

spring 2025

ECHOES

UNDER THE RIMS



PURPOSE



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Leadership Transition



The German poet, playwright, novelist, scientist, and statesman, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749–1832), once wrote, “The greatest thing in this world is not so much where we stand as in what direction we are moving.”

Within this issue of Echoes, you will find a collection of stories about St. John’s United people and programs on the move, with themes of purpose and support threading through. History reveals that St. John’s is an organization that has decisively moved in new directions since its founding, evolving its services and programs to meet the changing needs of people.

And speaking of new directions, on July 1 of this year I will step out of my current leadership roles within St. John’s United and the St. John’s Foundation, and step into the domain of being a retired clergy person on roster of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

As an employee of St. John’s for over a decade, I have been glad to help provide living opportunities within nurturing environments of hope, dignity, and love. For nine years prior, I was also pleased and honored to serve on the Board of Directors, including three years as chairperson, attentive then to the same mission that remains our organization’s North Star.

Throughout my years of service, I have had the joy of working alongside and among gifted and gracious people, some of whom I will always count as friends and colleagues for life. I treasure the relationships I have shared with residents, volunteers, financial donors, ownership churches, organizational partners, and stakeholders of all sorts. Thank you to all.

I like the mantra of St. John’s United – So much life to live! It expresses the richness of my experiences in this place, a place that has filled my days with meaning and purpose.

The nature and breadth of my work within the Foundation has been a gratifying venture. I anticipate that my able successor, the Reverend Peter Christ, will discover his new calling to be a meaningful and gratifying venture also. I am happy for Peter and happy for St. John’s United. I foresee the St. John’s Foundation continuing to advance steadily in days ahead.

Since announcing my retirement, people naturally ask what I will be doing next. In short, my days will be less structured, more flexible, and open to new ventures.

I have agreed to offer support and assistance to the Foundation as called upon and available. I intend to travel with Sarah to places far and near. I intend to play a little more golf, hunt a little more with our bird dog, and hike on mountain trails I have yet to explore. Billings will continue to be our home, though dwellings will change as we age.

I leave office a grateful soul but remain all-in for St. John’s United. So much life to live!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Tom Schlotterback".

Tom Schlotterback
Foundation President
VP of Mission Advancement

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A STORY IN SIX WORDS

I CAME. I SAW. I CONQUERED.

Julius Caesar

FOR SALE: BABY SHOES, NEVER

WORN. *Ernest Hemingway*

WE MADE A PROMISE. THEY STAY.

St. John's United

Now in existence for thirty-six years, the St. John's Foundation has experienced a period of transformational growth according to Stan Hill, who served on the Foundation Board of Directors from 2007-2014. In its first twenty-five years, Foundation activities primarily focused on hosting goodwill events for the community. Hill recounts that events such as the St. John's Summer Concert Series, Art for the Ages, and dinner theaters achieved their intended purpose

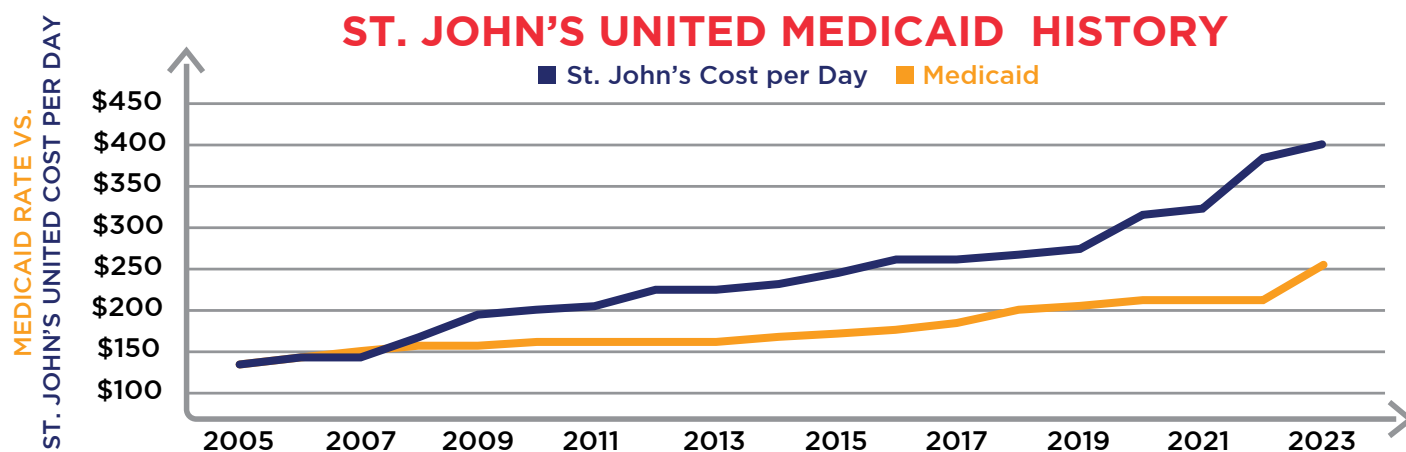
of building community awareness and relationships. The summer concerts became a beloved Billings mainstay, bringing people of all ages to the main campus year after year. "Despite the relational success of the Foundation's early years, financial growth was tepid at best," recounts Hill. In his own words, the Foundation "hadn't found its purpose yet."

That purpose came into focus as diminishing reimbursements created fear among board and executive leadership that St. John's would no longer be able to care for those who had exhausted their financial resources. Board members from both the St. John's Governance Board and the Foundation Board began to champion the message that revenue losses were unsustainable.

