

BETHANY LUTHERAN HOMES

Connections

Vol. 11 No. 13

Spring 2019

Our Mission

*Rooted in Christian Faith
Caring for Each Other
Serving the Community*

Our Core Values

*Teamwork, Respect, Integrity,
Commitment and Love*

Board of Directors

Lu Cagin - Chair

Patrick Spencer - Vice Chair

Jerry Miller - Past Chair

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Sarah Havens GHS - Director

Sarah Rossman GHS - Director

Barb Quillin - Director

Patrick Spencer - Director

Leah Mudler - Director

Todd Garves - CFO

Todd Wilson - CEO

Eagle Crest South La Crosse

791-2700

Eagle Crest North Onalaska

779-1700

Bethany Riverside

406-3900

The Willows

406-3980

Bethany On Cass

796-1091

Bethany Heights

526-2635

Hearten House I

784-4511

Hearten House II

784-4522

Hearten House III

526-6796

Bethany Town Homes

779-1720

Board of Directors

On Sunday, April 28th, Bethany Lutheran Homes held its 72nd annual meeting. The annual meeting is a celebration of our mission that started when a group of pastors and other caring men and women came together and decided "we need a place to care for the elderly where a Christian philosophy will serve as our guide". Hundreds of people from 34 congregations volunteered their time and contributed funds to start the mission of Bethany Lutheran Homes.



Volunteers

Over the past 72 years, Bethany Lutheran Homes has continued to grow and expand its mission and volunteers have continued to be an important part of our success. Bethany Lutheran Homes is a non-profit organization that has an 11-person board of directors, consisting of volunteers, that convene monthly to provide leadership and guidance. We are truly blessed by all the volunteers who have given their time and talent to make Bethany Lutheran Homes the wonderful organization it is today.

Expansion

Our Eagle Crest South Phase II expansion is in full swing as it's nearing 50% completion. You can now see the roof line of the 5-story building from a distance and the views are simply breathtaking as you look out over the Mississippi River and to the surrounding bluffs. We are currently taking reservations for the 112 independent living apartments and they are going fast. Our marketing team has been busy giving tours, meeting with individuals to go over floor plans and add custom touches to their new home.

Bethany Lutheran Homes has invested \$6.6 million dollars in equity contribution to the project to lower the cost of rent. With 12 different apartment layouts to choose from, phone, cable TV, internet service and all utilities provided each month, living at Eagle Crest is affordable to most income levels. In the next few months we will begin taking reservations for the new assisted living and memory care apartments as well.

In addition to all the amenities already provided at Eagle Crest South, some of the new amenities that will be added to the expansion include:

- Indoor botanical garden area
- Arts and crafts room
- Large club lounge
- Fishing pier with accessibility for everyone
- Light therapy room
- Indoor car wash bay

We are very happy to be able to expand Eagle Crest to better serve our community. If you or someone you know would like more information about Eagle Crest, please give us a call and we will be happy to set-up a personal meeting with you.

Todd D. Wilson
Chief Executive Officer



We are humbled and honored to have been nominated by the community for "Best of La Crosse County" in five categories!

Best Apartment Complex..."Eagle Crest Communities"

Best Assisted Living..."Bethany Lutheran Homes"

Best Retirement Complex..."Eagle Crest Communities"

Best Nursing Home..."Bethany Riverside"

Best Senior Services..."Bethany Lutheran Homes"

National Volunteer Recognition Month

As April comes to a close, Bethany Lutheran Homes has had a tremendous time celebrating all of the wonderful volunteers that dedicate their time and talents to our residents. We are so grateful to have such a strong volunteer base, accumulating hundreds of volunteers and thousands of volunteer hours each year. We believe it is essential to take the time to thank those who give so much to us. Here are a few events that we celebrated in April:

Eagle Crest North

Eagle Crest North celebrated their volunteer appreciation party on Friday, April 26th. The party consisted of residents that dedicate their time and energy at Eagle Crest North. 25 volunteers were honored at the party, received a special treat as a thank you and a card. There were appetizers, drinks and lots of socializing. Thank you to all of our volunteers at Eagle Crest North.



Bethany Heights Assisted Living

Although Bethany Heights Assisted Living did not have a specific volunteer event in April, they have been recognizing their wonderful volunteers throughout the year. In the fall residents made Thanksgiving gifts for their volunteers as a way to honor them for everything that they do. Thank you to the Holmen High School's Tri-M Music Honor Society, Interact Chapter, and Academy on the Prairie for your continuous volunteerism. Both residents and students have benefited from the intergenerational connections.



