

# HERITAGE of Care

# THE BETHESDA LETTER

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

## Stepping Up Bethesda's Board of Directors

For board members, Matt Voth and Debra Hiebert, the joy of being a part of the ministry of Bethesda Home is a gift that keeps on giving.

Matt, a farmer from just outside Goessel, has served on the Bethesda board for the last 6 years and finds his niche with the “nut and bolts” of operating a business. Being a part of the Financial committee allows Matt to get a first hand look at the large and small improvements that happen on a regular basis to Bethesda's campus.

Debra, who works outside the community in Newton as a Director of the Harvey County Historical Museum, has a strong passion for the mission of Bethesda Home; “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.” Having served on the board of directors for the last seven years, Debra has



Matt Voth has felt the calling to serve on the Board of Directors for Bethesda Home for the past six years.

enjoyed being a part of fulfilling the lives of the residents through the interactions with the community.

Through working with the financial committee, Matt has had the opportunity to witness the great need that faces many of those who reside at Bethesda Home. At the same time he has also witnessed the generosity of the many donors, volunteers and staff that have made the seemingly difficult circumstances dissolve into a ministry that serves the heart and body of each of the residents.

With the total annual Medicaid shortfall each year adding up to \$330,000 for the 67% of residents who are currently on Medicaid, the need is great. Both Voth and Hiebert agree that it has been, and will continue to be a challenge to counter the shortfall. They are confident that this challenge can be overcome through the generosity and faithful stewardship from the Bethesda community.



Debra Hiebert has enjoyed serving and interacting with the staff and residents at Bethesda Home for the past seven years.

### What's Inside?

- Get to know two Board Members and their passion for Bethesda
- Learn how the Social Work Department can help you
- Find out how buying groceries can help Bethesda



We invite you to visit our updated website  
[www.bethesdahome.org](http://www.bethesdahome.org)

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

Follow Bethesda's current news and resident activities on our updated facebook page.  
“Like” us! We welcome your comments.



Find us on  
**Facebook**

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## CEO's Corner



### Meeting of the Bored

Yes that was intentional ☺. Many of us have had the experience of sitting through long and laborious meetings. While sitting in the meeting you look at the clock and it has only been fifteen minutes since the meeting began. You work extremely hard to stay focused, and after what seems like another fifteen minutes you look at the clock to discover only 5 minutes have passed. Those meetings are not much fun. Often you are left feeling that you wasted an hour, or more, of your life on a worthless and meaningless endeavor.

While this represents the experience of some board rooms, it certainly does not represent the Bethesda Board. This newsletter focuses on a couple of our board members, and I can say that Bethesda has been blessed by wonderfully caring individuals serving on our board; individuals who have a heart for our ministry, individuals that have a heart for our community, individuals that have a heart for our residents, families and staff.

While board work can be monotonous one of the things that the Bethesda Board has been working hard at over the last number of years is creating a time for generative work. Rather than spend our time in the board room looking in the rear view

mirror, we want to look ahead to what is coming: What are trends in the long term care industry? What are trends in our community? What will residents in 5, 10, 15 and 20 years expect from us? Is affiliation or merger beneficial? Is bigger better? Often these questions are not easily answered, and certainly do not have an immediate “right” answer, but do represent things that Bethesda needs to evaluate to continue moving forward.

I am thankful for the work of the Bethesda Board since 1899. Four of the many things that have set Bethesda apart, and put us way ahead of other facilities: the foresight of the board many years ago to have private resident rooms, the foresight to establish an endowment, create a designated safe area for residents with dementia, and the willingness to physically remodel the facility to embrace culture change. I am proud to be a part of an organization that recognizes the value of looking forward.

I am thankful for each of the constituents reading this right now who also recognize the value of forward thinking, and the value of having caring, compassionate and thoughtful members of our board. Thank you for making Bethesda a great place for the past 116 years and for the next 116 years!

Eric Schrag, CEO

## Donors are a special blessing to Bethesda

Donors are the life-blood of our organization and allow Bethesda to provide the highest quality of care while maintaining a reasonable room rate cost. All contributions, small or large, cash or gifts-in-kind, etc. are very much appreciated, and we THANK everyone who contributes.

Your contributions enable Bethesda to fulfill our mission of being “a Christian community dedicated to provide the highest quality care in the name of Christ for the retired, frail and elderly ... committed to a holistic approach in providing our continuum of care ... 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.”

