

JAY AND HARRIET APPEL

A LEGACY OF LOVE, SERVICE AND COMMUNITY



River Landing at Sandy Ridge is honored to announce a meaningful estate gift from the late Harriet and Jay Appel — cherished members of the community whose lives were defined by devotion to family, generosity of spirit and a deep love for serving others.

The Appel's legacy gift will support the endowment for Resident Financial Assistance, helping ensure compassionate care and peace of mind for current and future residents. This generosity reflects a lifelong commitment to caring for others and strengthening the community they proudly called home.

“Jay and Harriet’s gift is a beautiful reflection of the thoughtful, caring people they were and the deep compassion they had for others,” says Tom Smith, Executive Director at River Landing. “Their generosity speaks to the spirit of love and mutual support that defines our community. We were truly honored to have the Appels as residents, and we are deeply grateful for the legacy they leave behind.”

Born on March 21, 1925, in New York City, Harriet was raised with a strong appreciation for learning, curiosity and purpose. She graduated from the University of Connecticut in 1946 and began her career at Prentice Hall Publishing, where her love of books and lifelong learning flourished.

In 1948, Harriet married Jay Appel after the two met on a blind date arranged by one of her sorority sisters. Jay, who served in World War II and during the Korean conflict, was a proud Captain in the Marine Corps. He later built a successful career as co-owner and executive at Herco Art Manufacturing Company in Connecticut, known for producing floor and desk lamps. One of the company’s fluorescent desk lamps famously appears on President John F. Kennedy’s desk in the iconic photograph of JFK with his son, John Jr., playing beneath the Resolute Desk in the Oval Office.

Jay was known for his deep devotion to family. An avid New York Yankees fan, he loved taking his sons, Rick and Cliff, to Yankee Stadium to watch some of baseball’s early legends. “Those were some great memories with Dad,” Rick shared. Cliff reflected on his father’s character, saying, “Dad’s commitment to his family was unsurpassed and his love was unconditional.”

Together, Jay and Harriet built a life rooted in love, service and community involvement. In New Bern, N.C., they were active supporters of the community, including the Tryon Palace

Council of Friends, New Bern's Historical Society and the Salvation Army. Jay was also a longtime member of the Civitan Club, both in Connecticut and later for more than two decades in New Bern.

When the couple later moved to River Landing, they quickly became active and beloved members of the community. Jay enjoyed playing pool, golfing and swimming, while Harriet embraced the many social opportunities available. Together, they formed meaningful friendships and were known for their warmth, humor and welcoming spirit.

Family remained at the heart of their lives. Harriet was a devoted mother, grandmother and great-grandmother — affectionately known as “Harriet the Great” — and both she and Jay took great pride in the strong, loving family they built together.

The Appels' estate gift reflects the values they shared throughout their lives — generosity, service and a deep care for others. By supporting Resident Financial Assistance and the Chaplain's Fund, their legacy will continue to ensure that residents experience comfort, dignity, spiritual support and a strong sense of belonging.

River Landing is deeply grateful for Harriet and Jay Appel's generosity and the lasting impact of their gift. Through this meaningful act of giving, their legacy will continue to strengthen the community they both loved so dearly.



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 to reflect your philanthropic priorities. If you would like to learn about the various ways you can make a gift that fits your specific goals, please visit kintura.mylegacygift.org for more information. On our planned giving website, you can also read more stories, like this one, of individuals whose legacies of generosity greatly impacted their community. To discuss planned giving opportunities or to share your intentions of including the Foundation in your estate plans, please contact Philanthropy Director, Terrill Sandiford, at tsandiford@kintura.org or Executive Vice President of Philanthropy, Marisa E. Ray, at mray@kintura.org or by calling 336.886.6553.

Those who have made provisions to include River Landing at Sandy Ridge and the Foundation in their estate plans are invited to join the River Landing at Sandy Ridge Society.

Although the Foundation is doing business as Brightspire Foundation, The Presbyterian Homes Foundation, Inc., remains the legal name. The Presbyterian Homes Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization, and the federal tax ID number remains: 58-2004356.