The Next Chapter

One of the greatest blessings in my life was spending the summer of 1976 with my dad. I was 12 and helping on the family farm more than ever. The drought that year required selling cattle before we wanted to. My Dad didn’t quit and he didn’t give into the temptations that the Devil was sending his way. He persevered and demonstrated one of the core values of TLHA: resilience.

I have been honored to serve at TLHA for 31 years. The years haven’t always been easy, yet our commitment to be a place where the care of the soul is the soul of care has not wavered.

We have grown much in my time here. We have had to constrict sometimes and adapt. We also have found creative ways to reach more people without bricks and mortar. Through Jesus Cares Ministries, we’ve reached people in the U.S. with God’s message of hope and developed an international outreach program in Malawi, Africa, serving people with developmental disabilities in the poorest country in the world.

We are blessed:

- To have countless donors who believed in our cause.
- To have some of the most remarkable quality outcomes in terms of reputation of surveys, resident care and rehabilitation, and simply the professionalism of caregiving.
- To serve our government partners, to work with governors, legislators, and community leaders.
- To have firefighters, ambulance companies, and partnerships with amazing acute-care providers such as the world-renowned Mayo Clinic and the highly regarded and largest independent hospital group, the Ridgeview Medical Center.

I believe our Christian values make us stand out and be the unique entity in the social services world that is needed today. We are a broken world, a broken society, and every person has a broken soul in need of salvation. In the end, it is about Jesus.

Today, the time has come for me to transition into a new phase in my life. I made a decision to relocate in my later years to South Dakota. I will still be active in helping ministries for older adults and persons with disabilities and in helping families plan and use the talents and gifts God has given them in unique ways.

Now, however, it’s time for others to lead. The future of TLHA will always have challenges: droughts, risks, questions, and criticisms. I pray that God will bless those who carry TLHA forward. I pray that the care of the soul is always put first. To God be the glory, and thank you all for whatever you did for me, and please remember our mission according to our Bible is, “I tell you the truth, whatever you did for the least of these, you did for me.”

Michael R. Klatt
President and Chief Executive Officer
Chairman’s Report  
Lowell Hoffman, Chairman of the Board of Directors

This is my first Chairman’s Report for The Lutheran Home Association (TLHA), and I am amazed at how fast this first year passed. I have served on the Board of Directors for a few years and have had the privilege of working with our past chairman, Arvid Schwartz. I am honored and, God-willing, hope to continue the outstanding work Arvid and the TLHA have done over the years.

When I think of the TLHA, I am reminded of the words of our Lord Jesus Christ (Matthew 25:34-36, 40), “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it for me.’”

In fact, this verse parallels our mission statement, which is to provide for the spiritual, physical, mental, and emotional needs of people entrusted to our care.

The health-care field is ever-changing, thus providing us with opportunities every day. May we heed the advice that King Solomon gave to his people. “May the Lord our God be with us as he was with our ancestors; may he never leave us or forsake us” (1 Kings 8:57).

We are blessed with dedicated team members who have made it their mission to continue to search for the most innovative and effective way to manage and service people who benefit from our ministry.

God Continues to Bless TLHA  
Rev. Joel Gaertner, Vice President of Ministry

The pages of our annual report provide an overview of our ministry for 2019. But that is not the only thing you will find—every story and every picture are indications of how, for more than 121 years, God has been with, supported, guided, and blessed our ministry.

Many leaders, team members, volunteers, Board members, and others who have played a role in carrying on and moving forward the vision and mission of TLHA. Every one of these people is an instrument in God’s hands and within his plan. It’s been God and his power that have supported this ministry through difficult times, successful periods, and in all of its achievements.

Thank you to those who supported our ministry with prayers, time, talents, and gifts. You’re blessed by God and have played a role in the 121-year-old story of this ministry.

Whatever your role, whether you have a long association with TLHA or are relatively new to our ministry, please join us in reviewing God’s blessings for TLHA and thanking God for these blessings.

