

Janet L. Koontz

A Model for Philanthropy



Brightspire Foundation is honored to announce that former River Landing at Sandy Ridge Society member, Janet L. Koontz “Jan,” has provided a meaningful gift of nearly \$10,000 to Brightspire Foundation. Her gift is a result of her planning and the establishment of a Charitable Gift Annuity that provided guaranteed income as well as a charitable gift. Jan’s gift will benefit the River Landing at Sandy Ridge Employee Scholarship Endowment.

Jan grew up in Bremen, Indiana, attending Bremen Public Schools until she went on to attend Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana. After joining the service, she was stationed on Midway Island, where she began her teaching career. She went on to teach in Dearborn, Michigan, then Richmond, Virginia, where she met her lifelong partner, Nancy. Jan went on to work at Rutgers

University where she retired. In retirement, they moved to North Carolina, eventually settling at River Landing at Sandy Ridge.

In addition to her estate gift, Jan had a long history of generosity. She was a model for philanthropy and consistent in giving her time, talent, and treasure. In June of 2021, Jan made a gift to dedicate the indoor Walking Track in the River Landing at Sandy Ridge Wellness Center. This gift enabled residents to celebrate former River Landing at Sandy Ridge Life Enrichment Coordinator, Joy A. Odom. Jan greatly appreciated Joy and her “many, many miles” that she walked on trips and outings on behalf of the residents and the community in her years of service. “I had a dream for the Wellness Center and here it is —it’s beautiful and I love it,” Jan shared.

In 2012, Jan donated funds to River Landing at Sandy Ridge to purchase a bus so residents could travel longer distances in comfort. “The bus Jan donated was lovingly named Miss Nancy and allowed the residents at River Landing to enjoy many, many day trips (such as Asheville, Mt. Airy, The Temple Theater in Sanford as a few examples) as well as many multiple night excursions (Annapolis,

(over please)

MD, Charleston, SC, Savannah, GA, as a small sampling) comfortably!” shared Cindy Hawks, Director of Resident Services at River Landing at Sandy Ridge. “Having access and use of the bus allowed River Landing to provide many opportunities to its residents for fun and travel!”

Jan could regularly be found playing chair volleyball with other residents. She also had a keen eye, helping staff at River Landing at Sandy Ridge proofread publications. Jan’s attention to detail and passion for excellence ensured that written communications were of the highest quality. Jan was also involved in the High Point University pharmacy program, called the Patients Longitudinal Program, which has a goal to teach pharmacy students necessary and applicable customer service skills before they begin their journey in the workforce. Jan was paired with a High Point University pharmacy student, teaching them to communicate with patients in a way that builds trust and confidence between pharmacist and patient. She also served on the River Landing at Sandy Ridge Employee Scholarship Committee for several years.

Jan is survived by her brothers, Gary (Kathleen) Koontz of Wakarusa, Indiana, and Kent (Carolyn) Koontz of Bremen, Indiana, and numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her companion Nancy Mitchell, along with her parents.

“Jan loved River Landing. She was a major part of the fabric of our community,” shared Tom Smith, Executive Director of River Landing at Sandy Ridge. “Jan was intrinsically involved in the daily life here, but she also understood the big picture and our mission, she was generous and loving, and we will miss her greatly.”

***HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF
RIVER LANDING AT SANDY RIDGE?***

Current and future gifts to Brightspire Foundation can be earmarked to support River Landing at Sandy Ridge in a way that reflects your philanthropic goals and priorities. Please contact Marisa Ray, Director of Development at 336.886.6553 ext. 5118 or mray@brightspire.org.

You may also wish to visit brightspire.mylegacygift.org for additional information and to view stories that highlight recent estate gifts received by the Foundation. Those who have made provisions to include the Foundation and River Landing at Sandy Ridge in their estate plans are invited to join the River Landing at Sandy Ridge Society.

Although we will now be known as Brightspire Foundation, The Presbyterian Homes Foundation, Inc. will remain our legal name. We are still a 501 (c)(3) organization, and our federal tax ID number remains: 58-2004356.