



Bethany Life

Communities living to glorify God

Bethany Manor • Cedar Place • Timberland Village • Bethany Life Foundation •

Volume 1, Issue 3

Fall 2004

A Publication of Bethany Life Communities

Celebrating Volunteers – Classic “Good Samaritans”

The Multi-Purpose Room at Bethany Manor was decked out with fall flower centerpieces and a tasty arrangement of salads at the September 8th luncheon to honor volunteers who add immeasurable quality to Bethany Life Communities (BLC). Volunteer Coordinator Denice Reisetter welcomed the 40 volunteers who represent a current list of 130 “Good Samaritans” who give time, talents, and energy for the benefit of BLC’s residents and tenants.

Silence for Chaplain Sandra Anenson’s table prayer gave way to chatter around the tables as volunteers became better acquainted with each other and shared their stories. The group enjoyed Janet Dunn’s song, “Light the Way”, written with them in mind. They learned about recent Foundation activities from Director Larry Elphic. President/CEO Betsy Warburton brought greetings and thanks to volunteers from all staff and board members.

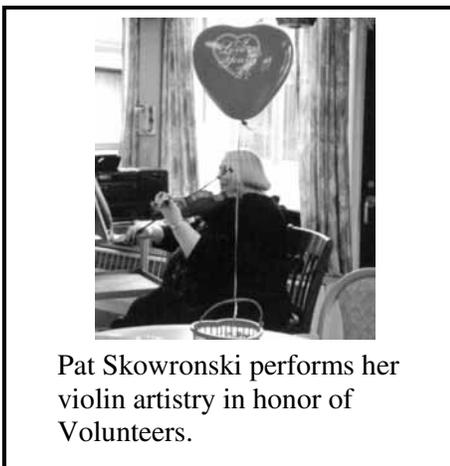
There was applause and joy as Volunteer Treasurer Ruth Anderson announced a significant donation of \$5,000 raised from volunteer projects toward the beautiful new carpet in the Bethany Manor chapel. The gift represents many hours of hard work and skill from volunteer activities, including sales of hand-crafted goods such as quilts, tea towels and ceramics, and auctions.

Beautiful violin music by Pat Skowronski was the grand finale. Since Mrs. Skowronski became a member of the activity staff, she has performed music every week for residents in their units. Guests appreciate her talent, especially knowing that residents have the same listening opportunity.

—Carolyn Ahlstrom



Ruth Anderson presents a \$5,000 check to Assistant Administrator Dale Ullestad-Heneke from BLC Volunteers. The gift is for carpet in the Bethany Manor Chapel.



Pat Skowronski performs her violin artistry in honor of Volunteers.



Pictured above (left to right) are Bethany Life Communities’ Volunteers: Front row: Martha Anderson, Dell Wright, Olive Sampson, Ruth Anderson, Beryle Thoreson, Doris Rude; Second row: Marilyn Kolbe, Neva Jean Jacobson, Evelyn Smith, Dorothy Guhl, Clarice Bickelhaupt, Dorothy Appelgate, Wilma Ose, Harriet Erickson, Christine Sampson; Back row: Volunteer Coordinator Denice Reisetter, Margaret Thompson, Joyce Knutson, Pr. Glenn Kappelmann, Tammy Faaborg, Edie Demaray, Hazel Lybarger, Diane Barkema, Carolyn Ahlstrom, Arthur Oldehoeft, Sylvia Stephen, Lorna Hoversten.

Medicare/Medicaid Crisis Impacts Bethany Life Communities



Betsy Warburton
President/CEO

5

Planned Giving Opportunities

Call the Foundation Office to inquire about wonderful opportunities in building a pathway to a legacy for you and your family. You may be surprised how you can help yourself by helping others.

Dear Friends,

There is little good news in the media regarding nursing homes and the reimbursement structure that funds our services. In a nutshell, increased premiums for Medicare will increasingly shift the burden of health care cost to Medicaid. This shift will subsequently reduce the overall reimbursement that nursing homes will see for the care we currently provide. This trend will continue, as our population in Iowa grows older.

