

Where the care of the soul is the soul of care.

IMPACT REPORT 2022



THE LUTHERAN HOME
ASSOCIATION



God is truly in control.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO, MARK HAYES

"Be joyful always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)



The Lutheran Home Association has just begun its 124th year of Gospel ministry. We have been blessed by countless opportunities to share the message of the Savior's love with seniors and individuals with special needs for over a century. Since March of 2020, the "business" of senior care has become more and more of a challenge. That's true nationwide, not only in our organization.

When I began my career as a pastor in Colorado, I was befriended by a retired pastor experienced in leading congregations through difficult circumstances. He would begin his meetings in prayer introduced with the words, "Let's thank God for this problem."

The pandemic has disrupted "business as usual" and has given us numerous occasions for prayer. God instructs us to give thanks in ALL circumstances, not just when things are looking bright. Giving thanks to God in all circumstances comes from a place of faith in the only One who is truly in control.

Heeding my friend's advice and taking God's direction, I give thanks for faithful chaplains who continue to share the Gospel with people who desperately need it. I give thanks for a caring staff who provides excellent care for our residents in the midst of challenges. I give thanks for an excellent leadership team who has guided their staff through trying times. I give thanks to the wonderful people who continue to stand beside us and support us with their generous gifts.

To our leaders, our team members, and our donors I say with a thankful heart, "We couldn't do it without you."



Praise God for continuing to meet our needs

A MESSAGE FROM OUR VICE PRESIDENT OF MINISTRY, REV. JOEL GAERTNER

"And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:19)

Through this report, you will see example after example of the blessings and ministry opportunities God continues to give The Lutheran Home Association (TLHA.) This is truly amazing in a year when our nation faced economic and other challenges. However, this should not be surprising to us. It is evidence of how God once again has kept his promises.

The blessings outlined in this report and the ministry which TLHA has been privileged to carry on for more than 124 years have not been accomplished merely by human will or desire. God has provided the people, resources, wisdom and whatever needed to continue to make "the care of the soul the soul of care."

All of this leads us to do what Christians seek to do all the time – praise God.

While we receive the thanks of families and their loved ones we care for, the glory belongs to God who gives us all we need to make this happen. God has given us talented workers, faithful leaders, caring chaplains, and the resources to provide the best care possible.

Join us in praising God for the abundant way he has showered the riches of his blessings in supplying all that is needed to sustain our ministry.

Also, join our fervent prayers that God would continue to give our ministry what we need, to continue to provide the best care possible while keeping the care of the soul as the soul of our care.

OUR *impact* IN 2022



7,381

LIVES IMPACTED

through our health care,
housing services
and outreach ministries.



MORE
THAN

4,630

VOLUNTEER HOURS

generously donated to
our programs and
care communities.



928

CHEERFUL GIVERS

shared, provided,
and inspired
eternal hope.



692

TEAM MEMBERS

part of the local
economies of five
communities in
two states.



87

VETERANS

served on our team,
received care or
called a TLHA
community home.



2,394

CHAPLAIN VISITS EACH MONTH

Average number of visits with
residents by our chaplains.



3,439

PARTICIPANTS IN JESUS CARES MINISTRIES

learned about God's
saving grace.

Teaching sign language to express God's message of hope.

Walk into any TLHA care community during worship time and you will likely hear the residents singing a familiar song, "Jesus Loves Me."

If you pay close attention, you'll notice something new, but just as meaningful.




The residents are also
signing the words.

Music is an important aspect of worship as it unites us so that we worship God with one voice. While the words of this song are familiar, the residents have been learning how to "sing" the song by using sign language.

“ The sign for 'Jesus' is touching the center of each palm with the opposite hand representing the nail holes in Jesus' hands. When we sign Jesus' name, we are reminding ourselves of how he died so that we would live. ”

-Pastor Kenley Mann, Chaplain at Wellhaven Senior Living

Pastoral care, provided through our ordained chaplains, help our residents to maintain or build a deep connection with Christ.



The Adventure of Life is about Learning


Across our ministry, we are blessed to learn and hear stories from seniors. Listening to these stories and sharing them helps to ensure that memories are passed down. Bill, resident at Kingsway, shared a few of his favorite stories with us.

Bill was blessed to grow up with two grandmothers who both spoke German. As he grew up, Bill learned to speak English and German. He started taking a German class. On his first day, the teacher asked in German for

someone to shut the blinds. She didn't realize she had spoken in German.

Bill quickly stood up to shut the blinds before anyone else realized what had happened. Thanks to his grandmothers' teaching and becoming fluent in two languages, Bill had many doors to learning opportunities open for him.

