What would The Dirty Dozen say today? I’m not talking about the cast of the iconic 1967 WWII movie. I’m talking about the original twelve residents of Air Force Village (now Blue Skies of Texas). As we look forward to the 50th anniversary of our first resident in 2020, I wonder if the original residents would even recognize Blue Skies these five decades later.

Today, both campuses burst with non-stop activity, as you can tell from the articles in this report, but there is a lot more. On the East campus, you’ll find the Sky Lounge (the 17th floor of the high rise with panoramic views of downtown San Antonio) serving as the focal point of entertainment. From “Thirsty Thursday” (they don’t wait for Friday) through the weekend, the lounge and the dining room are always packed. The West campus is equally busy. Residents are walking (people and dogs), jogging and biking each morning when I come into work, new homes are under construction and soon-to-be residents have already reserved all of them. There is also a healthy competition developing between East and West over who has the best chef. Chef Aaron, the new executive chef at the East campus is giving Chef Brad, the executive chef at West, some tough competition.

This is not just a place to live; it is a place to start living better! Whether it is the carefree lifestyle, the attentive staff, the endless activities, the outstanding amenities or the highly rated medical options, people are drawn to Blue Skies for different reasons. Yet they all agree on one thing: “We should have gotten here sooner!” That simple comment, heard often, illustrates how much they love their new lifestyle and friends.

A unique combination! That is how the CARF accreditation team described Blue Skies after hearing the residents say that the best thing about living at Blue Skies was the caring staff, and hearing the staff say the best thing about working at Blue Skies was the residents. That is a magical combination rarely seen.

Maybe that is one of the reasons Blue Skies has two of only three (our East and West campuses are accredited separately) CARF-accredited senior living facilities in the state of Texas. And Texas is a really big state!

I am confident that Lt Col Mary Eckman, USAF (Ret), our very first resident, and her eleven compatriots would be grinning from ear-to-ear at what they started. And I’m sure The Dirty Dozen would be amazed at what we have become. I think we’ve done them proud.

Come see for yourself. There is something special here!

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Kurt Riedel, Freedom House Manager, says he witnesses poignant examples every day of how his staff truly cares for residents. “I saw one of our young caregivers enter a resident’s room, gently urge her to come out and socialize, and with every step, offer sweet words of encouragement. Then she gave the resident a big hug and said, ‘I love you so much.’ We train staff about caregiving and dementia, but you can’t teach compassion … yet I see compassion all the time.” He adds, “We have staff who have been here since we opened our doors 21 years ago. They love our residents, worry about them, cry with them when they’re sad, and bring them little goodies from the Dollar Store.”

If you haven’t moved to Blue Skies yet, you probably don’t know about the many courtesies you’ll enjoy here. We like to call it Catered Living. Your thermostat is on the fritz? Need help installing or troubleshooting electronics? Cable isn’t working? Kitchen light blew out? Bathroom drain clogged? Need laundry service? Gardening issues? Call the front desk. You’ll get a prompt, experienced, efficient, courteous response, with a smile.

At a fancy restaurant, you show up with six friends, having made a reservation for four, and you get a snooty look from the maître d, followed by, “Sorry, we cannot accommodate your party.” But at Blue Skies, the food service staff goes beyond the call of duty to please. They move tables and make special arrangements. And they do it all with a smile while delivering a delicious meal from an enticing menu. Because the Blue Skies staff aims to please.

Lt. Gen. Darrell Jones, our affable President and CEO, loves to mix and mingle with residents. At Blue Skies West, where he offices, you’ll find him sitting down with folks over breakfast, lunch, dinner or a casual meeting, getting to know everyone, swapping stories or engaging in serious conversation. He does the same thing on a more formal scale at Blue Skies East, where he holds regular Coffee with the President events – listening, updating, letting residents air their concerns. And sometimes, you’ll even find him joining a Zumba class, dancing the joy.
Internal newsletters keep residents apprised of meetings, outings and all things social. We update readers on construction and remodeling projects, and new or changed services and amenities. You’re introduced to new residents and staff. You get scam alerts. Celebrate achievements of fellow residents. Discover how philanthropic giving to the Air Force Villages Charitable Foundation enhances life for everyone at Blue Skies. Keep up with worship service news and the plethora of clubs and activities that help residents stay healthy, fit and happily engaged in life.