As we move forward into 2020, please pray with trusting hearts that God will continue to be our strength and guidance.
OUR IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS


8,151
LIVES IMPACTED THROUGH OUR HEALTH CARE, HOUSING SERVICES AND OUTREACH MINISTRIES.

1,358
CHAPLAIN VISITS EACH MONTH
AVERAGE NUMBER OF VISITS WITH RESIDENTS BY OUR PASTORS THROUGH OUR CHAPLAINCY PROGRAM.

1,057
793 TEAM MEMBERS
PART OF THE LOCAL ECONOMIES OF EIGHT COMMUNITIES IN THREE STATES.

8,151
LIVES IMPACTED THROUGH OUR HEALTH CARE, HOUSING SERVICES AND OUTREACH MINISTRIES.

1,057
793 TEAM MEMBERS
PART OF THE LOCAL ECONOMIES OF EIGHT COMMUNITIES IN THREE STATES.

103 VETERANS
SERVED ON OUR TEAM, RECEIVED CARE OR CALLED A TLHA COMMUNITY HOME.

1,358
CHEERFUL GIVERS
SHARED ETERNAL HOPE, PROVIDED HOPE AND INSPIRED HOPE.

1,057
793 TEAM MEMBERS
PART OF THE LOCAL ECONOMIES OF EIGHT COMMUNITIES IN THREE STATES.

250
ATTENDEES
HEARD THE MESSAGE “IT’S ALZHEIMER’S — IT’S TIME FOR EXTRAORDINARY LOVE,” BY REV. CURT SEEFELDT.

250
ATTENDEES
HEARD THE MESSAGE “IT’S ALZHEIMER’S — IT’S TIME FOR EXTRAORDINARY LOVE,” BY REV. CURT SEEFELDT.

6,400
MORE THAN 6,400 VOLUNTEER HOURS
GENEROUSLY DONATED TO OUR PROGRAMS AND CARE COMMUNITIES.

250
ATTENDEES
HEARD THE MESSAGE “IT’S ALZHEIMER’S — IT’S TIME FOR EXTRAORDINARY LOVE,” BY REV. CURT SEEFELDT.

3,184
PARTICIPANTS IN JESUS CARES MINISTRIES LEARNED ABOUT GOD’S SAVING GRACE.

250
ATTENDEES
HEARD THE MESSAGE “IT’S ALZHEIMER’S — IT’S TIME FOR EXTRAORDINARY LOVE,” BY REV. CURT SEEFELDT.

3,184
PARTICIPANTS IN JESUS CARES MINISTRIES LEARNED ABOUT GOD’S SAVING GRACE.

THE LUTHERAN HOME ASSOCIATION
When anyone wants to join the St. John Lutheran Church in Vacaville, Calif., Pastor Chris Hoppe sets a time to meet them. For example, Robert and Aimee Baird, who enjoyed a dinner with Pastor Hoppe.

The Bairds, along with their three sons, recently moved to the area after Robert assumed the Deputy Group Command Position in the 60th Mission Support Group at the Travis Air Force Base.

The conversation that evening sparked something new for both a U.S. air force base and Jesus Cares Ministries (JCM). While sharing news about their family, the Bairds mentioned their youngest son, Jacob, was autistic.

This was significant as the Bairds’ son wasn’t the only one with special needs on the base. Travis Air Force Base has approximately 600 families with a special-needs person.

The military has the Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) to help manage the care and provide services for any family member with special needs. This program provided support for physical, psychological, and emotional needs but, at that time, it did not provide for spiritual needs.

Pastor Hoppe discussed JCM with the Bairds and how the program shares God’s Word with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families, and communities. This prompted Pastor Joel Gaertner, National Director of JCM, to visit St. John Lutheran Church and the military base.

Two months later, Pastor Hoppe, Aimee Baird, and several volunteers from St. John’s hosted the first Worship at the Cross service on the Travis Air Force Base.

