

# Retire From Your House, Not From Your Life

## *Sunridge Village Retirement Community*

By Marge Shoemaker

**A recent television ad really sums it up: “Sunridge Village—a retirement community for people who are anything but retiring, yet want freedom from work and worries of home ownership.”** This 55+ retirement community caters to very active people. Residents travel, they volunteer, they live their lives!

I recently spoke with Michale Kavan, the marketing director for Sunridge Village, to get a sense of why people choose Sunridge Village. Michale wanted me to hear it from the residents themselves. I ended up talking to four residents who shared the various reasons why they left their previous homes to live at Sunridge Village.

Virgil lived in Omaha until work required a move to Alabama. “I had a relative who owned a dance studio in Omaha,” Virgil recalls. “He moved to Sunridge Village and has lived here for nearly seven years.” Virgil was impressed with how accommodating Sunridge Village is and the personal attention that was given to his relative. “Many of the staff that were here then are still here now,” Virgil states. “That means a lot.” After becoming a widower, Virgil decided to return to Omaha and to his family. “I get to watch my grands and greats grow up. They’re all good kids...I’m proud of them!” he grins.

Lois and her husband built their house in Omaha in 1956. Over the years, both the house and the neighborhood started to decline. “There were so many things...leaky roof, rusty water heater, furnace, A/C... all expensive projects to take care of,” she recalls. When her husband passed, she thought about moving to a senior living community but wasn’t happy with the places she had visited. “They seemed so impersonal,” Lois confides. “They were big places and there was no interaction...no residents about, having coffee, playing cards, or talking.” Lois’ friends, who live near Sunridge, encouraged her to visit. “I felt at home the minute I walked in the door and saw that inviting sitting room,” she says. She didn’t sign up right away. “My initial choice of a small one-bedroom apartment was not available, so I opted for a slightly larger floorplan.” Now, she brags, “I have the best apartment in the whole building. I don’t miss my house at all!”

Darlene and her husband lived in a small town in Missouri for nearly 60 years. Moving to Omaha (at their son’s suggestion) was a big decision. After her husband had a stroke, they knew they could no longer take proper care of their home. They’d visited a cousin who had lived at Sunridge Village, so they knew how close it was to their kids and grandkids. “We didn’t know anybody there, but we knew from visiting

Cousin Connie that it was a nice place,” Darlene says. “Everyone’s friendly here, just like the little town I came from!”

Sunridge Village resident Mary and her husband lived in Tennessee and New Mexico, eventually moving to a condo in Omaha. After her husband passed, Mary considered moving to California to be near her son, but “I couldn’t see paying double the rent I was paying here,” she relates. Plus, she didn’t want to leave her friends in Omaha, who she also considers to be family. “I’ve always liked to travel, and I still do. I decided to list my condo and look for a place that would be secure and would have some activities but would allow me the freedom to travel.” Sunridge Village is just the place.

Darlene, Virgil, Lois, and Mary all comment that the activities offered at Sunridge Village are an important part of what makes it so great. They mention things like bridge, mah-jongg, Wii bowling, a putting green, and poker games. Sunridge Village offers a wide variety of activities to encourage an active lifestyle and social interaction among the residents, and it works!

Their comments were unanimous: “This location is close to everything.” “We can use Uber if we can’t (or don’t want to) drive or if the Sunridge bus isn’t available (which isn’t often).” “Chef Gene makes the best meals!” “The underground parking is wonderful.” “It’s quiet...can’t hear the neighbors.” “Richard and his family [the Anzalones, who own Sunridge Village] are the best! They really care.”

Sunridge Village Retirement Community is located at 13410 Blondo Street, in Omaha. Call 402-496-0116 to arrange a tour. For more information, find them online at [www.sunridgeomaha.com](http://www.sunridgeomaha.com). **WE**



*Residents Virgil, Mary, Darlene, and Lois in the Sunridge Village Retirement Community library*

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