In October 2018, my wife and I made our first trip to Vicksburg National Cemetery in Mississippi where Ernst Boessling is buried. His mother, Sophie, used his death benefits and her farm to start our ministry. In November, we celebrated the ministry's 120th anniversary and recognized Ernst's death 155 years ago.

Vicksburg is an old Civil War battlefield. On my trip, I witnessed Civil War-like scenes as Mississippi is still ravaged by poverty and still struggles with racial issues. The battles for basic decency and respect in the civil rights period are still obvious. I left Mississippi conflicted. I wonder what Ernst would think, a kid who lied about his age to fight against slavery. How disappointed would he be?

I also wonder what he would think about our ministry. Would he be struck with awe at the blessings God has promised, knowing Ernst was a Christian? Would he rejoice that our motto, “Where the Care of the Soul is the Soul of Care,” is being lived out? The Lutheran Home Association (TLHA) isn’t a perfect institution, but it is a profound gift and a legacy that is truly a special ministry.

God has granted us 120 years of amazing spiritual blessings and outreach. We have seen growth and repositioning into some areas where we feel future opportunities in this new age of consumer expectations will be needed. Our financial results improved again over last year. We have seen how God reached faithful people to volunteer, contribute, and promote our ministry.

We have an exceptional future. The coming year will offer a new, high-impact, digital-based media outreach for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities. A new integrated senior outreach and nurture (SON) program will emerge for communities across our country.

We have restructured our leadership team to address future uncertainties by holding ourselves accountable and growing within our communities. We will learn more about our new senior independent concierge care concept called Spero Senior Living. This new venture will build a strong partnership with congregations.

The model is rooted in an excellent customer experience, individualized personal care based in our historic quality care, and a technology-enabled care experience that extends independence and increases family engagement. The word Spero is derived from Latin and means, “Inspiring Hope.” This is perfect word for our future with all of you as our partners.

In conclusion (and in a way in the beginning), Ernst Boessling gave his life to inspire others, including us, to hope. We all share the message of Jesus Christ as a Christian institution, even after 120 years. In a dramatically changing world, we offer the changeless and eternal message of love and forgiveness that each soul seeks. We all have a disability in our souls, and we are honored to inspire hope to the world.

Thank you for being a part of our history and building our future. To Him be the praise, the honor, and, as always, His Glory forever.

Caring about the Care of the Soul,

Michael R. Klatt
President and Chief Executive Officer
God is in control

For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. (Jeremiah 29:11)

Looking at the 120 years of The Lutheran Home Association’s existence, it would be interesting to know how many times we have struggled with the assurances that God had given us. We have minutes of Board meetings going back to 1898. While we cannot recreate the exact circumstances of that time, there is evidence to support that the future looked troublesome.

Now, as we celebrate our 120th anniversary, we chose Jeremiah’s verse to remind us that when difficulties occur, that God is indeed in control and is always watching over his people. As we close 2018, we remember our successes as well as the challenges God planned for us. While we may have been frustrated with the problems of the day, we praise God for helping us solve all issues. We pray, therefore, that we never lose faith, as faith is God’s promise to us.

Our purpose is to bring God’s promise of salvation and eternal life with him in heaven to all who come in contact with our ministry. For many approaching the end of their lives, this is the culmination of their lives as Christians.

Whatever their circumstances, the physical care we give them is the same and the spiritual concerns we have guides our actions. We thank God for the many people who have made it their life’s work to help our ministry fulfill its promise by their actions.

We thank God for his love and faithfulness

“Because of the Lord’s great love, we are not consumed for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.” (Lamentations 3:22-23)

What sustains you every day? As for us, we ask, “What has sustained The Lutheran Home Association (TLHA) for more than 120 years?” Many people’s immediate response focuses on what they have done. Certainly, many people have played roles in the history of our ministry. But these verses remind us that two emotions are far greater than any person and have therefore sustained and carried on our ministry: God’s love and God’s faithfulness. These are instrumental not only in the 120 years of the TLHA but also in each of our lives.

We talk a lot about love because every person has the desire to show and receive love. Now think about how shallow, inconsistent, and oftentimes hollow that love is. Then contrast that love with the overwhelming, all-encompassing love of God. He didn’t just say “I love you.” Instead, he demonstrated his love in a way that is unmistakable—He let his Son die to pay for our sins and to give us an eternal home in heaven.

That is love that can’t be missed or misunderstood.
That is love that sustains us when we are unloving.
That is love that forgives us every moment of every day.
That is love that reaches us when we feel rejected by everyone.

