



Morrow Home Messenger

Quarterly newsletter of Morrow Memorial Home • Sparta, WI • (608) 269-3168

FALL 2009

Michael's Message

The Touch of God's Love

“Morrow Memorial Home and Apartments serves as a tangible expression of God’s love.” Our Mission Statement begins with these so-important words. The other Mission Statement ideas and goals expressed are also important, but they all can be condensed to phrase, **“a tangible expression of God’s love.”** Our complete Mission Statement is found on the back page of this newsletter.

I have always loved the word tangible – something you can touch. This is why I wear my mother’s simple heirloom ring or why I carry in my wallet a quarter minted the year of my birth. These are items that I can see, touch and hold on to.

Touching is so important. It may be the touch on the shoulder, handshake, or hug by many of our staff. It may be the caring hands of a nurse aide who helps the resident or tenant bathe or get dressed. It may be the professional hands of our nurses who administer medications. It may be the delicate hands of our housekeepers who carefully dust around people’s cherished belongings. It may be the attentive hands of our laundry people who wash, hang, or deliver our residents’ clothing. Many people have tasted the work of the experienced hands of culinary services employees who prepare, cook, and serve our excellent meals. Our recreation therapy, office or social service staff use their kind hands to console or help redirect a resident or tenant who seems lost. The knowledgeable hands of our maintenance workers keep our buildings and all equipment working properly. All this care is **“a tangible expression of God’s love.”**

All our ministries touch lives. Our Meals in Motion drivers are encouraged to touch the shoulder or shake the hand of the people who receive home delivered meals. These compassionate hands of our drivers might provide the only human contact their customers receive. The understanding hands of our child care employees

constantly are touching the children they serve, whether it is changing diapers, redirecting behaviors, wiping noses, patting heads or rubbing backs. (My boys always loved back rubs!) We tell all new employees, “When you work at Morrow Memorial Home and Apartments and do your job well, you are doing the Lord’s work here on earth.” All by their actions are **“a tangible expression of God’s love.”**

You can touch the buildings which house and serve our people. Whether it is independent senior housing (Parkview), or assisted living (Homestead and MaryCrest), skilled nursing and dementia care (Morrow Memorial Home), or child care (Young at Heart), these physical structures are surely **“a tangible expression of God’s love.”** Our new assisted living for the frail elderly and people with dementia will touch even more residents.

Morrow Memorial Home and Apartments touches lives. All we do can be touched and we touch in all we do. Visit us and experience our care – the Touch of God’s Love.

In Christ,
Michael



Ray Niedfeldt and Kathy Schmitz, Pastoral Care Coordinator

Giving A Little Goes A Long Way

*Information Contributed by Anne Snell, Health Information Director
& Kay Klinkner, Nursing Home AM Charge CNA*

Anne Snell always wanted to help organize an event to receive blood donations, so when The Blood Center of Wisconsin approached Morrow Home to host a blood drive, Anne responded right away. On June 9th, Morrow Home employees were arriving at the chapel all day where the event took place. The blood that the Morrow Home staff donated goes to 53 hospitals in 28 counties in Wisconsin, including the hospitals in Sparta and LaCrosse. The Blood Center is the only supplier of blood to these hospitals. This was the first annual blood drive hosted by Morrow Home. We had 33 scheduled donors and gave 29 units of blood. There were a few first-time donors also.

Then there was Kay (Schmitz) Klinkner, Morrow Home employee of 26 years, currently Charge CNA, who has been donating blood for eight years now, with an inspiring story that goes beyond donating blood. She shares with us her experience: "My husband, Arnie Schmitz, had a massive stroke eight years ago at the age of 61 years old. We had never talked about what to do in a time like this. When my family and I realized Arnie had no brain activity and would not live without life support, we made the decision to donate all his organs except for his eyes. It would have been difficult to meet the person who would have received them, knowing they were Arnie's pretty blue eyes. The University of Madison was responsible for putting us in contact with those who received the organs. It had to be a mutual agreement between both parties. It took about six months before we received a few responses. We received a thank you from the gentleman that received

one of the kidneys. The other kidney went to a lady in Wisconsin. The man that received Arnie's liver was also 61 years old, a farmer from Illinois. We keep in contact through emails and have received thank you notes from him and his family every year. We had opportunity to meet with the family there in Illinois and they even visited us in Norwalk. It's the best feeling knowing we saved the family's husband and father. It's also wonderful to know that they are grateful in every way. They are a wonderful family."