Something different had to happen to turn things in a new direction. That something different was calling upon the St. John's Foundation to invite philanthropic investment from the community.

New Beginnings

According to Hill, the first step was to recruit Tom Schlotterback as VP of Mission Advancement. "After assessing the landscape," says Hill, "Tom made the decision to hire a gift planner, which set the tone for what was to come. The combination of Tom's steadfast orientation to mission and community relationships and the financial expertise and charitable planning capacity of Rachel Simonson set the Foundation on a path aimed toward sustainability



for St. John's. That aim continues today."

"When I agreed to lead the Foundation in 2014," says Schlotterback, "it was clear to me that the St. John's donors – the keepers of legacy – would be part of the solution for future sustainability. The revenue gap was already beginning to limit St. John's ability to serve people in need throughout the arc of life. But the revenue gap is not what drove us – it is not our why. What drove us then, and still today, is the people to whom we have made promises. Our purpose is to invite the generosity that upholds St. John's promise."

While St. John's financial need was growing urgent, Schlotterback understood that "we were running a marathon, not a quick sprint to the finish line." Schlotterback took time to discover the Foundation's strengths and thoughtfully consider its

needs in terms of staffing and communications. Board members were re-engaged and given room to generate a new vision for the Foundation. Stakeholders and donors were encouraged to share their perspectives on St. John's and invited to deepen their financial support.

Mike Follett, whose board service ran from 2011-2021, recalls the invitation to continue in that capacity just as the new vision was taking shape. He shares that he extended his commitment because "Schlotterback had the credibility and institutional knowledge to navigate the inner workings of a complex organization. He was intentional about getting the right people in place who aligned with St. John's values and purpose."

Getting Focused

Board and leadership determined in 2019 that a campaign should commence to secure endowed funds to ensure that residents who

exhausted their financial resources could always call St. John's home. While the St. John's organization had undertaken previous campaigns, most were for capital improvements rather than to build the endowment. "It was now or never," says Follett, "to remake the mindset that philanthropy should power the economic engine of St. John's."

With failure not an option, the Resident Care Endowment Campaign crossed its finish line in early 2022, exceeding its \$8 Million goal of gifts and gift intents. "This was our first intentional effort to invite donors to invest in our future and the organization's ability to fulfill its promises to our residents," explains Schlotterback. Rachel Simonson, St. John's Gift Planner, adds that "Our donors generously came forward, responding to the call to ensure that when our residents are at their most frail, they stay."

(continued)

Expanding Reach

While an endowment campaign was under consideration, the decision was made to pull volunteer services under the Foundation umbrella and to recruit a director of volunteers. Follett describes volunteers as the cornerstone of community: “In a dynamic and evolving organization such as St. John’s, it is critical that volunteers be intentionality woven into the tapestry.”

Carissa Welsh was recruited to serve as Director of Volunteer Services in 2017. She began her work by consolidating operations across all departments and campuses. Welsh developed volunteer matchmaking systems and a dynamic training program, ensuring that volunteers find meaning and purpose in their work, while bringing healing, meaning, and purpose to the residents they serve.

The COVID pandemic changed the nature of volunteerism with more groups and youth participating than individual volunteers. St. John’s is just beginning to live into

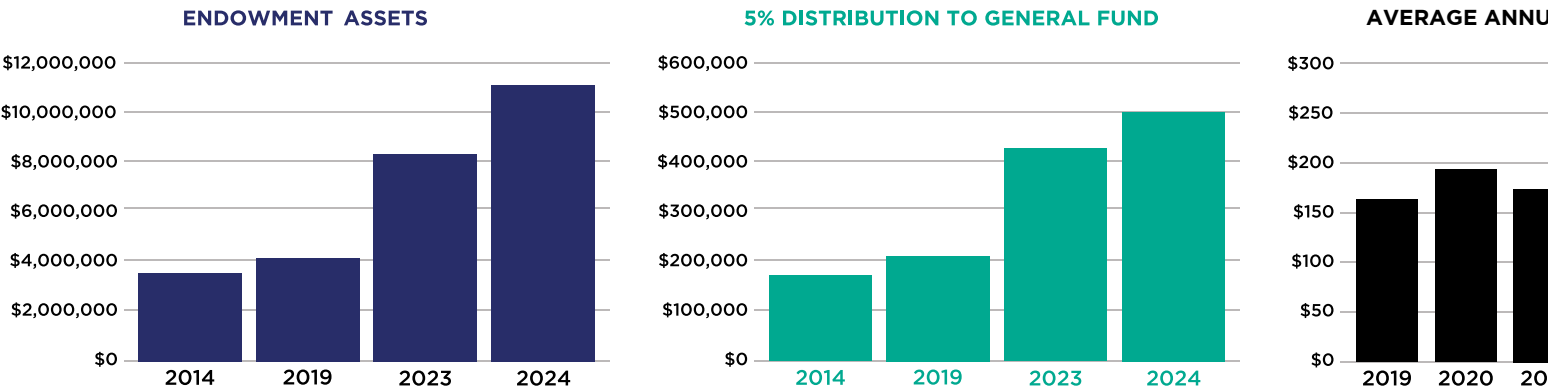
this new reality of volunteerism, though the impact of the work has not changed. Elisa Carrothers, Volunteer Coordinator since 2022 notes, “It is a delight to watch our volunteers in action, especially the youth. They bring such joy to our residents – it is just beautiful to witness.”