If you start a conversation about faithfulness, you will immediately see people’s heads drop as we have all been far from faithful. None among us has been completely faithful in jobs, family situations, and fulfilling responsibilities. Instead, we have been selfish, lazy, and inconsistent. In contrast to our regular pattern of unfaithfulness is the perfect faithfulness of God. He keeps all of his promises to us and is always there for us, even when we have repeatedly walked away from him.

As you review the 2018 ministry of TLHA within the pages of this report, please use this as an opportunity to reflect on and thank God for his perfect love and faithfulness that has supported the ministry of THLA and all of us.
IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

Statements reflect fiscal year Oct. 1, 2017 to Sept. 30, 2018

7,090
Lives impacted through our health care, housing services and outreach ministries.

2,618
Participants in Jesus Cares Ministries
Learned about God’s saving grace.

1,265
Chaplain visits each month
Average number of visits with residents by our pastors through the chaplaincy program.

4,900
Volunteer hours
Generously donated to our programs and care communities.

1,419
Cheerful givers
Shared eternal hope, provided, and inspired hope.

707
Team members
Part of the local economies of seven communities in three states.

95
Veterans
Served on our team, received care, or called a TLHA community home.

500
Attendees
Heard the message “It’s Alzheimer’s — It’s Time for Extraordinary Love,” by Rev. Curt Seefeldt.
Celebrating 120 Years Inspired by Hope gala

To honor its 120 years of caring for souls, The Lutheran Home Association hosted the “Inspire with Hope” gala at the Milwaukee County War Memorial Center in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on Friday, November 2. The gala honored the ministry’s military and Christian heritages.

The words Inspire with Hope drove TLHA onto a path of Christian leadership as we share hope, provide hope, and inspire everlasting hope for an eternal life with God. Ministry friends, donors, residents, volunteers, and team members gathered to show support for TLHA’s mission.

The gala included bestowing the Inspiration of Hope Award for 2018 on General Stanley McChrystal, who embodies the definition and purpose of inspiration. The 2018 recipient was also the special guest speaker at this event.

“We were honored to award General McChrystal the Inspiration of Hope award. His proven leadership is an inspiration to all,” said Michael Klatt, TLHA’s President and Chief Executive Officer. “We can all learn from McChrystal’s achievements and our Inspire with Hope gala allowed individuals to hear his impactful message.”

During the event, General McChrystal spoke about numerous aspects of leadership and the importance of TLHA’s work. He was asked to share about his feelings toward caregiving and caregivers. In response, the general stated, “I view and believe caregiving is a sacred act.” He went on to explain he is often questioned why a deceased soldier is never abandoned on the battlefield. Beyond the recovery of fallen soldiers being the right thing to do, he said, “It reminds every soldier that if he or she is hurt or killed, we will not leave anyone behind. We will care for all of them.” According to General McChrystal, caregiving is a profound act of servant leadership.

On November 6, TLHA continued to celebrate the 120 years since das Alten und Waisenheim—the Aged and Orphans’ Home opened in Belle Plaine with Sophie Boessling as a resident. She had saved the government’s death benefits that she received after her son Ernst died in service to his country during the Civil War. Wanting to provide a home for others like herself, she donated this money and her family’s farmland to build the original Lutheran Home. Now more than a century later, Sophie’s gift continues to benefit countless lives.

Believe in the Care of the Soul. Your gifts ensure the ongoing work of our caregivers of the soul. Help us provide more seniors and more friends with special needs with a sense of belonging and true peace in Jesus. Please donate at tlha.org.
Before Harold Bobrofsy joined the military, he felt he was doing good work to help the World War II effort. He was working in a machine shop and learning to handle metal products. Following the start of the war, the company switched to making parts for submarines.

Harold felt he was going to be drafted quickly, so he opted to enlist in November 1943. “They could have sent me to any branch of service that they wanted to, but this way I could choose, though the only choice was really infantry,” Harold explained. He attended basic training for three months at Camp Joseph T. Robinson in Arkansas. After training, the Army considered sending Harold to be an interpreter for the German people in Germany.

Harold explained, “They changed their minds. They thought I might have to testify against my relatives.” Fortunately, the Army learned that Harold had a high IQ and sent him to training to become an Army officer. When it was time for his final exam, Harold had to answer questions in front of a group of people. “I knew every answer, but my voice gave out and I could not say a single word. So they had to cancel me out,” Harold explained. “Guess, the good Lord was watching over me as I would have ended up as an infantry officer overseas.”

