



THE BETHESDA LETTER

BETHESDA HOME...independence, respect, dignity since 1899

Bethesda Names New CEO



Sara Hiebert

"It is my great pleasure to announce to the Board of Directors, staff, residents and constituents of Bethesda that Sara Hiebert accepted the unanimous affirmation vote of her appointment as the next CEO at Bethesda Home," said Karl Brubaker, Board chair following the July 13th board meeting.

Sara is a Goessel native with a thorough knowledge of the constituents, Bethesda staff and senior care services. She graduated from Eastern Mennonite University in 2003 with a degree in social work and has been at Bethesda Home since 2010, being named assistant administrator in 2013.

"I have a passion for the elderly and a desire to see them enjoy their later years with the quality of life they deserve," said Sara. Other employment experiences for Sara include Case Manager at Newton Medical Center and Director of Hospice Care of Kansas. In her free time she enjoys spending time with her family, Brad and two young children, Jackson (8) and Mia (5), shopping, reading and eating!

The search team was composed of board members Duane Unruh, Patrick Flaming, Karl Brubaker as well as staff members, Christina Valdois, CFO and Kelli Kidd, DON.

"We interviewed four qualified candidates and it was discerned by the search group that Sara Hiebert's experience, dedication and commitment to Bethesda give her the tools to be successful. Sara understands the culture and exhibits the spirit and faith focus present here. Along with an energetic, caring management team and supporting staff, we look forward to a great era of leadership under Sara," said Brubaker.

Dinsmore Named Interim Administrator

Melissa L. Dinsmore was appointed as Interim Administrator in June and will continue on until later this fall, when it is anticipated Sara will have

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Melissa Dinsmore

What's Inside?

- Thanks Eric Schrag
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Please send us your email address if you would like to receive the newsletter and other communications electronically.

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Eric - Heartfelt Gratitude for your Service to Bethesda



It has been a great gift to the Bethesda family and the Goessel community to have Eric Schrag serve as Bethesda CEO/Administrator for these past 11 years. Eric carried on the over 100 year tradition of care, attention to resident needs and vision for the many changes in resident living occurring in

today's world. Originally coming to Bethesda as Director of Development, Eric was instrumental in fulfilling the fund-raising and friend-raising work begun by Pete Flaming, that culminated with the Building Community and Changing Lives campaign that transformed Bethesda's physical look. Bethesda has been extremely fortunate to have CEO/Administrators who have had tenures that have far exceeded the average tenure in such a position.

Eric's personal efforts at "treasuring each and every person," practicing daily hospitality, listening with the heart and the ability to celebrate joys all are shared as core values by Bethesda. Eric's gifts of leadership have expanded as he navigated the ever-changing landscape of communities "formed by the spirit of Jesus Christ to fulfill the lives of adults with special needs in a place that is home." Eric's musical abilities will long be remembered by residents and staff; these gifts shared in many ways are not found in every leader in such an organization. Eric sought to fulfill the Bethesda vision of shaping Bethesda as a "regenerative community for all residents, staff, board and families." This has meant making tough choices, some unpopular, but always with the future of the institution in mind.

During Eric's time at Bethesda, the organization has kept its debt load low, managed its financial path carefully and has maintained a quality, clean and inviting facility. Bethesda has added to its physical footprint, acquired adjacent land and continued to upgrade its equipment and condition. During his tenure Bethesda received numerous recognitions including the 2016 PEAK award for providing patient-centered care for its residents.

Eric, thank you so much for offering these key years of your life, your professional career, hours from your family and your wisdom, spirit and passion. Each member of the board wishes to sincerely extend to you best wishes in your

new work, knowing you will continue to share your drive for precision, care, direction, success and fulfillment of vision you have so excellently shared at Bethesda.

