

A close-up photograph of several vibrant pink hibiscus flowers with yellow centers, set against a background of dark green, serrated leaves. The lighting is soft, highlighting the delicate texture of the petals.

2024

Annual Report

The Danish Association

Paul Pedersen, Chair
Kim Eriksen, Vice Chair
Scott Swanson, President/CEO
Christine Haxager, Secretary
Stan Heidemann
Dawn Jensen
Neil Andersen
Brittany Pedersen
Mikael Olesen
Kim Rasmussen
Karen Nylén-Swidergal

The Society for the Danish Old People's Home d/b/a The Danish Home of Chicago

Scott Swanson, President/CEO
Paul Pedersen
Kim Eriksen, Treasurer
Christine Haxager, Secretary

The Danish Home Foundation

Mr. Scott L. Swanson, President/CEO
Mr. Kim Eriksen, Chair
Mr. Paul Pedersen, Vice-Chair
Ms. Dawn Jensen, Secretary
Mikael Olesen, Director
Linda Steffensen, Development

Audit Committee

Scott Swanson, Chairman
Kim Rasmussen
Dawn Jensen
Mikael Olesen

Executive Committee

Paul Pedersen
Kim Eriksen
Christine Haxager
Scott Swanson

President Women's Auxiliary

Ms. Karen Nylén-Swidergal, President





Dear Family, Friends, and Residents,

It began with a dream: our treasured boutique community needed to grow to meet the evolving demographic and financial demands of today. This dream is now becoming a reality, thanks to the tireless dedication of so many individuals and organizations. Among them, no one has contributed more than Peter Ørum, whose extraordinary efforts have shaped the success of this expansion. Although he died in the fall of 2024, Peter's determination and grit remain solidly behind this project as his best friend Paul Pedersen, and others carry the project and fund-raising forward.

We are honored to announce that, in recognition of Peter's monumental contributions, the new addition to our community will be named The Legace Building in Honor of the Ørum Family. We also launched a new website, created new brochures and folders to showcase what the hard work and financial contributions have afforded us to do for today's seniors. Over seven years, Peter, Paul Pedersen, Kim Eriksen, Stan Heidemann, Linda Steffesen, Dawn Jensen, Kim Jensen Wojack, Sue Keller, Rev. Dr. Karen Knutson, Brittany Pedersen, Mikael Olesen and Nora Bogehegn voluntarily devoted themselves to fund-raising the \$12 million needed to design and build the new addition. Beyond his leadership, Peter and his family were also significant financial contributors, underscoring their commitment to the future of our community.

This 2024 Annual Report is a tribute to Peter and all who have brought this expansion to fruition. Throughout the report, you'll find insightful excerpts from Peter's memoir, *People, Plants, and Politics*, published in 2022. It is a chronology of Peter's fascinating life. Peter's inspirational words resonated deeply during the project's evolution:

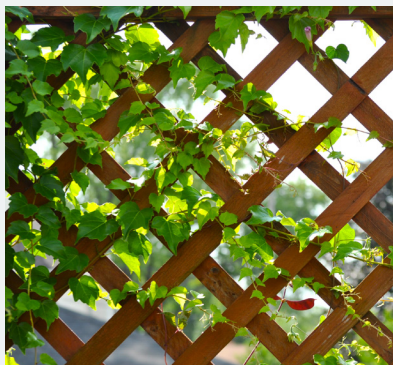
"What is needed here is the will and ability to change and learn new things. Not doing what you always did, but doing the new that you need to do to grow..."

We look forward with great excitement to opening The Legacy Building in Honor of the Ørum Family and welcoming both new and existing residents into a space that embodies Peter and friends' vision, dedication, and passion for progress.

Sincerely,

Scott L. Swanson
CEO & President

A Garden of Growth



“With growth comes a need for change – indeed, growth in itself is change.”

Peter Ørum
People, Plants and Politics



Those involved in The Danish Home, especially Peter Ørum and Paul Pedersen, recognized the need for The Danish Home to expand if it planned to be around for another 130+ years.

“Money!!! If anything could be singled out as the most important thing to learn in developing a business, it is how to handle money,” said Peter. With that, the fundraising committee traversed the United States and Denmark to uncover financial sources to build the expansion. Today, Paul leads the charge to complete the remaining \$5 million appeal by the time the Legacy Building is opened to avoid bank loans with high interest rates.

The addition is being built at 90-feet to make a financial difference which is what Paul championed for, and the board agreed. Today, Paul continues with Kim Eriksen and his team to oversee the Berglund Construction work.

We are grateful that Paul continues to nurture and champion as we continue to mourn Peter’s passing. Yet, it is because of their partnership that we now look forward to seeing the results of their cultivation come to bloom.

