



Bethany Life

Newsletter

Faith, Families & Friends

Our Mission

Bethany Life's mission is to help elders thrive in their life journey, living in a Christian environment of hope and compassion.

Our Vision

Bethany Life will become a regionally recognized resource for comprehensive and innovative aging services.

Our Values

Benevolence,
Stewardship, Personal
Growth, Innovation,
Teamwork, &
Relationships.



Bethany Life has now entered its 105th year of existence! So many things have changed over the years – too numerous to list – and so many people have come through our doors. We have taken care of thousands of residents and employed thousands of team members. We have been blessed to share in the lives of thousands of family members. Like all organizations we have seen years of prosperity and years of challenge.

Although we have seen so many changes there are some things that remain the same. Our commitment to our faith is the cornerstone of who we are and gives us all hope and comfort each and every day. Our family – residents, family members, and staff – are the reason we are here and give us so much of themselves. Our friends also are beyond compare. From our volunteers, our donors, our pastors, and our member churches and from all others who contribute to this wonderful mission in any way – we thank you so much!

With all of the changes that have occurred over the years we know that there are many more to come. Some we can anticipate and some we cannot. We know that there will be good times and trying times. But our foundation of faith, family, and friends will always be there and for that we are so very grateful! As we look to the future we remain committed to serving God through service to others and that will never change!

Gratefully,

Betsy Warburton

Betsy Warburton, President and CEO



Faith Love is Action

One of my favorite authors says it this way, “caring for others and being cared for are the ways in which community is created.” He goes on to say that community, like family, is more of a verb than a noun. In other words, the way that we create this place called Bethany Life is more about what we do for one another in acts of love rather than what we say. I see it every day.

I had a resident approach me the other day who said she would like to help at chapel every week by just greeting people as they arrive. To the outside world that may seem like a small thing, but in this world of Bethany Life a welcoming smile and a kind word can make the difference between a good day and a lonely day. It’s huge. Community is formed by a verb not a noun!

Over these past many weeks we have been blessed in our worship by a family member who volunteers to share his gift of music on the piano. In fact, a couple of weeks ago the congregation applauded him as he finished playing the piano. I said in jest, “in six months I have not even received a thumbs up for anything I have offered at worship!” Someone started to clap, but it was clear that it was purely a sympathy vote towards my efforts! We all had a good laugh! Again, community is formed by a verb not a noun! Another way to say, “Love is action!”



This good news is ours today and may God continue to bless our journey as we live community in this place; to live this love towards one another in the world; to be his body, his blood in a world so sorely in need of good news! This is our gift, this is our privilege!

Chaplain David Burling

**“Caring for others
and being cared for
are the ways in which
community is created.”**



Please support the
**Chaplaincy Endowment
Fund**

To make a gift please contact
Larry Elphic at 515-509-3299.

Member Churches

Ascension Lutheran, Ames
Bergen Lutheran, Roland
Bethany Lutheran, Kelley
Bethany Lutheran, McCallsburg
Bethel Lutheran, Story City
Bethesda Lutheran, Ames

Bethesda Lutheran, Jewell
Elim Lutheran, Randall
Fjeldberg Lutheran, Huxley
Gilbert Lutheran, Gilbert
Grace United Methodist, Story City
Immanuel Lutheran, Story City
Our Savior’s Lutheran, Radcliffe

Our Savior’s Lutheran, Stanhope
Palestine Lutheran, Huxley
Salem Lutheran, Radcliffe
Salem Lutheran, Roland
St. Andrew’s Lutheran, Ames
St. Cecilia Catholic, Ames
St. Peter & Paul Catholic Church, Gilbert

St. Paul’s Lutheran, Jewell
St. Paul Lutheran, Williams
St. Petri Lutheran, Story City
Trinity Lutheran, Ellsworth
Zion Lutheran, Radcliffe

Our Little Friends...The Grand Friends!

The Households of Bethany is a ministry that consists of many families and friends living life together. Our Life Enrichment staff work hard to make the connections between our residents and those in the community, especially children. I myself have three young boys (ages 7, 4, and 1) and have always made a point to bring the kids in and help them develop lasting friendships with those who live at The Households.