Harold continued to attend different Army schools. He earned first-class marksman certification for rifles, specifically 30- and 50-caliber machine guns. He traveled through several states around the country. Then he was put in charge of the 858th Chemical Company.

“Our country was worried that our enemies might fight with poison gas, so we spent months learning how to use poison gas, how to defend ourselves, and how to ruin our enemies’ efforts to use them against us,” he explained.

At the same time, Harold and his fellow soldiers were learning to become truck and trailer drivers. Some nights were spent practicing training maneuvers in the mountains of California with no lights. Next, the group was sent to Guam where their first project was to extend the runaways so larger planes could land at the airport.

Soon, Harold became a cook. Each day, he would begin work at 11 a.m. to serve lunch and dinner. The next morning, he would have to be up by 4 a.m. to serve breakfast. Then he would have the next two days off. When the time for his discharge came, Harold was number 38 and had to patiently wait his turn.

“When the day finally came, I went in for my discharge papers. They said if I’d wait three more days, they could give me a sergeant’s rating. I would have been better off if I had taken it, but I said, “No! My discharge is here and I’m going home today!”

Harold took a train to Camp McCoy in Wisconsin to receive his discharge papers. The date was February 14, 1946. He took another train to Oconomowoc, Wisconsin. The train dropped him off three blocks from his parents’ house.

Harold spent more than three years in the service, and eventually, years later, resided at Heritage Homes in Watertown, Wisconsin.

“I couldn’t ask for better service than I get here,” Harold said of his time at Heritage Homes. After sharing his story with us, Harold was called home to heaven by God on Saturday, July 7, 2018.

OUR LOVE FOR VETERANS.
In our 120th year of caring for souls, we have honored both our veteran residents and team members by sharing their stories.
Surrounded by family and close friends at her mother’s funeral, Mary Gaulke couldn’t stop thinking about finding a way for her mother’s memory to live on.

“My husband, Bill, and I were talking about everything that was going on,” Mary said. “Bill came up with the idea of doing a scholarship in her name. I loved this idea.”

Joyce Pladson Fadden, Mary’s mother, was a resident and spent her final days at The Lutheran Home: Belle Plaine. Her stay at The Lutheran Home was a homecoming of sorts as Joyce served as the Director of Nursing at the skilled nursing facility in the late 1970s.

Throughout her career, nursing took Joyce places she couldn’t have imagined. She worked in Alexandria, Minnesota; Glendora, California; Honolulu, Hawaii; Methodist Hospital in St. Louis Park, Minnesota; Ebenezer Ridges in Burnsville, Minnesota, and Queen of Peace Hospital in New Prague, Minnesota.

In honor of Joyce and her passion for nursing, Mary and her family created a scholarship in Joyce’s memory for current team members of The Lutheran Home: Belle Plaine who are pursuing a degree in the field of nursing.

“This scholarship is our way of noting that nursing was a big part of my mom’s life and it was something she was passionate about,” Mary explained.

When she shared the idea with her family, including her three sons, Matthew, Wyatt, and David, they all loved it. Wyatt, who was quite close with his grandma, even asked if he could contribute to the scholarship.

“I lived with her [in her home] for almost a year before she needed more care,” Wyatt explained. “She would often share her experiences of working in the nursing field. It was something she was very passionate about. I think this scholarship is something that she would very touched by.”

Joyce’s pride in, and enjoyment of, her long career in nursing lasted well past retirement. In her final days, she still shared her love of nursing with others. She loved to quiz nurses during her stay to nurture their learning and pursuit of knowledge.

“We were visiting her on a weekend. One of the nurses’ aides came by and my mom had made some comment about her homework,” Mary related. “Later, I talked with the aide. She said, ‘Your mom is awesome. She’s always helping us, and she knows what it’s like to be a nurse.’”

Joyce and her family were very happy with the care she received and with all the team members at The Lutheran Home.

“She can’t be here to quiz them now, but through the scholarship, my mom can help out in another way,” Mary said.

The Gaulke’s generosity is greater than their scholarship. The team members and residents will experience the gift in the years to come.
Lilies Provide a Piece of Heaven on Earth

In 2000, my husband and I bought a home in St. Lawrence Township, a wonderful sunny property sitting high on a hill overlooking the Minnesota River Valley. It spoke to us of endless possibilities. We wanted to create a large garden with thousands of flowers that would make the cares of the day fade away.