As a gardener perseveres through the seasons, our community has done the same in this season of construction. We are proud of our residents, families and visitors who have adapted to our challenges; for relations and temporary living arrangements, reduced dining space and common areas, parking, and more. Yet, the strength of our community and the shared vision have helped us weather these changes and move towards a bright future.

This expansion has brought excitement and anticipation to our community, even during the trials of construction. As resident Nora Bogehegn said, ***“I have nothing to complain about; my excitement and anticipation for the project’s impact make it easy to stay positive. What’s already here is wonderful, but we know it’s about to get even better!”***

“Scott Swanson and the staff along with the Women’s Auxiliary and other volunteers have continued doing a tremendous job to keep the daily operations and festivities going during the construction process,” said Paul Pedersen.

Our Director of Resident Services, Robin Decker, shared similar sentiments: ***“Our residents have been amazingly adaptable, finding joy in watching the progress unfold right outside their windows. They are very excited about seeing the project finished, and it’s a beautiful reminder of our strong sense of community.”***

The Women's Auxiliary Continued to Bloom and Thrive



“There are good times when you know how to find them.”

– Peter Ørum, *People, Plants and Politics*

Since the Women's Auxiliary was founded by Elna Lorentzen in 1958, the Women's Auxiliary Board and its wonderful volunteers have raised funds for The Danish Home of Chicago, assisted in the social well-being of our beloved residents and helped improve their quality of life. In 2024, the Women's Auxiliary's excellent work continued.

On Saturday, April 13, 2024, the Women's Auxiliary held a delightful Spring Luncheon at a new location: Manzo's Banquets in Des Plaines, Illinois. About 70 guests, including Danish Home residents, Auxiliary board members, family and friends, enjoyed the 65th Annual Benefit Luncheon on a beautiful, sunny day. Many Danish Association and The Danish Home Foundation board members were also in attendance.

Auxiliary President Karen Peterson bid welcome, sang the Danish and American national anthems, and gave the opening prayer before the meal. Throughout the afternoon, participants had the chance to win stylish and creative Gift Baskets, most arranged and donated by the Women's Auxiliary board members, and some fantastic Silent Auction items. Special thanks go to Women's Auxiliary Spring Luncheon Chairperson Karen Nylen-Swidergal, Treasurer Jean Jackson and the entire Women's Auxiliary Board for planning another outstanding fundraiser.

Due to construction at The Danish Home, the Women's Auxiliary's Fall Annual Membership Meeting was held via ZOOM on Saturday, October 12, 2024. During the ZOOM meeting, The Danish Home Foundation's Development Director Linda Steffensen showed an interesting PowerPoint Presentation with photographs of the exciting construction progress of The Danish Home's Building Expansion from January 2024 until present day. This was President Karen Peterson's last Annual Membership Meeting, as she finished her three years of excellent service as the leader of the Auxiliary. On Monday, November 11, 2024, Karen Peterson passed the gavel of leadership to new Women's Auxiliary President Karen Nylen-Swidergal.

For information about future Women's Auxiliary events or to join as a new member, please visit <https://danishhomeofchicago.org/womens-auxiliary/>.





6823
HURLEUT STREET





Preserving Danish-American Culture



The Danish Home of Chicago has served as a cultural center for Danes in America. The senior living community shares its appreciation of this deep-rooted connection between The Danish Home and the Danish-American community throughout its rich history while also welcoming people of all backgrounds.

“The Danish-American community contributes to The Danish Home’s heartwarming, cozy, and family-like atmosphere through the years,” says The Danish Home of Chicago’s President/CEO Scott Swanson.

Danish customs are kept alive at The Danish Home by frequently serving favorite Danish food such as frikadeller and Danish open-faced sandwiches. Annual celebrations like Summerfest and Fallfest, and Holiday traditions like Lillejuleaften, also known as “*Little Christmas Eve*”, are celebrated annually. Most notably, the legacy of honoring and caring for elders is a constant commitment by a robust and active volunteer base that can be seen at The Danish Home daily, such as hosting birthday parties, playing games with residents, or other activities that help the residents live a life full of “*hygge*”, the Danish word for contentment.

Linda Steffensen, Foundation Development Director adds, ***“Our Consul General Jesper Køks Andersen recognized the significant importance of The Danish Home as a continuing care retirement community and as a valued Danish cultural center in the Midwest and the United States.”***

“ Each Danish-American group has a unique history and purpose, and they bring special connections to The Danish Home of Chicago. They are friends, volunteers, board members, and advocates for The Danish Home itself and our beloved residents. Each club, lodge, or organization strives to preserve and strengthen the Danish-American culture and heritage in their way, and we are so appreciative of these remarkable connections and lifelong friendships with The Danish Home and our amazing residents. ”

-Linda Steffensen.

