



# Ken Kalvig

## Giving Back

By **NAOMI MORRISON**

Full of purpose, Ken Kalvig, attorney at Kalvig Law Firm, is the leading force behind the fundraising events supporting the Immanuel Lutheran Home Memory Garden.

Having a father who passed a few years ago, shortly after having an Alzheimer's-related accident, Ken's mission was to find an environment to build a meaningful place for those afflicted with Alzheimer's disease. Shortly after he thought that, he was called back to the Immanuel Lutheran Home where he had previously served nine years as a board member. But this time it wasn't to be a board member, rather the chair of an event to fundraise for the Memory Garden.

"I had been looking for an Alzheimer's related cause to get involved in that was larger and more meaningful (than walks and other national events)," he said, "because it's a disease that has an ending point. You feel helpless. Immanuel Lutheran did me a favor by asking me to get involved."

As chair of the kick-off event since 2014, his goals were to raise awareness of Alzheimer's and Immanuel Lutheran communities as well as raise money for the Memory Garden. The Memory Garden is something extremely positive for the families of our community.

"Creating awareness in our community dovetailed with the national awareness created by books and movies such as 'Still Alice' and 'Glen Campbell: I'll Be Me,'" he said.

The event included a showing of "Glen Campbell: I'll Be Me," followed by a performance by Ashley Campbell. A live auction also took place.

"This film provided us with an opportunity to become better informed about the disease," Ken said. "It pulled the curtain back and gave us an example. It served as a good platform for dialogue." So many people who are in that caregiver position they go through it alone. "Don't go through it alone," he continued. "Have support. Don't be reluctant to ask."

While Ken was soliciting sponsors and asking for auction donations, so many people said what Immanuel Lutheran was doing was great for the community, and they were pleased to help build it.

"If you have people around to support them and provide guidance for the things they need, they can live independently," said Ken. "The

Memory Garden will have features to enjoy such as a courtyard and engage in activities that have meaning to them and bring up memories."

Those who care for or have Alzheimer's tend to fade from society. "We wanted to de-stigmatize Alzheimer's," he said. "It's a huge, huge problem, and it's one we don't talk a lot about."

Why he appreciates Immanuel Lutheran Home most is because of how interesting it is with all its facets of helping people. First, its primary owner is a church. Second, it provides living facilities for the aging baby-boomer generation. Third, it has high-quality services that the baby boomers have become accustomed to.

On the board he was able to learn about non-profit funding sources, how an organization gets paid for its services, work through human resource issues, talk about ethical and moral issues, and had experience with the highly regulated nursing industry.

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“It’s a dynamic organization. There’s a wide variety of services they provide that allows a person to age in the same place. But as a board, there are so many different things you get to deal with and are introduced to.”

On the lighter side, Ken has also been on the board for the Bigfork Center of Performing Arts Foundation since 2000. It’s the first art-related board he’s served on and thought this was an interesting way to get involved with the arts. This is a working board with everyone having a role and action items. He’s able to bring a different voice to the board and help them with most of their legal needs.

The Bigfork Center for the Performing Arts Foundation is the entity that owns the Bigfork Center for the Performing Arts. Tenants of the Bigfork Center are the Bigfork Summer Playhouse, Bigfork Community Players, and many other organizations that rent the facility throughout the year. What Ken appreciates

about this organization is the involvement of community actors and a community theatre group, the professional musicians, film showings, and that it provides space for events and wedding receptions.

“We really want to promote the facility to be the social hub of Bigfork,” he said. “It’s a year-round benefit to the Bigfork. I really think of it as a community organization, because it really was built by the generosity of the community.”

Ken said that he believes that we should all serve as a volunteer for something we’re passionate about. There’s a lot of ways to enrich the community, and it enriches our lives. As an attorney, we are positioned to give back with the knowledge we possess as well as financially.

“The communities I’ve lived in have been generous to me, so it’s about giving back and making the difference in your community,” he said.

For 25 years, Ken has been married to his wife Rhonda, who grew up in the Flathead Valley,

but met in Minnesota. They have three children, two teen girls and one tween boy. “The kids keep us very busy.”

He doesn’t have much free time, but he’s a big fan of the University of Oregon Ducks football team. He makes every game a big event. They also have a huge vegetable garden that has become a family affair.

“Whatever the kids are involved in,” he said, “it’s rare that we’re not all there as a family to watch.”

In his law firm, Ken practices real estate and general business law. This includes anything that involves a piece of dirt: easements, covenants, zoning, subdivision, lakeshore regulations, etc. On the business side, he’s able to form corporations, drafts contracts, employment laws, ale/purchase of business and more.

“People are interesting,” he said. “I like to inquire to learn things from their experiences that I don’t know anything about.”