Last summer I invited my children's daycare to visit. Story Book Child Care, run by Mariah Duszynski, is a mere three blocks from The Households. The kids in her care range from infant to 1st grade. Since last June, the

daycare kids (or as we call them, our Grand Friends) have visited us twice each month. We have done a variety of activities together, but more importantly is the relationships that have developed.

“Our residents light up when the kids come.”

My own son, Charlie, who is 18 months now, has connected with the residents in amazing ways. He and I start and end each visit with high fives, knuckles, or waves to each resident. He lets them pinch the baby fat on his arms and stomach, kiss his pudgy little hands, tickle him, and blow raspberries. My heart melts as I see how they love one another.

We have some residents who prefer not to attend group activities, but love Grand Friends. Our residents light up when the kids come. Recently, a baby joined the group and the residents enjoyed holding her and feeding her a bottle. The older kids engage with the residents by doing activities together or performing for them. We enjoyed a magic show and a comedy hour from my oldest, Jerry. Another joy has been reminiscing about raising kids. When my middle son, Henry, got a pile of slime stuck in his hair during one visit, I felt a true bond with the women in the group as they remembered removing bubble gum from their children's hair!

We are all so grateful for our Grand Friends! They bring life to the residents, and they share a love and bond that is truly one of a kind. Come join the fun!

Laura Severson, Director
Life Enrichment



The Grand Friends

Bethany Life Foundation

Thank you Friends

As I get older I often think about what my past and present friends have meant to me. Some of them are no longer around. I know that I haven't always done well with staying close or in touch. We all move on, but I'm learning as I get older what it means to reminisce about the "old times". I recently sat with Chaplain David and a group of older men at the Households during "men's group" and it was a blast. We talked about the weather and our old school days and our girlfriends and our kids and our home towns....our lives. New friends. As I get older I become more thoughtful and more grateful. I think we all do.

In my role as Bethany Life's Foundation Director I look at all the names who have donated in 2018 to our mission. I think about each one of them, their lives and their friends and their loved ones. Many of their loved ones lived and died at the Households of Bethany. These can be difficult times. I

personally experienced this with the passing of my 99 year old mother in 2018.

Jaunita was a good woman. My gratitude to those who cared for her goes beyond anything I can express here. I know those who donate to our mission understand. They know. We are all friends and family who have faith that our friendship will remain strong and will stand by the mission of Bethany Life in times of need. We need you. Support our mission. Thank you to our friends who donated to our Foundation in 2018.

God bless you and yours,

Larry Elphic
Foundation Director



Larry Elphic, Foundation Director
Lynne Melssen, Donor Relations Coordinator
Denice Reisetter, Affordables Manager



Friends of the Year

Bob and Maripat Higgins

HUMANITARIAN

Anonymous
Bethany Life Volunteers
Bethany Life Chapel Offering
AFFORDABLES
Perry & Mary Frey
Sharron Martin
Claudia Pauk
Tom & Stevie Walsh

LEADERSHIP

Anonymous
Allen & Wanda Holm
Bergen Lutheran Church-Roland
Bethany Lutheran Church, Kelley
Bethesda Lutheran Church, Ames
Gary Carpenter
Elim Lutheran Church-Randall
Larry & Kathaleen Elphic
Gary & Judy Hested Family Foundation
Gilbert Lutheran Church-Gilbert
Haila Architecture Structure Planning

BENEFACTOR

Alan & Karen Hermanson
Immanuel Lutheran Church - Story City
David & Camille Kundert
Javerna & Elizabeth Maland
Northeastern Iowa Synod-ECLA
William & Susan Sandve
Jay & Betsy Warburton

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Lorraine Jacobson
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Memorial Lutheran Church-Nevada
Roger & Lois Oakland
Dave & Kathy Quam
Richard & Joan Mohler Family Trust
Greg & Patricia Sindt
Soderstrum Funeral Homes
Trinity Lutheran-Ellsworth

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Reliance State Bank
CBS Staffing
Absolute Concrete
Country Landscapes
Iowa Demolition
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Market
GrapeTree Medical
IHC Hardware
Stephen & Becky
Hermanson
Michael & Kimberly
Hermanson
Robert & Maripat
Higgins
Patricia Hoversten
Delores Larson
Drew Larson
Cindi & Rod Martin
Pastor Dave Nerdig
Poindexter Flooring
Rodney & Dorothy
Dutton
Ryun, Givens & Co.
Scott & Vicki Saienga
Mary Ann Sandvold
Story Construction
Mark & Julie Ullestad
Robin Wisner