Accolades for The Danish Home



The Danish Home of Chicago received the Founding Member Award from LeadingAge Illinois in recognition and gratitude for a century of partnership. The award was presented to the community during LeadingAge Illinois' 100th anniversary dinner on July 29th, 2024.

The Founding Member Award recognizes organizations that have made outstanding contributions to the field of senior living and have been actively involved in advancing the mission of LeadingAge, an association that serves not-for-profit senior living communities. The Danish Home of Chicago, established over 130 years ago, was honored for its long-standing commitment to providing exceptional care and support to seniors, reflecting the core values of LeadingAge Illinois.

Scott Swanson, President and CEO of The Danish Home, accepted the award on behalf of the community, and expressed his gratitude and pride.

" Receiving this award is a testament to the hard work and dedication of everyone at The Danish Home of Chicago. It is an honor to be recognized by LeadingAge, and we are excited to continue our mission of enhancing the quality of life and care for older adults. "

-Scott Swanson



The Danish Home Association

Statement of Financial Position

Assets

Current Assets	\$ 1,226,315
Investments	\$ 7,932,831
Interest in Donor Controlled Perpetual Trust	\$ 5,706,039
Property and Equipment with Other Assets	\$ 8,519,193
Total Assets	\$ 23,384,378

Liabilities and Net Assets

Current Liabilities	\$ 2,736,827
Reserve for Life Care Costs	\$ 292,235
Net Assets	\$ 20,355,316
Total Assets	\$ 23,384,378

Statement of Activities

Operating Revenue	\$ 2,818,480
Operating Expenses	\$ 4,576,551
(Operating Loss)	- \$ 1,758,071
Investments	\$ 1,738,482
Contributions	\$ 2,694,907
Other	\$ 8,188
Net Income	\$ 2,683,506

Census - September 30, 2024

Independent Living	14
Catered Living	14
Healthcare	7
Total	35





Danish American
Language Foundation

Preserving the Danish language and culture in America

PETER DRUM

Paul & Peter

Lifelong Best Friends



Through the Danish Junior League, Peter met his bride-to-be, Irma. They married in 1966, and soon after they started their family with their first child, Christa. Together, they purchased their first piece of land for a nursery in 1969 and this was the beginning of a long successful business.

Paul arrived in the U.S. as a nursery trainee in 1969. This is when he met Peter. After going back to serve in the Danish Army, he once again returned as a Danish immigrant and was Peter's first employee in April 1972. In 1974 after working in the landscaping industry for a year, Paul started his own commercial landscape company.

Their friendship was rooted in their common interest in plants and growing up in the same part of Denmark. They each had their own successful business and together, they started PP&O Nursery to grow larger trees for the landscape industry. This went on for 25 years before they sold it to a young man and since has become a flourishing business which they both are proud of.

Peter's lifelong involvement and leadership with Danish and Danish American organizations, as well as his leadership in horticultural circles, is legendary. His steadfast dedication to the Danish American culture, horticulture and immigration reform are hallmarks of his life. Paul's Danish roots, landscaping and horticultural prowess created a bond for these two men professionally. Both Peter and Paul have worked tirelessly at many Danish Organizations, not the least, the Scandinavian Club in Arlington Heights which was kept running for an additional 10 years with restaurant friend Johnny Luyten.

Peter and Paul also shared many personal moments and memories both good and bad. Paul was the chauffeur when Peter's daughter, Christa, was married. Paul was driving right behind the motorcycle carrying Peter and Peter's son Stig, when they were hit by an errant driver. Stig was killed and Peter was in serious condition but alive. Paul was also with Peter when he passed away in the fall of 2024.

Paul carries on, bringing his children with him into volunteer roles in the Danish Community. His daughter, Brittany, is on the board at The Danish Home and his son, Janek, is the treasurer at The Danish American Language Foundation. His son Julian currently resides in Denmark.

Christa Ørum-Keller, who is now Chairman of the Midwest companies, runs the family businesses with her husband Craig Keller. The new Legacy Building will be dedicated to Peter and Irma Ørum.

For these two leaders and the many people who work tirelessly to keep The Home special: board members, the Women's Auxiliary, volunteers, residents and families, we are eternally grateful for everyone's dedication to The Danish Home.



