

THE BETHESDA LETTER

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

HERITAGE
of Care



What's Inside?

- Message from the CEO
- Life Enrichment Report
- Development Update
- And more!

REMINDER

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

Send an email to mlehmanwiens@bethesdahome.org or call 620-367-2291.

Current and past newsletters can be viewed on our website www.bethesdahome.org under the "About" heading.

Follow Bethesda's current news and resident activities on our Facebook page. "Like" us!

We welcome your comments.

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Facebook

Bethesda Celebrates New Bridge

By Matt Lehman-Wiens

Thanks to local donors, and Todd Jost of Jost Welding, Bethesda Home is able to celebrate the installation of a new bridge on our campus. The previous bridge, constructed with wood, had been in need of replacement for some time, and recent flooding had made the bridge nearly unusable.

Jost, however, was willing to step forward to help. In addition to welding the bridge into one piece, he also designed the entire structure. Measuring over 50 feet long, it is made of steel and was galvanized in Salina. This process will prevent the onset of rust, and ensure the bridge will last for years to come.

The process took some time, however. Cement abutments had to be installed to support the nearly 7000 pound bridge, and funds had to be raised. Bethesda is so grateful to donors Lloyd and Marlene Voth and Vernon and Clara Hiebert, who stepped forward with their resources to make the completion of the project a possibility.

Bethesda Home is planning a dedication ceremony for later this year. In the meantime, however, Bethesda Home residents and visitors alike can enjoy the bridge and Bethesda's campus as they stroll the grounds.



A new spinner in the Bethesda Home gardens brought an early burst of Spring color!

CEO's Corner



Sara Hiebert, CEO

A reminder popped up on my computer today stating; two weeks overdue on "My Newsletter Article." UGH! How could I be that late already? I was sure that was only yesterday when Matt asked if he could get something from me for the CEO corner. Whether it was a day ago, two weeks, a month or even a year, time seems to be moving so fast and yet the ticks between the second hand on my clock seem to be forever far apart.

We joke at work, asking "What did we do before COVID?" Although this joke has become concern for our long-term memory, it is fun to attempt to remember those good ol' days! Whether it is the last three years or the past two weeks, COVID has done a number on each of us. Even though I know COVID will never leave, I was hoping for some more normalcy these past two years and it seems there is nothing normal anymore. COVID just struck Bethesda Home again, leaving us in full outbreak mode with doors closed, PPE as our new dress code and longings to see residents interacting together. This time our outbreak didn't last two months – only two weeks but man was that long enough!

This round of COVID I was at home; sick as well. I was alone with my thoughts, my snot rags and my heart aching. It was also a time of reflection. This winter has been a long winter and the sight of green shoots coming up in the fields has overtaken my heart. I leap for joy as Spring is coming and new life is evolving. I have had time to reflect on Jesus and the long road He had to the Cross. There were no easy moments this year for Bethesda, just as there were none for Jesus. We have been challenged by CMS guidelines, a workforce shortage that is like nonother, inflation rates skyrocketing and a growing demand for care of our elders that no one feels they can provide. Jesus watched as his disciples denied him, was beaten, ridiculed and then hung to die. Never did Jesus stop loving those who were doing this to him. And Bethesda Staff are not going to let these roadblocks get in our way! March was a turning point for Bethesda as we began the process of opening our Willow Neighborhood. We currently have two residents on Willow and we are anxious to keep filling it as we hire more nursing staff. Good things are happening, and the season of these events are not just coincidence. Bethesda has remained faithful to the call to provide quality care and God is providing the way. New life through Jesus and new life at Bethesda. God has and continues to bless us.

-Sara Hiebert, CEO



Local Groups Give Presentations

Volunteers from the MDS Cabinet Shop in Goessel pause from their work to take a photo. Cleo Koop and Keith Banman spoke about all of the wonderful things they are doing for Mennonite Disaster Service.

Carol and Donley Duerksen gave a presentation about their eventful trip to Antarctica. Experiencing a rogue wave while at sea and still getting to set foot on the continent made for quite the adventure.

Thank You To Our 2022 Pillars Banquet Sponsors

Funk Electric – Kyle Funk
 Living Rooms by Gayle – Gayle Funk
 Iron Insurance Partners – Mark Skidmore
 Jost Funeral Home – Jared Jost

West Branch Excavating – John and Elaine Unruh
 Abrahams Engine Service - Brent and Pam Abrahams
 Citizen's state Bank – Kirby Smith
 Goering Hardware - Mike Kaufman

Spring Activities Update

We recently experienced another outbreak of Covid-19 in our building, thankfully much less severe than it has been in the past. Navigating these times, specifically related to activities, has become almost second nature to us by now. During the height of the outbreak, we only conducted activities on television and one on one with residents, and as residents recovered we brought back small group activities, and now we are back to conducting activities as usual. We are thankful that this outbreak came and went with little fanfare, and now we can look forward to spring. The weather is warming up, which means we will start some gardening projects with residents and going on more frequent bus trips soon.