Since then, they have continued to host monthly services as part of the first JCM program at a military base. As the program is new, there are many opportunities.
“We have a couple of families that are really excited about it. The chaplains here on base have been very receptive to working together on it as well,” explained Aimee. “We have four families join us. The pastor continues to remind us that, even if it’s just Jacob, we are still serving the special needs community.”

This program has been blessed with new opportunities to reach out to the special needs community on the base. For example, the JCM program hosted an Easter event.

Also, during a dinner hosted by the chapel, JCM provided a sensory room.

“We were able to sing our songs and introduce our ministry to 50 children with special needs,” explained Pastor Hoppe.

Access to the base is a blessing, according to Pastor Hoppe, “The chaplains shared a year pass for me to go on base and to be as involved as much as I want to be. They have given me this freedom and trust, which is really humbling. To be able to go on base and preach the Gospel is a victory.”

The JCM work at the Travis Air Force Base opened up a conversation with WELS Military Services about the opportunity to have similar services on other military bases.

Pastor Gaertner and Pastor Hoppe attended the WELS Military Contact Pastors’ Conference held at Camp Pendleton to explain the work being done at the Travis Air Force Base.

“This is an exciting partnership for Jesus Cares Ministries. Working with the EFMP program allows our ministry to reach and share God’s love with so many individuals with disabilities,” explained Pastor Gaertner. “The growth opportunity is vast when you think about military bases across the country.”

“To hear how excited everyone is about this opportunity is amazing. It just took that one little spark in a conversation with the pastor,” said Aimee.

God is blessing this outreach effort and we look forward to sharing the Gospel with more people with special needs! Support JCM at tlha.org/donate.
Continuing the legacy after 121 years with new community grand opening

Just off of the dining room at Spero Senior Living, the newest The Lutheran Home Association (TLHA) managed care community, is a steep hill. It’s similar to the hills within Vicksburg, Miss. Known for its many hills and ravines, Vicksburg was the site of military action during the Civil War.

A 15-year-old Ernst Boessling from Belle Plaine volunteered to serve with the Minnesota troops. He died in September of 1863 in service to his country at Vicksburg, leaving behind his parents, Sophie and Christian Boessling.

Years passed, and Sophie became a widow. She saved the government death benefits she received after Ernst died. Wanting to provide a home for others like herself, she donated the money and her family’s farmland to build das Alten und Waisenheim—the Aged and Orphans’ Home.

On Nov. 6, 1898, the home officially opened. One hundred and twenty-one years later, Sophie and her family’s legacy continued. On Nov. 6, 2019, Spero hosted a grand opening celebration including a dedication ceremony and a ribbon cutting.

Located in Lakeville, Minn., Spero features 55 units in an independent senior living community. The convenient location and opportunities to connect are what differentiate Spero from other senior living communities in the area. Residents have access to NorthCross Lutheran Church to enjoy worship services, fellowship, and events.

Spero is also adjacent to Lakeville North High School, which provides residents with opportunities to participate in intergenerational activities with youth in the community.

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

“Dedicating Spero Senior Living on our anniversary was fitting. There are similarities between our history and this community,” said Michael Klatt, president and CEO of TLHA. “Sophie’s legacy is providing a Christian home for seniors. With our communities in Minnesota and Wisconsin, we are doing that. It’s a privilege to continue her dream and to share’s God’s message of love.”

*Spero is a vibrant, active senior community that continues to welcome residents. Learn more at speroseniorliving.org and “Like” Spero Senior Living on Facebook.*
No matter who we are, where we work or what stage of life we are in, our faith needs strengthening. Even Jesus’s disciples asked Jesus to strengthen their faith.

In Luke 17:5, “The apostles said to the Lord, ‘Increase our faith!’”

Pastor Roger Woller, Chaplain at Highland Regency House, provides residents with a weekly Bible study just for that purpose.

“You never stop learning,” Pastor Woller explained. “During Bible study, we have the opportunity to apply God's Word to the place we are in our life.”