Donor List

\$1,000,000 and over
\$10,000 - \$200,000
\$1,000 - \$ 4,999

1
15
29

\$500 - \$ 999
\$100 - \$ 499
Under \$100

32
135
99

Aaron Henning
 Addison Manufacturing
 Alicia J. Henriksen
 Allan and Nicolette Harpelund
 Annette and Doug Barndt
 Arne and Dolores Andersen
 Barb and Mike Ceruti
 Barbara Gaona
 Barbara and Stefan Piechota
 Barbara Polacek
 Barbara Sivertsen
 Bebsie Jensen
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 Betty Portenlanger
 Brian and Sandi Haynes
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 Bruce Bang
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 Carol Woodward
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 Christensen Financial Group, LLC
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 Peter Andersen
 Peter Flinch
 Peter K. Nielsen
 Peter Orum
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 Sune and Barbara Frederiksen
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 Susan Weiler/Morris Sign Studio
 Suzanne Wodka
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 Thomas Villano
 Thomas W. Soseman
 Tom and Dianna McDonough
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Cynthia Chow & Assoc.
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Danish American Athletic Club
Danish Brotherhood Lodge #35
Danish Consulate General
Danish National Committee of Chicago
Danish Pioneer
Danish Sisterhood Dagmar Lodge #4
Danish-American Language Foundation
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Trudy Hoyer
Victoria Myers
Women's Auxiliary of the Danish Home

IN-KIND DONATIONS

Lynn Blumenthal Guazzo
Peter K. Nielsen

HONORARY

In Honor of The Andersen Family
In Honor of Anna Anfenso
In Honor Charlotte Mogensen
In Honor of Chris Haxager
In Honor of The Danish Home Staff
In Honor of Else Meyers
In Honor of Esther Sorensen
In Honor of the Jensen/Nielsen Family
In Honor of Peter Orum
In Honor of Shirley Adams
In Honor of Shirley Andersen

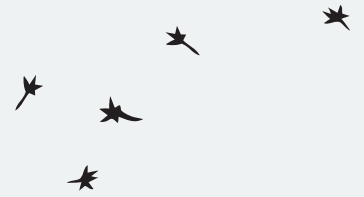
MEMORIALS

In memory of Alice Jorgensen Kidd
In memory of Avis Rasmussen
In memory of Bent and Lydia Hansen
In memory of Betty Petersen and Niels
Pedersen
In memory of Chris and Robert
Steffensen
In memory of Clara Christiansen
In memory of Diana and Leif Nielsen

In memory of Edith Hellyer
In memory of Edith Jorgensen
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In memory of Erik Haxager
In memory of Ester Nielsen
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In memory of Ib Jorgensen
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In memory of Inga Bang
In memory of Irma Orum
In memory of Jane Nefeldt
In memory of Jean Frandsen
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In memory of Jenny Jensen
In memory of Jens and Dora Hansen
In memory of Jerry Andersen
In memory of John and Doris
Wegener
In memory of June Frostholt
In memory of Karen Aagaard
In memory of Kari Andersen
In memory of Kittie LaPointe Peterson
In memory of Lisbeth Christensen
In memory of Magdalena "Maggie"
Anderson
In memory of Marge Dobbs
In memory of Maren and Ken
Mogensen
In memory of Mark Nussle
In memory of Marty Seyller
In memory of Mildred Andersen
In memory of Millie Otto
In memory of Paul and Margit
Kjeldbjerg
In memory of Paul and Shar Roge
In memory of Pauline K. Jensen &
Eric R. Jensen
In memory of Poul and Elie Steffensen
In memory of Phyllis Dina
In memory of Ruth Check and
Henrietta Christiansen
In memory of Ruth Crandall
In memory of Sheryl Crook
In memory of Stephen Egresits
In memory of Tova Craig

In Memory of Peter Ørum

December 4, 1941 - October 17, 2024



As a cultural touchpoint for the community, many Danish and other Scandinavian groups enjoy meeting at the Danish Home to enrich their purpose and plans. The Danish Consulate recognizes our community as the cultural hub for Danish traditions and values and honors us with frequent visits.

We continue to enhance the community with capital improvements and programming that suit modern-day seniors of all ethnicities and are proud to offer studio, one-bedroom apartments, and one-bedroom suites for:

Independent living

Catered living

Nursing care*

***We do not participate in Medicare or Medicaid programs**

- A monthly rental community
- Chef-prepared dining three times daily
- Private dining room for parties
- Many inviting common areas for games, cards, and conversations
- Resident life programs
- Lively outings
- Engaging activities
- Weekly housekeeping and laundry services
- Wireless Internet
- Cable television
- Emergency call system
- 24-hour nursing care in semi or private rooms
- Lovely park-like setting with gardens and patios
- Exercise room
- Beauty salon



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5656 N Newcastle Ave.
Chicago, IL 60631

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