No matter our age, Bill believes we should always be learning. He enjoys the opportunities to continue learning through activities at Kingsway.



“ If you see an open door in front of you, continue to be open to a new perspective or an opportunity to grow in your knowledge of the world around us. ”

- Bill, Kingsway resident

A CHANGE IN APPROACH *changes everything*

Amy Pautsch spends time each day inviting residents to a variety of activities. She has a similar routine with each resident:

1. Knocking on their door.
2. Asking if they want to join.
3. Escorting the resident to the activity space.

Every day, Amy would invite Greta* to join her fellow residents. Most of the time, Greta's answer was no, so she spent most of her day looking out the window in her room. Then Amy changed how she approached Greta.

A DEMENTIA STORY



“ Instead of asking Greta to join, I would engage her by asking her to help with an activity or attend as a guest participant. Now Greta says yes more often. Watching her interact with my team and the other residents brings me such joy. ”

-Amy, Therapeutic Recreation Coordinator at The Lutheran Home: Belle Plaine

Having a purpose and a feeling of accomplishment is huge for all of us, especially those suffering from dementia.



*Resident's name has been changed upon request.



NO PLACE LIKE

home

Jacob, a Hope Residence resident, recently fought hard to get back home. In December 2021, Jacob went into the doctor. He has Down Syndrome and kidney failure which requires dialysis.


Doctors were placing a stent, when it became loose. The stent sailed up his arm into his heart, where it lodged against his heart valve.

Jacob required emergency surgery.

Jacob spent the next three weeks in an induced coma, fighting for his life. In January, Jacob turned the corner as his heart began showing signs of stability. Soon after, he was stable enough to transfer to a regular hospital bed.

And, thankfully, with his health returning, Jacob—affectionally known as the Prince of Belle Plaine to family and friends—made his triumphant return home to Hope.

“When he returned, we had a big party for him,” Rhonda explained. “It feels like a real-life miracle to have Jacob back at Hope.”



“ When Jacob came out of the coma, I called him daily. When he finally was able to start talking again, he mainly kept repeating two things: ‘I love you Dad’ and ‘I want to go home.’ ”

-Jon, Jacob’s father

Sharing time, talents and treasure.

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. (1 Peter 4:10)

Karen Roker, a Jesus Cares Ministries (JCM) Coordinator at Zion Lutheran Church in Olivia, Minn., has a heart for our ministry sharing her time, talents and treasures. Though her experiences, it's clear she understands the value of everyone being able to experience God's love.



TIME

"It always impresses me how much they (individuals with special needs) know about the Bible. They know the stories and know Jesus as their Savior. They aren't afraid to profess that," Karen shared.

Karen currently works with two other volunteers to lead the program. Sharing her time to help others and for the glory of God is incredible.



TALENTS

Karen is continually working to find new songs for JCM participants to learn.

"It's always fun and a challenge to find a song that will fit with our lesson,"

Karen explained, ***"I like to make sure they have clapping, or another action to get everyone involved."***

Talents may be ours but they are intended to be shared with others.



TREASURE

When individuals choose to invest personal wealth into organizations like JCM, they are ensuring the programs' future. Karen has chosen to share a monthly gift with JCM.

"I've always felt that it's something we should support to keep it growing and flourishing," she explained.

"It's a great program that brings all the adults with special needs in a community together."

Our ministry continues to be blessed by caring individuals, like Karen, who continue to share their time, talents, and treasure.

"We are so fortunate to have dedicated hard-working individuals who are always ready to share their time, talents, or treasures with our ministry," said Pastor Joel Gaertner, National Director of JCM. ***"I am often blown away by the enthusiasm of our volunteers who make this ministry come alive in their local communities."***



Opportunities are everywhere!

Building connections has always been considered a valuable skill.

Pastor Aaron Glaeske, of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Victoria, Texas, sparked a connection. But he wouldn't see the impact of that connection for nearly two years.

At the gym, he introduced himself to a woman assisting a group of individuals with special needs. Her name was Norma and she is President of the Victoria Association for Citizens with Disabilities.

Pastor Glaeske and other volunteers had been training to start a Jesus Cares Ministry (JCM) program. While meeting Norma, he mentioned this ministry. He was happy knowing he had a connection to the special needs community. The church geared up to host their first JCM event, but no one showed up. Not soon after, the COVID-19 pandemic began, and the entire project was put on hold.

Nearly two years later, Norma called Pastor Glaeske to inquire about a JCM service. Pastor Glaeske and the volunteers began working. They hosted a JCM worship service with more than 25 attendees.

