

This year has taught us gratitude and how to give thanks for things we would generally take for granted. From friends and family to health, Tai Chi is one of the most effective exercises for the health of mind and body. This practice is taught around the world as it is proven to help people to relax and feel better.

The benefits of Tai Chi for seniors are incredible. A low-impact, relaxing form of exercise that only requires about 20 minutes a day and rewards your efforts. Tai Chi is an internal Chinese martial art in the sense that it focuses on mental and spiritual aspects integrated into movement.

This meditative form of exercise consists of a series of 19 movements and one pose. You may have seen groups of people demonstrating its slow-moving circular forms in public parks.

Here are 12 amazing benefits of Tai Chi for seniors:

- 1. Relieves physical effects of stress
- 2. Promotes deep breathing
- 3. Reduces bone loss in menopausal women
- 4. Improves lower body and leg strength
- 5. Helps with arthritis pain
- **6.** Reduces blood pressure
- 7. Requires mind and body integration through mental imagery
- 8. Accumulates energy by releasing endorphins rather than depleting it
- 9. Enhances mental capacity and concentration
- 10. Improves balance and stability by strengthening ankles and knees
- 11. Promotes faster recovery from strokes and heart attacks
- 12. Improves conditions of Alzheimer's, Multiple Sclerosis, and Parkinson's

Harvard Medical School, in its May 2009 health publication, suggests that Tai Chi, which is often called meditation in motion, might well be referred to as "medication in motion," for in addition to preventing falls and reducing the effects of arthritis. The practice of Tai Chi has been shown to be helpful for a number of medical conditions including; low bone density, breast cancer and its side effects, heart disease and failure, hypertension, Parkinson's disease, sleep problems, and stroke.





Beginning FEBRUARY 16 | Line Dancing Classes

Beginning in February and continuing on into March we will have a Thursday Line Dancing Class. This will be lead by Kelly in the Fitness Center, and all who love music and dancing are encouraged to attend. It will be important that you try to attend as many of the 6 week classes as possible, so you are ready to boogie at the Spring Fling in March! These classes will begin on the 16th at 3:00 pm and will last approximately 30 minutes. Don't forget to sign up with Concierge.



FEBRUARY 22 | Mardi Gras Social Hour

We will be celebrating Mardi Gras in style this year! Not only will we be dressed in our New Orleans Best (beads, masks, gold/purple/green attire) but we will be enjoying the England tradition where this day is also known as Pancake Day. Alongside our Traditional Baby Cake, we will also be feasting on a pancake buffet with all the toppings. Don't miss this sweet, toothed event! Don't have anything to wear? Don't fret! There will be plenty of beads and masks to go around!

FEATURED: The Bedford Big Hearts



Rainbow House
REGIONAL CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER
CHILDREN'S EMERGENCY SHELTER

Thank you to all who donated new and used kitchen items to the City of Refuge this January. Something as small as a pot to cook in can really make a difference when you are in an unfamiliar place. A home cooked meal may be the only thing that makes their new environment feel like home, and for that, THANK YOU! This month we are reaching a new foundation called Rainbow House. Rainbow House serves 11 Mid-Missouri counties in both their Children's Emergency Shelter and Regional Child Advocacy Center every day. They are committed to helping child abuse victims and their families share their stories, begin the healing process, and create hope for the future. Your donations directly impact the lives of children and families in our local community. A detailed list of the items we are collecting can be found in your first February Gazette.

WELCOME YOUR NEW NEIGHBOR!

Gail Zuidema Sandra Sasser Robert Nelson Lynn Yocks

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Delbert Avery February 8thMerv Bettis February 11th

Neil Raymond February 15th

Louis Guest February 17th