Most importantly, it would be a place where I could breed new kinds of daylilies. Each lily featured a Biblically inspired name like Crying in the Wilderness, All Things to All Men, Inscribed on My Heart, Fear Not, No More Tears, Child of Bethlehem, and Heartbeat of Heaven.

We designed the garden with concrete, handicapped-accessible pathways throughout and have a golf cart with extra seats for those unable to walk on their own. We’ve been privileged over the past 18 years to host thousands of visitors from across the country.

My relationship with The Lutheran Home Association began in 2001, when I received an e-mail from an activity coordinator at Kingsway Retirement Living. She hoped to bring residents to visit the garden. I’ve always looked forward to the bus arriving and team members carefully unloading its precious passengers.

One of my favorite memories was the resident who spoke fondly about attending the one-room schoolhouse located at the end of the garden. I was delighted to donate daylilies to be planted in Kingsway’s gardens and then donated to special TLHA projects.

Most recently, I’ve spent time with TLHA to discuss ways to increase my giving, and I recently discovered an entry in my journal from August 25, 2013. I had been inspired to write down several pages of things for which I was thankful. One of the things was having Kingsway right down the road with team members who really care about the residents, if I am ever no longer able to live in our home. But for now, I will continue making new kinds of flowers with inspiring names and welcoming garden visitors to a little piece of heaven on earth.

Want to give like Karol? Our ministry relies on charitable support to advance the work of caring every day of the year for the people entrusted to our care. To donate, visit tlha.org or call us at (952) 873-4744.

Experience Greater Fulfillment in your Life, Work, and Community

The Christian Leadership Experience is scheduled for March 15–16, 2019, in La Crosse, Wisconsin. The event is a community of faithful Christians saved by grace who long to serve God in all areas: spiritual, personal, and professional. The focus is on the core components of Christian life: home, work, and community. Learn more at christlead.com.
Thirteen Individuals Baptized at Jesus Cares Ministries Program

Family members often have things in common. Everyone roots for the same baseball team, shares the same favorite local restaurant, or never misses this much loved community event. One family from Houston, Texas, has something rare that they share in common: All 11 siblings were baptized on the same day, May 5, 2018.

“It was an amazing thing to witness. I’ve never seen a line at the baptismal font,” said Faith Brown, Jesus Cares Ministries (JCM) program coordinator at the Abiding Word Lutheran Church in Houston.

During the Sunday church service, Pastor Matthew Brown baptized eight individuals in front of the congregation and family members. Later in the day, he baptized the other five siblings in their home.

“One of the young men, he really doesn’t smile much, but he actually broke into a smile after Pastor Brown baptized him,” explained Melanie Bertman, JCM program coordinator. “We all looked at each other while he was smiling and realized we had never seen him smile before.”

In addition to the 11 siblings with special needs who have been adopted by Sharon Jason, one of their caregivers and Sharon’s granddaughter were also baptized.

“What a wonderful day and great to see 13 people added to God’s family through the waters of baptism,” said Joel Gaertner, national director of Jesus Cares Ministries. “It is great when our JCM programs make such opportunities available.”

The family attends Abiding Word’s JCM program on the first Saturday of each month. The idea to baptize the family began when Abiding Word staff minister Marilyn Miller made an initial connection with Sharon to suggest the idea.

“I’ve always wanted them to be baptized. God had me wait for his time, and it was wonderful to have everyone baptized together,” Sharon explained.

In preparation for the baptisms, Pastor Brown led devotions with each person who was to be baptized. “We talked about baptism, the need for baptism, and the lessons of baptism,” explained Pastor Brown, “I let them know God’s promises to them.”

Everyone was excited on baptism day. “Their excitement is hard to describe. They all have a childlike faith that we should all have. They are blessed in that way, despite their special needs,” said Faith.

“It was very special. Most of us were in tears because it was just such a blessing to have them baptized,” said Sharon.

There are more than a dozen states where congregations offer JCM programs, Bible classes, “Worship at the Cross” services and New Friends programs. For JCM locations, visit tlha.org.
Jesus Cares Ministries (JCM) created an innovative and collaborative approach for the special needs ministry originally with WELS Kingdom Workers in Malawi, Africa. This collaboration allows each ministry, now independently, to fully utilize the talents and strengths of each organization and explore new mission outreach opportunities. JCM has a clear focus on sharing the message of Jesus through supporting volunteers, congregations and missionaries.

