



Dwight and Donna Hatfield joined The Helm earlier this year and you'll find them participating in various exercise classes, bingo, Wise Guys (Dwight only!) and whatever else strikes their fancy.

"We met in college in the theatre department at Cal State, Los Angeles, but became an 'item' when we were both hired by a summer stock company to perform in a barn in the middle of the romantic cornfields of Indiana," Dwight said. "But looking back, our best productions by far were our three tremendous kids."

After nearly 30 years of teaching for Donna and Dwight's career in the oil/gas industry, the couple retired outside Redmond, Oregon. They lived there nearly 11 years before moving to Grosse Pointe Farms three years ago to be closer to their two grandchildren.

Moving from Oregon meant giving up a number of friendships and activities Dwight and Donna enjoyed. Once here, they found themselves spending too much time sitting and "doom-scrolling." Hoping to break the routine and change things up, they decided to explore what The Helm offers.

"We had toured The Helm when we first moved here and were impressed with the facility and staff, but didn't join," Dwight explained. "Now, since joining, we're finding more purpose and shape to our day through participation in various daily exercise classes as well as the weekly bingo tournament and the Wise Guys sessions. We're looking forward to upcoming field trips and classes of interest."

The Hatfields, who recently celebrated their 47th wedding anniversary, love to travel. Since retirement, they have taken trips to various destinations almost yearly and recently returned from an Athens to Istanbul adventure. "Currently, we're planning what will be our fourth trip to Spain next year and looking forward to a trip to see the Nile River and pyramids perhaps the following year."

When not traveling or enjoying activities with the grandkids, they both love to read and are avid viewers of "whatever British crime/police procedural show the BBC may throw our way (Midsommer Murders, Vera, etc.)," Dwight said. In addition, Donna gardens and has her fabrics to sew and dye and generally immerse herself. Dwight follows his newly-adopted Detroit sports teams and plays a little guitar (for personal consumption only!).

Both Dwight and Donna agree one nice surprise of joining The Helm has been the warm, friendly welcome from other members and getting to know them through conversation and sharing life experiences. "And Donna absolutely loves the coffee!"