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**ANNUAL REPORT**



# 2024

## OUR MISSION

To promote healthful longevity and active aging through lifelong learning and meaningful volunteerism within the community.

## OUR SUPPORT

- 21 corporate sponsors
- 19 interfaith supporting congregations
- hundreds of individual donors!

## OUR IMPACT

- 2,088 participants
- 220 classes
- 245 volunteer instructors
- 925 lunches and meals served
- 17 Arkansas counties
- 15 states outside of Arkansas

## OUR PARTNERS

- Central Arkansas Library System
- Mosaic Templars Cultural Center
- Literacy Action of Central Arkansas
- William J. Clinton Presidential Library and Museum

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600 Pleasant Valley Dr.  
Little Rock, AR 72227

Office hours: Mon-Thurs.  
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

# It takes community

For 43 years, LifeQuest has been dedicated to the belief that **lifelong learning** is a vital pursuit—fueling curiosity, broadening horizons, and building connections for a fulfilling post-retirement life.

Thanks to our members, donors, sponsors, congregations, educational partners, and volunteers, LifeQuest continues to make a **profound impact** in our community and state.

The support and endorsements given to this organization ensures that LifeQuest will continue offering programs that **enrich the lives** of intellectually inquisitive older adults.



# Measuring our success

At LifeQuest, three ways we evaluate our success is through enrollment, member satisfaction, and financial support—all of which reflect the strength of our organization.

## ENROLLMENT

In 2024, a total of 2,088 participants enrolled in classes. Each term’s enrollment numbers exceeded expectations, achieving the highest participation since the pandemic. In fact, last summer’s enrollment hit an all-time record! We’re looking forward to this upward trend continuing in 2025.

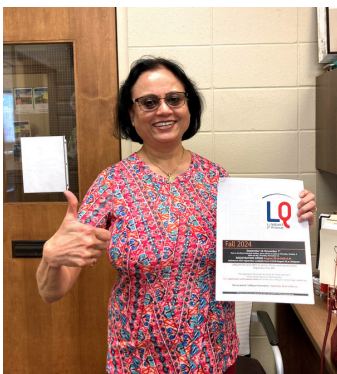
## MEMBER SATISFACTION

Last spring, our members shared their feedback in a survey. When asked, “How satisfied are you overall?” respondents gave LifeQuest an impressive 4.6 out of 5 score. Members also provided thoughtful suggestions for improvement which we’re prioritizing this year. Our members’ positive feedback is an encouraging testament to LifeQuest’s value and effectiveness. As one member commented,

“LifeQuest provides intellectual and creative stimulation. Even more importantly, it offers a community of thoughtful and caring people. I have never felt so young!”

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Thanks to you and others in our community, 2024 was also a record-breaking year for fundraising support. The LifeQuest Gives fundraiser last April raised **\$46,980**—our highest total ever! LifeQuest members supported the end of the year “nuts and bolts” appeal by raising an amazing **\$19,510** which will support many program improvements in 2025.

