



BVC Partnership Ministry for  
Local Churches and Senior Living Communities

Upcoming LINC® Training:  
Saturday, November 13th  
Emmanuel Baptist Church, Enid  
Call: (405) 721-2466, ext. 2115

More workshops will be  
added...watch for  
registration information  
via email and mail.

If you are interested in the LINC® Ministry,  
please contact Chris Finley, director of BVC  
chaplain services at  
(405) 721-2466, ext. 2115, or email him at  
cfinley@okc.baptistvillage.org.

The LINC® ministry of BVC is supported by  
gifts from the Cooperative Program.

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Contact Chris Finley at (405) 721-2466, ext. 2115, or cfinley@okc.baptistvillage.org.

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## LINC® ... A Partnership Ministry for Local Churches and Senior Living Communities

The purpose of the LINC® newsletter is to provide local church leaders with inspiration and tools to carry out a consistent, quality, lay-led ministry to health centers and senior living communities.



Yang Qi, international student at the University of Central Oklahoma,  
plays the violin as she ministers to senior adults.

International participants worship with the residents.

## Church Fired Up for Baptist Village Communities LINC® Ministry

 By Jason Davis

Edmond, First is alive with "LINC®" excitement. LINC® (Loving Inspiring, Nurturing, Caring) is an engaging ministry of Baptist Village Communities (BVC) designed to equip churches and ministry teams to develop a vibrant ministry with care centers and elders.

Many members attest that LINC® is the talk of the church with growing numbers of members anxious to get on board.

Associate Pastor Jerry Miller says, "As a minister of 50+ at Edmond, First, I was searching for opportunities for our members to minister to others. Several members of one of our church's connection (Sunday school) groups approached me with their desire to minister to local nursing centers. We had already been working on a "Care Ministries of EFBC" when LINC® consultants contacted me about setting up a meeting to share the vision of the LINC® ministry, as well as how we could use it in our church. Amazing! The LINC® ministry seemed to be exactly what we were trying to accomplish." *Continued on page 2*

### LINC® Blessings:

- ♥ International student ministry team formed at Edmond, First
- ♥ LINC® expands to Ada and Enid with new ministry teams
- ♥ New LINC's: 12 in Tulsa, 2 in Oklahoma City, 10 in Ada
- ♥ Organization of a LINC® Associational Emphasis
- ♥ Ministry teams from Broken Arrow, First serving Baptist Village of Broken Arrow
- ♥ More than 200 new LINC® volunteers

# Church fired Up for Baptist Village Communities LINC® Ministry

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At the present, more than 50 church members work with LINC®, a figure that is rising. Team members are represented by a great variety of people, with ages ranging from 16 to 83, including young couples and even international students from the University of Central Oklahoma.

Student Yang Qi shares her talent on violin. “Music is a universal language made by God. Everyone understands music in a different way.” says Qui. “It (LINC ministry) is a place I don't have to worry about how good people would think my intonation or techniques are – I can just simply play and enjoy. I am glad I can use my gift and share this joy with these people.”

“The thing that blesses me the most is to see international students reaching out to the residents, and to see both students and residents’ faces light up like a Christmas tree!” says Frank Periman, LINC® ministry team leader. “We have singing and a devotional, and after the service is over, we visit with many residents one on one. Again, what a blessing to see how the individual contacts impact us all.”

A LINC® consultant works with retirement community staff to open the doors of ministry and tailor it to meet their residents’ specific needs. The goal of LINC® is to give every Oklahoma Southern Baptist church the opportunity and knowledge to extend their current ministry in their communities.

“We became very involved, and I gave a surprise birthday party to one of our residents,” says Joyce Alsip. “She has never forgotten the extra special attention we gave her. I learned that taking the time to show you care and love the residents could change their lives.”

“I believe the Lord’s hand was involved in me and my wife getting involved in the LINC® ministry,” says Periman. “I think the single most important thing that impacts our church is the joy each of us share in seeking God’s direction in serving these residents.”