When Volunteer Services were placed on hiatus in 2020-2021, Welsh stepped forward to offer her skills in the grant writing arena. Now the Director of Volunteer Services & Grants, Welsh has significantly advanced grant applications and awards for St. John’s. She is uniquely skilled at collaborating with department leaders to assess whether grant support is available for new and existing programs and diligently shepherds the grant applications through the submission and vetting process. To date, the St. John’s Foundation has been awarded over \$3.4M for the Urban Horticulture Education Center Greenhouse and Center for Generations among numerous other mission-focused projects.

With the addition of Heather Estus, Director of Donor Relations and Annual Events, the Foundation has turned to creating an enriched donor experience and expanding a broader community connection to St. John’s. Both Stan Hill and Mike Follett recognize the need for deepening relationships with current donors and engaging new stakeholders. Each voiced similar sentiments that, as an organization rooted in faith, St. John’s has tremendous opportunity to reach beyond the Lutheran community, including a younger generation of supporters.

Estus says that her approach to the community is to provide a donor experience that is uniquely St. John’s. “Fundraising events are useful for introducing friends to the mission and we strive to make ours experiential. Where else could you experience an eco-conscious, sustainable fashion show but in the St. John’s Urban Horticultural Center, a.k.a. the greenhouse that feeds our residents? And to raise funds for our Center for Generations playground, we gave donors the opportunity to dress,

ENDOWMENT, GRANT, VOL



eat, and act like a kid for a night.”

Results

While nowhere near the finish line yet, the Foundation has found its steady pace by following a disciplined approach. Endowment assets have grown both by contribution and investment return, substantially increasing the annual distributions to St. John’s United to support resident care. The average gift to the Seeds of Kindness Annual Fund is trending upward. Grant dollars awarded and received each year exceed \$1 Million and the value of volunteer hours is in the mid-six figures, though the value of volunteers is immeasurable. When asked what the results indicate, Hill remarks, “All of this happened by humbly, yet confidently, inviting people to be keepers of St. John’s legacy.”

“Without question, the leadership of Tom Schlotterback has been key to the Foundation’s advances,” says Rev. Jen Quanbeck, Immediate Past Chair of the Foundation Board. “We are grateful for how Tom has widely shared the ‘why’ for this work, resulting in the growth of affection for St. John’s throughout our communities. As Tom moves



into retirement, the staff team he has nurtured remains anchored in and animated by the mission of caring for those in need. Soon we will welcome the next Foundation President and look forward to how staff, board, and stakeholders will be inspired to new heights under their leadership. When a gifted leader and capable staff team unite with dedicated board members and stakeholders, the impact of the Foundation on the greater St. John’s organization will certainly continue for many years to come.”

That confidence comes from knowing that St. John’s mission

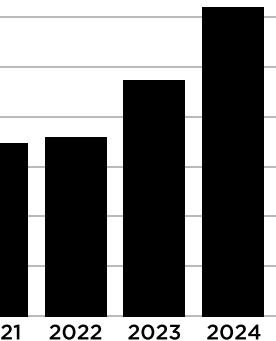
— to provide living opportunities within nurturing environments of hope, dignity, and love — is what motivates us. The people we serve are why we seek to inspire philanthropic investment to sustain St. John’s.

The story of the St. John’s Foundation is the story of donors who open their hearts to St. John’s residents. One of those residents, who desires to remain unnamed, closes this story in six words of her own:

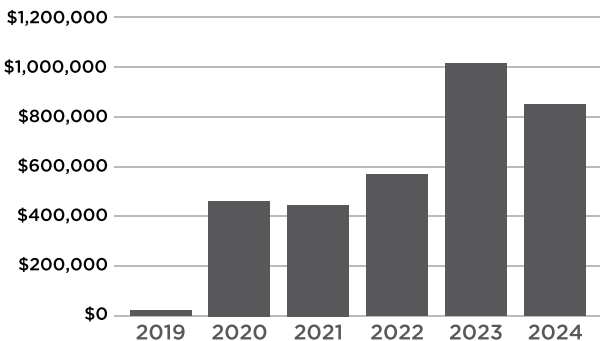
THEIR GENEROSITY SAYS I BELONG HERE. ✦

UNTEER & GIVING REVENUE

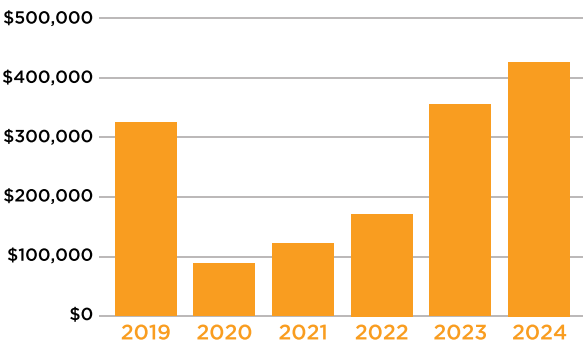
AL GIFT AMOUNT



GRANTS



VOLUNTEER HOURS





LEGACY BUILDING EVOLUTION

In 2019, a three-phase sequence of demolition and construction commenced on the St. John's United Legacy building that first opened as a home for residents in 1963. The original three residential areas, named Wings, were repurposed to become a Transitional Rehab Center, affordable housing for older adults, and a new location for Center for Generations, business offices, Foundation offices, the CEO office, and a board room. A portion of Wing Four was recently repurposed as the new Outpatient Therapy center, and remaining portions will be repurposed as moderate-income rate housing for older adults. Wings Five, Six, and Seven were demolished and removed in late 2024 to clear the land for future construction of the Aeries housing community and Centrum public spaces. Photos show views of the demolition work and views of the cleared land as it currently rests. ♦