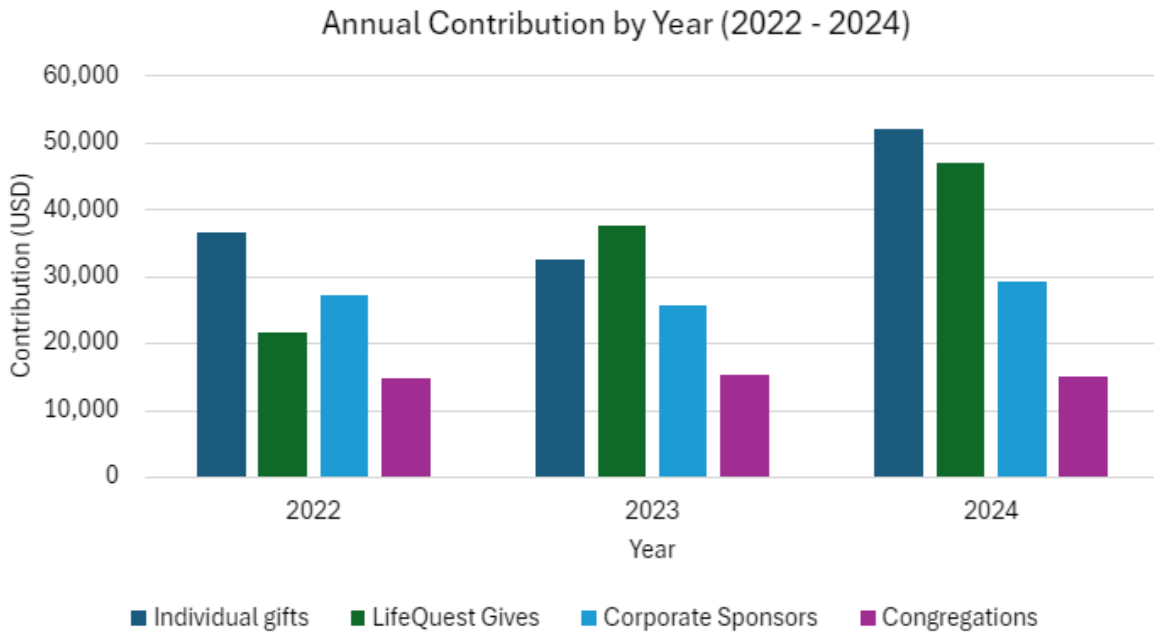


Neelima Kushwaha registered for the Fall Term!



David Cook with Alzheimer’s Association teaches the class Alzheimer’s, Aging, and Action

# Inspiring support



Because income from registrations only covers 44% of LifeQuest’s expenses, contributions from individual donors, corporate sponsors, and supporting congregations are vital to our success. Thankfully, we have a village of generous supporters who endorse our mission to serve our members in Central Arkansas and across the state!

## 80%

Approximately 80% of all contributions come from LifeQuest members and volunteers!



Norma and Bob Moore



Ila and Kim Newberry

# Inspiring Impact

↑ **60%**

Individuals generously increased their donations to LifeQuest 60% over 2023!

↑ **30%**

Compared to last year, LifeQuest donors, corporate sponsors and supporting congregations together increased their giving by 30%!

↑ **25%**

LifeQuest members and friends increased their contributions to the LifeQuest Gives spring fundraiser by 25% over 2023!

## **OPERATING BUDGET - What does it cost to run LifeQuest?**

**\$340,000**

LifeQuest of Arkansas is a nonprofit with a relatively small annual operating budget.

## **TOTAL EQUITY - What are LifeQuest's net assets?**

**\$832,089**

Due to LifeQuest's 43-year history, prudent fiscal management, and strong donor support, this organization is in a solid financial position with net assets exceeding \$800,000.

# THANK YOU!

THANK YOU FOR HELPING MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT IN THE LIVES OF OUR MEMBERS AND COMMUNITY!

# The Power of Volunteerism

At LifeQuest, volunteerism is our foundation—it's what fuels our success. From the dedicated board of directors and curriculum committee to our incredible instructors and program volunteers, hundreds of hours of service go into bringing LifeQuest programs to life.

In 2024, **220** classes were taught by **245** volunteer instructors!



In October, June Brown received the **Dedicated Service Award** for her years of service to LifeQuest as an amazing instructor and volunteer!

LifeQuest has been greatly improved because of June's volunteerism. She teaches classes such as Tai Chi and Pilates, has served lunches on Wednesdays, and, for many years, she and Preston Brown have participated on the Mail Crew, delivering thousands of brochures to the post office each term!

LifeQuest members give back quarterly through their volunteerism with Literacy Action of Central Arkansas and the Arkansas Foodbank.



LifeQuest volunteers at the Arkansas Foodbank



Tutor training with Literacy Action of Central Arkansas

# Educational Partners

LifeQuest’s incredible educational partners all contribute volunteers who deliver enriching classes and opportunities.

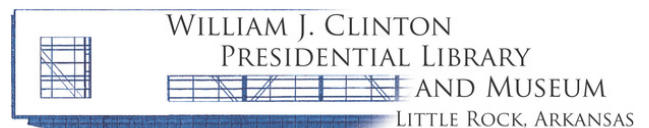
- Central Arkansas Library System**
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LifeQuest members tour the Clinton Library



Yoga in Motion at Mosaic Templars Cultural Center





# Corporate Sponsors

Corporate sponsors are leaders in the community who care about the lives of retired-aged adults. Their generous support allows LifeQuest to offer scholarships to cover registration fees. At LifeQuest, we never want our fees to discourage a member from joining. We are grateful to our corporate sponsors who make LifeQuest programs accessible to members all across Arkansas and in several surrounding states!