Karl Brubaker
Bethesda Board Chair 2017

Bethesda staff share the following –

Bethesda has been privileged to have Eric as an employee for 11 years; the last five being CEO/Administrator. He has shared his talents in a variety of ways, with not only the residents, but also with the staff. Eric's vision and ministry for Bethesda has never swayed from the thought of "always do what is best for the residents." Every referral, every meeting, every policy change, every tough circumstance has always been handled with asking the question, "How does this affect the residents?" As managers working alongside Eric, this is something each of us has appreciated. Bethesda's mission and vision was also Eric's mission and vision. Eric encouraged each of us to also use our talents to grow the mission of Bethesda.

Kelli Kidd, DON states "Working with Eric was a privilege. His extraordinary ability to lead our team was a blessing. He was willing to lend a helping hand when you needed it, whether that was taking out the trash or taking a resident to an appointment. He has great leadership skills, and is always supportive, patient and kind. He will be missed dearly."

Trish Schimming, Dietician also shares, "I've always enjoyed working with Eric. I think he's always kept the "big picture" in mind as far as Bethesda and its future. He always related well to residents and staff members and has a great sense of humor."

"We felt so fortunate to recruit Eric in 2006 as the Development Director to complete our largest capital campaign when I chose to follow another calling and abandoned the campaign mid stream," said Pete Flaming. "He knew fund raising from his previous role at the Bethel College Development Office and was fairly familiar with many of the Bethesda constituents."

Eric continued serving in that role, even while he was CEO from 2012 to 2014, when he hired Pete back on a part-time basis upon his retirement from Everence. Then, during Pete's absence in 2016, he capably filled that role again – additional examples of his multifaceted leadership abilities and his commitment to the Bethesda ministry.

Not only will Eric be remembered for his love of Bethesda but also for his musical talents. Staff and

residents were privileged to enjoy his singing and guitar playing during weekly devotions, resident and staff events, memorial services and just while walking up and down the halls. Bethesda will miss his musical gifts.

Eric, we want to thank you for providing Bethesda with the leadership, love and dedication you have shown over the years. Bethel College is blessed to have you working for them. We wish you all the best. Don't forget to come back and visit, sing and of course, get your fill on Lincoln Perk Coffee.

Blessings,
Sara Hiebert
Assistant Administrator

Bethesda Home Mission Statement

Bethesda seeks to be a community formed by the spirit of Jesus Christ to fulfill the lives of adults with special needs in a place that is home.

Our Vision

Bethesda will be a regenerative community for all residents, staff, board and families.

Our Core Values

1. Treasure every person
2. Practice daily welcome and hospitality
3. Listen with the heart, hold confidences, forgive
4. Name losses and celebrate joys
5. Foster choice, creativity, and playfulness
6. Develop servant leaders who seek supervision and foster excellence
7. State goals, accept risks, be accountable
8. Change unjust practices and negotiate conflicts
9. Enlarge, develop and complete life, receiving and giving blessings

Bethesda is owned and operated by Mennonite Bethesda Society, Inc. a 501 (c) (3) non-profit charitable organization chartered by the State of Kansas, and has provided quality long-term care since 1899.

Bethesda's In-House Massage Therapy

"I feel so relaxed!" "You have magic hands!" "Thank you, my back feels so much better." "How did you do that? I feel great!"

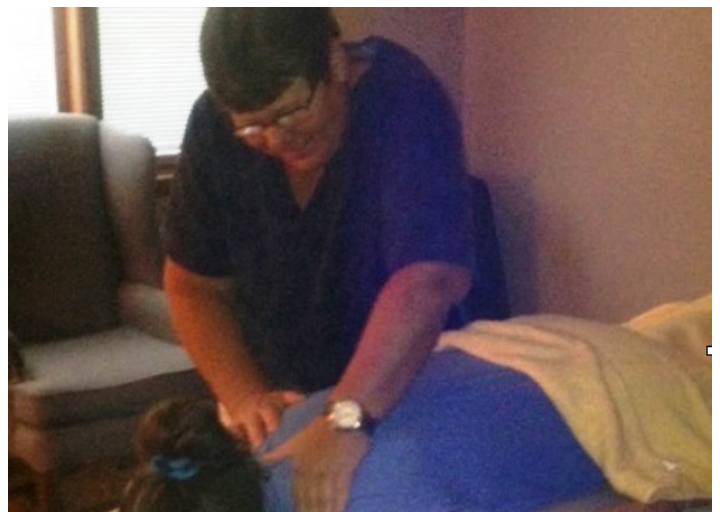
These are the comments heard by Bethesda's in-house Certified Massage Therapist, Faun Bloomer, after giving a massage to some of her clients.

