



BETHEL COMMUNITY FOCUS

“Sharing Christ Through Caring Service”



Volume 18, Issue 2

March 2011

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Leadership

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 Housekeeping/Laundry
 Jerry Bergheim, Maintenance
 Linda Ford, New Hope Adult
 Day Service/Child Care
 Sandy Bordewyk, Nursing
 Cathy Stromberg, Social Worker
 Rev. Conrad Krahling, Chaplain

From the Administrator's Desk:

Advocacy: “the act or process of pleading on behalf of”

My last article focused on the proposed five percent cut to Medicaid providers by the then Governor Rounds. As you well know, that scene changed when our new governor doubled the proposed cuts to a ten percent level.

Since January, our Medicaid numbers have risen up to thirty of our fifty-nine residents. A ten percent cut would have resulted in a \$160,000 loss to our ministry, beginning July 1.

The 86th Legislature and Governor Daurgaard did finally pass a Medicaid provider cut to assisted living centers at 4.5%, which will impact Bethel Suites. The nursing homes were given a scale of cuts, depending on their 2010 Medicaid census.

Bethel Home will incur a four percent cut in Medicaid reimbursement. This will be a loss of \$65,000 for the

twelve month period beginning July 1. One-half of these cuts will be incurred in 2011. This will result in the loss of one full-time employee and cuts in administration expenses, but no additional increases will be made in our private pay rates. The other half of the cut will be carried into 2012 and will be incorporated into our 2012 budget.

I want to thank all those who took up the advocacy role on behalf of our ministry here at Bethel! We had staff, board members and families who called, sent an email or wrote to legislators and the Governor. I know that your efforts, along with many others, made a difference and helped our representatives in Pierre to reconsider the original ten percent provider cut.

I want to also thank Senator Russ Olson who met with me in Pierre and told me that he was working with the Republican caucus in trying to “soften the

blow” to providers. Also thanks to Representative Mitch Fargen for his prompt responses to those who either emailed him or wrote to him on this issue.

We will need to prepare ourselves again for the next legislative session – for if nothing changes, all Medicaid providers will be faced with a ten percent cut beginning July 2012! This battle was won – but the war wages on!

April 12th will be the annual meeting date for both our Bethel Lutheran Home Corporation and our Bethel Lutheran Home Foundation Corporation. The meetings will begin at 7:00 pm.

On the governing board, we will bid farewell to Betty Strom, welcome Jackie Miles onto the board, and reelect Mark Schultz and Cecelia Wittmayer for another three-year term.

On the foundation board, we will bid farewell to (con’t page 3)

“Caring-Preparing” Campaign Updates

We are now in our final campaign phase – the Congregational Campaign. Twelve of our thirteen owner congregations are participating in this event.

Some of our churches have kicked off their campaigns and will have them concluded in April. Others will conclude their campaigns this spring, and others will have a fall campaign.

Regardless of the

timetable, the “Caring-Preparing Capital Campaign” will be concluded this coming fall ending a most successful campaign that originally began in the fall of 2009!

Our thanks go out to our congregational volunteers to agreed to serve as Congregational Coordinators or committee members. A BIG “THANK YOU” goes to each and every supporter who has either made a

pledge or will make a pledge for our Caring-Preparing Campaign.

Please remember that the Congregational Campaign is not part of your church’s annual budget! For further questions, you are welcome to visit with Gary Johnson, Development Director at 480-1144 or the Chair of the Congregational Campaign, Rev. Constanze Hagmaier at 256-2771.

Volunteer Appreciation Program—Save the Date!

The date for our annual volunteer appreciation program and luncheon has been set for

Thursday, April 14, 2011, at 2 pm in the Vickmark Chapel at Bethel. All who have volunteered at

Bethel in this past year are welcome to attend—this event held in your honor.

...Inside, activities are so inviting...

If you have been around our facility during the winter you find that we don’t let the never-ending winter get to us. January is all about lights and naming of our new snow queen to reign over Bethel for 2011. Betty Olson is our reigning queen and Beverly Bamberg was named as first runner up. From Assisted Living, Leona Becker is the reigning Miss Susie Snowflake.

Staff have so much fun making floats for our “Festival Of Lights” parade. We parade our way through the halls and our residents take in a parade without even going outside. Our mystery snowman makes an

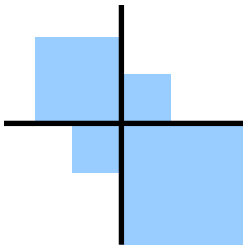
appearance and we end the evening with hot chocolate and cookies in the dining room.

Our Snow Ball brings us dance music from the Karaoke Krooner and what a fun evening for our residents and staff. Linda Ford, Program Director for New Hope Adult Day Care and Child Day Care, was revealed as our Mystery Snowman.

Down come the snowflakes and up go the hearts in February. One our highlights is our special Valentine social and supper for our residents and their spouses. Eileen Peters, our dietary manager, and her

staff made it a beautiful evening. The dining room was decorated and Richard Wolf provided great music during our social hour and meal.

March came in like a lamb and we hope it just keeps getting nicer all the time. We look forward to our Wednesday Lenten services, and of course everyone turns Irish on the 17th. Our residents are thinking Spring and will soon be starting some seeds for their veggie bunk and flower pots. We are so thankful for all who give of their time to volunteer and assist the residents and staff in so many ways.



Winter

From the Administrator's Desk con't

Ron Minnaert, and reelect Jeff Bloom, Linda Fischer, and Valerie Kuhl. Two board seats are open and nominees will be in place to be voted on at the annual meeting.

Our renovation plans were temporarily put on hold when we were faced with the Governor's Medicaid cuts.

Now with that issue behind us for now, attention is again focused on the two main "sticking points" of our renovation – the hallway flooring which we will use and the design of the nurses' station area. Once we have determined what we are going to do in these two areas, final proposals will then go before our board

of directors. Once they have approved the renovation and construction plans, advertising for bids will begin and those final bids will need to be approved by the board of directors before any work can begin.

Look for updates in the next issue.

Jim Iverson
Administrator



"...plans were temporarily put on hold when we were faced with the Governor's Medicaid cuts."

Schwan's Truckload Sale—fundraising in good taste!

New Hope Child Care Center

is having a...



Truckload Sale!



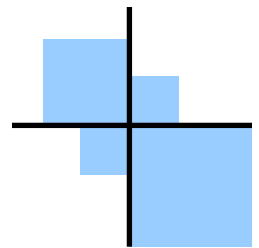
On Saturday, April 2nd from 10:30 am– 5 pm at the United Methodist Church Parking Lot

There are several convenient ways that supporters can place orders:

1. Order Gift Certificates by calling 1-888-SCHWANS (724-9267)
2. Reserve order online for pick-up on Sat. April 2nd at www.schwanfundraising.com
3. Look at a product magazine and reserve items via phone by calling 1-888-SCHWANS (724-9267) Option 4, for pick-up on Apr. 2nd
4. Stop by the United Methodist Church parking lot on April 2 between 10:30 am—5 pm and purchase your favorite items from a fully stocked truck.

Use Campaign #33716 for all ordering methods.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 605-256-2912 OR 605-256-1097





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Winter Fest Fun...