### DID YOU KNOW

In 2014 there were 322 different individuals/organizations that contributed a total of \$135,219 in cash and in-kind gifts – ranging from \$3.00 to \$10,200 per individual. Thirty (30) individuals contributed over \$1,000, five (5) of which contributed over \$5,000 each.

### Five different funds were the beneficiaries of the majority of the contributions:

- Benevolent Care - \$73,625 – toward offsetting the \$330,000 annual Medicaid shortfall (\$730/mo. per resident)
- Bus garage - \$15,588 (total cost of building is now paid for)
- Resident / Nursing care equipment, etc. - \$15,026
- Utility vehicle for maintenance - \$11,324
- Endowment Fund - \$1,034

The 2015 challenge – to have 100 donors contributing \$1,000 or more (An \$84 / month contribution / automatic bank withdrawal will accomplish that threshold – that’s \$2.80 per day). Start now to get a jump start on being one of the 100 donors.

Estate gifts, IRA Minimum Required Distributions, appreciated assets i.e. land, stocks, etc., Gift Annuities, etc. are excellent choices to consider. Check with your financial advisor or contact Pete Flaming for more information.

We continue to covet your prayers and financial support of our ministry in fulfilling Christ’s teaching of caring for others (Matthew 25:40-45).



## Social Workers

If you or a loved one have entered the doors of Bethesda as a resident within the last decade or if you have sought after information about assisted living or long term care, the odds are you have met our Social Services team. Sara Hiebert, a 5 year veteran at Bethesda and Ashley Vogel, nearing her fifth year, serve as the Assistant Administrator and Admissions Coordinator, respectively.

Hiebert, who grew up in Goessel and still has family and extended family here now resides in Hutchinson with her husband and two children. She wears many hats as Assistant Administrator. Her duties include overseeing the social work department, activities department and serving as the corporate compliance officer. Her knowledge of a variety of different positions allows her to help out wherever needed.

Vogel, who now lives just north of Marion with her husband and two children, serves as the Admissions Coordinator. A large part of what Vogel does is helping residents and their families with the admittance and discharge processes. She also works along side mental health professionals with the assessment and follow up of the mental health of residents.

Bethesda Home offers a wide range of options, from independent living to assisted living to nursing care. If the need is there a memory care unit is available. If someone is not at the point in their life to move into Bethesda, Day Services are available, with options tailored to meet the needs and wants of each person.

“We also offer respite care. If someone in the community needs assistance on a short term basis we can help with that,” says Vogel.

As the home offers a wide range of services, both Vogel and Hiebert are there to help answer questions and be a resource to anyone.

“We are here to help people,” said Vogel “I’m not here to tell you to come to Bethesda, I am here to help you and give you information, and if the time is right, I will help you. I am

not a salesperson.”

A part of that help is giving advice to anyone that needs it. When asked what piece of advice they wanted to share, their response was, “We want to be proactive when it comes to planning your future and your loved one’s future.”



Sara Hiebert, Assistant Administrator, left and Ashley Vogel, Admissions Coordinator on right, pause for a moment from their busy schedules. Each day their schedules include a mixture of administrative duties, paperwork and working along side residents.



Ashley Vogel and Sara Hiebert take time to discuss ways that their team effort approach can holistically heal Bethesda’s residents.

“It really helps the residents adjust to change if there has been some talk or planning in place [beforehand] rather than having an emergency and [hastily] admitting to Bethesda,” said Vogel.

Planning is a powerful tool in the lives of resident and families. Find out beforehand what to expect when it comes to the admissions process, so that when the time comes you are prepared. A part of that is knowing what the timeline can look like and what documents they need to have to be admitted. This can save time and hassle later on. Documents, sometimes referred to as advanced directives, can be; durable power of attorney for healthcare and financial, a living will, and just knowing what your loved one’s wishes are.

“Anyone can come and we would be happy to help you complete the paperwork for each of these,” says Hiebert.

Hiebert and Vogel are also available to give tours of the Bethesda Home neighborhoods. Find out which lifestyle fits you best.

The Social Services Department’s mission is to serve and answer questions, regardless of where you are in life. Working along side the mental health providers in the area and using the resources they offer allows Bethesda Home to serve and meet the needs of the resident.

“Knowing how to partner with the resources that are out there is a key factor. It isn’t that we do anything amazing, we just partner with the resources that are available, to help us, our staff, families and the residents” said Vogel.