This international program serves the spiritual needs of those with disabilities in Malawi and has expanded its work to influence the communities’ perception and physical care of Malawians with disabilities through a program known as “home-based care.”

Pastor Joel Gaertner made a field visit to Malawi in September 2018 to provide additional training with Malawian volunteers and evaluate the current status of the program.

Highlights of his trip included the following:

- Meeting with three new pastors from the central region to discuss their JCM work within the past year. Impactful moment: One pastor offers Worship at the Cross once a month during worship to get it in front of all his members and keep the momentum going.
- Visiting the Lutheran Mobil Clinic (Central African Medical Mission (CAMM)). Impactful moment: Brainstorming the different areas where CAMM and local JCM programs can work together.
- Speaking with students in Pastor Alfred Kumchulesi’s class at the Lutheran Bible Institute, a prep college for pastors in Malawi and Zambia. Impactful moment: Teaching future pastors how to serve individuals with special needs.
- Meeting with WELS Missionaries Nitz and Panning. Impactful moment: Sharing how JCM is meeting the needs of Malawians both spiritually and physically.
- Visiting the newest JCM program in the central region. This program is led by a lay leader as the church currently does not have a pastor. Impactful moments: Volunteers handed out laundry soap and a meal to individuals and their families (which they purchased with their own money). Then they handed out handmade clothing sent from U.S. JCM friends. Three chiefs attended the service and afterwards spoke about how wonderful it was that they are reaching out to all the people with disabilities in the area, not just Lutherans.
- Discussing with pastors and volunteers from the southern region how their work is impacting the local Malawians. These pastors and volunteers were interested sharing the Gospel with everyone attending, especially people who are deaf. Impactful moment: Teaching pastors and volunteers sign language for the Bible verses in the JCM’s Dear Christian Friend (DCF) teacher’s guide. This prompted a discussion to translate DCF student lessons into Chichewa.
- Attending a JCM Worship at the Cross service in the village of Likwakwanda. Impactful moment: Seeing the local chief’s involvement and engagement with the participants and family members.

Finding New Ways to Share Jesus in Africa

God is blessing this outreach effort, and we look forward to sharing the Gospel with more people in Malawi with special needs! Support JCM at tlha.org.
Bob Trautloff may be over 90 years old, but that doesn’t stop him from doing anything. For example, he plays his bass trombone as a member of several bands, including the Minnesota River Valley Wind Ensemble.

“I tried to quit last year, but the director, Dr. Amy Roisum-Foley, said, ‘You have a place here, if you want it,’” Bob explained.

Bob resides at the Highland Regency House in New Ulm, Minnesota. The independent living apartment community is managed by Kingsway Management Services, a ministry of The Lutheran Home Association (TLHA).

Bob joined the military when he was 17 years old in February 1944. He attended basic training in Amarillo, Texas. Near the end of World War II, he opted to join the inactive reserves.

Using the GI Bill, which provides educational assistance to service members, veterans, and their dependents, Bob studied at a music conservatory.

At the beginning of the Korean War, Bob joined an active reserve group and was stationed at Castle Air Force Base in northern California.

He was supposed to be joining a band, but the Air Force had eliminated the band to save money. He was transferred to March Air Force Base, also in California.

“And guess what? The next week, the band had a parade at Castle Air Force Base. So my first assignment was to go back to the base I came from,” he said.

The band Bob belonged to traveled to different Air Force bases throughout the United States and performed at celebrations. After close to a year, Bob chose to leave the armed forces.

Our Love for Veterans. In the past fiscal year throughout TLHA’s care communities, 95 veterans served on our team, received care, or called TLHA home. Read more of our inspirational stories online at tlha.org.
When Sandy Betchwars decided to join the United States Army, it was something new for her family.

“There are eight kids in my family and I’m third from the youngest. I watched what my older siblings did or didn’t do and I knew I wanted to do something different,” Sandy explained.

Sandy, a long-time team member at TLHA, made the decision to join the Army when she was 17 years old. Growing up on a farm near Jordan, Minnesota helped prepare Sandy for the physical aspects of being in the Army. After attending basic training, Sandy attended advanced training to learn how to be a generator mechanic.

“I wanted to get into some kind of automotive mechanics. But at the time I enlisted, that was full. The closest open training was generator mechanic and it included both the electrical and mechanical pieces,” she said. “I was at Fort Belvoir in Washington, D.C. for approximately six months for advanced training.” Following completion, she had a short furlough so she could go home, and then she was stationed in Germany.