BVC and LINC® look forward to greater involvement and for God to open more doors to ministry in the future. For more information on the LINC® ministry, contact Chris Finley, director of chaplain services at (405) 721-2466 x 2115 or cfinley@okc.baptistvillage.org.



This resident’s smile reflects how much she enjoyed the visit from the international students from Edmond, First.

## Baptist Village Communities LINC® Takes an Associational Approach

Since 2005, the LINC® Ministry has focused its efforts on the Oklahoma City and Tulsa metro areas. Now, LINC® is taking rural Oklahoma by storm.

An exciting new outreach of the LINC® Ministry is including rural areas and associations in Oklahoma. Ada is now thoroughly engaged in LINC®. Currently, 10 churches are partnering with seven health centers.

Gary Jamar, pastor for Ada, Morris Memorial, is one of several that have LINC®d with local health centers. Pastor Jamar’s enthusiasm for the LINC® ministry is evident.

“Our church’s LINC® Ministry is off to a great start,” he attests. “We have 45 LINC® team members making about 25 visits a week. The enthusiasm of our LINC® ministry teams who are serving the needs of senior adults is contagious.”

Life enrichment coordinators are seconding the positive response. Sandy Clem, Ballard Nursing Center, and Jan Hudson, Heartland Plaza, confirm how encouraging it is to know that the Christian spirit is alive and well in their community.

“Our residents definitely need to have the LINC® ministry’s input to promote feelings of self-worth and Christian, compassionate care,” said Sandy. “I am very grateful to the LINC® teams who are willing to extend their hand in ministry to residents.”

“LINC® ministry not only meets the spiritual needs of residents but allows lay people in the church to share God’s word, give a hug, a

smile and to show the love of Jesus Christ in practical ways. The rewards received are that the team members allowed to serve, knowing they are making a difference in residents’ lives. The residents are also rewarded, knowing someone cares for them.”

“The fruits of our labor were enjoyed when a resident told us our visit was the first she has had in more than two years,” says Pastor Jamar. “Stories like this of our church impacting the lives of others are the reason I am giving time from the pulpit for the LINC® ministry.”

### Associational LINC® Strategy

LINC® consultant visits life enrichment coordinators in local senior living communities, sharing the LINC® ministry and asking for a list of needs a church can assist with.

LINC® consultant shares needs of senior living community, shows LINC® ministry video, makes LINC® presentation with churches and secures DOM, pastor, and church support and willingness to participate in LINC®. Consultant receives a list of volunteers to contact or assist in leading a LINC® ministry team who are currently involved with or interested in senior living ministry.

LINC® consultant sets date and determines host church. Consultant sends out invitations for a LINC® informational meeting with life enrichment coordinators and churches to listen to needs of residents and identify effective ways for the church to meet those needs.

LINC® consultant sets date and determines host church for LINC® ministry training. Consultant makes calls and sends out LINC® training invitations to churches and life enrichment coordinators.

LINC® consultant matches up the needs of a senior living community with a church that can meet those needs. Consultant also assists the church in establishing a ministry strategy for a community.

LINC® consultant recruits a lay LINC® consultant to continue the association’s work, matching churches and senior living communities. Consultant also provides follow-up with churches and communities to ensure that the ministry has started and to provide ministry resources.

If your association is interested in assisting churches and providing training to equip its lay people in offering ministry in local community senior living communities, contact Chaplain Chris Finley, director of chaplain services at (405) 470-8915 or cfinley@okc.baptistvillage.org.



Top to bottom:  
Patty and Jim Speed visit with a resident at Sterling House  
Carl Wages and Jim Speed talk with a resident  
Betty Rigsby, Bill Osborn and Wanda Osborn fellowship with a resident  
Patty Speed and a resident visiting together

*Rise in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly and revere your God. I am the LORD.*

*Leviticus 19:32 (NIV)*

*The mission of Baptist Village Communities is to honor God by providing quality living and compassionate health care in a Christian environment.*