20  25

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS



Tari Broderick
FINANCIAL ADISOR,
EDWARD JONES



Pam Meier
PRINCIPAL,
ARROWHEAD
ELEMENTARY

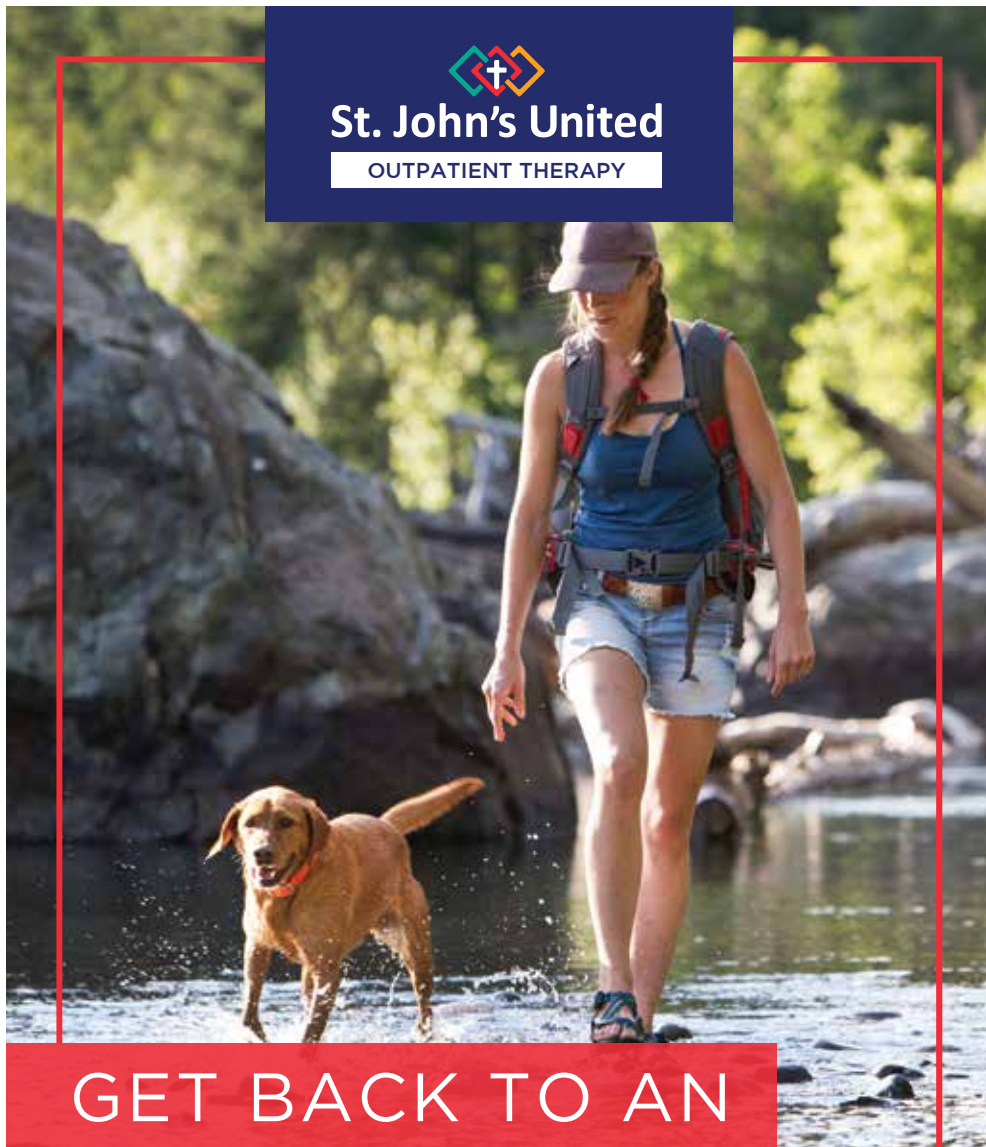


Dr. Carol Penn
PHYSICIAN AND
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THE CASE FOR COMMUNITY

"I'M NOT READY YET."

"I love my house."

"Independence is important to me."

"I'll move when I need to."

Finding a reason to delay residency in a retirement community is not hard. Change is difficult, and "moving to the old folk's home" gets a bad rap in popular culture. Besides, isn't the key to living a long life and maintaining independence being independent?

Longevity has been a hot button topic among social and medical research scientists for many years. While there are differing opinions on what the exact amount of exercise is necessary and how much alcohol is appropriate, there is one thing everyone agrees on: health and wellness is largely dependent on how connected one is connected to the community.

A 2016 study from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill found that people of all ages with a higher degree of social integration had a lower risk of physical illness, and those with a lack of social connections had a vastly elevated risk of illness in specific life stages.

Prior to the COVID 19 pandemic, which exacerbated loneliness, the World Health Organization

(WHO) in 2019 reviewed the data and identified the "epidemic of loneliness" leading to the development of a taskforce to address loneliness. The WHO asserts, "Social isolation is a growing public health issue that should be taken as seriously as more well-known issues like smoking, obesity, and sedentary lifestyles."

"We have all known the long loneliness and we have learned that the only solution is love and that love comes with community."

— Dorothy Day

Psychology professor and researcher at Brigham Young University, Julia Holt-Lunstad, was the first U.S. researcher to publish a large-scale analysis of studies establishing poor social support as a major contributor to morbidity. Holt-Lunstad's research estimates that having strong and secure relationships not only increases our happiness

but also our longevity by roughly 50 percent.