“ This JCM program came to life thanks to a small connection. We encourage JCM leaders and volunteers to spend time making connections within the local special needs community. ”

- Pastor Joel Gaertner, National Director of JCM



Making a difference!



“ I've volunteered all my life and never felt so appreciated and welcomed. It's a privilege getting to know all the tenants over these past years. A treasure of historic stories. ”

-Elizabeth, Wellhaven volunteer

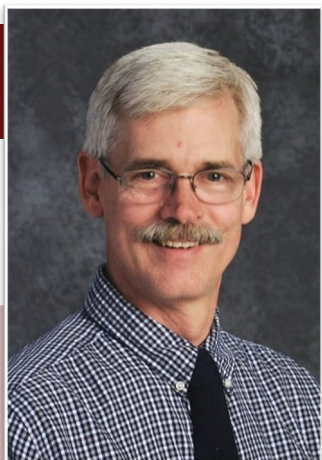
Throughout the year, our care communities have continued to adapt and adjust based on precautions implemented during the pandemic. With all the changes, we have been grateful to welcome volunteers back across our ministry. At Wellhaven Senior Living, in River Falls, Wisc., volunteers share their talents and time in a variety of ways.

Longtime volunteer Elizabeth shares her time doing a variety of tasks to assist our team. She recently stepped in to lead tenants in their exercise class.

“We are happy to welcome back volunteers, and a few new ones, too,” explained Laura Swanson, Activities and Marketing Coordinator.

“Our tenants greatly benefit from relationships formed with individuals who frequently volunteer.”

Volunteer Shelly often assists with craft activities. One craft was making pinecone bird feeders. Completed feeders were placed outside our tenant's windows. Tenants love watching the feeders and seeing the birds close up.



"Surely ... Forever!"

A MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD VICE CHAIR, REV. MATTHEW RAUH

"Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever," (Psalm 23:6)

We pastors are always looking for mnemonics, catchy little ways to grab our congregation's attention. This last verse of Psalm 26 has such a device. Look at the first and last words. "Surely ... forever." That is powerful. That captures Psalm 23 to a tee. It captures the hope the Lord holds out for us in Christ. It captures the mission of The Lutheran Home Association.

Take the first word, "surely." Surely what? Well, it promises that goodness and love will follow us all the days of our lives. Explain that to a resident who is ashamed that he or she needs help with the very basic things, or who lost a leg to an infection, or who doesn't recognize his or her children. It sounds like the "goodness" train has departed long ago. Wouldn't a loving God do better?

Well, he does. Please note that this first half of this verse has a comma. It doesn't end there. More comes. And what guarantees that goodness and love follow us all our lives? Look at the last word. "Forever." I just had to throw out a pint of half and half that was forgotten in the back of the refrigerator. It was spoiled. It had that cottage cheese texture with a smell that would offend a skunk. Out it went. Mankind chose sin. We can't pass the smell test. You don't want me pouring any of that half and half in your coffee. God can't pour sinful mankind into heaven. Instead, out we go. There is a forever for every person. The question is, "Where?" For us sin has determined that "forever." It will only go from bad to worse.

Continued on next page.

But here is the good news. Things will go from bad to great because God so loved the world. He doesn't treat us as our sins deserve. Instead, he treated Jesus as sin for us and drove him and our sins as far away as the east is from the west. He forgives us and our sins do not keep us out of heaven. We will dwell in a brand new house, not built by human hands, the mansion of God. How long? Forever. Really? Yes, or as the first word goes, "Surely."

This is the mission of The Lutheran Home Association. We care for people who need it. That all by itself is a worthy cause and worth every dollar, every ounce of effort, every bead of sweat whether from our dedicated staff all the way to the top. But we take it one step further. The soul of care is the care of the soul. We want every individual we should ever meet to say with confidence, "Surely ... Forever." We want every person to find rest for their souls in Christ knowing that we will live with the Lord. How long? Forever.

Care communities and programs

BOESSLING VILLAGE APARTMENTS, Belle Plaine, MN

FAITH RESIDENCE APARTMENTS, Belle Plaine, MN

HIGH ISLAND CREEK RESIDENCE, Arlington, MN

HIGHLAND REGENCY HOUSE, New Ulm, MN

HOPE RESIDENCE, Belle Plaine, MN

JESUS CARES MINISTRIES, Belle Plaine, MN

KINGSWAY RETIREMENT LIVING, Belle Plaine, MN

THE LUTHERAN HOME: BELLE PLAINE, Belle Plaine, MN

WELLHAVEN SENIOR LIVING, River Falls, WI

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