Highland is an independent living community that The Lutheran Home Association (TLHA) manages. Each week, around a dozen residents gather to sing God’s praises, hear the Lord’s word and pray.

“I really like it and appreciate it,” said Virginia Backer, resident at Highland. “I can't think of anything that would be more of a blessing to have here.”

Virginia and her husband, Bruce, have called Highland home for nearly three years. Pastor Woller’s Bible study is set up similarly to a worship service, focusing on the same verses as those emphasized at the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod church each week.

“As seniors, it doesn’t hurt to hear the verses in preparation for Sunday’s service at our local church,” Bruce explained.

The best part of Bible study is the fellowship between Pastor Woller and the residents. Everyone is there because he or she wants to continue to grow in his or her faith. The Bible study gives seniors an opportunity to remind themselves as they turn the pages of their lives that it is not "the end" but "the beginning in the glories of heaven that Jesus has prepared for us."
The start of a new tradition

For one week in August, Hope Residence could have been described as a “Wild Kingdom.” With the rising costs and limited camp options for residents, Hope team members decided to host a camp for residents.

With the theme “Wild Kingdom” selected, team members organized a variety of activities featuring animals to create the first ever Camp Hope. Pastor Patrick Feldhus, Chaplain at Hope, planned devotions and activities focused on the animals in the Bible.

“We started with learning about donkeys, an animal with a rich, important biblical symbolism,” explained Pastor Feldhus. “Donkeys are humble animals that carried a work load. It is interesting that a donkey would carry Jesus, who humbly came to do the work load of saving all people.”

Following the lesson, the group played a donkey game. Think pin the tail on the donkey but while blindfolded residents had to place Jesus on a donkey.

The week continued with trips to Sibley Park and Cedar Lake Farm Park, a scavenger hunt, crafts and animal charades.

“The residents were excited about the activities and outings that were planned. We had almost 100 percent turnout,” explained Pastor Feldhus.

“I enjoyed Camp a lot. It was a great experience and I am happy to have been a part of it,” said Joyce Noll, mother of Hope resident Shannon. “It allowed me to get to know the residents better. My family also enjoyed it and wants to help again next year.”

The week concluded with a picnic dinner and s’mores over the campfire. Several family members shared their time and talents during the week.

“From the beginning of Camp week, the residents were excited about the activities and outings that were planned,” explained Pastor Feldhus.

“I liked going to the park with animals because I got to feed the goats,” said Shelley, resident at Hope.

Due to the success of the week, Camp at Hope has a bright future.

“The residents had so much fun and were talking about Camp for the entire next week,” explained Megan Schmitz, Therapeutic Recreation Director at Hope. “We plan on making the Camp an annual event.”

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.
On her way to Paris, Dorothy “Dory” Renn hopped off the train in hopes of finding a small snack. She made her way into a delicatessen and ordered a potato salad.

“It was my grandmother’s potato salad ‘to a T,’ her salad was always weird. People would tease her saying you can’t put peas and ham in potato salad,” Dory explained.

Years later after her grandmother passed away; Dory was helping her mother sort through some of her grandmother’s belongings.

“We found a document with her maiden name and it was Marquette, a perfectly French name. At that moment, it clicked. We think she was 100 percent French,” said Dory.

Today, Dory has created her own history with the country of France. For the past several years, she has resided in Paris for nine months of the year. Back in Minnesota, Dory recently sold her house and found a new home at Kingsway Retirement Living.

“I finally realized my house was getting to be a bit much for me to take care of especially when I was gone for so many months,” she said. “At Kingsway, I just felt at home right away. There are such nice people and everyone is so caring.”

Nowadays her trips to Paris are a bit shorter, but she doesn’t have to worry about her home at Kingsway. Everything stays safe and looked after including her car, which she leaves in the underground heated parking garage.

“Our residents can take short or long trips without having to worry,” said Karl Keup, Senior Project Manager and Director of Risk Management. “They leave with a sense of freedom knowing our team members are keeping an eye on their home.”