As we age, staying in our own home increases the risk of isolation and loneliness. Children and grandchildren might move away and lead busy lives. Inclement weather, especially in colder climates, has the tendency to cancel plans. While some are able to maintain vibrant social lives in their homes into old age, many do not. For those who are considering retirement community living, the earlier someone makes the move, the more they can take advantage of a vibrant, supportive community that can contribute to both mental and physical health, enhancing their overall enjoyment of retirement. ✦





BENEFITS OF COMMUNITY LIVING



Practical Assistance

Retirement community's basic services include regular housekeeping, maintenance, and a meal plan, opening more time in the day for socializing, hobbies, and exercise.



Direct Access

Weather and transportation are removed as barriers to participation. Attending community events and gatherings, volunteering, and attending religious services is easy.



Physical Health Benefits

Social connections can lead to better health choices. Sharing meals and exercise classes with others increases the likelihood of eating well.



Peace of Mind

Help is only a push button away. Nursing staff is present 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



Front of the Line Privileges

Waiting until a crisis arises result in fewer choices and longer wait times. Choosing a proactive move ensures the maximum number of time and choices are available.



Emotional Support

Regular interactions with others can provide reassurance, reduce feelings of anxiety, and increase feelings of happiness and contentment.



LIVING LIFE TO THE FULLEST

FOR MANY, THE IDEA OF MOVING into a retirement community can be daunting, even intimidating. But for Donna Friend and Beverly Thompson, two residents of WyndStone, it has proven to be a transformative and enriching decision that has enhanced their lives in more ways than they ever imagined.



Donna Friend

Donna Friend moved to WyndStone in June 2022, after losing her husband to cancer. She reflects on their shared discussions about selling their house before his

passing, with the hope of finding a more comfortable, secure living arrangement. "We talked about it for years," Donna recalls, "and I feel so fortunate that we had the chance to make decisions before he passed away. It made everything so much easier."

Her choice to move to WyndStone was deeply influenced by her desire to remain close to the community she had known for so many years. "This place is in close proximity to my old neighborhood," Donna explains. "I'm still part of that, and that really means a lot to me."

Living at WyndStone has given Donna a sense of freedom and peace of mind. She enjoys the ease of coming and going as she pleases, without worrying about household responsibilities. "I love that I can just let them know at the front desk when I'm going away, and I don't have to worry about things like mail or snow on my driveway. It's really made my life simpler."

One of Donna's favorite parts of living at WyndStone is the abundance of activities available, both inside and outside the building. "I go to the pool every

day, but I also like to get out of the building and do things. There's always something to do, but if I want to just be by myself, I can do that too."

"You'll meet new people, and you'll find you enjoy life more."

— Donna Friend

Her active lifestyle extends beyond WyndStone's walls. Donna takes trips to visit her children, including her daughter in Minnesota and another in Idaho, as well as her son in Huntley. "I still get around a lot," she says, with enthusiasm. "I even went to Norway in 2023 with a group from St. John's, and I've taken a yearly tour with my daughter to places around the country. It's so important to stay active."

In addition to traveling, Donna has found ways to give back to her

community. She volunteers at the Country Store within WyndStone every other week and participates in chair yoga, water aerobics, and even plays cribbage with a fellow resident. "It's so fun," Donna says, smiling. "Someone asked me to help out, and I'm always looking for things to do and ways to be involved."

She encourages anyone considering a move to a retirement community to embrace the opportunities it offers. "Be happy to move in," Donna advises. "Make it your choice, and take part in everything that interests you. You'll meet new people, and you'll find you enjoy life more."



Beverly Thompson

Beverly Thompson, a retired nurse with a rich and varied career, came to WyndStone after years of living on a ranch in California. Born and raised on the Central Coast of California, Beverly spent much of her life with her late husband, a fighter pilot in the Navy. Together, they raised their family and worked through the challenges of a military life. "I never imagined living in a

retirement community," Beverly admits. "But this place is so active and lively—it's been a wonderful experience."

After selling her 89-acre ranch following her husband's passing, Beverly moved to Red Lodge to live with her son for a few years before finally settling into WyndStone. Beverly stays incredibly active, attending exercise class five days a week and walking every day, regardless of the weather. "It's really important to keep moving," she explains. "I make it a point to walk for at least 30 minutes every day. It's not about speed or distance—it's about just getting out there."

*"I tell everyone,
it's like living in a
grand hotel, you've
got everything
you need"*

— Beverly Thompson

Beverly's commitment to helping others hasn't slowed down either. She volunteers with St. John's Hospice, visiting a resident in assisted living once a week. "I like being able to get to know someone and be there for them," she says. "It's something that brings a lot of purpose to my life."

Faith has always been a guiding principle for Beverly, and she finds comfort in the spiritual community at WyndStone. "Faith, family, and friends are what matter most to me," Beverly says thoughtfully. "Having a strong foundation in

my faith has been such a blessing, especially as I've gotten older."

While the transition to living at WyndStone was a significant adjustment, Beverly has come to appreciate the security and peace it has brought her. "It was hard at first—leaving California and everything I knew," she admits. "But now I look around, and I realize just how blessed I am. There are people here battling life-threatening diseases, and they don't even complain. It's really inspiring."

Beverly has also found great comfort knowing that she is safe, well cared for, and surrounded by a community of friends and support. "I tell everyone, it's like living in a grand hotel," she says with a smile. "You've got everything you need: a swimming pool, a hot tub, a theatre, and so many activities to choose from. I know I'm covered for nursing care for the rest of my life, and that's such a relief."