A big thank you to Kay Klinkner for inspiring us to give what we can, in spite of the circumstances. Generally, when someone needs blood, it's under unplanned circumstances as well. We look forward to Morrow Home's next blood drive, where employees will once again rise to the occasion and give.

Holiday Season Remembrance Tree

Each holiday season, the pine tree that graces the center of the circular drive at the nursing home entrance becomes a beautiful display of light in memory and honor of special people who have touched our lives. For a donation of \$5, you may sponsor a light on this tree also. This year, the proceeds are being used to purchase new patio furniture for the gazebo area. The gazebo has proven to be an area for activities, visiting, or just enjoying the scenery. Sturdy chairs with arms would make it more comfortable and safer for residents and their visitors. If you would like to participate in making the season brighter and improving the seating in the gazebo, you may send your donations to Morrow Home at 331 S. Water Street and note that they are for the "Remembrance Tree."



Kay Klinkner, Morrow Home employee at the blood drive



Serving Our Community Part 2

By Jenny Koehler, Assistant Housing Coordinator/Marketing

We continue with our review of Morrow Home's ministry outreach called Meals In Motion, which involves volunteers delivering noon meals to seniors in the Sparta community each week day. These meals are prepared by Morrow Home's own Culinary Services.

Here are more interesting tidbits from our volunteers to provide us with an insight into what it's like to deliver these meals....

Duane Hobson is a volunteer who delivers meals one day a week, when his part-time "other" job allows. Duane also worked for the local Farm Co-op for over 40 years and several of the people he delivers to are retired farmers and past customers. They talk about the weather, crops and prices, just like they used to! What inspires Duane to continue delivering meals? He tells us, "My mother spent her last seven years in the Morrow Home. Volunteering is my way of thanking the Home for her good care!"

Some of the seniors thought that volunteer deliverer Jeff Cronick was a salesman. He managed to convince them otherwise and they happily accepted their meals.

A previous deliverer, Erika Lord Hodges, appreciated the hugs she would receive after delivering a meal. She states that it is so important to care for our elders. She would take at least two of her daughters with her on deliveries. They knew that they were "takin' dinner to the grandmas!"

Because of his familiarity of Sparta, all Warren Isbell needs is the address and he's on his way to lively visits with the recipients of the meals. The main conversation is focused on how appreciative they are in receiving the meal. Warren says "It just makes you feel good in doing what you are doing and being able to say good morning and hope that they have a good day."

Hey, Al Wright, how old did you say you were? Listen to this: "I was ready to quit delivering meals on my 80th birthday. But my daughter, Linda Drake, helps me and it is a wonderful father/daughter time. And Linda loves it!" So, Al, what made you want to continue delivering meals? "I will tell you how they hook you — you miss a week and one or two will tell you 'I was worried about you...I prayed for you.'" So, aside from the fact that Al has had numerous business endeavors, including owning the local Dairy Queen for 30 years, won an award from the 'Coalition for Accomplishments After Age 60', and volunteers for many other

community groups, Al still rises to the occasion and chooses to help deliver meals to others. If Linda is unable to go with Al, then a friend goes along.

In summary, these volunteers want us to know how rewarding this brief task is. The seniors are so appreciative and glad to see them. For some of these shut-ins, it is the brightest part of their day. Just giving a little of your time can be so special to that person. If you like people and like to give of yourself, it is such a satisfaction of bringing a bit of the 'outside world' to the elderly. As Burr Nussdorfer shares with us, "You may cause a smile or a laugh that they might not otherwise have had a chance to experience." Loneliness is the main thought expressed by many. In turn, delivering meals to the elderly makes one appreciate what we ourselves have.