Eagle Crest South

Eagle Crest South celebrated their volunteers on Earth Day, Monday April 22nd, by having a garden themed luncheon. 25 volunteers were celebrated, and included both resident volunteers as well as outside volunteers. The volunteers enjoyed a special lunch prepared by our chef and his team, socialized and were able to take home a potted flower or herb. Thank you Eagle Crest South volunteers.



If you are interested in volunteering please visit us online at www.bethanylutheranhomes.org



Now is your chance to make Eagle Crest South your home!

ACCEPTING RESERVATIONS

from those 55 and Better for our Senior Apartments!

OPENING SPRING 2020



EAGLE CREST SOUTH IS EXPANDING

Welcoming Fishermen to Eagle Crest South
in Summer of 2020



Call Today for Your Private Tour of Eagle Crest South!

622 Bennora Lee Court, La Crosse

Contact Heather at 608-791-2709

2019 Employee Milestone Recognition Celebration

The strength of any organization is its employees, and employee longevity is what has shaped Bethany Lutheran Homes over the last 73 years. It's what has carried on our evolving mission and it's the foundation of Bethany Lutheran Home's history. We have about 600 employees at Bethany Lutheran Homes and this year we honor 32 of our employees that have reached a service milestone ranging from 5-40 years.



Generally, you find that people who have longevity at a work place, like what they do and they like who they work with. They have fun at work and develop friendships and trusting relationships with their coworkers. One thing that continues to impress us is how much the people that work for Bethany Lutheran Homes care for one another and how they reach out when someone needs them. That is a very good indication of a healthy work place. You are encouraged to continue having fun and enjoying your work as well as sharing your success with those around you.

Thank you for all of your dedicated service to Bethany Lutheran Homes, and congratulation to all of our milestone achievers ~
Todd Wilson, Chief Executive Officer

5 Years

Bethany Riverside

Cynthia Alexander, Housekeeper
Sarah Compeau, Assistant Director of
Recreation Therapy
April Crowder, Director of Admissions
Laura Goeth, Certified Nursing Assistant

Corporate

Alicia Dolesy, Billing Coordinator

Eagle Crest North

Kimberly Heal, Resident Care Assistant
Denise Niemeier, Resident Care Assistant
Suzanne Tanke, Companion

Hearten House III

Kristin Dabutch, Team Lead Resident Care
Assistant

Willows

Ann Kleinertz, Resident Care Associate

10 Years

Bethany On Cass

Stephanie Sillito, Resident Care Associate

Bethany Riverside

Barbara Marohl, Laundry Aide
Lisa Meyers, Housekeeping Specialist

Corporate

Jennifer Witte, Human Resource
Generalist

Eagle Crest North

Marlene Benson, Receptionist at ECN &
ECS

Donna Brogan, Life Enrichment
Coordinator

Todd Friebohle, Senior Director of Food
Service

Dennis Johnson, Associate Chaplain
Patrice Mannstedt, Resident Care Assistant
Kermit Murray, Maintenance Technician
Tammy Taylor, Administrative Assistant

15 Years

Bethany Riverside

Nancy Pierce, Transportation

Corporate

Todd Garves, Chief Financial Officer
Carin Myhre, Director of Human
Resources

Willows

Kyle Roper, Resident Care Associate

20 Years

Hearten House I

Valerie Koel, Licensed Practical Nurse

Willows

Marianne Frost, Resident Care Associate

25 Years

Corporate

Donna Miller, Director of Programs, CBRF

35 Years

Bethany Riverside

Kathleen Eggen, Cook Supervisor

Eagle Crest South

Debra Grapes, Server
Doris Thorson, Cook

40 Years

Bethany Riverside

Joanne Johnson, Certified Medical
Assistant/Certified Nursing Assistant



My Heartfelt Goodbye

from Betsy Olson



This year, I retired as the Nurse Manager at The Willows Assisted Living and Director of Housing for Bethany Lutheran Homes. I have worked for Bethany Lutheran Homes for the past 19 years. Since I have retired, I have visited my daughter and her family who are missionaries in Togo, Africa and spent five weeks in Florida, missing the cold and snow of this past winter.