Physicians say "try massage before pills for back pain" but it is so often considered a luxury instead of a treatment. Massage is not usually covered by insurance but loving family members will often give gifts of massage to help with Mom or Dad's pains. Her clients are residents, staff and area community members. Word-of-mouth is her only advertising. Faun uses a hydraulic table or a massage chair in her private massage room, or for those residents who are less mobile, she can do the massage in their own bed. A 10, 15, or 30 minute massage for elderly residents often helps to cut down on their pain and need for medications.

We often think of a massage as a comfort measure, but often those who receive a massage are less combative, less restless and better oriented. A massage is unlikely to rebuild someone's lost memories or restore lost function but it may help people with mood, pain or anxiety.

Faun is not only a massage therapist, she has worked in healthcare for 37 years as a CNA-CMA. She is in charge of Assisted Living and often works in other neighborhoods as well. She also does morning devotions for all the residents during their breakfast.

What better gift can we give our elderly population, or ourselves, than a little improvement and comfort in our daily lives with a kind word and a loving, gentle touch.



Faun Bloomer giving a massage

Activities Report

Before moving to Bethesda, many of our residents spent time volunteering and doing service projects for the community and church. Our activities staff likes to encourage the selfless giving spirit and, as a result, offers service projects in which residents may participate. Some of the most recent projects have been filling bags of health products for MCC health kits, filling bags of school supplies for MCC school kits, baking cookies to be used at the Red Cross Blood Mobile here in town, making snack bags of “gorp” to be included in the employee food drive for the Tabor Church Food Pantry and making cookies and cards of appreciation for our district’s school teachers. We have also worked on three quilts, which were all donated to MCC. Rosi Reimer, A.A.; Sharon Unruh, Lois Voth, Gladys Reimer, Janett Wiebe and Frances Rogers have been instrumental in piecing and assembling the quilts for our residents to tie.

the doing is what we do for others.” (Lewis Carroll) Let us all strive to live by that thought.

- Gayle Voth, Activities Director



Residents bake cookies for local blood mobile, teachers, etc.

Visit the Bethesda website www.bethesdahome.org events tab for a full schedule of monthly events for the residents and/or follow us on Facebook to see pictures of recent activities. We welcome your comments. Here are a few shared by family members of individuals who lived and/or are living on the Bethesda campus:

“Seeing these pictures (on facebook) warms my heart, and makes me so grateful for all the good memories from when my parents lived at Bethesda. It’s a wonderful place with wonderful people, both staff and residents!” – Linda (Koehn) Buller

“There truly are no words for how wonderful they are. The people aren’t staff, they’re family. During an awful time they strive to make it easier and openly show how much they love the residents. Honestly, they should be teaching other homes on what to do.” - Twila Legg

“Thanks for a staff that is talented, compassionate and full of fun!” – Barb Banman



Above: Janett Wiebe and Frances Rogers display the quilt.

Below: Evie Schmidt, Rosie Reimer and Frances Rogers tying the quilt.



Our residents possess much wisdom and insight into the act of daily living and how to live a full life. Those who are service-minded have discovered that “one of the secrets of life is that all that is really worth



Packing MCC School kits

“CEO” continued from page 1

completed the Kansas Administrator-in-Training program. Bethesda is blessed to have Melissa to partner with and mentor Sara Hiebert while she completes her Administrator credentials. Melissa comes with an extensive background in healthcare. The skills she acquired over the years in the hospital culture enable her to develop the best practices to promote culture change within senior care services.