Ah, the joy of a clean house

While you’re on the golf course, or catching a movie, or playing bridge with your buddies, our merry crew of efficient housekeepers is busily dusting, sweeping, scouring and getting your residence in tip-top shape. Once a week, loaded with cleaning supplies and wearing a big smile, your housekeeper reliably appears to capably perform routine housekeeping chores. Once a month, they tackle a rotating schedule of heavier jobs. In all, at Blue Skies East and West, the crew logs more than 52,000 hours annually, cleaning almost 400 apartments and over 200 houses. That’s a lot of work for 48 staffers! In recognition of their efforts, we celebrate International Housekeepers Week with cake and lots of hugs. Residents appreciate the trustworthy, efficient service, and our housekeepers feel the gratitude.

A short walk to the doc’s office

If you’re feeling poorly, you don’t have to drive in traffic, park and navigate your way through a huge medical complex. Just take a little walk. Right here at Blue Skies, we have clinics for primary care docs and specialists that include cardiology, podiatry, audiology, dentistry ... and even massage therapy. A favorite service of residents: we submit prescription orders or refill requests for them, pick up the prescriptions and bring them back for our residents’ convenience. Former military residents use the pharmacy at Lackland AFB, and civilians use the H-E-B Pharmacy. We’re all about good health and helpful services.
Life Under The Blue Skies
where you’re treated like beloved family

Exercise pays off!

Shortly after moving to Blue Skies a year ago, Mary Michle joined chair exercise classes and attended faithfully. Six months later, her doctor saw that her stress and cholesterol were improved, she was no longer anemic, and she felt, looked and moved better. Encouraged, she continued exercising, lunching with exercise buddies after class, and taking up new activities. Another six months passed and her doctor was astounded at her progress. The classes offer cardio, balance and strength training, and have proven to be restorative for Mary. She also loves walking around the campus and visiting “with all the wonderful people around Blue Skies. Living at Blue Skies has done wonders for my physical health as well as my emotional health and well-being.”

When her doctor told her she needed a knee replacement and suggested she build up her strength before surgery, Gerlinde Lindsey followed doctor’s orders. She did aqua aerobics and worked out until the day before her surgery. After surgery, she slowly resumed exercise and now works out six days a week, alternating swimming, elliptical training and aqua aerobics classes. She is fit, recovered, and has lost 30 pounds. Hope Santos, Life Enrichment Manager, says “She is active, positive and disciplined ... a superstar!”

It takes a village!

First class services, beautiful and well-maintained residences and facilities, delicious dining choices, extraordinary health care, a plethora of activities, and countless amenities and courtesies do not happen by accident. They’re the result of carefully orchestrated teamwork. Blue Skies employs more than 507 people who are dedicated to our residents, but that’s not all. Dozens of contract professionals expand our skills and services with their expertise – including construction, engineering, clinicians, physical/occupational/speech therapy, banking, legal, cleaning, and more. At the annual Blue Skies Appreciation Breakfast held in the Sky Lounge in February, Gen. Darrell Jones told the guests, “You are all valuable partners, and we consider you part of our Blue Skies family.” It takes a collaborative village to maintain the highest standards.

Party like it’s 1950 or 60 or 70 or 80 ...

Residents and staff at The Vista (skilled nursing) recognize a very important truth: parties are for everyone, regardless of mobility, agility, age or health status. We never let a walker or wheelchair stand in the way of a good time. We’ve got Jamaican Night (costumes, foods, dances, music), Bacon Party (all things bacon, a DJ, crazy fun), and a never-ending host of lighthearted party themes. The best part: our Independent Living residents join us, catching up with old friends, and reminding us that even when we have to modify to accommodate aging/health issues, we can still savor it all with joie de vivre. Especially at Blue Skies.
Last year, we told you about John MacIntyre, the Blue Skies Octogenarian Half-Marathoner. Well, he’s still running and has recruited a friend to join him. Hope Santos, Blue Skies Life Enrichment Manager, joined John for the Leon Valley Pioneer Fire-cracker 5K on the Fourth of July. He won first place in his age group and she placed second in hers. He’s 82; she’s 50. She recruited him to join aqua therapy classes where he benefits from muscle stretching and increased range of motion … which he says have empowered him to run faster; he finished his 87th half marathon in August! That’s how we stay young at Blue Skies, folks!