Underground parking is only one of the many amenities available to residents at Kingsway Retirement Living and our care communities. Residents have access to a full service restaurant, fitness center, barbershop, salon and so much more! Learn more at tlha.org.
With approximately 80 percent of people with special needs and their families not feeling welcome in a church, The Vine Church in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho decided to take action and reach out to the community.

“It became apparent families with special needs were under served in our community,” explained Rev. Kevin Schultz, pastor at The Vine Church. “If that’s a need in our community, why can’t we be the church that serves that segment of the population and helps to meet that need?”

Pastor Schultz was interested in hosting a one-day Vacation Bible School (VBS) for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The camp would serve as a way for the congregation to reach out to the community and consider starting a Jesus Cares Ministries (JCM) program.

Pastor Joel Gaertner, along with three Martin Lutheran College students, Emily Schmidt, Eliza Punzel and Kaitlyn Roux, successfully hosted the VBS camp at McIntire Family Park along with several volunteers from The Vine congregation. Pictured above from left are Pastor Joel, Kaitlyn, Emily and Eliza.

“Not only did our VBS program serve as a way to feature JCM as a resource for sharing God’s word with individuals with disabilities,” said Pastor Joel. “It also provided the volunteers and possible future JCM programs leaders from the congregation with the knowledge and experience to host a program.”

During the event, Pastor Joel and the students shared the Bible story of Jonah.

“Pastor Joel began the event by leading devotion. Next, we did an introduction activity led by Kaitlyn, I taught the lesson and Emily provided the music. We continued with a couple review activities including a game and a craft,” said Eliza.
“The event ended up to be a great blessing. We were able to teach one-on-one and the event had a casual atmosphere. Pastors Kevin and Joel made connections with the family members,” explained Kaitlyn. “I have found that no matter what the activity, meeting Christians from another area and learning about their ministry encourages both them and you.”

Looking forward to the future, Pastor Schultz and congregation members look to host another event for the special needs community and possibly begin a JCM program.

“Everything starts small and we knew this camp would too. We are still figuring out if this is something we can do in our community,” Pastor Schultz said.

The JCM team is available as a resource for new and existing programs. We offer volunteer workshops to provide opportunities to increase your knowledge about this outreach ministry, share your experiences and learn from others.

Not only did our VBS program serve as way to feature JCM as a resource for sharing God’s word with individuals with disabilities. It also provided the volunteers and possible future JCM programs leaders from the congregation with the knowledge and experience to host a program.

- Pastor Joel Gaertner, National Director of JCM

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.
Eunice Medenwald became a staple of The Lutheran Home: Belle Plaine.

During the day, she would spend time in the lobby greeting passersby as she did yarn work. In the evenings, she would move to the back lounge where there was more action.

Eunice was called home to Heaven in May 2019.

She moved to the skilled nursing facility with her dad, Otto, in 1977. Her more than 40 years in Belle Plaine make her one of the care community’s longest residents.

“I remember being greeted by Eunice when I first started at The Lutheran Home Association (TLHA) more than 30 years ago. Her smile and welcoming glance day-after-day, year-after-year, was a constant that people appreciated,” said Michael Klatt, President and CEO of TLHA. “People recognized her. They took to her presence, her personality and her passion for yarn work. We couldn’t have asked for a better welcome at our doors. She will be deeply missed.”

Most of Eunice’s days were spent with Carman Meyer, volunteer and former Beautician at The Lutheran Home, and Connie Gill, Guest Relations Facilitator.
“Carman and Connie were two of Eunice’s best friends here. They both knew her well and truly cared for
Eunice. They were her greatest support,” said Jacqueline Grimm, TLHA’s Regional Director of Senior
Services for Minnesota.

Carman and Eunice became close friends when Eunice’s dad had passed away in 1978.

“Without him, she was down and out. She had
no family and I kind of adopted her,” said
Carman. “She adapted well to the environment
here and really liked it. Everybody knew her
name and she had a lot of friends here.”