Incidentally, we are in need volunteers to help fill Burr Nussdorfer's spot, who faithfully delivered meals for over two years, but had to step down recently due to health issues. We extend our deepest appreciation for Burr's dedication in delivering meals as long as he was able. For those who wish to join our group of meal delivery volunteers, please call Morrow Home Culinary Services at 269-3168. We'll be glad to include you in this rewarding outreach!



Meals In Motion Delivery Left to Right: Linda Drake, Don Sullivan, Toni Sullivan and Al Wright

Turning of the Seasons

By Jenny Koehler & Janell Hendersin, Parkview Tenant Secretary

It is harvest time here at Parkview. Our gardeners have kept us supplied with tomatoes, lettuce, onions and beans. It's great having a place for our tenants to grow these fresh vegetables, right out on the Parkview patio, overlooking the river. We also enjoyed the Concerts in the Park without having to leave our homes. This is another special summer treat.

Summer also brings the time that the tenants have opportunity to travel and see family. Janell Hendersin spent two weeks in August visiting her daughters, one in Clinton, WI, and another in Athens, GA. Janell went to the Rock County Fair in Janesville to see her granddaughter and great grandson's entries at the fair. In Georgia, she attended the graduation and commissioning of another grandson from North Georgia Military College.

We welcomed to our Parkview clan Vivian Twining in August, Alyce Johnson in September, & Earl Brown in October. Our condolences go out to the family of Alverna Ripka, a previous Parkview tenant, in her recent passing.

Parkview is eagerly awaiting the completion of a hobby workshop in the lower level for those who enjoy tinkering and woodworking. Many thanks to the hands involved in preparing this.

A highlight of August was our monthly Bingo and supper event. Everything had a circus theme, right down to the elephants in the center ring — no kidding! We had all the popcorn, cotton candy, and corn dogs we could eat. We felt like kids again.

How happy we were to be treated to a steak dinner in



Parkview tenants checking tomatoes: Tom Hemstock and Bud Cole

September. Culinary Services provided the food for Theresa, Parkview's all-around-handy Manager, to prepare a superb dinner of delicious steak grilled outdoors, baked potato, and a crispy 7-layer salad. Culinary staff sent over hot buttered corn and pie for dessert. Needless to say, we were stuffed! What a great finale for the summer season at Parkview!

New To Our Home

We welcome the following people who have joined our Morrow Home family between the dates of June 1 through October 20 2009:

NURSING HOME

Doris Adamski	Joyce Holm
Frances Algra	Arlys Kamrath
Beverly Ballman	Marvin "Jim" Kewit
Palma Berry	Norman Kowitz
Helen Bolstad	Beatrice Morgan
Ellsworth Brooks	Carol Mosley
Elisabeth Carey	Pearl Munn
Geraldine Flock	Rachel Quackenbush
Lee Fox	Marie Reinks
Charles "Doug" Holm	Gerald Seitz

HOMESTEAD INDEPENDENT & ASSISTED LIVING APARTMENTS

Lillian Jensen	Lano O'Connor
Rachel Quackenbush	

PARKVIEW INDEPENDENT LIVING APARTMENTS

Earl Brown	Alyce Johnson
Vivian Twining	

MARYCREST ASSISTED LIVING APARTMENTS

Rita Birmingham	Bev Maurer
Betty McCauley	Althea Leland
Eotus Tonn	Evelyn Wanlass

We are proud to have provided service to the following people who have returned home or to another setting:

Minnie Baumgarten	Norma Lydon
Sheril Castillo	Beverly Maurer
Ed Chambers	Marie Mohring
Dorothy Cramer	Alverna Morales
Nichole Dunn	Leona Parker
Carol Eley	Beverly Rediske
Carol Everson	Sally Serrurier
Grace Franklin	Margaret Steffen
Betty Glasheen	
Casper Linnehan	

