a play, *Numb & Number*, written by Deborah Murray, an instructor in the university's English department. The play reading is planned for 4 p.m. at Manhattan Arts Center.

"*Numb and Number* is based on my family's experience facing our mother's Alzheimer's diagnosis — not so much about Alzheimer's as about the emotional upheaval a family faces when someone they love gets this diagnosis," Murray writes.

The students will be led by Sally Bailey, Direc-

### Thank you, Art Mingle sponsors!



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tor of the Drama Therapy Program and a faculty member of the Gerontology program. Lynsey Becher and Emily Trube of the Drama Therapy master's program play two sisters.

Admission is by donation, with proceeds benefiting Meadowlark Memory Program. Murray's mother lived at Meadowlark Hills from 2008 until her death in 2015.

Follow Meadowlark on Facebook, @meadowlarkmnhk, to receive event updates.

Questions about  
Meadowlark Foundation?  
Contact Becky Fitzgerald,  
Development Director,  
at (785) 323-3843 or  
[rebecca.fitzgerald@meadowlark.org](mailto:rebecca.fitzgerald@meadowlark.org)

Learn about Meadowlark  
or **donate online** at  
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## Foundation Focus

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# How will tax reform affect charitable giving?

Times sure change quickly! You may recall that in the last newsletter we offered ways to manage solicitation requests from charitable organizations. Now, based on recent tax law changes, many people question their ability to give charitable gifts at all.

According to The Joint Committee on Taxation, a result of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 is that about 94 percent of taxpayers will claim the standard deduction starting in 2018, an increase of about 24 percent over 2017 estimates. The thrust of the charity debate is whether removing taxpayers' ability to itemize charitable contributions (and therefore to reap additional tax savings) will prevent them from donating.

As is usual with such matters, the answer is a bit more nuanced than simply itemizing or not, and it will depend on everyone's personal financial situation, as well as their goals and desire for giving.

Most experts agree that the majority of taxpayers will benefit from "tax reform" in terms of overall tax savings (not to mention time and money spent on recordkeeping and annual filing). If we view the increased (roughly doubled) standard deduction as inclusive of the tax advantages we



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would have received by itemizing, there remains a probability that we can donate at levels similar to years past.

For those who wish to preserve itemizations beyond the standard deduction, there has been considerable discussion surrounding the idea of giving to charities every other year, to effectively double-up. This could be a good strategy, again, dependent on your personal financial situation. However, don't assume that you *won't* be in the estimated 6 percent itemizing for 2018 and subsequent years: The tax reform bill actually expanded deductions in some impactful areas, such as medical expense deductions and the estate tax, in addition to increasing charitable contribution limits.

All technicalities aside, the decision to give may come down to questions such as, how strongly do you feel about the

organizations courting your favor? How important are the tax benefits? Where will your support be used most effectively? The bottom line is that, with such uncertainty, you should always speak with a trusted tax advisor. He or she can help you answer those questions and build a charitable giving budget that satisfies both your financial well-being, and your desire to do good.