FRIEND OF BETHANY

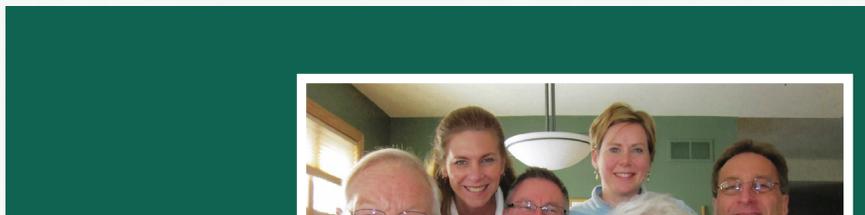
Access Systems
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Ahlstrom
Andrew & Barbara
Alfseike
Jeremy Allman
Randy Allman
Brian & Elaine Anderson
Laurine Anderson
Arnold & Mary Christy
Roger & Charlotte
Auestad
Bacon Funeral Home
Dr. Louis & Pat Banitt
Bethesda Lutheran
Church-Jewell
Jerry & Julie Bisher
Jean Bjustrom
Boeke Funeral Homes
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Mary & Kenneth Brown
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Jeanette Buckingham
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Les & Norma Campbell
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Tom & Judy Jackson
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Loren & Solvay Twedt
United HealthCare Inc.
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William & Joyce
Appelgate
Wilson Auto Group

Family Legacy



When I was a young girl I remember visiting my great uncle Fred Wilson in the old Bethany Manor. I learned at a very early age from my mother, that Fred was cared for by his family and he worked on the family farm most of his life. The family was thankful that he had a safe and warm place to live. He was a quiet, reserved man who offered me candy while visiting and as a young child I felt good that he had a nice room to live in with big windows.

As I grew up I became more familiar with some of the issues facing my grandparents as they aged. I learned that they were counting on Bethany Manor when they faced a time when they could no longer care for themselves or each other. I first visited the "new Bethany" when my grandmother needed skilled care

there long before she became a permanent resident along with her husband in the last years of their lives. My parents spent many days visiting there. They were impressed with the quality of care Magnus and Ella were receiving, which led to their decision to support and promote Bethany to others.

After my father retired from his career he became a member of Bethany's foundation board and the rest is history. He was hooked on Bethany. The time came when my parents knew they needed to downsize, get out from under snow removal and yard work. While it wasn't easy to unload "stuff" from fifty years of living in

the same home, peace of mind was knowing that Timberland Village was to be their new home. Like my dad, my mom was content and proud of the place she now called home.

My parents liked the fact that because of the Bethany Life mission they would be near each other should one, or the other, need a different level of care. When my father was involved in an accident that eventually took his life eight years ago, my mother was able to continue to live in her twin home until she needed more care. Before she passed away last summer, she had lived in three different places within the community because of her changing needs. Each transition was smooth and effortless because of the caring staff and administration. At the end of my mother's life it was clear the nursing staff and Chaplain Dave knew how to help us with the last transition to mom's Eternal Home. We were comforted in our grief by their loving care and concern, hospitality and warmth.

The legacy of Bethany has been well established in my family. This legacy of respect for the elderly and their needs has been passed to my brother and me. In dad's, and subsequently, in mom's last days, Bethany Life cared for my parents with dignity and faith. Reflecting on the lives of my parents, and considering their legacy of philanthropy, I will be forever grateful for the mission and values of Bethany Life.

- Julie Bisher, daughter of Jim and Dorothy Christy

**Thank you for the gift of
\$127,000 from the Christy
Family Trust Fund in
support of our Chaplaincy
Endowment Fund.**

Ike and Sedahlia *Blessings*



When I think about Ike at Bethany Life, I'm drawn to something he told our friend Ed Ruppert and me just days before his death. We were talking about memories and the conversation turned to his time at Bethany Life. Ike talked about being treated well – "They treat me like a king here!" – and Ed commented "That must say something about you as a person." After some thought, Ike said, "The people here have been a blessing to me" and then he seemed to reflect a bit, and as if not wanting to praise himself, said, "And (pausing) I guess I have been a blessing to them as well."