They have enjoyed seeing residents come full circle through the help of these resources and providers. “When you

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have someone who feels very hateful or angry about being here or very anxious and then they come around full circle to where they are comfortable. That always is what feels the best,” said Vogel.

For Hiebert, one of the joys of her job is to truly get to know the residents.

“We get the privilege to write their social histories, often with the help of family members. It is humbling to hear stories of how active and engaged these people were in their communities. Every part of their history helps us relate to providing for their needs.”

Vogel says she enjoys the residents’ interaction with each other. “They are each other’s biggest support group, they give to each other more than we ever could.”

With the joys of the job come some challenges. For Vogel it is “adjusting to the different family dynamics, meeting the residents where they are, and helping figure out what they need to make their stay successful.”

Both Hiebert and Vogel agreed that the paperwork aspect of their job is a challenge. Having to send information to a variety of people and organizations takes up a lot of their time, time that they would rather be spending with residents. But for

them the joys outweigh the challenges.

What initially drew Hiebert to working at Bethesda was the opportunity to come back to her hometown and to where she worked when she was in high school and college.

“It was because of Bethesda that I wanted to be a social worker, and for me it’s the family and the joy of a community environment at work.”

For Vogel it was the location that first brought her to Bethesda but it is the joys of her job have kept her here.

“I came here for convenience but it really has turned into something I enjoy doing.”

Their enthusiasm and passion for helping others have fueled the work that they do in the Social Services Department.

At the end of the day, Hiebert says “The residents give back more than we could ever give to them.”

## Avoid paying capital gains tax

You can avoid paying capital gains tax on real estate, farm equipment, stocks, or other appreciated property sales.

It can be done by donating the appreciated property to Bethesda Home through the Mennonite Foundation to sell for you. Bethesda Home welcomes such donations and can assist you with making the proper connections with Mennonite Foundation.

### Here are the steps to follow

- Contact Bethesda Home BEFORE establishing a price or arranging for a buyer to purchase the property. The IRS does NOT approve of any written lease agreements with an option to buy clause in the lease agreement.
- Appraisals of the property are arranged by Mennonite Foundation.
- In the case of land sales Mennonite Foundation will certainly make the sale value known to family members, current lessees, and/or neighbors, for first options to purchase the property.

(Bethesda Home does not currently have adequate staff time and expertise to properly guide you and administer all of the steps in the process. We work with Dennis LeFevre, Certified Financial Planner and our Mennonite Foundation representative. Pete Flaming can assist in making the connection with him.)

- In the case of stock sales, Bethesda does not play the stock market. Therefore, when stocks are donated, Bethesda will sell immediately and turn into cash.

### Benefits to the donor include

- Avoid lump sum capital gains tax.
- Get an immediate tax deduction.
- Create dependable income.
- Preserve farm heritage.
- Experiencing the joy of contributing a significant legacy gift to your chosen charity(ies).

For more information contact Pete Flaming, Development Director – [pflaming@bethesdahome.org](mailto:pflaming@bethesdahome.org) or call 620-367-2291. A wealth of additional information is also available at the Bethesda web site <http://www.bethesdahome.org/give/non-cash-donations.html>.

*Measure wealth not by the things you have, but by the things you have for which you would not take money. – “...for a man’s life consists not in the abundance of things he possesses.”*

Luke 12:15

## Fun and Games



Marlene, Marvin, Ruth and Evelyn enjoy playing Rummikub each week and don't miss an opportunity to sit together and play. Boggle is the choice for Otto, who loves word games. Uno, Dominoes and Chinese Checkers can also be seen at various times in the neighborhoods. For those who don't care for games, there are always a couple of puzzles at various stages of completion.

## Did You know?

- The average length of stay of a nursing care resident is 1-3 years (30.3%); less than 3 mo. (20%); and 5 or more years (12%). The longest length of stay for two current Bethesda residents thus far are 30 years and 26 years – and counting.

## P.O.P. Quiz (Pete's Opportunity for Philanthropy)

**Question** – How can we help a corporation contribute to Bethesda Home?

**Answer** - If you live in Kansas, Oklahoma, Nebraska or Missouri, and you shop at Dillons, Bakers and/or Gerbes Supermarkets, you can support Bethesda Home by just swiping your Plus Shopper's Card! The new Community Rewards Program has made it easy for Bethesda to benefit from their philanthropic intentions of donating \$500,000 each quarter to enrolled 501(c)(3) charities! It costs you NOTHING but could benefit Bethesda a lot!