One of those friends was Pastor Ed Fredrich,
Chaplain at The Lutheran Home: Belle Plaine,
who had the opportunity to first meet Eunice
when she lived with her parents in Watertown,
Wis. At The Lutheran Home, he would make a
point to visit with her often.

“Whenever she would see me and not expect it,
she would always ask, ‘What are you doing
here?’ I would respond, ‘You know I work here,”
and she would laugh, shake her head, like she
didn’t believe me while smiling from ear to ear,”
he explained. “Throughout the years, her faith
remained strong in Jesus.”

Despite Carman retiring more than a decade ago,
she often volunteers at The Lutheran Home or
just stopped in to see Eunice several times a
week.

“I volunteer around three day a week, I would stop in on the opposite days to see Eunice at night and on
the weekends,” she said.

Often while enjoying her time in the lobby near Connie’s desk, Eunice would have yarn in hand as she
worked on her art. For each season, Eunice stitched a corresponding work of art. While she is no longer
in the lobby, there are still signs of Eunice.

“We love to display her artwork and we will continue to do so,” said Connie. “It allows us to remember
Eunice and the time she spent doing something she loved.”

Call one of our care communities home. The Lutheran Home: Belle Plaine is just one
TLHA care community in Belle Plaine offering quality senior living. With locations in
Minnesota and Wisconsin, we have a place for you. View our locations at tlha.org.
Just as the poem explains, Mary Loritz tries to do “something good” every day. Her daughter, Jodi, was called to Heaven when she was only 19 years old. In response, Mary set up a scholarship in her daughter’s memory with the help of Aztalan Engineering where Jodi worked and Madison Area Technical College (MATC) where Jodi was attending college.

“We kept getting money from people in her memory, and we just kept putting the money into the scholarship,” Mary explained.

Mary decided to give the scholarship to a Heritage Homes team member who is pursuing a career in the health field at MATC.

In this way, she can ensure the scholarship helps someone in need who is also working in the caregiving field.

“The Christian atmosphere here at Heritage Homes, the caring and love is the key to success in our health care communities today. We have been blessed to keep Jodi’s scholarship going for so many years and with the help of others we hope to continue for many more,” Mary said.

Mary witnesses the care offered at Heritage Homes because she is a team member at the care community.

“I started working in activities around three years ago. It’s such a beautiful place where everyone is so kind and caring. I think Jodi would really like her name associated with helping others,” she explained.

The first recipient of this scholarship is Abigail Adams, a resident assistant at Heritage Homes and a nursing student at MATC.

“I am honored to receive this scholarship,” said Abigail. “I realized I wanted to be in the caregiving field after helping to care for my Grandpa while he had cancer. I enjoy helping and taking care of people.”

Mary and her husband, along with Heritage Homes Administrator Barb Butler hope to continue to offer this scholarship annually.

Mary’s generosity is greater than this scholarship. The team members and residents will experience the gift in the years to come.
Spreading the Gospel

Just like the average person, Brenda brings in the mail every day. She tosses some directly into the trash, sets aside the bills and saves cards from family and friends. Each month, she looks forward to receiving one important envelope.

Before Brenda’s husband passed away, he set up an annuity with the couple’s insurance agent. With the advice of her tax planner and accountant, Brenda recently annuitized the fund. The annuity will provide Brenda with a check every month for the next 10 years.

“He suggested I begin using it now because several organizations could benefit from receiving the money today,” she explained.

After depositing the check, Brenda sits down to share financial support with several organizations, as well as her family. The Lutheran Home Association (TLHA) is blessed to be on Brenda’s list. Brenda learned of TLHA through one of Pastor Curt Seefeldt’s “It’s Alzheimer’s—it’s Time for Extraordinary Love” presentations at her local church.

“I like the care residents in Memory Care receive at The Lutheran Home in Belle Plaine,” Brenda said.

When annuitizing the fund was first suggested, Brenda wasn’t hesitant to begin using the money.

