



Spring 2025

News for the friends of GRACE CENTER FOR ADULT DAY SERVICES



Jane's Piano

Donated in 2009 by Carol Alexander and her family, Jane's Piano, a 1904 Chickering baby grand, serves as a centerpiece in the lobby of Grace Center. Since then, participants and volunteers have delighted in playing its ivory keys, filling the halls of Grace Center with their passion for music.

The story of Jane's piano begins one hundred and eleven years ago, in 1914, when the baby grand piano came into the possession of Jane's mother, Zelma Fletcher, a music teacher in the quaint farming town of Malvern, Iowa. Zelma instilled a profound appreciation for music in her students, the local community, and her two daughters, Jane and Lorraine. Jane's enduring connection with the piano ignited when she was just three years old. Throughout her childhood, she dedicated three hours each day to practice.

The piano emerged as a vital source of income during the challenging times of the Great Depression following Jane's father's departure. Jane dedicated her mornings and evenings to practice, while the daylight hours were reserved

for Zelma's students, as she worked hard to provide for her daughters. Jane and her sister both attended college, which was primarily funded by the piano and its students. Jane earned her BA in music and married her lifelong partner, Alex. Throughout her college years and early marriage, the baby grand piano stayed with Zelma. Jane opted for a less cherished piano to maintain her daily practice all while managing her teaching responsibilities and raising three children. In 1950, Jane was joyfully reunited with her cherished friend, the Chickering baby grand piano, which stayed with her for the rest of her life. She played her beloved piano daily until just a week before she, peacefully departed.

In honor of her memory, Jane's family generously donated the piano to Grace Center, where she had many happy moments.

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"If music be the food of love, play on."

- William Shakespeare

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In honor of her memory, Jane's family generously donated the piano to Grace Center, where she had many happy moments.

"We are deeply grateful to the Grace Center especially for their commitment to music as a means to enrich the lives of elders."
- The Alexander Family



Jane Alexander, Brightest of spirits
September 6, 1917 - January 12, 2009

Support Us in Preserving the Legacy

Jane's Story is just one of many inspiring tales from Grace Center. The generous donation of Jane's Chickering baby grand piano ensures that her love for music continues to resonate within Grace Center, enriching the lives of participants, their families, staff, and volunteers. Music has a powerful impact, with scientific evidence highlighting its benefits for brain health, particularly for individuals with dementia. Since 2009, the piano has played a vital role at Grace Center, its sweet, round, dark, and rich tones bringing joy to everyone in the center, much like the happiness it once brought to Jane, her sister Lorraine, and their mother.



Join us in preserving Jane's legacy by contributing as a monthly donor, ensuring that the piano's rich harmonics and structure endure for another one hundred and eleven years. The Chickering baby grand piano is just one of the many vital items that require ongoing maintenance such as:

- Facility maintenance
- Post rehabilitation equipment up-keep
- Maintaining therapeutic activities such as gardening, musical performances, and outings into the community.

Your tax-deductible donation towards these maintenance costs enables Grace Center to concentrate on delivering exceptional and specialized care for our participants and their families. By becoming a part of our dedicated community of supporters, you help us sustain the harmony and well-being that music brings to our center. Every contribution, no matter the size, makes a significant impact. Together, we can continue to celebrate the joy and comfort that music provides, ensuring that Jane's passion and the timeless beauty of her piano live on. Thank you for considering this opportunity to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve. To [start your monthly donation](http://www.gracecenter-covallis.org) go to Grace Center's website at www.gracecenter-covallis.org click the "Become a Supporter" page under the "Get Involved" tab, or scan the QR code on the back to be redirected to the Grace Center donation page.

Family Caregiver Support Group

Grace Center is privileged to have an onsite licensed professional counselor who offers warmth and guidance to caregivers facing overwhelming challenges. Led by Erin Mitchell, PhD, MCoun, MPH, the Counseling Program thrives in this supportive environment. It offers weekly support groups and individual counseling for family caregivers from Benton, Linn, and neighboring counties, at low to no cost. By providing these valuable services, Grace Center significantly impacts the participants it serves, ensuring their caregivers receive the essential support they need. Whether you're dealing with stress, seeking advice, or simply looking for a community that understands your journey, the support offered can be a lifeline. Caregivers are often the unsung heroes, dedicating their time and energy to loved ones in need. At Grace Center, we recognize the importance of supporting these individuals throughout their caregiving journey. For those who may be new to our community, we encourage you to reach out and learn more about the various programs and resources available. Our team is here to assist with any questions and to provide a welcoming environment where caregivers can connect and share their experiences. Remember, you are not alone, and together we can navigate the challenges of caregiving with compassion and resilience.

For more information call (541) 754-8417 or email office@gracecenter-covallis.org

Family Caregiver Support Group
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm. at Grace Center for Adult Day Services.

Respite Care is available from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. during the support group. Services are FREE for the duration of the support group. If the individual is not an enrolled participant, we ask that you provide advanced notice so that we can discuss their care needs. Grace Center reserves the right to determine case by case for non-enrolled participants if a person is an appropriate fit for our respite program.

"Being confronted with and adjusting to my wife's diagnosis last year has been very tough. But discovering Grace Center, and in particular the services provided by Erin, has made the situation much more manageable. I am extremely grateful."

- Family Caregiver

The Family Caregiver Support Group is partly Sponsored by donors like you and the



& the Kiwanis
Foundation

JOINING FORCES FOR GREATER IMPACT

Grace Center and Lumina Hospice are collaborating to offer a community lecture series on dementia, featuring Dr. Helen Kao, the Medical Director of Clinical Innovations at Lumina Hospice and Palliative Care. This informative series is free, and we warmly welcome all to join us. Grace Center will also provide respite care for caregivers who wish to attend the lectures. The fee is \$20 for evening sessions, while noon lectures are complimentary. Please note that registration for respite care must be completed in advance. To schedule, or to get more information call the Grace Center at 541-754-8417. Together, we aim to empower caregivers and provide them with the knowledge and resources they need to navigate the complexities of dementia care.

Film Screening "Wine, Women & Dementia"

April 10, 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm Location: Corvallis Community Center

Caring for Dementia Over Time

June 12, 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm June 13, noon - 1 pm Location: Corvallis Community Center

FUTURE LECTURES IN THIS SERIES:

How Stress Effects Dementia

Fall 2025

Practical Ways to Manage Dementia
"Behaviors"

Winter 2025

Respite is provided at: Grace Center 980 NW Spruce Ave. Corvallis

SAVE THE DATE

SUNDAY
SEPT. 7, 2025

FOR KARAOKE

A FUNDRAISER FOR
GRACE CENTER



Grace Center

For Adult Day Services

980 NW Spruce Ave
Corvallis, OR 97330

Scan the QR code to Donate!

Learn more on our website: www.gracecenter-corvallis.org

"Become a Supporter" page under "Get Involved" tab



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