Her children are equally reassured by her decision. "Now my kids know I'm safe, secure, well-fed, happy, and healthy," Beverly says. "They don't have to worry."

A Fresh Start and New Adventures

For both Donna and Beverly, living at WyndStone has proven to be a life-enhancing experience. From staying active and engaged in a wide variety of activities to building lasting friendships and giving back to the community, they've found fulfillment in ways they hadn't imagined. For those considering a move, Donna wisely advises, "Make it your choice, and you'll find that life in a retirement community can be more than you ever expected." ♦



RESPIRE CARE



THE AGING OF THE POPULATION within the United States is a well-documented demographic trend. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, by 2034, adults sixty-five years of age and beyond will outnumber those who are eighteen years of age and younger for the first time in our nation's history. For the good, longevity presents opportunities for older adults to enjoy more years with their families and friends, but it also increases the likelihood of chronic conditions, mobility challenges, and cognitive decline due to dementia or Alzheimer's disease.

When the physical or cognitive capacities of older adults diminish, caregivers may be needed to aid with daily living. Typical tasks of caregivers include helping an individual to eat, bathe, dress, use the toilet, shop, pay bills, schedule appointments, clean the home, manage medicine, and monitor health.

Caregivers may be paid to assist older adults, but they are often unpaid family members. A 2023 report by the American Association of Retired Persons and the National Alliance for Caregiving found that more than 53 million Americans provide unpaid care to loved ones. More than seventy-five percent of these unpaid caregivers are women, and on average they invest an equivalent number of hours a week providing care as people traditionally invest at a full-time job. While caregiving can be rewarding, it can also be physically and emotionally fatiguing.

One of the ways that caregivers can step away from caregiving responsibilities is to utilize respite

services for their loved one. Whether it is for a partial day, full day, or even longer, time away from caregiving allows caregivers to focus on themselves—catching up on rest, tending to appointments, socializing, or enjoying leisure activities. By stepping away from caregiving, caregivers can maintain their well-being and return to caregiving with renewed energy.

For older adults needing caregiving assistance, staying at a respite site can be an enjoyable experience that offers social interaction, access to engaging activities, and professional care tailored to their needs. In addition, respite care can strengthen family relationships by reducing stress and fostering a more positive caregiving dynamic. Respite care helps caregivers and care recipients alike to gain support needed to thrive.

In response to an increasing need for respite care in Yellowstone County, St. John's United (SJU) is preparing to operate a respite care cottage on its Billings campus. This cottage, recently acquired from Riverstone Heath, was previously utilized for hospice care. When it opens later this year, the cottage will be known as Respite Suites.

According to SJU Regional Administrator, Michelle DeBoer, "More and more people are either needing or desiring to keep their aging loved ones in the place they call home for as long as possible. The balance between providing care for a loved one and fulfilling one's own life obligations and needs, though, is challenging. Providing a site for respite care will be another expression of our organization's mission to


provide living opportunities within nurturing environments of hope, dignity, and love."

When the Respite Suites cottage is ready to welcome guests, there will be twelve private suites available, each fully furnished with cozy décor, including a bed, recliner, smart television, a refrigerator stocked with food, and a microwave. Common spaces will be utilized for guest activities and social engagement. Meals and snacks will be prepared. Personal care will be offered to guests as needed, including salon and nursing services. Physical and occupational therapy may also be scheduled.

The Respite Suites cottage will be staffed by members of the SJU At Home team. This team includes Jess Eichel, Summer Samsel, Mariah Conk, Authur Hull, and a person yet to be hired. Their working title within Respite Suites will be Attendants. As certified nursing assistants,

these Attendants are well-prepared to care for guests. Team leader, Jess Eichel, says, "We are excited to get this venture up and going. The cottage modifications and furnishings we have planned will create a welcoming hotel suite feel inside. We aim to make people comfortable."

Hours for use will be 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. A flat-rate fee will be charged for four hours of usage and additional fees will be charged for each hour beyond the four. People may schedule guests for a partial day, full day, or full week stay. Overnight care may be considered in the future.

For more information, contact Jess Eichel at (406) 655-7730 or jeichel@stjohnsunited.org. 





A PROGRAM OF LOVE

SINCE ITS FOUNDING, ST. JOHN'S United has held spiritual care at the heart of its mission. Today, a qualified spiritual care team is ever available for all St. John's communities to accompany people through life transitions, healthcare decisions, grief, or to converse about specific personal matters. These spiritual caregivers also provide leadership for worship experiences, study groups, memorials, weddings, and other liturgical needs.

Has St. John's always had credentialed, called, and employed spiritual care providers available within its communities? Surprisingly, the answer is no.

When St. John's Lutheran Home

first opened its doors to welcome residents in 1963, there was no chaplain or spiritual care leader among employed staff. Nor was there a dedicated sacred space for spiritual or religious purposes, such as a chapel.

There was no dedicated sacred space due to the source of financing that was secured through the federal House and Home Finance Agency to purchase property and construct a building. Legal policy prohibited the use of borrowed federal funds to construct spaces for religious purposes. Legal policy also prohibited the use of operating funds that were generated from fees for services to pay for religious leadership compensation.

Early on, area clergy from founding congregations graciously took turns presiding for services of worship on Sunday evenings at St. John's within a multi-purpose room. This rotational leadership was a relational benefit for all. Residents who were members of these congregations were proud and happy to say, "That was my pastor preaching tonight." This practice of area clergy presiding for services on Sunday afternoons continues today.