The answers to these issues are difficult to project in times of political unrest and divisiveness. Politicians struggle in setting priorities in taxation and spending. The impact for Bethany Life Communities is not fully clear. We do know that Medicare payments for skilled nursing care were cut and will not be restored anytime soon. We know that more elders will be on Medicaid, challenging our payer mix and overall reimbursement. We know that Iowa's elderly have one of the lowest Medicare reimbursements in the nation and this will not change soon. We know that we are serving more acute needs in that the elderly are being released from hospital care sooner. We know that there is a growing scrutiny of nursing home care. Finally, we know that organizational risk increases as acute care increases, reimbursement is reduced and scrutiny grows.

During the tough times we are and will continue to be committed to serving all individuals who look to Bethany Life Communities for care. As I stated in our Summer, 2004 newsletter, values guide and define Bethany Life Communities. We will be good stewards of our limited resources, but we will do what is necessary in meeting the goals of our mission. We will not be deterred from our vision.

Bethany Life Communities will continue to become more dependent on the resources provided through the giving to our Good Samaritan Fund. This fund is critical in assuring that we can continue to provide excellence in care for our elders. Our Foundation continues to find new and fun ways in educating and motivating individuals, businesses, congregations, and foundations to support our wonderful cause. The Good Samaritan Fund is currently our greatest resource for continual organization strength. Please support it.

We will continue to work with legislators and our regulators in educating them of our concerns and needs. We hope they will listen and help the growing population of elders in Iowa. We would appreciate your learning more about our issues and talking to your legislators regarding long term care. Lastly, I thank you personally for your thoughtfulness and generosity in your benevolence towards our mission.

God bless you,
Betsy Warburton
President/CEO

Bethany Life Receives Grant

Bethany Life Communities received a grant of \$6,775 from the Iowa Department of Public Health. These funds will go to the purchase of supportive ambulatory equipment. This equipment will help in assisting residents who are unable to move about without full assistance. The equipment will also support staff in reducing injuries in their day to day to work. We appreciate this support and partnership with the Iowa Department of Public Health.

Cookbooks “Fly” at Fun Fundraiser for Good Samaritan Fund

Marilyn Skeie Henley (seated) enjoyed support from the community and her cousins at her recent cookbook signing fundraising event for the Good Samaritan Fund (GSF) at Bethany Manor. Pictured left to right: Betsy Warburton, Dr. Nola Hirdman, Bonnie Holm and her mother, Hilda Soren. Cookbooks are available by contacting the Bethany Life Foundation at 515-733-5201 or through Henley’s website: www.cookbooksbymarilyn.com.



Volunteer Life: Service with Smiles

Every Tuesday is known as “Volunteer Day” at Bethany Manor because volunteers are active in many ways. There are the dedicated fingers of quilters stitching around a frame set up in the Multi Purpose room. Christine Sampson organizes the quilting volunteers who stitch, tie, and help with many details. Rugs are woven on a loom by Thelma Huffer, whose helpers provide carpet rags from blue jeans and other materials. Another project is ceramics with Neva Jean Jacobson, Margaret Jacobson, and other interested parties. Faithful volunteers provide hair care (roll and comb out) for residents on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Their reward is the smiles they get from helping residents look and feel their best. More volunteers are needed—from quilters to hair care to visitors for special interests and events, including auctions. For more information about volunteer opportunities, please contact Denice Reisetter at (515)733-4325.

Several “crafty” folks create their unique items any day of the week, and resident Gus enjoys overseeing the little shop. The “tea towel project” is done quietly at home by Ruth Anderson’s team of embroiderers. Ruth orders towels in batches of 300, stamps a variety of designs on them, distributes to her team, and displays them for sale at \$4.50 each. Since 2001, a total of 1,800 towels have been sold!