“I have always had the desire to help the elderly and most of my career has focused on senior services within the acute care environment, however it wasn’t until my own parents faced very difficult decisions that I changed career paths.”

Before pursuing her Licensed Nursing Home Administrators education she was a Registered Respiratory Therapist as a Specialty Clinic Supervisor

/Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation Facilitator for 19 years, and as Project Development Coordinator for Susan B. Allen Memorial Hospital for seven years.

Melissa possesses a participative leadership style and is proficient in overcoming obstacles and implementing organizational change through servant leadership, quality initiatives and excellent care while fostering a positive work environment.

“Great first impressions are vital while connecting to people. My first impression of Bethesda Home was, ‘What a beautiful campus.’ But beyond the appearance, I immediately felt the sweet, sweet spirit that is here. Walking the hallways, the kindness, joy and love is modeled daily by the staff towards the residents. It truly is a ‘home’ and I consider it a privilege to be part of the Bethesda Home family during this time of transition.”

Tax-Free Gift Option for Those 70½ and Older

Remember – December 2015 the IRA charitable gift option was made permanent. Persons 70½ or older can make a donation of up to \$100,000 to Bethesda (and other possible charities) to avoid the disbursements being recorded as taxable income on your federal tax return. Check your own state tax code to see if it is also treated as non-taxable income. Act now if you have not already

taken your disbursement. Simply contact your IRA account manager and have them direct your disbursement to Bethesda Home. If you have already received your disbursement you can still contribute to Bethesda and claim a charitable deduction, if you itemize. Contact your tax accountant for more details.

Food for Thought

“People forget what you said, people forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.”

- Maya Angelou

In Memory

Since March, 2017

Roy Funk - 3/18/17

Edmah Boese - 4/04/17

Emma Hughes - 4/19/17

Jan Sevilla - 4/22/17

Harriet Jane Hiebert - 6/2/17

Norma Martinez - 6/15/17

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<https://www.facebook.com/bethesdahomeKS/>

Bethesda Blessed by Recent Grants Received

Bethesda was blessed to receive two grants in support of our Friendship Meal program that was highlighted in the last newsletter. The Goessel Community Foundation contributed \$100 from its Impact Fund, plus distributed \$900 from the Community Seniors Endowed Fund, established by the 2012 sale of the AGAPE Center in Goessel. Additionally, the Newton Et Cetera Shop awarded \$1,000 from its Local Giving Fund Grant program.

Both of these grants are deeply appreciated in support of the Friendship Meal program that distributes an average of 188 meals per month to community residents with limitations, who, for various reasons, are not able to prepare well-balanced nutritional meals for themselves.

Meals are delivered by a number of dedicated volunteers, including: Darla Banman, Dan & Joyce Bergen, Howard & Anna Beth Birky, Mary Lindeman, Ruth & John Peters, Mary Schmidt, Myron Schmidt,

Arlie & Kay Schroeder, Becky Wedel and Connie Wiens, plus three substitutes: Ruth Goertzen (also the volunteer coordinator), Jerry and Leann Toews and Darrell & Judy Unruh. Several volunteers have quit and more are needed. If you are interested in being a volunteer call Ruth at 620-367-2291.

Recipients are very grateful for these meals. "The food is very tasty and the variety is great." "Please keep these meals coming."

Individual contributions are also welcomed to offset the deficit to provide this program of providing affordable meals to those who need them.