Within a speech delivered on the organization's twentieth anniversary, the first president of the Board of Directors, Mr. Walter T. Langemo, told that the founders had hoped to pursue having a full-time chaplain as soon as possible. Securing philanthropic funding to support a chaplain was the challenge.

In 1967, Lutheran Social Services of Montana called Pastor Vic Schnaidt to provide spiritual care in multiple contexts, including two days a week within St. John's Lutheran Home. Pastor Schnaidt capably did so until his premature death in 1971. During the next few years, the St. John's Auxiliary and donors from ownership congregations contributed funds to support part-time chaplaincy provided by Pastor R.W. Ploetz.

In 1974, a financial request for chaplaincy support was sent to the national church body known as The American Lutheran Church, headquartered in Minneapolis. The American Lutheran Church agreed to provide St. John's with a three-year funding subsidy at 75%, 50%, and 25% measures of cost. With this assistance, St. John's called The Reverend Ocee Johnson as its first full-time chaplain. Pastor Johnson

began providing spiritual care on February 1, 1975, and faithfully continued until his retirement in 1984.

On April 27, 2003, a newly constructed chapel within the Legacy building was dedicated in

"...the work here at St. John's is like a tapestry. All departments, all employees, all board members, and volunteers have a part in the program of love that makes this tapestry beautiful."

honor of Pastor Johnson. A tribute was etched upon a glass wall that reads, "His many years of ministry touched the lives of residents, families, and staff with God's healing presence."

Within Pastor Johnson's 1982 annual report to the corporation, he wrote these words:

St. John's Lutheran Home is a caring place. Our purpose for existence and basic philosophy are derived from the great fact of God's love and God's expectation of our love for one another. So, our work here at the Home is to translate this broad concept of God's love into daily work that supports this community. We have a large staff dedicated to carrying out this mandate of the Lord.

A segment of this work of love and concern comes under the chaplaincy program. But the work here at St. John's is like the weaving of a tapestry. All departments, all employees, all board members, and volunteers have a part in the program of love that makes this tapestry beautiful. Such cooperation in the combining of the efforts of many people toward one objective comes only from constant referral to the basic concern to give tender love care to each one of our residents. The chaplain becomes an advocate for the program of love. The program is implemented by the work of employees and volunteers.

Pastor Johnson recognized that the loving climate of spiritual care within the greater St. John's community has its source in the liberating love of God for all people, and that the entire community works together in stewarding that climate of care.

One of the newest members of St. John's spiritual care team, Pastor Kristi Bummer, agrees with Pastor Johnson and offers these observations: "My biggest surprise since beginning to serve at St. John's is how much our employees and volunteers care for this place and want it to thrive. People care about one another, lovingly so. The light of God shines here through its people — a light that reflects God's presence among us all."

The St. John's Foundation currently has just over four hundred thousand dollars in endowed funds to help support spiritual care within St. John's communities. The Foundation is considering the

launch of an endowment campaign to increase resources for sustaining spiritual care programs.

A spiritual care survey was recently sent to St. John's residents, inviting them to share perspectives about the value of spiritual care. Here are a few comments that residents expressed:

- ② This place has a soul.
- ② Having spiritual care providers is one of the things that makes living here special.
- ② The benefit of spiritual care does not show in any profit column, but it is vitally important at St. John's.
- ② Spiritual offerings here are an essential part of aging.
- ② It is important to have a spiritual community here as I age, especially since I am unable to participate in my own faith community.
- ② Providing spiritual care for residents is a good use of resources. This place would not be the same without it.
- ② Spiritual care is integral to St. John's identity. It helps us with our sense of belonging.
- ② I pray that St. John's will continue to always have spiritual care leaders.
- ② Our chaplains give us encouragement that we are all important.
- ② The clergy at St. John's fill a lot of empty spots in our lives.

Our thanks to all past and current spiritual care providers of every form and calling, who have purposefully contributed to making St. John's United be the community of hope, dignity, and love that it is. ✦

2024 MEMORIALS

We give thanks for all of these lives remembered this year and extend our gratitude to the donors whose memorial gifts and gifts of honor now support living opportunities within nurturing environments of hope, dignity, and love.

If we included or omitted a spouse in error, please let us know.

IN MEMORY OF:

Leona Bennett

Joe & Norma Boyd

Leonard Bestrom

Larry Bestrom
Lisa Ceaser

Lois Bestrom

Larry Bestrom
Lisa Ceaser

Bernice Bjertness

Jerald & June Berve
Kent & Linda Burgess
Helen Eastwood
Maxine Hanson
Connie Hartman
Claire Leslie
Mary Mosdal
Tom & Sarah
Schlotterback
Lois Schroeder
Esther Strong

