

# The Legacy of Joining Generations

Since 2005, St. Paul's Senior Living Community has partnered with Thiel College through the Joining Generations program, a collaboration that has now spanned more than 20 years.

The initiative originated from a proposal submitted by Dr. James Shaffer, longtime Professor of Psychology at Thiel from 1970 to 2009 who became a resident of St. Paul's in 2005 and remained part of the community until his passing in March 2025. Inspired by the meaningful opportunities for connection between students and residents, Dr. Shaffer envisioned a program that would foster shared learning and mutual understanding across generations.

The partnership has also been sustained through the generosity of Mary Alice Dean, who was a resident of St. Paul's from 2000 until her passing in August 2022. She established the Mary Alice Dean Joining Generations Fund in 2007 to provide ongoing financial support. Mary Alice believed deeply that the program was "good for the students and good for the residents," and her enduring commitment ensures that Joining Generations continues to enrich lives on both campuses.



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St. Paul's Senior Living Community offers independent living, personal care services, memory care, skilled nursing, home-based services and short-stay for rehab or skilled nursing services.



# Joining Generations

*Bridging the gap between younger & older adults.*



**A partnership between  
two campuses.**

# Bringing Generations Together!

## Internships

St. Paul's Senior Living Community welcomes student interns in various areas of study. Thiel College students who are looking to gain relevant skills and experience in a particular field can choose from the disciplines listed or develop a unique internship opportunity.

- Administration
- Human Resources
- Marketing
- Accounting
- Information Technology
- Spiritual Services
- Development/Fundraising
- Social Services
- Recreation/Fitness
- Volunteer Services
- Environmental Services

For more information on internships at St. Paul's, contact **Caitlin Trauterman** at ext. 1114.

## Academics

Joining Generations participants—Thiel College students and residents at St. Paul's—have many opportunities to learn in the classroom as well as from each other.

Often, professors incorporate learning projects into courses. For instance, students interview residents and write biographical essays or students plan and execute events designed to benefit a particular group of residents.

Special presentations are given to classes by residents in their area of education and/or expertise.

Residents are invited to audit courses each semester. They enjoy special subjects such as music appreciation, literature, history and more.

For more information on academic opportunities with Joining Generations, contact **Tammy Lininger** at ext. 1430.

## Service

Thiel College students can participate in and contribute to the lives of St. Paul's residents through many service opportunities. And enriching lives is mutually beneficial!

Activities and special events held at St. Paul's in which students can participate include everything from annual events to weekly Bible Study classes and Bingo games.

Accompanying residents on community outings, entertaining them by sharing musical talents, assisting with crafts or simply escorting them to daily activities (the beauty shop or fitness center) or on a walk are other ways to enhance residents' lives.

Students always have the opportunity to support activities and special events by volunteering.

For more information on service opportunities, contact **Mike Allen** at ext. 1136. For information on how to volunteer at St. Paul's, contact **Cindy Yeager** at ext. 1312 or visit [www.stpauls1867.org/ways-to-give/volunteer-your-time](http://www.stpauls1867.org/ways-to-give/volunteer-your-time).