“In the field, I was responsible for the generators. It mostly consisted of always having to change the gas. You didn’t want the generator to shut off, so you had to monitor all the generators. When the gas was low, you changed the gas can,” Sandy said.

After spending two years overseas, Sandy decided to leave the military. Back in Minnesota, she attended a technical college and studied finance. The Army had paid for her to receive her education. While taking classes, she worked part-time at a company now called Entegris Inc. located in Chaska, Minnesota. After she completed school, the company hired her full time.

She spent 30 years working in finance and logistics before she left the company in 2009 because she was looking for something new. She was interested in finding a job where she could feel she was giving back to the community. She found Kingsway Retirement Living and took a position as lead wait staff in the restaurant, where she worked for two years. Next, she took a payroll position in The Lutheran Home Association National Ministry Office and began her current position in Human Resources at Kingsway over two years ago.

“In this role, I like doing the people side of things. I have a big heart,” she said. Sandy recently retired from TLHA, but has found herself continuing to work on special projects and fill in where needed within the organization.

In the past fiscal year, our 707 team members served our ministry through health care, housing services, and outreach ministries. We are looking for caring, compassionate, dedicated team members to join our family! Visit tlha.org today to apply.
Since adopting their daughter Desiree, Leona and Paul DeVlaeminck have always wanted the best for her. When Desiree became part of the family, she was two years old.

“There was such a connection with her,” Leona explained. “I still remember the day that we brought her home. She had been with a foster family for 18 months, but while leaving, there were no tears. There was no fear of us as strangers.”

Together, Leona and Paul had three sons and were hoping for a daughter to be part of the family. Paul suggested that they adopt. Due to adopting internationally being quite expensive, the couple focused on adopting a special needs child, Desiree.

Desiree is deaf, has cerebral palsy, and is hyper-active. The DeVlaeminck family lives in Gaylord, Minnesota where Desiree attended school until first grade. It was suggested that she attend the Minnesota State Academy for the Deaf (MSAD) in Faribault, Minnesota.

“The local school was struggling with how to teach Desiree to learn to read because English is different than American Sign Language,” Leona said. “Now in hindsight, attending MSAD was the best thing for her because she was within her culture.”

Desiree graduated from the school. Her parents tried several different places to find the right the place for Desiree to call home. Nothing was the right fit until they found Hope Residence, a care community focused on disability housing located in Belle Plaine, Minnesota.

Leona and Paul first learned about the Hope Residence while attending a Jesus Cares Ministries event through St. John’s Lutheran Church in Glencoe, Minnesota. Some of the residents and team members from Hope Residence had come to the event. The family toured Hope and Desiree was open to moving in.

“It was her best experience. Team members worked really hard to learn sign language and set aside a time for Desiree to help them learn,” Leona explained. “Hope’s spiritual care was a major plus for us. It was wonderful to know that was living in Godly atmosphere.”

Desiree and her parents recently made the decision for her to leave Hope. Desiree was recently married. She and her husband Gabriel, who is also deaf, reside in an apartment near Leona and Paul.

“They make a great team together. The things she can’t do, he is able to help with like cooking. The things he struggles with like finances, she understands and helps with,” Leona said.

Hope residents friends, Joyce, Heather, and Christine attended the wedding ceremony and celebrated with Desiree.

Join Our Family. At Hope Residence, person-centered care is tailored to meet the unique needs of each individual by focusing on personal growth and enrichment. Do you know someone who would like to join our Hope family? Visit tlha.org for more information.
Since shoulder surgery on March 13, 2018, life has been different for Debra Spiller. With her arm in a sling and little to no movement, she can’t drive and has had to do everything with just one arm. Fortunately, due to her living situation, she has attended physical therapy and begun the rehab process.

“When my arm was in the sling, everything was passive and they were moving it. Some isometric exercises against the wall to gradually increase my mobility,” she explained.

Debra resides at KingsPath Senior Living, The Lutheran Home Association’s newest care community, which is connected to Ridgeview Health Campus in Belle Plaine, Minnesota.

“I really like that it’s convenient to the rehab,” Debra said.

Debra has been working with a physical therapist through Ridgeview Rehab Specialties program. Debra has an indoor walk to the Ridgeview area of the campus, a perk during the colder months.

“We have a close relationship with the Ridgeview Belle Plaine Clinic and Rehab Specialists,” said Barb Weicherding, property manager at KingsPath Senior Living. “With the addition of Ridgeview Home Health located on the third floor of our building, we are in the position to offer residents the option to aging in place while having access to a variety of events and activities.”