Florence Black

Susan Barton

John Black

Susan Barton

Emily Blotkamp

Marie & James
Anderson

Andy & Betty Bolenske

Lori & Darrell Bremer

Betty Bratsky

Gregory L. Dorow

John T. Bratton

Grace E. Bratton

Jeane Burgoyne

Christopher Cleary
Jay Lemelin

Mike Carr

Steven & Mary Lou
Klobofski

Suan Cecil

Clint Cecil
Judy Elliott

Dodie Colburg

Connie Hartman
Mary Mosdal

Brian & Taylor Cook

Dr. John & Nancy
Cook

Jerry Crow

Judith Crow

John Deeney

Connie Hartman

Julia Dolan

Deb Davies

John Duerrwaechter

John & Barbara
Duerrwaechter

Mike Eastwood

Robert L. Peterson

Dorothy Everson

Pr. Harold Everson

Joe Feist

Connie Hartman

Lois Feldman

Mike Marsh

Corrine Fredrickson

James M. Fredrickson

Chuck Gilje

Thor Jondahl
Carol McDonald
Carol West

Henry Gloor

Debra & William Gloor

Joan Goodale

Mary Mosdal

Gudrid Gordon

Alice Gordon &
Dr. Paul Grmoljez

Nancy Guenthner

Roland Brown

Alice E. Hanson

Monte Malnaa

Wanda Helland

Arnold Helland

Fern Hines

Susan Germer

Helen Jacobson

Roger Jacobson

Helen Jonesen

Jean Christman

Dorothy Kolstad

Sally Irwin

Ernie Larsen

JoAnn Larsen

Ted Lechner

Patty Lechner

Joanne Leuthold

Connie Hartman

Matt Leuthold

John "Bud" & Joanne
Leuthold

John LeVar

Jane Barker
Sallu Paulos
Mary Mosdal
Lois Schroeder

Roger Lien

James & Misse Iverson

Joanne Lindberg

James Lindberg

Dick Lund

Jerald & June Berve
Kevin Finn
Laverne Frank
Connie Hartman
Bev Lund
Dana Lund
Carol Miarka
Mary Mosdal
Debbie Olson
Dave Rex
Lois Schroeder
Esther Strong

Roland "Jerry" Lyngby

Tibby Lyngby

Ann Madler

Marianne Madler

Kelsey Mahana

Richard & Patricia
Mahana

Craig Martinson

Nancy Vasilakes

Bill McNamer

Elizabeth McNamer

Ruth McRae

Ann Gordon

Leonie Merrick
Charlie & Audrey Reed

Bonnie Miller
Olivia Smith
Evala Stika

Terry Mohn
Lois Gorseth

Frank Mosdal
Mary Mosdal

Richard & Iris Neily
Kimberly & John
Neily

Ed Nelson
Micah Kemper

Evelyn Nelson
Micah Kemper

Patricia Nelson
Sharon A. Harris

John & Betty Nick
Roger & Nancy Beeter

Michael Olson
Virginia Allen
Helen Eastwood
Pr. Warren & Judy
Frank
Connie Hartman
Lee & Nancy Jockers
Patty Lechner
Jean McNally
Lilah Meldahl
Michelle Page
Lois Schroeder
Teresa Steel
Karen Stensrud
Claire Leslie
Esther Strong
Bill & Mary
Underriner

Julie Pasciak
Judy McCormick

**Demiles "Pete"
Pedersen**
Ethel Aichele
Jerald & June Berve
Scott DeBock
Pr. Warren & Judy
Frank
Maxine Hanson
Connie Hartman
Lilah Meldahl
Ray Sierra
Rose & Del Steiner
Esther Strong
Karen Schott

Mary Ellen Peterson
Rick Listek

Bonnie Porter
Tom & Janet
Blankenship

Faye Ripley
Vickie Ripley

**David & Scharlotte
Ruff**
Laurie & Dennis
Lonsberry

Tony Schmidt
Len & Edwina Wilkins

Paul & Betty Schuyler
Jerry & Julie Schuyler

Carolyn Shane
Shannon C. Hodge

Don Shaules
Connie Hartman

**James & Marilyn
Shedd**
Terry & Sandra
Mammenga

Marlene Sobolik
Laverne Frank
Eston Sobolik

Brad Stewart
Dr. David & Arlie Drill

**Dr. Gaylen & Dori
Stoner**
Dr. Lynda Stoner

**Jim Gunnie & Greg
Syme**
Adrienne Gibson

Joyce Syverson
Carol & Lester Ezrati

Dorothy & Joe Teabeau
Evangeline Roll-
Teabeau

Larry Van Rinsum
Geneva & Francis
Van Rinsum

Staci Waldow
Stan & Dee Waldow

Agnes Walen
Carl & Eileen Lund

Gary Wetzsteon
Mike Michunovich
Peter Strang

Joe Wold
Michelle Barton
Linda Blain
Sheryl Brester
Bill Brinkel
Ryan Burrows
Marvin Carter
Bruce DeVries
Lynette Downs
Shirley Downs
Frank Felke
Betty Grove
Brenda Kraft
Kayrene Kraft
Gloria Lueck
Donald Meyers
Dennis Roberts
Tim Robertus
Cindy Staley
Theresa Whitmer
John Wold
Diane Kraft

Carl Wolf
Lee Tracy

John Younger
Ronald Yates, Jr.

Walter Zuckowski
The Estate of Marion
Zuckowski

IN HONOR OF:

Franklin Deaver
Denise Ballenger

Brittany Frickel
The Estate of Marion
Zukowski

Eric & Aaron Heppler
Lynn & Frances
Heppler

Radd Icenoggle
Bruce & Polly
Icenoggle

Colin O'Leary
Beatrice Rizza

Luke O'Leary
Beatrice Rizza

Alex Petersen
Valerie Hassman

Warren Petersen
Amy Severson

Donna Sweeney
David & Nancy Meyers

DeeDee Thomas
Matthew Thomas

Curt Villa
Heather Estus

Ryan Waldow
Stan & Dee Waldow

Carmen Weidner
Claire Leland

Pr. Joshua Wyman
Rick Troyer



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GIFT PLANNING AT 406.655.7783 OR [GIVING@STJOHNSUNITED.ORG](mailto:giving@stjohnsunited.org)