During the last 19 years, The Willows has undergone many changes. Some have been very noticeable to the residents while others have not been. During the last two years, the Willows' great room, cafe, dining room and kitchen have all been updated. The food service has changed as well. Instead of one entree at lunch and supper, there are two entrees offered and five a la carte items available. Some of the changes made have been less visible, such as all of the charting is now completed thru a

computer program. Nurses also have access to resident's medical records at area clinics and are aware of changes in status before the resident even returns to the Willows.

Although there have been many changes during the last 19 years, the high standard of care, activities and dedicated staff has continued to be exceptional. The Willows residents and families often would tell me how much they enjoy living at The Willows and wish they had made the move sooner.

I am proud of the 19 years of service to Bethany Lutheran Homes and I have confidence that Bethany Lutheran Homes will continue to provide excellent care to the residents at each of our wonderful communities.



Important Happenings at The Willows Assisted Living

This year we had to say our goodbye's to Betsy Olson, Nurse Manager and Director of Housing for Bethany Lutheran Homes. She has had a huge impact on The Willows and helped shape it into the wonderful place it is today for both our residents and our staff. We wish her all the best in her new endeavors, she most certainly deserves it.

We are very fortunate and excited to welcome DeAnn Buechel to our growing team as the new Willows RN Manager. She's a truly dedicated person that has been enthusiastically filling this important role and doing a tremendous job.

We want to thank everyone for all of the support given during this transition period. We are excited to continue expanding our team and help those who live here at The Willows have the best quality of life possible.



For more information about The Willows Assisted Living, please call Luann Rose, Life Enrichment Coordinator at (608)-406-3980.





Employment at Bethany Lutheran Homes

Health care is one of the largest and most valuable industries in the world. Every day you go home knowing that you helped someone in need. At Bethany Lutheran Homes, we are motivated to give the best care possible to each person that comes through our doors. We believe in our staff and encourage them to advance their careers within our corporation. If you are interested in joining our growing team, please contact Paige Schneider. Here are a few reasons why you should choose Bethany Lutheran Homes as your next employer:



- Strong mission statement and core values that were created by our front-line employees.
- Tuition Investment Program.
- Opportunities for advancement.
- 401(k) for all staff to utilize for their future.
- Annual companywide wage reviews that sets BLH above the competition.
- Affordable benefits for full time and some part time employees.
- Pay incentives for employees who work the overnight shift.
- Annual surveys which gives employees an opportunity to improve our work culture.
- Pet Insurance! So we can care for every member of the family.
- Flexible schedules to promote a healthy work-life balance.
- We're a constantly growing company that's always seeking new and innovative ways to provide care to seniors in the La Crosse area – Where will we go next?

If you are interested in joining our team, please contact Paige Schneider, Recruiting Specialist, by phone at (608)-406-3893 or via email at pschneider@eaglecrestlife.org



Tuition Investment Program

Our Tuition Investment Program offers scholarships to our employees attending college while working at Bethany Lutheran Homes. In 2018 we awarded over \$50,000 in tuition incentives, as each student employee is eligible to receive up to \$3,000 per year. Contributions to our Tuition Investment Program can be made to help sustain Bethany Lutheran Homes legacy in the community. Please contact Heather at 608-791-2702 if you are interested in supporting our student employees.

Morgan

I work at Eagle Crest South and I am currently in the nursing program at Western Technical College. I chose to work for Bethany Lutheran Homes because I have always thought of them as a great company in the La Crosse area. My grandma had Alzheimer's and was a resident at one of the Hearten Houses and at Bethany Riverside. While she was there I noticed the great care that she received and I knew that I wanted to be a part of it someday. I have enjoyed caring for and getting to know the wonderful residents in memory care at ECS for the past two years.

I have encouraged all of my coworkers who are continuing their education in the healthcare field to apply for the tuition investment program because it has helped me greatly in my journey to become a nurse. Because of the tuition investment program's financial assistance, I will be graduating debt free!



Kendra

I'm fortunate enough to work for a wonderful company that provides their employees with financial assistance for going to school. The TIP program has helped me pay for books and tuition for school. Bethany Lutheran Homes goes above and beyond to help their employees balance work and school. I love my job as a CNA at Eagle Crest South and I am looking forward to my career as a RN, BSN. Thank you, TIP program!