Advanced care for the memory impaired

What happens when a Freedom House memory care patient needs skilled care? Now, they can move to secured living at The Mission (skilled nursing), thanks to a newly-renovated household designed to accommodate their special needs. As the disease advances, some dementia and Alzheimer’s patients require a higher level of acuity, and now Blue Skies can offer that – for residents and, when space is available, for others in the community. Wendy Carpenter, MHA, Chief Health Services Officer, points out another benefit: “When we can provide this important level of care to residents outside our community, that revenue helps offset costs for our residents.”

Blue Star Rating & 3-Day Waiver

A new pilot program advanced by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid is allowing physicians to waive the 3-day hospitalization rule and send patients to rehab after an injury or illness, without qualifying hospitalization. The Mission, a skilled nursing facility (SNF), is the only SNF in San Antonio selected to participate in the program that is designed to return patients home faster and safer, and avoid unnecessary hospital stays. “We are trailblazers in establishing protocols and processes and we are known for providing high quality, compassionate, cost-effective care to the senior population. That’s why we were selected for this honor,” said Wendy Carpenter, MHA, Chief Health Services Officer.

Eagle donors are a special breed. They give generously, make a positive difference, and are truly good friends. We know, because the Order of the Eagle, a philanthropic group of donors, lends faithful support to the Air Force Villages Charitable Foundation year after year. We celebrate these folks who make gifts of $25K or more in either a single gift or in accumulated increments. This year, at our festive Eagle Dinner, we had 130 guests whom we feted with a fine dinner. One donor asked, “Is my money paying for this elegant evening?” The answer is no! 100% of all gifts to the Charitable Foundation are used as the donor requests. Air Force Village, Inc. pays all expenses for the Charitable Foundation, including the annual Eagle Dinner. If you give $25K to the Widows’ Fund, that’s where it goes. Thanks, Eagles!
Thank you to all our donors for your generous support of our mission. Your gifts to the Air Force Villages Charitable Foundation help us enhance quality of life for all residents, ensuring the continuation of our high standards of health-care, wellness and fitness opportunities, exceptional amenities, stimulating activities, and gracious lifestyle.

On these pages, we honor donors who contributed $100 or more from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019. We also thank all donors who give any amount, and we respect the wishes of donors who request anonymity. In memory of those donors who have preceded us in death, you’ll see an (*) beside their names.

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<td>Lt Gen and Mrs. George D. Miller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Jean Miller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Marjorie M. Miller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Carolyn Anderson Myers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Emily H. Myers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Brian Neal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Col and Mrs. James R. Nelson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Mary Ellen Nelson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lt Col and Mrs. Robert Nettleship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Network for Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Dawn Neumann</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Shirley Neyhart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maj Rick Nollenberger and Ms. Nancee Langley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Livia Norman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. and Mrs. Eric Oberg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Herlinda O'Brien</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Col and Mrs. Richard L. O'Connor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Col and Mrs. William O'Hara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Col and Mrs. Edward H. Parker, Jr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lt Col Margaret L. Parkhill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Elfriede G. Parkinson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEO - Blue Skies of Texas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Carol Pratt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Jamie Priest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prime Timers Church Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. and Mrs. Warren L. Rawls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refuge Church of Christ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Josie A. Rice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Col Gil Richardson and Maj Cindy Richardson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Col Jerre B. Richardson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LTC and Mrs. Wayne R. Rickard</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dr. and Mrs. Vernon D. Ritzman
Mrs. Suzanne Robert
Mr. Ronald Roberts
Maj Wayne I. Roberts
Mrs. Jeannie Robinson
Mr. Matthew Robinson
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas R. Rogan
Maj Ronald L. Rose
Rotary Club of San Antonio West
Royce Groff Oil Company
Maj Daryl D. Ruehle
Mr. Clayton M. Rushing
Mr. and Mrs. Donald C. Schaller
Mrs. Yvonne R. Schott
Schwab Charitable
Ms. Renate Scisney
Brig Gen Robert R. Scott
SeaTec Consulting Inc.
Lt Col and Mrs. Joseph M. Senyk
Sew 'N Sews at Village East
Mr. Jim Shelgren
Ms. Brenda Short
Mr. and Mrs. John Shroyer
Mr. Marlin Shumaker
Maj and Mrs. Charles L. Shupack
Lt Col and Mrs. Samuel L. Shutt
Lt Col Donatas Skucas
and Dr. Gina Skucas