## DIAMOND

Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

## PLATINUM

Arkansas Blue Cross and Blue Shield  
Primewell Health Services

## GOLD

Advanced Physical Therapy  
Right at Home  
ServiceMaster Restoration by Advanced

## SILVER

Arkansas Ophthalmology Associates  
The Athletic Clubs of Little Rock  
Bank of Little Rock  
The Blake at Chenal Valley  
Chenal Pines Retirement Resort  
Friday, Eldredge & Clark LLP  
The Manor Senior Living Community  
Oak St. Health  
Pinnacle Place Memory Care  
Presbyterian Village  
Sage Health  
Visiting Angels  
Vitality Living Pleasant Hills

## BRONZE

The Charlotte John Co.  
Home Instead



Debby Spradlin (middle), with Presbyterian Village, helps serve lunch.



Julie and Sannecia with Oak Street Health greet LifeQuest members.



Kristen Lippencott with Arkansas Blue Cross and Blue Shield coordinates the Blue & You Fitness Challenge. LifeQuest was the top-placing nonprofit organization in Arkansas in 2024! June Brown, a top fitness participant, accepts the award on behalf of LifeQuest.

# Supporting Congregations

LifeQuest of Arkansas began in 1981 as Shepherd's Center of Little Rock. The Shepherd's Centers of America originated in 1972 in Kansas City, Missouri, by a group of faith leaders who wished to improve the lives of the older adults. Inspired by the mission of Shepherd's Centers, W. "Jay" Jernigan, Jr. brought the concept to his congregation at Second Presbyterian Church in Little Rock. With the help of 14 area congregations and the Presbytery of Arkansas, the Shepherd's Center of Little Rock opened its doors on October 7, 1981. The vision behind the dream had been realized! An interfaith, ecumenical "mutual ministry" for older people in the community had become a reality.

Shepherd's Centers of America celebrated 50 years in 2024 and commemorated the milestone with new branding and a new name: Aging Forward. While our organization's name changed to LifeQuest of Arkansas in 2003, LifeQuest continues to be a proud member of the Aging Forward alliance. We are grateful to the following congregations who support LifeQuest and contribute to our mission:

Christ Episcopal Church  
Christ the King Catholic Church  
Congregation B'nai Israel  
Grace Presbyterian Church  
Jewish Federation of Arkansas  
Little Rock Friends Meeting  
Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church  
Our Lady of the Holy Souls Catholic Church  
Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church  
Second Presbyterian Church  
St. James United Methodist Church  
St. Luke's Episcopal Church  
St. Margaret's Episcopal Church  
St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
St. Michael's Episcopal Church  
Trinity Episcopal Church  
Trinity United Methodist Church  
Unitarian Universalist Church  
Westover Hills Presbyterian Church

# LifeQuest Leadership

## Board of Directors

Mary Frances Cotham, Chair  
Mike Watts, Vice Chair  
Nancy Fleming, Secretary  
Martha Hunt, Treasurer  
Doris Krain, Member at Large  
Chuck Chappell  
Quantia “Key” Fletcher  
Pat Goss  
Leon Kaplan  
Kristen Lippencott  
June Lloyd  
Beverly Milford  
Marvin Schwartz  
Sheri Simon  
Laura Spradley  
Mike Walden  
Connie Wardell  
Rev. Ben Kane, Ex Officio

## Curriculum Committee

Rich Roy, Chair  
Wayne Chapman  
Chuck Chappell\*  
Joan Gage  
Regina Gibson  
Martha Hunt  
John Mize  
Daniel Kirkpatrick  
Doris Krain  
Mary Sha Moriarty  
Anne Parat\*  
Melanie Pilcher\*  
Jon Poteet  
Brian Rodgers  
Roby Robertson  
Lynn Senn  
Sheri Simon  
Eileen Turner  
Elizabeth Vines  
Connie Wardell  
Ann West\*  
Dick Williams\*  
\*Advisory Group



Mary Frances Cotham (standing) chats with Sharum Dinning and Bryte Williams



Kevin Hays (bass) and Rich Roy (guitar) play some tunes in the LifeQuest Folkies class

# LifeQuest of Arkansas

Located within Second Presbyterian Church, the LifeQuest Office is open Monday - Thursdays, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



*LifeQuest staff pictured left to right:*

Leah Greenfield, Executive Director  
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Gina Bridges, Program Director  
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Heather Thompson, Business Manager  
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Donna Elkey, Program and Volunteer Coordinator  
delkey@lifequestofarkansas.org



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On the bus to Oaklawn



Instructor, Floyd Martin, lectures at the  
Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts



The Octette Bridge club takes the stage.