Employees Supporting our Scholarships

Kathleen Banasik
Dana Bistodeau
Colleen Bonsack
Donna Brogan
Andrea Byrne
Steven Cook
Cindy Craig
Hannah Fort

Todd Garves
Cathleen Grinde
Tammy Haefs
Keri Krueger
Elizabeth Kvistad
Haley Martin
Lori Mikshowsky
Donna Miller

Kermit Murray
Carin Myhre
Elizabeth Olson
Shelly Olson
Carla Potter
Rochelle Poulin
Diane Rochester
Patrick Senzig

Debra Stanhope
James Stenulson
Vickie Stevens
Lisa Thill
Myrna Townsend
Todd Wilson
Susan Wyland



**A Donation to Bethany Lutheran Homes is a Great Investment in the Community.
THANK YOU to those who support us...**

In Memory of Marilyn Dunham

Peg Lyga
Susan Dummer & Sandra Loock
Karolyn Collins
Michael & Susan Schwartz
Paul & Linda Dunham
Peggy & David Harrison

In Memory of Adelaide Nichols

Rachel Stevens
John Deer Intelligent Solutions

In Memory of Ruth Becker

Barb Hammes
Joe & Val Becker
John & Jann Welch
James & Marlene Bannen
Dr. Thomas & Julia Behrenbeck
Gary & Rhonda Messerschmidt
Ann Martin

Tuition Incentive Program Fund ~ *In Memory of Adelaide Nichols to benefit Eagle Crest South employee scholarships*

Greg Teff
Shannan Stephens
Dr. Daniel & Cynthia Ellenz, D.D.S.
James & Dianne Felland
Patrick & Joanne Stephens
Jason & Kelley Bahr
Gerald & Patricia Eichman
Jane & Paul Steingraeber
Kathleen Pishaw
Brian Bush
Fayemarie Alvarado

In Memory of Rosemary Poellinger to benefit Eagle Crest South employee scholarships

Kathleen Pishaw
In Memory of Ella Olstad
Joan Olstad Robinson
Bette Stiers

Legacy Fund ~

Arcadia Community Chest, Inc

Employee Appreciation Fund ~

In Memory of Adelaide Nichols

Kathleen Pishaw
Brian Bush
Fayemarie Alvarado

In Memory of Rosemary Poellinger Kathleen Pishaw

Capital Fund ~

Coulee Bank

General Donations ~

English Lutheran Church of the
Holy Trinity
La Crosse Community Foundation
Mindoro Lutheran Church WELCA

*Help Bethany Lutheran Homes continue providing quality, compassionate care
in the Coulee Region. Donations are gratefully received and tax deductible up
to the extent allowed by law.*

\$10_____ \$25_____ \$50_____ \$100_____ Other_____

Name _____

Address _____

Payable to: Bethany Lutheran Homes, Inc.

Mail to: PO Box 2468

La Crosse, WI 54602-2468

☐ This gift is in honor of _____

☐ This gift is in memory of _____

☐ *Capital Fund - Supports major projects such as Eagle Crest developments*

☐ *Legacy Fund - Supports activities and special events, and enhances amenities & technology for our residents*

☐ *Tuition Incentive Program Fund - Supports our recruitment and retention program*

☐ *Employee Appreciation Fund - Promotes employee appreciation. Special requests are always welcome!*





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Great People...Great Care!

Movin' and Groovin' at Eagle Crest North

by Deb Taylor, Campus Manager

Every Monday and Wednesday, our memory care residents are Movin' and Groovin', with the help of some University of Wisconsin-La Crosse graduate students. The students are enrolled in the Doctor of Physical Therapy program at UW-L. As part of their program curriculum the students were to develop and implement a community service-learning project, which highlights health and wellness within a community. The group decided to design and create a new program for the memory care unit at Eagle Crest North.

The 9-week program (total of 20 hours), Movin' and Groovin', has been specifically designed over the course of two semesters with guidance from the instructor of the course, Dr. Heather Fortuine, DPT. The purpose of Movin' and Groovin' is to increase the activity level of residents who reside in the memory care unit and encompasses engaging aerobic, strengthening and balance exercises. Activities have included walking, seated strengthening exercises, seated dancing to music, group fitness games, and more! The aim of the program is to introduce the many positive benefits that a physically active lifestyle provides for individuals with memory impairments: such as slower decline in cognition, increased cardiovascular fitness and muscular strength, and improved quality of life.

The program has had a positive impact on the participants and on the students. Participants and staff have routinely reported improvements in mood and function as a result of engaging in regular exercise. As students, they have learned a great deal from working with the residents in the memory care unit. Working through this program has allowed them to utilize skills that they have learned throughout their education. They look forward to implementing skills and experiences from this program as future physical therapists.



Ashley Sachse, Ashley Zander, Nik Mattson,
Janna Fjelstad, Joe McInerney