Recreation Therapy Department Celebrates 35 Years at the Morrow Home

By Christine Vian, Director of Recreation Therapy

The October/November 1974 issue of the Messenger contains an article describing one of the “new requirements of the revised H-23 Code” which called for a person to run the activity program. This was the beginning of Morrow Home’s Recreation Therapy (Activity) Department. The first official Activity Director was Miss Susan Nelson. Not only was she responsible for the direction of the activity programs, she was also responsible for the facilitation of most of them. Additionally she was given the tasks of conducting preadmission interviews and handling “any social work type issues which might arise.” The code called for two hours of activity time per resident per month. Miss Nelson was given one part-time assistant, Mrs. Ardyth Adams to help meet these responsibilities.

Although many of Morrow Home’s early activity events have become some of our favorite traditions over the years, there have also been some significant changes to the Recreation Therapy Department. The most obvious change is the staffing ratio. The current department is comprised of one director, one assistant director, three assistants and three aides. The Activity staff is now present and facilitating programs 365 days a year. We also offer programs during six evenings each week. The Recreation Therapy Department is now staffed for 3.77 activity hours per resident per month. Additionally, each member of the department is now trained as a “Dementia Specialist.” This has become a necessity as the demand for dementia specific programming has increased over the years.

The Director is no longer responsible for Social Service issues. Volunteer coordination has remained the responsibility of the director. However, volunteer service is now accompanied by paper work which includes background checks, resident rights, HIPPA and abuse prevention training. The original director relied primarily on volunteer groups such as the Sparta City Band, the United Methodist

Church Women, the Trinity Lutheran Cherubs, and the Sparta Violets Theta Rho Club for live entertainment. As church groups and community clubs struggled with membership and sometimes ceased to exist, the activity director was forced to rely on professional performers for a portion of the entertainment. The majority of the director’s time is now spent completing paperwork required by the state and federal government, arranging staff schedules, planning daily activities, recruiting entertainers, educating staff on dementia specific care, and working on interdepartmental teams. Little time is left for the director to be directly involved in the facilitation of programs.

We have also seen a change in the actual activities themselves. Activities such as embroidery, quilting, and sewing used to be common pastimes in the nursing home. These are no longer common hobbies among those who live here. The majority of persons entering the nursing home at this time are no longer able to take part in these activities. Culture change has also played a role in activity programming. Computers are no longer just for staff. Mobile computer stations are alive and working within resident rooms and common areas. The addition of Assisted Living Housing has brought about the need to employ a coordinator for separate activity programming within the apartment buildings.

History is an excellent teacher. As we look back at the history of the activity department at the Morrow Home, the changes are obvious. However, the focus has remained the same. The Recreation Therapy department strives to provide opportunities for meaningful experiences that promote social, emotional and cognitive health. We are the “Quality Living Advocates” and proud of it!

1st Activity Director – Susan Nelson-Zimmer; 2nd – Bev Maser; 3rd – Mary Bosman; 4th – Laura Wigdal; 5th – current Activity Director Christine Vian



Boat Races Summer 2009 Young At Heart Day Care children help Nursing Home residents make boats. (L) Lyle Warner, Jenna Johnson, Alzina Hanson, Kelsey Baker, Al Krahenbuhl, Corbin Hauser, Abby Olson, McKenzie Peters, Helen Webb, Bob Swartz, Ken Schure.

Mary Morrow's Attic Bursting at the Seams Contributed by Store Shoppers

Only open since this past April, Mary Morrow's Attic has definitely made an impact on the community. Read what customers have penned down in the store's little comment book...

"This store is one of the nicest stores in town for variety of things. Very nice, clean clothing & set up real nice. Love the way the ladies display the front window. Your ladies are very helpful with everything too. Thanks."

"Great place. Nice job, ladies!"