Maj Gen and Mrs. D. Bruce Smith
Capt and Mrs. Forrest Smith
Maj James C. Smith
Mrs. Nan A. Smith
Lt Col and Mrs. Travis I. Smith, Jr.
Mrs. Charlene Snively
Society of Air Force Nurses
Maj Gen and Mrs. Mark S. Solo
Mr. James Spitzer
Mrs. Hellen F. Steadman
Mrs. Eva C. Stepan
Mrs. Shirley Stephens Martin
Chaplain and Mrs. Douglas K. Stewart
Mr. Dwight D. Stone
Col and Mrs. Clarence Strebel
Mrs. Margot M. Stryker
Col and Mrs. Robert Stuart
Lt Col and Mrs. Robert Stuckert
Col and Mrs. Glenn H. Sutton
Maj Gen and Mrs. Robert B. Tanguy
Mr. Lawrence L. Tankersley
Col and Mrs. Joseph A. Taylor
Mrs. Sandra L. Terry
* Mrs. Linda E. Tisdale
Mrs. Lucille E. Trenda
Ms. Sue Trull
Mrs. Sandra A. Truzzi
Mrs. Louise M. Turner

Ms. Sarah Turner
U.S. Soccer Foundation
Mrs. Sherrill Uiring
* Mrs. Patricia L. Upchurch
Mr. and Mrs. Ross M. Vale
Mrs. Julia B. Van Aken
Mr. Ronald W. Van Orne, Jr.
Lt Col Joseph R. Vincik
CWO and Mrs. Michael Vollero
Ms. Elizabeth Waldron
CDR and Mrs. Donald Walker
Capt Ed Waples
Mrs. Marilyn M. Weathers
Mrs. Jeanne A. Weeman
Lt Col Harold W. Welch
Lt Col Pamela Westwood and Capt
Michael Westwood
Mrs. Amy Wheeler
Maj Gen and Mrs. James A. Whitmore
Mrs. Barbara Whorton-Farley
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Williamson
* Col Dave Wise
Ms. Martha Wisman
Mr. Josh Wolfram
The Wood Agency
Mrs. Katie L. Wray
Brig Gen and Mrs. Robert L. Wright
Mrs. Margaret T. Yeaton

This powerful sculpture was created in commemoration of the women of the USAF Officers’ Wives’ Clubs who, in the 1960s, began to envision and raise funds to launch Air Force Village. Many of those same women now reside or have resided at what is now Blue Skies of Texas. Light from inside the bronze globe streams through the locations that represent the original 217 participating Air Force bases worldwide. The bronze eagle, a symbol of freedom and protection, soars over the globe. Created by Trace Guthrie, the sculpture was unveiled in October 2004 and is displayed in the lobby of Blue Skies of Texas West.
## Consolidated Financial Information

### Resident Census

*As of August 31, 2019*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Independent Living</td>
<td>802</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skilled Nursing</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freedom House</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assisted Living</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Meals Served

- **EAST**: 550,471
- **WEST**: 802

### Favorite Menu Items

**EAST**: Hamburgers

**WEST**: Turkey & Dressing

### Return on Investment

- **120 Distinct Activities**
- **75 Clubs and Organizations**
- **45 Weekly Exercise Classes**
- **15+ Outdoor Activities**
- **4 Dining Venues**
- **114,641 Miles of Bus Transportation**
- **Countless Volunteer Opportunities**
- **30 Social Events**
- **Unlimited New Friends**

- **Housekeeping Expenses**
- **Home Maintenance Costs**
- **Landscape Worries**
- **Trash Collection Fees**
- **Basic Cable Bills**
- **Security, Smoke & Heat Alarm Expenses**
- **Public Transportation Costs**
- **State Income Tax**
- **Property Tax**
- **Snow Shoveling**