Community events promoted by the Volunteers and Denice are the Fall Bazaar in October and an Ice Cream/Pie Social in summer. In truth, every day is “Volunteer Day” when countless visitors and groups come through the doors with their special greetings. Residents who volunteer to fold bulletins for chapel provide a valued offering, and members from area churches assist residents from their rooms into worship on Sunday mornings. Volunteers never ask, “What is in this for me?” They come faithfully, and come back for more. They love the story of the Good Samaritan. Volunteers work together to glorify God. We thank them for every minute and every caring thought. Volunteers are at the heart of Bethany Life Communities! —CA

Volunteer Help Needed

- Reading
- Activities
- Gardening
- Dining Hall
- Clerical
- Music
- Special Events
- Personal Care
- Shopping
- Operate Gift Store
- Animal Care
- New Resident “Friend”

Call Denice at 733-4325 if you would like to discuss volunteering opportunities.

The Volunteer by: Jean Twetten

H If I hurt I need someone to listen,
E When lack of energy hits a new low;
L If loneliness takes over my logical side.
P A patient volunteer can help return my glow.
E Doesn’t everyone have days of special need?
R Then ‘relief’ is the key word we strive to know.



Chaplain Sandra Anenson and Florence Hovland

5555

“Honor thy father and thy mother; that thy days will be long upon the land that the LORD thy God giveth thee.”

5

Compassion and the Good Samaritan

Dear Friends,

When He saw the crowds, He had compassion on them . . . Matthew 9:36

God is the author of compassion. He has proven that to us, with a love that is beyond our comprehension. Even though we were sinners, His compassion preserved and touched our lives. Indeed “the Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in love.” (Psalm 103:8)

Compassion describes the very heart of God. As recipients of His grace, His compassion compels us. We trust that is the motivation of Bethany Life Communities. It is compassion that calls us to meet the needs of people. We care for the physical needs of people providing a home and food. The care we give extends to encompass their emotional and social needs as well.

Compassion also drives us to share the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ. Telling the story of God’s grace and compassion is the foundation of this ministry. What a privilege it is to tell the story for those who have never heard and for those who long to hear it again and again. The story of the Good Samaritan is a message of compassion which we strive daily to model.

Compassion – it is what we are all about at Bethany Life Communities. May we be faithful to our calling and mission.

In the compassion and grace of our Lord,

Chaplain Sandy Anenson

Moments at Bethany Life Communities

Our Good Samaritans...

Everett and Garnette Anderson are pictured with staff Billie Jo Moffet.



...at work and play.

Roy Weddle enjoys conversation with staff members LaVonne Flygstad, YeVonne Bryan, and Lisa Flygstad.

Opportunities to Support the Good Samaritan Fund

The "Great Life" Auctions

Bethany Life Foundation is now accepting items for resale and auction. If you have items which you would like to donate, you may call the Foundation Office to arrange a time to deliver the item or to have the item picked up at your home or office.

We are asking for gift items that are in **good or better** condition. We may not be able to accept some items, but we appreciate your thinking of Bethany Life Communities (BLC)!

Items to donate: Household Goods, Tools, Furniture, Arts & Crafts, Woodworking Items, Vehicles, Bicycles, Farm Products, Collectibles, Toys, or Technology.



"Silent Night, Holy Night" Christmas CD

Bethany Life Foundation has produced a beautiful Christmas compact disc recording. The "**Silent Night, Holy Night**" CD displays a wide variety in its 22 songs for the Christmas season. It features church musicians throughout Iowa, together with faculty members, students and alumni from the colleges of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America: Grandview, Luther, Waldorf, and Wartburg.

The cost is **\$17.00 per CD**. Compact discs are available at the Foundation Office, Bethany Manor, Timberland Village and selected churches and businesses. The CD is also available for consignment at churches or non-profit organizations interested in selling it as a fundraiser, where \$5.00 for each CD sold may be retained by these sales partners. This may be a rewarding fundraising opportunity for youth groups, etc. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans has awarded a matching grant up to \$7,500 in support of this effort.



"Silent Night, Holy Night" CD Performers include The Joy Trio: (left to right) Mary Severseike, Sue Amenson and Sherry Tjerna-gel among other solo, duet, trio, quartet and choir numbers.

Please visit our website at www.bethanylife.org (click on "what's new") or call the Foundation Office at (515) 733-5201 for more information.