Being located in Belle Plaine is also convenient for Debra because she has family living close by.

“My sister lives in Henderson and my niece lives in Jordan,” she explained, “It’s easy for them to pick me up if we are going to a family event.”

While proximity to family and health care were important to Debra, she also needed a home that was pet-friendly. Her dog, Oreo, made the move to KingsPath and has made friends with other four-legged animals in the community.

Debra has found herself a new home but she has recently begun the search for her mother, Ruth. She currently lives on the east coast. In hopes of being close, but not too close, to her mom, Debra and her family have selected Kingsway Retirement Living. It’s perfect as it’s less than two miles and Ruth will have access to a full continuum of care from independent living to assisted living and memory care.

Call one of our care communities home. KingsPath Senior Living is just one TLHA care community in Belle Plaine offering quality senior living. With locations in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Florida, we have a place for you. View our locations at tlha.org.
As a young boy, when Clarence Francis heard an airplane fly by, he would run outside and stare as it soared through the sky. He would holler, “Give me a ride.” His fascination with airplanes began at a young age.

Clarence joined the United States Air Force in 1941. He stayed at Fort Snelling in St. Paul, Minnesota for about a week before being sent to Jefferson Barracks Military Post near St. Louis, Missouri for basic training. After six weeks, he went to Biloxi, Mississippi for airplane mechanics school. It was a five-month course. He was in the third group to attend the training as it was a new base.

Following graduation, the majority of the class, including Clarence, became flight instructors. They were sent to Chanute Air Force Base, south of Chicago, Illinois to learn how to teach. Next, he returned to Biloxi to begin teaching others. He taught for a year and then had the opportunity to become cadet, which would allow him to take training to become a pilot. Clarence loved to be able to fly his own plane.

“It was a dream,” he explained.

Clarence, now 98, served in the Air Force until 1946. He hoped to be able to receive his commercial pilot license but he didn’t have enough flying hours.

Today, Clarence has found a home at the skilled nursing facility in at Belle Plaine. Due to his veteran status, he recently had the opportunity to fly in a World War II era biplane. It was made possible by the Ageless Aviation Dreams Foundation, a non-profit organization founded in 2011 to honor U.S. military veterans living in long-term care facilities. The biplane was a 1942 Boeing Stearman, the airplane used to train military aviators in the 1940s. Each veteran enjoyed a 20-minute ride in the biplane.

“I had a hard time getting into the plane, one leg at the time,” Clarence explained. “But the ride was so enjoyable.”
St. Michael’s Resident Honored for Military Service

Awards and newspapers articles honoring Edward Schaefer’s military experience fill the walls of his room at St. Michael’s Assisted Living in Fountain City, Wisconsin. Edward, who turned 97 on January 5, 2018, served in the United States Army for seven years. He spent his military career working as a mechanic in North Africa, near the Mediterranean Sea, during World War II.

One award hanging next to Edward’s bed, dated 1942, recognizes him for serving in defense of his country. Another, from Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, reads, “Patriotic Americans like you ensure that our nation remains ‘the land of the free and the home of the brave’ for generations to come.” A newspaper article shows that Edward recently received a Quilts of Valor made by the Burlington Quilters of Valor sponsored by the Burlington Hotel and Quilt Shop in Alma, Wisconsin.

Edward, who worked as a farmer before joining the armed forces, quickly learned about how to repair cars. He worked so hard that he was given the title of shop foreman and was in charge of around 15 mechanics.

“I spent every day working. I really actually enjoyed Army life. I made up my mind that when I joined, I was going to like and I did,” he said.

Edward resided at St. Michael’s for almost two years. His daughter Sandra also lives in Fountain City, so she visited frequently.

Edward attends both weekly Bible studies and church services led by Pastor Mann at St. Michael’s. He has been able to make receive the services that he needs.

“I love it here. They are so good to me, things couldn’t be any better,” Edward said, “I love church more since I moved here. Pastor Mann is so wonderful at explaining things.”

After sharing this story with us, Edward was called home by God on Wednesday, January 10, 2018.

Navy Veteran Calls Wellhaven Home

Donald and Lee Matzek are “River Falls people.” Donald grew up on a farm outside the city, and Lee was born in River Falls, Wisconsin and left during high school, but returned to attend college.

The couple has been married for 73 years and raised five children together in River Falls. For the past three years, they have resided at Wellhaven Senior Living in River Falls.

“This is our home,” Donald said. “We love to play cards, play Rummikub, and attend social events.”