### Operating Revenue

- **Resident Service Fees & Other Monthly**: $41,886,754
- **Amortization of Entrance Fees**: $6,074,022
- **Charitable Contributions**: $2,077,473
- **Other**: $1,513,230

### Operating Expenses

- **Resident Services**: $30,733,267
- **Depreciation and Amortization**: $9,960,472
- **Interest**: $5,129,534
- **Administrative and General**: $6,390,243

### Operating Gain (Loss)

- **Operating Revenue**: $41,886,754
- **Operating Expenses**: $30,733,267

### Non-Operating Loss

- **Investments Gains**: $1,392,956
- **Land Sale Gain**: $1,267,583
- **Disposal of Assets No Longer in Service**: $376,059
- **Resident Employee Appreciation**: $215,739

### Net Assets

- **Total Liabilities and Net Assets**: $198,282,910

### Consolidated Financial Statements

#### Balance Sheet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Unaudited</th>
<th>Audited</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Balance at June 30, 2019</strong></td>
<td>$198,282,910</td>
<td>$199,439,224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Assets</td>
<td>$5,981,333</td>
<td>$7,303,805</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted Investments</td>
<td>37,246,316</td>
<td>36,384,580</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted Investments</td>
<td>27,739,485</td>
<td>27,049,262</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property, Plant &amp; Equipment</td>
<td>127,086,146</td>
<td>128,472,007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>229,570</td>
<td>229,570</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$198,282,910</strong></td>
<td><strong>$199,439,224</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Liabilities</td>
<td>$11,085,206</td>
<td>$10,611,600</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annuity Obligations</td>
<td>817,035</td>
<td>903,642</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long-Term Debt</td>
<td>120,655,653</td>
<td>123,616,583</td>
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<tr>
<td>Entrance Fees</td>
<td>49,496,820</td>
<td>49,486,907</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>182,057,714</strong></td>
<td><strong>184,620,732</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$16,225,196</strong></td>
<td><strong>$14,818,492</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Statement of Operations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Year Ended</th>
<th>Year Ended</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Operating Revenue</strong></td>
<td>$41,886,754</td>
<td>$42,168,675</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Operating Expenses</strong></td>
<td>$30,733,267</td>
<td>$30,474,410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Depreciation and Amortization</strong></td>
<td>$9,960,472</td>
<td>$9,177,788</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Interest</strong></td>
<td>$5,129,534</td>
<td>$5,161,633</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Resident Employee Appreciation</strong></td>
<td>$(215,739)</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Operating Revenue</strong></td>
<td>$51,551,479</td>
<td>$51,295,456</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Operating Gain (Loss)</strong></td>
<td>$(662,037)</td>
<td>$938,808</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Non-Operating Loss</strong></td>
<td>$1,392,956</td>
<td>$903,459</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Land Sale Gain</strong></td>
<td>$1,267,583</td>
<td>$3,310,630</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Disposal of Assets No Longer in Service</strong></td>
<td>$(376,059)</td>
<td>$(402,310)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Resident Employee Appreciation</strong></td>
<td>$(215,739)</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Non-Operating Income (Loss)</strong></td>
<td>$2,068,741</td>
<td>$3,811,779</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Decrease in Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>$1,406,704</td>
<td>$4,750,587</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Net Assets at Beginning of Year</strong></td>
<td>$14,818,492</td>
<td>$10,067,905</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Net Assets at End of Year</strong></td>
<td><strong>$16,225,196</strong></td>
<td><strong>$14,818,492</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please contact the Finance Department at (210) 838-6325 if you would like a copy of the audited report.
Every evening, around 9:00, he calls his sister in Chicago. Suffering from dementia, she doesn’t remember him, but he plays the piano over the phone, familiar songs … and she begins to sing. He smiles. Eppie, his lovely wife, smiles, too. That’s the kind of people Fidel and Eppie Exconde are. They are kind, loving, devoted, friendly, accomplished … and they believe in the power of music and memory.

As a neurologist, he appreciates the neurology of the Music and Memory therapy that Blue Skies uses with residents in Freedom House and skilled nursing. He donated his electronic piano to Freedom House and hopes one day to volunteer in their program.