The "Great Life" Raffle

Support the "**Good Samaritan**" Fund by purchasing a raffle ticket! Your ticket is good for an opportunity to win a new **2004 Harley Davidson 1200 Custom** motorcycle. Tickets can be purchased at the Foundation Office, Bethany Manor or from one of our many volunteers. The cost of raffle tickets: 1 for \$25 or 5 for \$100. No more than 1,200 tickets will be sold.

The drawing will take place on December 15 at 3:00 p.m. in conjunction with the "**Great Life**" Celebration, which will be taking place throughout the day. This celebration honors our employees, volunteers and donors who have given of their talents, time and financial resources in supporting BLC's mission. This celebration is being supported by a \$1,500 grant from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.



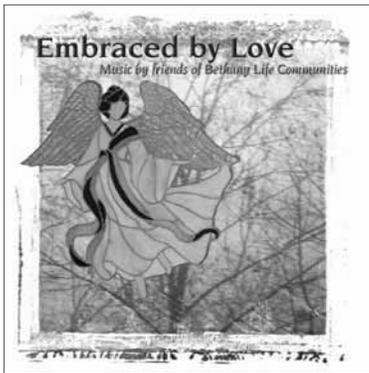
Your donation could help you win this Harley Davidson Sportster!

For information regarding these opportunities, please call the Bethany Life Foundation Office at 515-733-5201 or email the Foundation Director at larry@bethanylife.org.

Employment Opportunities

For a list of employment opportunities contact Valaree Muhlenburg at 515/733-4325, ext. 224, or by e-mail: office@bethanylife.org.

Please Visit our Website:
www.bethanylife.org



A limited number of “Embraced by Love” compact disc recordings are still available at Bethany Manor or through the Bethany Life Foundation Office by calling (515)733-5201.

5

Halloween Was Enjoyed By the Residents and Kids From the Area

The kids of Story City and surrounding were met with smiles and enjoyment by the residents and staff of Bethany Manor. Halloween was made special for the kids and residents as over 200 children made their way through the Manor collecting candy and hugs. The smiles were numerous as the children and residents interacted in what can only be described as wonderful sharing of love.

The Story City Community Club provided hot dogs and drinks for the children and their families. The food was donated by our friends at Harlan’s Food Store from Story City. Candy was donated by residents, their families, local businesses and churches. As always, Jan Handeland and her helpers created a memorable experience for our residents and the children of our community.



Residents and children sharing the moment.

Annual “Good Samaritan” Giving Levels

(where do you fit?)

Humanitarian	\$5000+
Benefactor	\$2500-\$4999
Leadership	\$1000-\$2499
Stewardship	\$500-\$1000
Friend of Bethany	\$100-\$499

Timberland Village

Timberland Village Senior Independent and Assisted Living community tenants and staff are eagerly heading into year number three on October 7th and December 2nd respectively. The first two years have allowed tenants and staff to be adventuresome pioneers for Assisted and Independent living within Bethany Life Communities.

National Assisted Living Week, September 12-18, had the theme "Caring for Our Heritage". Every day was a celebration, including special activities involving tenants, staff and their families, such as Grandparent's Day. We did a grandparent survey and made a poster of the results. The 37 tenants who participated had a mind-boggling total of 178 grandchildren, 131 great-grandchildren and six great-great-grandchildren! Staff Appreciation Day, Heritage Day, Kindness Day, Community Worship, Team Spirit Day, and Family Day rounded out the busy week of celebrations.

Current occupancy rates are high. The 55 Timberland apartments which are currently occupied have 66 tenants who are all enjoying their new homes. The 66 tenant total includes 11 couples, 19 men and 47 women. One or two apartments may still be available in Assisted and Independent Living. Interested parties are encouraged to call for information and current availability status. Several prospective tenants have paid their \$500.00 deposit putting them on the active list for moving to Timberland Village.

Phase two of the Timberland Village property site development began on Monday, September 20. Two 1,400 to 1,600 square foot, two-bedroom, two-bathroom, and two-car garage duplexes are being built. One half of both of those duplexes have been pre-sold with anticipated occupancy in Spring 2005. Conversion Contractors of Story City is the general contractor working on this phase of the Timberland project. As more duplexes are sold, they will be built. If you have any questions about any part of Timberland Village, please call Bethany Life President/CEO Betsy Warburton at (515) 733-4325 or Marsha Taylor, Senior Housing Manager of Timberland Village at (515) 733-6500.