"Beautiful store! Thanks."

"Great concept; beautifully displayed, quality items."

"Great store, very nice people. Glad the prices are cheap."

"Sparta needs a store like this; it saves people a lot of money."

"You & your store are gems. Thank you."

"Love all the books!"

"The gals that volunteer here are the best. My opinion is, without our volunteers, there would be no store like this or any other functions."

"What a wonderful store! Very neat, clean & organized...awesome!"

"Great location--clean & not junky."

"Glad to see you open! I can see a lot of work went into your opening!"

"Wonderful store; so nice to see this in our own town. The ladies who work here are great!"

"Best of luck & great success on this new venture for Morrow Home. So nice to have a place locally to donate."

"I think this is a very nice place."

"I think your store is wonderful. We needed a store like yours in downtown Sparta. Also, the lady that runs it (Jean) is the best lady for this store."

"Very good idea! Nice to know that I can donate my unused items to help out your store."

"This is a very wonderful place to shop. Much variety & the atmosphere is so pleasant. Thank you!"

"It smells so nice in here—just a real nice shop."

"What a nice & neat shop. People are pleasant & everything is nicely arranged."

"Nice shop—just what we need in Sparta."

"We came from Milwaukee. We think the workers here are so sweet. We'll be back."

"I am from Minnesota. I love your shop. It's beautiful. Thank you for your hospitality."

"Love the store! The girls working are wonderful."

"Keep up the good work. Keep the prices low & I'll keep bringing in stuff."

"This store is always neat & clean & they keep the merchandise rotating to make sure it will sell. A great pleasure to shop here. Great prices also."

"A trip to town always includes a stop at the store. Everyone is friendly & down to earth. So many good things to buy & the price is right. Things are always neat & clean. Makes my day when I stop in. Thank you."



Mary Morrow's Attic Grand Opening Day

Visit Mary Morrow's Attic at 128 S. Water Street, Sparta, across from Mike's TV. Mary Morrow's Attic is a ministry of Morrow Memorial Home and operated in conjunction with the Morrow Home Auxiliary. Proceeds assist the residents and tenants at Morrow Home as well as needy families in the community. The Attic is open Tuesday through Friday from 10am to 5pm, Saturday 10am to 3pm. Donations appreciated. All donations are tax deductible per IRS standards. You may call the store at 269-1047 for more information regarding donations.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR HOME

May 29, 2009 – September 30, 2009

CLOTHING: Elizabeth Felts; Velma Mason; Lois Prise; Elizabeth Zeps; Vicky & John Steinhoff and Doug Wachendorf.

MAGAZINES AND BOOKS: Kassie Hendersin; Mary Mashek; Harriett Lindner; Susan & Carmen Bolden; Edwin Holz; Alice Atteln; Catherine & Robert Phelps; Elaine Schmidt.

FURNITURE: Larry Antony, 2 fans; Mary Rice, TV and end table; Vicky & John Steinhoff, glider rocker.

MISC.: Karen Edwards, cards to use for Activities; Mildred Adkins, decorative wreath; Dan Clemmerson, TV; Jeanne Kavanaugh, flowers; Janet Stoker, white sheet skin; Elaine Schmidt, Birds & Blooms magazines, yarn and greeting cards; Vicky & John Steinhoff, misc.; Doug Wachendorf, misc.; and Diane Wemmer, movies and CDs; Phyllis Roberts, 2 wooden card holders.

NURSING HOME EQUIPMENT: Alissa Smith, walker, cane and blood pressure kit; Bill Teoli, wheelchair; Elizabeth Felts, wheelchair; Elizabeth Zeps, walker; Jeanne Kavanaugh, cane and undergarments; Vicky & John Steinhoff, electric lift chair.