In Appreciation to Donors

Thanks to the many donors who supported the Bethesda ministry in FY 2017 (4/1/16-3/31/17)

Abrahams Engine Service
Abrahams, Carol
Abrahams, Russell & Barbara
Albertson & Hein, Inc.
Alexanderwohl Happy Home
Workers
Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church
Alliance Monitoring
Anonymous
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AT&T Services Inc.
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Bender, Shirley
Bethesda Resident's Council
Boese, Art & Ann
Brubaker, Karl & Marcia
Brunner, L.H. & Cheryl
Buller, Arlin & Maretta
Buller, Calvin & Pauline
Buller, Patrick & Abbe
Buller, Paul & Linda
Campbell, Rick & Connie
Chipman, Charles

Chisholm Trail Bible Church
Church, Kelcey & Amanda
Citizens State Bank
Cook, Les & Donna
Creative Wood
Crossroads Credit Union
Dalke, David & Erin
Deckert, Geoffrey & Verda
Dern, Tom & Martha
Dewayne Pauls Accounting
Dillon Stores Comm. Rewards
Dingwall, Kenneth & Mary
Dirksen, Larry & Marybeth
Dirksen, Rosemary
Duerksen, Donley & Carol
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Flaming, Dwight & Tammy
Flaming, Pat & Amy
Flaming, Pete & Marilyn
Franz, Ilene
Franz, LeRoy
Franzen Repair
Frye, Stephen & Marta
Funk Electric
Funk, Darwin & Kim
Funk, DeLora
Funk, Dr. John
Funk, Gayle
Funk, Loren & Heleen
Funk, Marvin & Elfrieda
Fuqua Construction, Inc
Gehrer, Linda
Gering, Warren & Diane
Gillispie, Robert
Glaser, Curt & Joni
Glaser, Graeme & Diana
Goering Hardware Company
Goering, John & Orletta
Goering, Kevin & Sheryl
Goering, T R & Kit
Goertz, Dorothy
Goertzen, LeRoy & Phyllis
Goertzen, Milton
Goertzen, Myron & Ruth

Goertzen, Stanley & Geneva
Goertzen, Steve & Rosie Reimer
Goertzen, Tim & Judy
Goertzen, John & Laura
Goertzen, Thelma
Goessel Comm. Foundation
Goessel Mennonite Church
Gordon, Leslie & Justin
Graber, Edna
Graber, Gail & Ardath
Graber, Sid & Gayle
Grimm, Don & Elaine
Grumbein, Raelynn
Harder, Paul & Eldine
Harmon, James & Adella
Harris, Marjean
Heins, William & Elizabeth
Hershberger, Geneva
Hett, Arlene
Hiebert, Brad & Sara
Hiebert, John & Margaret
Hillsboro Hometown Pharmacy
Hommertzheim, James
Hommertzheim, Marjorie
Hommertzheim, William & Rita
Huebert, Ruth
Jackson, Larry & Sharolyn
Janzen, Marjorie
Janzen, Steve & Bonnie



Be the reason someone
smiles today.
Remember, a smile is one of the
only things that when you give it
away, it comes back to you.

Get Your Morning Pick-Me-Up at



Monday - Friday 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Saturday 9-11 a.m.

It's a great place to relax and/or to meet family/friends.
More seating is available in the dining hall for larger
groups. Drinks include a variety of coffee and espresso
specialties, non-coffee alternatives, blenders and real
fruit smoothies along with a variety of
pastries, cookies, etc.

Johnson, Nancy & Gary
Johnson, Norma
Johnston, Richard & Lynette
Jost Funeral Home
Kansas Dept. of Transportation
Keith Schrag Insurance
Keith's Foods LLC
Klassen, Joanne
Koontz, Phil & Sondra
Krause, Roland
Kroeker, Elmer & Renetta
Landes, Delbert & Ruth
Lauri, Harry & Gail
Lewallen, Mike & Mary
Linscheid, David & Cynthia
Living Rooms by Gayle
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Martens, Delon & Joretta
Martens, Orlin & Rosemary
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Max C & Sophia L Scrivner Trust
Midkiff, Emmy
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Miller-Ott Funeral Home
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Nikkel, Mark & Janice
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Plett, Elva
Prairie View
Quinn, Duane & Valerie
Rambo, Jana
Regier, Grace
Regier, Hilda
Robb, Di
Roberts, Chet & Jeanette
Rupp, Mark & Pat
Sand Volleyball Tournament
Schmidt - Estate, Gerald
Schmidt, Alvin & Wilma
Schmidt, Bruce & Eileen
Schmidt, Dennis & Jan
Schmidt, Donald & Elaine
Schmidt, Dora
Schmidt, Ella S.
Schmidt, Esther
Schmidt, Gladys
Schmidt, Jim & Diana
Schmidt, Jim & Mary
Schmidt, Myron & Pat
Schmidt, Rannie & Meribeth
Schmidt, Ruth Ann
Schmidt, Susie