Marsha Taylor
Senior Housing Manager

5555



Marsha Taylor (far right) and her Timberland Village staff in front of the first duplex being built.

There are several "5's" throughout this newsletter. Find them and call the Foundation office by December 15, 2004 and turn in your number of the "5's" (Include all "5's", within and outside of the articles.) If you are right you will be entered into a drawing for a free spiral cut, smoked, Christmas ham. Every "5" counts, including that one!

**HINT: You can find the answer at our website:
www.bethanylife.org**

5



Carolyn Ahlstrom
Communications Committee
Chairperson
Foundation Board Member

5

Matched Giving Through Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

Your gift to the Bethany Life Foundation in support of Bethany Life Communities can be matched by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans if you are a member or own a contract. A form for matching is included in this newsletter or available by contacting your Thrivent representative or the Bethany Life Foundation Office at (515) 733-5201.

Cedar Place Renovations

Cedar Place renovations are nearing completion. Twenty-two of the fifty apartments built in 1984 have been remodeled with features to be more handicap accessible. A grant from the federally funded Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provided financial backing for the renovation. Several units were done at a time to minimize disruption to tenants having to move temporarily to another room. The physical plant improvements are adding safety and convenience to residents' lives. Thanks to the Cedar Place community for patience during the renovations.

Rent for each unit at Cedar Place is based upon individual annual income. In addition, all 'out of pocket' medical expenses can be deducted from adjusted individual annual income. Cedar Place is one of only a few innovative models in Iowa that feature assisted living as well as independent living under one roof. It is generating enthusiasm and interest throughout the state. -CA

Sonnet on Talents

by: Max Exner

Deliberate of movement, elders each,
They share my dining table, ladies five.
One is on oxygen, another has lost her speech,
Two cannot walk, one's blind, and yet they thrive.
As I am rather hard of hearing, I
Can join them in their disabilities;
Each one among us stands one talent shy,
The others quite intact, kind certainties.
Unlike the "other servant," we invest
Our precious talents for our Lord's increase
And our fulfillment, which was His behest;
And in this forward mode we find our peace.
Six talents had we, ere my beard was white,
And yet, thankful for five, our days are bright.

Friends

A Lively Aside

Max Exner has shared his creative talents while 'on the mend' at Bethany Manor. A couple of fractures do not impede thinking and writing. Max came from New York to Iowa State College in 1947. Iowa was the only state, at that time, sensitive to the need of hiring an Extension Specialist in music. Rural Iowans received exposure to the music and culture of many countries through Max Exner's program. Many an Iowa 4-H member sang in his choruses, and rural women formed singing groups throughout Iowa counties. Thanks to Max, and all who contribute to Bethany Life! By: CA

From The Bethany Life Foundation

With great happiness I spend my days serving the seniors who depend on Bethany Life Communities in helping them live a life of dignity and compassion. Our employees, volunteers and those who have given generously to our mission have inspired me. Mostly though, the residents who live within our Bethany community have been most inspiring. Spending time chatting with many of the men and women who reside at Bethany Manor is a mixture of joy and sadness as I listen to their life stories. As I take my leave, I feel encouraged to “go the extra mile” to help. If you have not visited the Manor recently, please take the time to do so; you’ll be glad you did.

The Foundation has recently completed a Strategic Planning initiative to give our work structure and focus in meeting the goals that are so critical in supporting the residents of Bethany Life Communities. Special thanks go to Foundation board members who participated in this effort. We have plans to structure our Board and Committees to assure that all of our current and future friends are given the opportunity to give support and be recognized for their generosity. We will be recruiting additional board members. We welcome you to consider joining other volunteers in this leadership group.