“I thought it was a good idea and enjoy giving with a warm hand,” she explained, “I think my husband would be happy with the choices I’ve made. With his help, we are continuing to spread the Gospel.”

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. Give online at tlha.org.

*Names have been altered.
When Emily Bullert started college, she was only interested in finding a career that would allow her to help others. She considered a few different majors and settled upon Recreation, Tourism and Therapeutic Recreation with a focus in Therapeutic Recreation (TR).

“Being able to brighten someone’s day is always the goal,” Emily said.

Close to her graduation, Emily needed an internship to earn her bachelor’s degree. She reached out to The Lutheran Home: Belle Plaine campus. Emily completed an internship in the TR departments at Kingsway Retirement Living, Hope Residence and The Lutheran Home: Belle Plaine.

The TR department uses leisure activities to help residents meet well-being goals. Team members work with residents to enhance motor skills, social and cognitive functioning while building confidence and developing skills. Examples include creative arts such as crafts or music, games including Bingo and exercises like dance or movement.

“I definitely learned a lot through all three communities,” explained Emily. “I learned how to work with different types of people. Each care community provided a different perspective for me.”

This internship was the beginning of Emily’s working relationship with The Lutheran Home: Belle Plaine. Following her internship and college graduation, she took a temporary position working in Long Term Care every other weekend and filling in in the Special Care Residence (SCR) during the week.
Later that fall, Emily accepted a full time position as a Therapeutic Recreation Coordinator in SCR.

“I fell in love with this job. Getting connected with those residents and learning about them was my favorite part,” said Emily. “Being able to care for them individually and getting to know their families is an important part of the job.”

While working the full-time job, Emily continued her education and became certified as a Therapeutic Recreation Specialist. With the certification, she could now be an intern supervisor. In January 2019, Emily was promoted to TR Director.

“Starting as an intern and then being in every position in this department helped tremendously in becoming a director,” Emily said. “The internship also helped with getting to know team members and residents throughout the campus and building those relationships.”

The Lutheran Home: Belle Plaine strives to offer career growth and leadership opportunities to all of our team members.

“Emily is a prime example of one of our team members growing and working to advance her career within our care community,” said Jodi Foster, Human Resources and Retention Director at The Lutheran Home: Belle Plaine.

Emily’s career at The Lutheran Home: Belle Plaine was full circle during the summer of 2019. She supervised two interns within the TR department.

“If I didn’t do my internship at the Lutheran Home: Belle Plaine campus, I don’t know where I would be right now,” Emily explained, “Everything kind of fell into place at the right time.”

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In the past fiscal year, our 793 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.
Board of Directors

Lowell Hoffman, Chairman            Belle Plaine, MN
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Dr. Bruce Becker                    Jackson, WI
Matt Burow                           Milwaukee, WI
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Wayne Larson                         Belle Plaine, MN
Jon Maertz                           New Berlin, WI
Rev. Michael Muehlenhardt            Cottonwood, MN
David Oldenburg                     Fond du Lac, WI
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President and Chief Executive Officer

Chris Meyer
Executive Vice President and Chief
Financial/Business Officer

Rev. Joel Gaertner
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National Director of Jesus Cares Ministries

Mark Hayes
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Jacqueline Grimm
Regional Director of Senior Services for
Minnesota

Debra Wilbright
Regional Director of Disability Services

Tiffany Olson
Regional Director of Operations for
Wisconsin

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Financial Statements

*Fiscal year ended Sept. 30, 2019

Expenditures

- Direct Care, 34.7%
- Care Related, 10.7%
- Building Maintenance, 9.2%
- Management & Ministry, 25.7%
- Benefits, 9.4%
- Interest, 5.4%
- Fixed Assets, 1.3%
- Debt, 2.6%

Revenue Sources

- Medical Assistance, 31.5%
- Assisted Living & Independent Living, 39.1%
- Apartments, 0.7%
- Private Pay, 10.5%
- Contributions, 5.6%
- Medicare, 3.5%
- VA, 6.0%
- Other, 6.6%

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