

**By Carolyn Lee**

***The Imperial Republican***

The staff and residents of Imperial Manor/Parkview-Heights have established the Life Enhancement Fund to “Make fresh air and sunshine easily accessible to everyone.”

The idea was born about a year ago when the staff considered adding a screened-in porch to the front of the Manor for residents to enjoy.

That project was dropped when it was discovered that it would be too costly to draw up blueprints, etc., according to Director Kathy Andersen.

However, she kept working at the foundation idea, which was implemented about a month ago.

The Life Enhancement Fund is a sub-account of the Imperial Community Foundation. Andersen explained that as such, the Fund can use the Foundation’s 501(C)3 number for tax-exempt status without applying for one of its own.

“I’d like to see it grow into an endowment fund,” she said, “so we could do improvements with just the interest.”

At present there is about \$1,000 in the Fund. Donations have come from the Imperial EMS, the Don Peterson and Byron Bremer memorials, and from Andersen.

The first project the staff and residents wish to tackle is a decorative fence from the Manor entrance around the grounds to the north and connecting with the courtyard fence.

Future plans may include a gazebo, umbrellas and awnings within the fenced-in area, new outdoor seating, additional sidewalks and cement in the courtyard, Andersen said.

In addition, the Fund board would like to raise money for a new 14-passenger handicap van. The present ‘94 8-passenger van has 50,630 miles on it and isn’t taken out of town any more.

It carries a combination of passengers, depending upon how many wheelchairs are being transported. One staff member besides the driver must accompany the passengers.

Bev Anderson, Manor social services director and a board member, noted that the city donated a passenger van to the Manor, but it isn’t handicapped-accessible.

Kathy Andersen said the Manor doesn’t have a budget for capital improvements such as a van. “Our only money comes from residents’ room revenue, and it barely covers expenses,” she added.

The Life Enhancement Fund board consists of President Amber Yaw, Secretary Carol Schuman, residents Wilbur Kuenning and Luree Schafer, and Bev Anderson, Sue Eskew, Doug Gaswick, Nancy Weir, and non-voting member Kathy Andersen.

Bev Anderson said the board hopes the residents’ families might donate to the Fund, if they’re “looking for end-of-the-year, holiday tax deductions.”

Life Enhancement Fund pamphlets will be sent out the first part of July with the City of Imperial utility notices.