Together since 1964, they have led a life of medical service. He led the Western Connecticut Medical Center Department of Neurology at Yale University for 30 years. Then he and Eppie, an RN, felt a pull to relocate, to start a new life away from academia, where they could simply serve patients. They found their way to the Nix Medical Center in 1989, where Dr. Exconde, one of the few Fellows in the Academy of Neurology in San Antonio at that time, was welcomed enthusiastically. They spent a decade in private practice, Eppie serving as his nurse, before retiring in 1998.

They spent time in Rockport after retirement, then returned to San Antonio to the allure of living in an active retirement community. Dr. Exconde had been involved in a medical relationship with the former Air Force Village and they discovered through friends that Blue Skies now accepts non-military residents. Dr. Exconde confesses he was a little anxious that, as a civilian, the officers might pull rank on him. “Ha,” he laughs now, remembering the easygoing, genial encounters he has had with officers, including generals, since his very first visit to Blue Skies. “They were so warm and kind and disarmingly unassuming.” He says one of his neighbors, a four-star general, even rehearses harmonica pieces with him on his home piano, and adds, “How cool is that?”

It’s the friendly people that really drew them to Blue Skies, he says, “especially the people in our cul de sac … they make this place. They sell it. They are so real, they love you and you can’t help but love them in return. And they treat Eppie like a long lost/found relative. They took us in. And when we discovered the beautiful, upscale, plush restaurants here with wonderful menu selections and services, what could we do but move in?”

Once established in their new home at Blue Skies, the Excondes threw a Filipino party with traditional food, (“even the booze was Filipino,” he says) to thank fellow residents for their warm welcome. Eppie says, “It was a 12-course, authentic Filipino feast,” and the catering staff helped them pull it off.

They’ve been residents since November, 2018, they’re already involved in the ukulele sing-a-long group and the Catholic community, and they’ve prepared four garden plots for fall planting. Eppie sings with the Village Voices and has enjoyed Zumba. Fidel is involved in the Concert Series and enjoys a swim every day, “and I don’t have to maintain the pool,” he says. Avid golfers, they both participated in the 2019 Play for Freedom tournament. They fit right in, and both are delightful assets to the Blue Skies family.
When you take a walk or a scenic drive around Blue Skies, you might find yourself marveling at the beautiful plants, trees and flowers and saying, “ooh” and “ahh” a lot. You’d be in good company. The National Association of Landscape Professionals recently honored Clean Scapes, the landscape firm that designs Blue Skies outdoor spaces, for its exemplary work. The association presented the Silver Award to Clean Scapes in recognition of the inviting, safe, attractive environment they have created for residents’ enjoyment. Challenges included working on vast acreage and uneven terrain, in a land of long, hot summers, drought conditions, and visiting deer, rabbits and other wildlife that love to nibble on tasty botanicals. Our thanks to Brett Nichols and his Clean Scapes crew for all they do to make our Blue Skies campuses beautiful.

Speaking of Awards:

Artistic talent is not a requirement for residency at Blue Skies, but it seems to be a common trait that many of our residents share. As proof, we boast an extraordinarily high percentage of residents who enter – and WIN – ArtsInspire Awards through the annual LeadingAge Texas art contest each year. The contest showcases the artistic talents of seniors in not-for-profit retirement communities across Texas.

Our 2019 ArtsInspire winners pictured here are Dottie Wallingford, Mac McDonald, Karen McDonald, Bob Nettleship, Gail Coe, Ann Albert and Joy Heslin. Also pictured are Vee McNeil, Doris Clark and Sandra Davis, who entered but did not place. Not pictured are winners Doug Frazee and Betty Granheim. Congratulations to all!
OUR MISSION

Blue Skies of Texas is dedicated to quality retirement living with an emphasis on individual wellbeing.

OUR VISION

We will redefine excellence in senior living through our relentless pursuit of innovation, service and care.

Contact Us

Blue Skies of Texas
(210) 568-3204
Marketing
(210) 568-3404
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(210) 568-3206
Toll-Free
(800) 655-3083
Blue Skies East
(210) 673-2761
Blue Skies West
(210) 677-8666
Alzheimer’s Care &
Research Center
(210) 838-6300