Schmidt, Wilbert
Schrag, Eric & Gretchen
Schrag, Sam & Luanna
Schroeder, D. John
Schroeder, Darlene
Schroeder, Elaine
Schroeder, Norman & Leona
Schultz, Harold & Susan
Sebes, Dennis & Dorothy
Seyfried, Francis
Shaw, James & Laverna
Shoffner, Wayne & Frances
Shonk, R. Charmaine
Slocombe, Warren & Phyllis
Solberg, Barbra
Sprunger, Sidney & Carol
Stucky, Bruce & Patricia
Stucky, Kirk & Carla
Sunflower Promo
Szabo, Shirley
Tabor Mennonite Church
Templin, Rose Mary
Teske, Darrel & Juanita
The Garden Center
Thieszen, Harold & Esther
Thimm, Larry & Kathy
Toews, Jerry & Leann
Trinity United Church of Christ
Ulsaker, Todd & Mary
Unruh, Bob & Erlene
Unruh, Darrell & Judy
Unruh, Dora
Unruh, Duane & Karen
Unruh, Olin & Hilda

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Voth, Dale & Marla
Voth, Delton & Janice
Voth, James & Gayle
Voth, Jerry & Janice
Voth, Jim & Barb
Voth, Josephine
Voth, Lloyd & Marlene
Voth, Marvin
Voth, Mike & Dawn
Voth, Tim & Jolynn
Voth, Verney & Janice
Voth, Wesley
Walker, Mike & Terri
Wasemiller, Norma Jean
Watts, Joyce
Weber, Anne
Wedel, Robert & Rozanna
Wedel, Ron & Becky
Weems, Mick & Noreen
Weinbrenner, Ilene
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Wichita A's
Wiebe, Janet
Wiens, ElRoy & Loretta
Wiens, Fred & Jeanie
Wiens, Stanley & Becky
Willis, Kelli
Woelk, LeRoy & Marcella
Woody Brook Farms



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please send your current email address to pflaming@bethesdahome.org

Pete's Opportunity for Philanthropy

How can I treat each of my children fairly and also contribute to my favorite charity?

A very popular option for a parent with children is called the "Give It Twice" Trust. This is a trust funded when the surviving parent passes away. Part of the estate is transferred outright to children. The balance is placed in a special "Give It Twice" Trust.

Jane: John and I talked about this before he passed away. We both agreed that we wanted to treat each of our four children equally and also provide a benefit to our favorite charity.

Jane's gift planner told her that with her estate of \$800,000 she would have the ability to do something significant for both her family and favorite charity. Jane was concerned because while her three older children are financially responsible, her youngest, Joe, "spends money like water." Jane was afraid that if Joe were to receive cash in a lump sum he would spend it right away.

The gift planner explained that the "Give It Twice" plan could be very helpful. Jane could transfer \$400,000 from her IRA at death to the trust. Her children would each receive one-fourth of the income from the trust over 20 years. That would give Joe a chance to learn to save and invest. After that time, the trust balance would benefit her charity. In addition, by using her IRA, Jane could save on income tax because the special trust is tax-exempt.

Jane: I established a "Give it Twice" Trust and was thrilled with the plan. The prospect of helping my four children and my favorite charity made me happy, and I knew that it was the right thing to do.

For more information of how this can benefit your estate plan, contact your financial planner, your attorney or Pete Flaming at 620-367-2291 or pflaming@bethesdahome.org.