

Interaction with the larger community

One of the joys of living in a University town is the opportunity for interacting with young people.

"Up With People" visited Stillwater this summer and we invited some of the participants to spend the week in our Common House guest rooms. We shuttled them back and forth to their work assignments each day, shared meals with them and took them to local sites. One trip was to the Snow Eagle Rescue operated by the lowa tribe in Oklahoma. Our students were from Sweden, Amsterdam, and Oregon.







Other interactions involve Oklahoma State University students.

Students from the interior design department visit Oakcreek each year prior to doing a project that involves creating a residential design for "seniors". They quickly "get" cohousing and often ask if we can make an "age-exception" so they can come join us.

Another group of students were from the School of Community Health

Sciences and Counseling. Here is the thank you note we received from their professor after they visited Oakcreek.

"Thank you for allowing us to visit. I've received numerous emails from the students and they absolutely loved Oakcreek and what the community represents. (They also might be planning their own cohousing communities after this visit.). You have truly created a thriving, beautiful, and sustainable community."



Another group of students had done a service project for us last year and called to ask if they could return to work with us again. Of course we said YES! They did good work, while they, **and we**, had fun as well.





Oakcreek Members like to volunteer too.

Several Oakcreek Members volunteer at "Our Daily Bread" (ODB), a community-based Food and Resource Center serving low-income persons in Payne County. Oakcreek sponsored a table at the annual ODB Fund Raising event. Our table was located near that of another sponsor, Exchange Bank – the bank that took a chance with us and provided our construction loan. That evening we met the mother of a family of 10 children who rely heavily on Our Daily Bread. The family had 5 children of their own and have adopted 5 more children who needed homes. Collectively Exchange Bank and Oakcreek decided to sponsor this family for Christmas.





What a joy to shop for and wrap the items on the children's gift list and surprise the parents with gifts as well.

Advent and Solstice

We enjoyed the lighting of the labyrinth so much last year that we did it twice this year: once on the first day of Advent and again for Winter Solstice. A group gathered to place the candles. As the moon came up, we walked the lighted labyrinth. Margaret shared her Solstice Reflection that expresses well the feelings of those who share our Oakcreek Community.



Solstice Reflection

I saw the plans, moved in among the trees. I thought it was good to live with such skill and energy close at hand.

I learned there were excellent cooks and pets so it was surely wise to have cast my lot here.

Little did I know perhaps the best is that I moved into the midst of kindness itself.

Margaret Ewing 2018





Early one morning, two does and two fawns came up from the creek and strolled across our meadow. For a moment, we thought they too might walk the labyrinth before they returned to the creek.



A Saturday morning brunch got December off to a great start.



And friends and family joined us for Christmas dinner.



We carpooled to the Stillwater Community Center to hear the Stillwater Community Band Christmas performance which included Oakcreek's Ulrich Melcher on clarinet.

SORRY: No Vacancies

All Oakcreek homes are occupied

We are glad to put your contact information on our Interested List if you want to be notified when a vacancy occurs.

Visit our Website



May 30-June 2, 2019

- Connect with other cohousers
- Share ideas/strategies
- Have a good time

Recommended Books:

<u>Creating Cohousing: Building Sustainable Communities</u>
<u>The Senior Cohousing Handbook, 2nd Edition</u>

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