Comments from community members: "It's a no brainer!" "It is so easy to do!" "I don't understand why everybody doesn't do it!" If you don't have a computer or need help in enrolling, contact Pete Flaming – 620-367-2291. For it to be of significant benefit to Bethesda we would like to have several hundred enrolled. As of February 19, 2010 approximately 70 people have enrolled. Be the next one to do it!

What to do? - Log on to either [www.dillons.com/communityrewards](http://www.dillons.com/communityrewards) (KS & OK), or [www.bakersplus.com/communityrewards](http://www.bakersplus.com/communityrewards) (in NE), or [www.gerbes.com/communityrewards](http://www.gerbes.com/communityrewards) (in MO).

If you don't already have an account with the supermarket in your state -

1) Follow the instructions to Create Account completing each of the required fields, including your email address. However, if you don't have a computer or an email address, but shop at these stores, you can still enroll Bethesda to receive benefits from your purchases – just make up an email address and a password,

but remember it so you can log back in to see your account / fuel points accrued, etc. If you set up an account with a non-working email address, please let Pete Flaming know so contact can be made with you by phone when important information needs to be shared with you.

2) If you already have an account, skip to Sign In, provide the required info requested, then enter 10035 to designate Bethesda Home as your charity of choice to receive their contribution from all your purchases when your Plus Card is swiped.

Program re-enrollment will happen in January each year.

Your Plus Shopper's Card now drives the contribution to Bethesda. However, for those in Kansas, you may still use your Dillons Gift Card to reload and pay for your purchases if you choose to do so.

The maximum that a charity can receive from the Community Rewards Program is \$30,000 per quarter. The amount that Bethesda receives will depend on the number of people that enroll in the program and how much is spent in the stores in each quarter. So share this with your friends and relatives.

Monies from the Community Rewards Program go toward fulfilling our mission of fulfilling the lives of adults with special needs in the Spirit of Jesus Christ.

Contact Pete Flaming – 620-367-2291 or [pflaming@bethedahome.org](mailto:pflaming@bethedahome.org) if you have questions or need assistance in enrolling Bethesda on your Plus Shopper's Card.







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To enable us to communicate more efficiently in this electronic world,  
please send your current email address to [pflaming@bethesdahome.org](mailto:pflaming@bethesdahome.org)

### *“Directors” continued from pg. 1*

“It’s a challenge. Without the local support in the community it wouldn’t be sustainable. We have to constantly look to see who we can partner with. Right now our endowment gifts are above average,” says Voth.

“As one generation ages, it is time for the next generation to step up, like their parents before them. A part of the “Boomers” stepping up is bringing the [generation] “Xers” and “Yers” along with them. Each generation has to lead by example.”

“You don’t have to be a big donor to be important. It is the heart of the giver that makes the difference.”

Making a difference in the lives of the residents is at the heart of Bethesda’s mission. Keeping an organization like Bethesda moving forward in a smooth manner, tackling expected and unexpected obstacles, requires innovative and resourceful directors.

When asked how much of a time commitment it is to serve on the board, both Matt and Debra smiled and agreed that, although meetings are every other month, they often find themselves in between meetings prayerfully seeking guidance and preparing for the upcoming meeting or event.

“At the bare minimum we spend on average two hours each month, preparing for and attending meetings,” says Hiebert. “But we usually do more than that.”

What initially motivated both Matt and Debra to become involved in the mission of Bethesda was the history of quality

care and professionalism in a resident centered environment that Bethesda Home offers.

Debra, having experienced visiting loved ones in other nursing homes, has appreciated the cleanliness that Bethesda Home offers.

“I never walk into Bethesda and recoil from the smell, whereas when I visited my other grandpa, I would always walk in and recoil from the smell of the whole facility.”

She also points out that “People who work here, do so as a career, and have family here. They find what they do here as a calling rather than just a job.” For Hiebert and for many other families that have loved ones as residents, the high level of care is a comforting factor when searching for advanced care.

Both Voth and Hiebert want to encourage others who are passionate and feel called to serve, to take action and get involved.

“No one should ever feel unqualified to serve on the board, if that is something that they feel called to do. There is a reason for that calling.”

Hiebert sums up their experience by saying “When we leave we will take away much more than what we left behind.”