Unto Life Eternal

June 1, 2009 - October 15, 2009

John 14:18

**I will not leave you comfortless:
I will come to you.**

Neil Bolden
Erma Boris
Leonard Felts
Geneva Freeman
Frances Griffin
Violet Hancock
Mailen Hoefs
Loretta Jackson
Melvin Janzen

Carlton Kastberg
Nellie Marx
Mary Nienas
Dorothy Peck
Marilyn Rosenau
Dorothy Schmitz
Joyce Wachendorf
Harold Wegner

MEMORIALS AND DONATIONS

1 Corinthians 13:13 (KJV) And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.

Morrow Memorial Home and Apartments is eternally grateful for the gifts offered in memory or in honor of loved ones. The Morrow Home Foundation, to which the funds are entrusted, endeavors to be good stewards of these gifts.

Since the last issue of the Messenger, we have received the following donations:

In memory of Bernice Baumbach from Mr. and Mrs. Russell Bernett, Mr. and Mrs. William Duchaj, Mr. and Mrs. Gurmohan Grewal, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Hutson, and Mr. and Mrs. Harold Jenkins, and Mr. and Mrs. Ken Snow to be used for the remodeling project for our kitchen.

In memory of Erma and John Boris from Mr. and Mrs. Steve Boris and family and in memory from Erma Boris from Marcella Clemmerson.

In memory of Signe Dammen from Mr. and Mrs. Phil Dammen and Avis Quackenbush.

In memory of LaVerne Fuenger from Mr. and Mrs. Roger Strom

In memory of Lorine Hendersin from Harry Hendersin to be used for tenant activities.

In memory of Martha Solberg Henry from her family for the new flag pole and flag at the Water Street entrance to our Home.

In memory of Carlton Kastberg from Mr. and Mrs. Pete Foss, Mr. and Mrs. David Herlitzke, Mr. and Mrs. Roger Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Thedinga, and the family of Carlton Kastberg.

In memory of Nellie Marx from Mr. and Mrs. Jerald Zimmerman

In memory of Marvin Miller from Marian LeCount

In memory of Floyd Nichols from Jackie Springer

In memory of Mary Nienas from Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Ritter

In memory of Dorothy Schmitz from Sharon Engel and Marcella Clemmerson

In memory of Helen Schwarz from Mr. and Mrs. John Popple

In memory of George Shiroda from Mr. and Mrs. Gurmohan Grewal and Mrs. and Mrs. Ken Snow.

In memory of Harold Wegner from Mr. and Mrs. Russell Bernett, Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Kidd, Barbara Nuttleman, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Parchim, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Ruedy, Mr. and Mrs. Ken Snow, Phillip Tichenor, Mr. and Mrs. Loraine Tichenor, Mr. and Mrs. James Wegner, Mr. and Mrs. Otto Wegner, Friends and Family of Harold Wegner.

In memory of Carson "Jerry" Winchel from Julia Miller

In honor of Della Wilcox from Mr. and Mrs. Don Wilcox for the Olive Branch

Other gifts were received from:

The Asbury United Methodist Church, Calvary Baptist Church of Sparta, Lorraine Degenhardt, United Methodist Gold Cross Offerings, Immanuel United Methodist Women, the family of Dale Indahl, Jenny Koehler, Anne McCoy Mehls and family, Clark and Chris Nordberg, Mary Premeau, the Tainter United Methodist Church, and the Tomah United Methodist Women.



Morrow Memorial Home & Apartments

"A Christian Tradition of Caring"

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Mission Statement

Morrow Memorial Home and Apartments serves as a tangible expression of God's love through a continuum of long term care services to all who entrust us with their care. We strive to enhance quality of life by preserving the dignity, independence, and uniqueness of each individual while meeting their physical, social, and spiritual needs. We endeavor to be a faithful steward of obtainable resources recognizing both the needs of those we serve and those who serve.



Morrow Home residents enjoying their garden with Young At Heart Day Care children. Back – (L) Jenna Johnson, Dorothy Cramer, McKenzie Peters, Kim Rich, Kelsey Baker, Front (L) Corbin Hauser, Ryder Woodworth, Rita Barenthin – standing Esther Ripley