The Bethany Life Communities (BLC) Foundation is actively moving forward to educate and motivate individuals and businesses in central Iowa to give to the worthy cause known as the “**Good Samaritan Fund**”. The Bethany Life Communities’ **Good Samaritan Fund** was established to provide everyone the opportunity to give of their financial resources in supporting the BLC residents and tenants who are in financial need. At any one time, one out of three BLC residents and tenants are unable to pay for the full cost of the care that is provided for them. These are people who have worked hard all their lives, who have given to our communities, who have raised their children well and who deserve to live their later years in dignity and with compassion. Their inability to pay the full cost of their care is not due to their decision or making. These individuals are our brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers, aunts and uncles, our neighbors and friends...we cannot forsake or forget them. We must honor them.

Many “Good Samaritans” have blessed Bethany Life Communities (BLC). They include our wonderful volunteers and those who serve on our Boards, the individuals who directly help the residents and tenants of Bethany Life, and those who have given financially to our mission. It is very clear that BLC’s excellent reputation is due not only to our great staff, but also the Good Samaritans who aid those who live here.

A financial gift to the **Good Samaritan Fund** is an investment in the highest quality of care possible. Your gift will assure that Bethany Life can continue to care for those who need our financial support. The **Good Samaritan Fund’s** annual giving goal is \$250,000. It is critical that we are able to reach this goal each and every year. I appeal to you to support this fund.

If you are interested in having a visit from our Foundation staff to discuss our needs and gifting opportunities in more detail, we would be very happy to spend time with you. There are numerous gifting and volunteer opportunities that you may not be aware of. Like the Good Samaritan who **rendered assistance where there was a need**, and didn’t wait to be asked to help, please consider how you might help. Thank you!



Larry Elphic
Foundation Director

Gifts Funds

Good Samaritan

Eden

Chaplaincy

Capital Needs

Foundation

Have you supported the Story County United Way? Did you ask if a portion of your donation could be designated to Bethany Life Communities? Call the United Way today to inquire as how you can share your generosity in support of the elderly in central Iowa.



Bethany Life

Communities living to glorify God

• **Bethany Manor**

212 Lafayette Avenue
 Story City, Iowa 50248
 515-733-4325
 515-733-5293 Fax

• **Timberland Village**

725 Timberland Drive
 Story City, Iowa 50248
 515-733-6500
 515-733-9376 Fax

• **Cedar Place**

812 Cedar Street
 Story City, Iowa 50248
 515-733-2904
 515-733-6111 Fax

• **Bethany Life Foundation**

619 Elm Ave. • Suite 3
 Story City, Iowa 50248
 515-733-5201
 515-733-5293 Fax

E-mail: office@bethanylife.org **Web site:** www.bethanylife.org

No person shall, on the grounds of race, color, age, sex, national origin, political affiliation or belief, or physical or mental disability be excluded from participating in, be denied under the benefits of, or be otherwise subject to discrimination under any program which this corporation operates.

Questions or comments about the newsletter or the information contained within are welcome and can be addressed to the Bethany Life Foundation Board / Communications Committee. Design/editing: Carolyn Ahlstrom, Darla Drees, Janet Dunn.



Good Samaritan Fund Gift

Please send your support today. Through your tax-deductible donation to the Bethany Life Foundation you are helping to ensure quality Christian care. *Thank you.*

Enclosed is my (our) gift of _____

(Please make checks payable to: Bethany Life Foundation)

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

If your gift is in memory or honor of someone,
 please designate:

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

Thrivent Financial matching program:

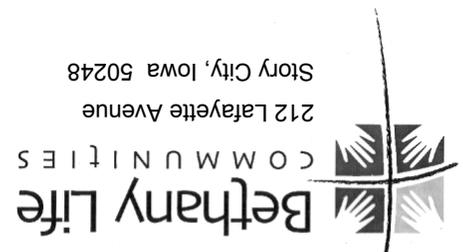
Your Member ID _____

Gifts to the Bethany Life Foundation are tax-deductible
 to the extent allowed by law.

Cut out and mail to: Bethany Life Foundation
212 Lafayette Avenue
Story City, Iowa 50248

F2004

Return Service Requested



Non-Profit
 Postage
 PAID
 Permit No. 84
 Story City, IA