April is always a busy month here at Bethesda! The Goessel Ministerial Alliance recently hosted a Good Friday worship service, and served communion. Bethesda also participated in the Community Easter Egg Hunt on the Saturday before Easter. Bethesda partnered with the Mennonite Heritage and Agricultural Museum, Goessel Church, and the Goessel Rec Commission. Two of the age groups hunted eggs on the museum grounds, and one age group looked for eggs in the Cottonwood Courtyard on Bethesda's campus. We had approximately 70 kids show up for the Easter Egg Hunt, and we look forward to making this an annual event for the community. We also hosted a fundraiser for Mennonite Central Committee

this spring, which took place during the MCC Relief Sale in Hutchinson. As a way to provide an opportunity for our residents to continue to support the mission of MCC, as many of them have done for much of their lives, the Life Enrichment Department is hosting a "Mini MCC Market." Goods that will be sold have been donated from staff, residents, and members of the community. All of the money collected at the market will go directly to MCC. Another exciting event taking place this spring is our annual Spring Banquet, where we will share a delicious meal and enjoy entertainment from the Bel Canto Singers from Hesston College. Coming up soon in May will be Nursing Home Week, where we will have themed dress up days, special events, and snacks throughout the week, May 15th through 19th. During that week, Life Enrichment will also host the annual Mother's Day event, with this year's theme revolving around flower arranging.



Ariel Kraus



Bethesda participated in the community wide Easter Egg hunt on Saturday, April 8. Part of the hunt was held on Bethesda's grounds. Many families came out to enjoy the festivities.

Chaplain's Chat



Eldon Epp

As I write during this Easter season, I'd like to take a brief walk through our new Anabaptist hymnal "Voices Together", sampling some of its songs and other resources.

Hymn #31 is the traditional hymn "Come, We That Love The Lord"

Come, we that love the Lord,
and let our joys be known.

Join in a song with sweet accord,
join in a song with sweet accord,
And thus surround the throne,
and thus surround the throne.

We're marching to Zion, beautiful, beautiful Zion,
We're marching upward to Zion, the beautiful city of God.

A new hymn, using feminine images for God is #44

"We Long to Know Her"

We long to know her, the maker of heaven.
Knitter of sinews and planter of grains,
Guardian of sheep and the founder of vineyards,
She is the stronghold who gently sustains.
She is the sculptor who carved earth from darkness,
Architect building creation from dust.
She is the potter who formed us and made us,
Gave us her breath, and now yearns for our trust.

Another traditional hymn #98

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible, hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

An Advent hymn #215

"Oh, How Shall I Receive Thee"

Oh, how shall I receive thee, how meet thee on thy way,
Bless'd hope of every nation, my soul's delight and stay?
O Jesus, Jesus, give me now by thine own pure light
To know whate'er is pleasing and welcome in thy sight.

An Easter hymn #323

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

When I survey the wondrous cross.

On which the Prince of glory died, my richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.
Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, Save in the death of Christ, my God!

All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them through his blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet,

Sorrow and love flow mingled down!

Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,

Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

And another newer hymn #670

"In the Bulb There Is a Flower"

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
In cocoons, a hidden promise, butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.
There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody.

There's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,

Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.
In our end is our beginning, in our time, infinity,
In our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity,
In our death, a resurrection, at the last, a victory,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

May we be challenged and blessed by the songs we sing!

Eldon Epp, Chaplain

VOICES
Together

In Memory

Blessed are those who mourn for they will be comforted. - Matthew 5:4

10/22/22- Marvin Voth
12/19/22- Daniel Bergen

12/22/22 - Milton Duerksen
3/31/22 - Evelyn Schmidt

5 Ways to Give Creatively in 2023

1. Donate from your retirement account's Required Minimum Distribution. If you're older than 72, you're required to take distributions from your IRA. However, donating to Bethesda Home or another 501(c)3 charity can help to reduce your tax burden.
2. Set up a donor advised fund (DAF). Putting money into a donor advised fund gets you the tax benefit immediately, and make your gift later, at your discretion.
3. Give a gift-in-kind. Whether it's furniture, a commodity, or electronics, you can get a gift receipt for a donation to Bethesda Home that we're able to use or sell. You can also see Bethesda's wish list of items we'd love to have donated or purchased at bethesdahome.org/wish-list/
4. Check if your employer matches employee giving. For example, Bethesda Home is now registered with Benevity for gift matching. If your employer uses Benevity, you can now select Bethesda Home as a beneficiary of your matching gifts.
5. Volunteer! Bethesda Home keeps track of our volunteer hours, and donation of time can help us to qualify for certain sources of funding and grants. Additionally, our residents love to see new (or familiar) faces!

-Matt Lehman Wiens

Tax-Free Gift Option for those 70½ and older

Persons over 70½ may make a donation of up to \$100,000 to Bethesda from their IRA account to avoid the disbursement as taxable income. Contact your account manager and have them direct your Required Minimum

Distribution to Bethesda Home. They can be set up to be distributed any time of the year. THANKS to those who have already done so.

Just For Fun...

When does a joke become a 'dad' joke?
When it becomes apparent.

Did you hear about the first restaurant to open on the moon?
It had great food, but no atmosphere.

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Do you enjoy reading the Bethesda newsletter? A \$5 donation would help us keep the Bethesda Letter coming in the future. A gift of any size is a blessing to our residents. Thank you!

*Welcome Summer
by attending our 2nd Annual
Bethesda Fundraiser
Sunday, May 21, 2023
5:00pm - 7:00pm
White Owl Barn - 2861 Comanche Rd*

Bring your lawn chairs and enjoy a fun evening around the pond.

Lawn games will be provided!

Silent Auction on a variety of donated baskets and even a homemade quilt worth hundreds of dollars!

Suggested Donation -

\$15/plate for Adults and \$8/plate for children under 12

Pulled Pork, Potato Salad, Beans, Chips, Ice Cream and Cookies