After high school, Donald worked on the family farm. He was able to defer joining the military to farm until his father chose to sell it. Donald then enlisted in the United States Navy in 1945 during World War II.

He attended basic training at the Great Lakes Naval Station in northern Illinois and was stationed subsequently at two bases in California before boarding the USS LST-999 and sailing to the South Pacific.

Following a little more than a year in the United States Navy and after the end of the war, Donald returned home. While looking for work, he found a job at a men’s clothing store in River Falls, where he continued to work until he purchased the store in 1973 and renamed it Don’s Clothing. With Lee’s help, the couple managed the store for the next 13 years.

Share in Their Stories. All are welcome to volunteer at our care communities to listen to stories, read books, facilitate games, and more. Visit tlha.org for available opportunities.
Construction started on TLHA’s newest care community, Spero Senior Living, located in Lakeville, Minnesota. Spero will feature 55 units in an independent senior living community.

The convenient location and opportunities to connect are what differentiates Spero from other senior living communities in the area. Residents will have access to Bethlehem Lutheran Church to enjoy worship services, fellowship, and events.

Spero is also adjacent to Lakeville North High School, providing opportunities to participate in intergenerational activities with youth in the community. Spero will be located at 19351 Indiana Avenue, Lakeville, MN 55044.

Residents will benefit from contemporary accommodations in a compassionate Christian community. They will be able to enjoy an independent lifestyle with the peace of mind that comes from living in a close-knit community, with an on-site manager and maintenance staff.

**Spero is scheduled to open in the fall of 2019.**

Learn more. Visit speroseniorliving.org or “Like” Spero Senior Living on Facebook.
Solid Grounds Coffee House, a ministry of The Lutheran Home Association, opened its doors in summer of 2018. While we know God feeds our soul, Solid Grounds feeds our bodies.

Solid Grounds is a place to enjoy a cup of coffee; nourish your body with quality, fresh foods, or take a moment to reflect in front of the fireplace.

Not only does Solid Grounds offer delicious made-to-order coffee beverages, the menu also features a wide variety of sandwiches, wraps, and dessert items.

Solid Grounds is slowly becoming a staple in the Belle Plaine community. Many people stop in for their morning coffee on their ways to work, a Belle Plaine coffee group visits twice a week and many stop in to pick up a quick lunch or dinner.

Nancy Gill, Solid Grounds’ manager, has been creative in developing the menu. Each month, she creates a new specials menu. Staple items include the Thai chicken peanut wrap, deluxe grill cheese sandwiches, and a wide variety of soups.

Solid Grounds is open daily, 7 days a week. Located at 145 Commerce Drive West, Suite 10, in Belle Plaine, Solid Grounds is part of the Ridgeview Health Campus and adjacent to KingsPath Senior Living.

Nurture your body and soul. Stay up to date with Solid Grounds! “Like” Solid Grounds Coffee House on Facebook, follow @SolidGroundsBP on Twitter or visit sgcoffeehouse.com.
Financial Statements

*Fiscal year ended Sept. 30, 2018

Expenditures

- Direct Care 34.5%
- Care Related 10.7%
- Building Maintenance 8.9%
- Administration 24.4%
- Benefits 8.8%
- Interest 5.6%
- Fixed Assets 2.9%
- Debt 3.5%

Revenue Sources

- Medical Assistance 31.5%
- Assisted and Independent Living 38.6%
- Apartments 0.6%
- Private Pay 8.1%
- Contributions 6.3%
- Medicare 5.3%
- VA 4.8%
- Other 7.7%

Care Communities and Programs

BOESSLING VILLAGE APARTMENTS, Belle Plaine, MN
FAITH RESIDENCE APARTMENTS, Belle Plaine, MN
HERITAGE HOMES, Watertown, WI
HIGHLAND REGENCY HOUSE, New Ulm, MN
HOPE RESIDENCE, Belle Plaine, MN
JESUS CARES MINISTRIES, Belle Plaine, MN
KINGSPATH SENIOR LIVING, Belle Plaine, MN
KINGSWAY OF BEVERLY HILLS, Beverly Hills, FL
KINGSWAY RETIREMENT LIVING, Belle Plaine, MN
SPERO SENIOR LIVING, Lakeville, MN
ST. MICHAEL’S ASSISTED LIVING, Fountain City, WI
THE LUTHERAN HOME: BELLE PLAINE, Belle Plaine, MN
WELLHAVEN SENIOR LIVING, River Falls, WI