When Ike entered Bethany with a broken arm, he focused on when he'd go home. However, as time passed his thinking changed, and he began to realize he felt safer there than at home, where he had fallen. At Bethany Life, he had better equipment and two people assisting him when he needed to transition. So afraid of having that fall that might end his life, he soon opted to stay there. As a LifeChoices at Bethany member the decision was made much easier.

The staff was so very warm and caring to Ike and gained our respect and love. They came up with solutions he needed as his myositis progressed. One such solution involved his decreasing ability to swallow and bend his neck to get to his straw to take in liquids. We brainstormed with the dietitian who found a source that supplied "long straws!" Soon afterwards he needed all of his food pureed into a liquid so he could drink it through the straws. We contacted Chef Chris and his staff began to puree each dish Ike ordered, including his favorite chocolate pie! Shortly after Ike's first all-liquid lunch, I arrived and asked about his new food. His response was physical and verbal -- he threw back his head, formed his face into an "Oh my gosh it was so good!" look, and said, "YUMMM-MY!" It made all the difference.

Yes, Bethany Life was a blessing to Ike and Ike was a blessing to them. "Thank you" to every person who cared for Ike to make his life safe, comfortable, and fun. And through your loving care, you helped him feel and know that he could add to your lives. Blessings to all of you! - Sedahlia Crase

Below are resident family photos



Friends

Bethany Manor has been a part of our lives for decades. My wife, Doradene worked at Bethany, while a number of years after that, I served as a volunteer on Bethany Manor's Governance Board.

Doradene worked as a nurse at Bethany and supervised Betsy Warburton when she was a young CNA. Later, I served on Betsy's Board and was involved when Timberland Village broke ground. When the time came to move out of our family home here in Story City, I chose our apartment at Timberland Village because of the wonderful view it provides onto the front lawn and being able to see beyond to Bethany's Twin Homes and Broad Street. It's great to see folks coming and going.

Our parents were residents at Bethany Life. My parents always received great care and never had a single complaint.



"I love calling Timberland Village home." - Clarion Thompson

I love calling Timberland Village home. I enjoy knowing we have caring staff like Cindi Martin and particularly like the "no responsibilities" lifestyle that living here provides. It's like family here at Timberland and we have many friends.

- Clarion Thompson

Tradition of benevolence



817 Cedar Street is where I lived from 1958 to 1962. My grandparents lived in that house for many years prior to then. Right across the street from my house was "The Old Peoples Home". That is what it was called at that time and is now known as Bethany Life.

My grandmother and my grandfather were both residents at Bethany Manor as they aged. My mother passed away at Israel House after living at Cedar Place with my Dad for three months. My Dad continued to live at Cedar Place for another six years before going to Bethany Manor where he spent the last month of his life.

"Start your own tradition of benevolence from generation to generation with Bethany Life."

It had the longest and best sidewalk for roller skating, riding my bike, jumping rope or playing hopscotch. In the summer residents would sit out on the lawn or up on the huge porch and I would visit with them every day.

My grandmother worked at the Old Peoples Home before Story City got their hospital. Once a hospital was built, she worked at the hospital with old Dr. Lekwa.

When my grandmother was older she was a volunteer at Bethany Manor. My mother was a volunteer also.

So needless to say "The Old Peoples Home" has played a big part in the lives of my family and I continue the "volunteering" of my time through Affordables, by serving on the Foundation Board of Directors and my financial support to Bethany Life.

The volunteering and financial support is an ever present need from generation to generation. Start your own tradition of benevolence from generation to generation with Bethany Life. - Claudia Pauk





Bethany Life

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The Households of Bethany
212 Lafayette Avenue
Story City, Iowa 50248
515.733.4325

Cedar Place
812 Cedar Street
Story City, Iowa 50248
515.733.2904



Timberland Village
725 Timberland Drive
Story City, Iowa 50248
515.733.6500

Bethany Life Foundation
212 Lafayette Avenue
Story City, Iowa 50248
515.733.4325

Affordables Thrift Store
630 Pennsylvania Avenue
Story City, Iowa 50248
515.733.5304

www.bethanylife.org

If you do not want to receive future publications or fundraising requests supporting Bethany Life, you may call 515.733.3040 and request to be removed from our mailing list. Thank you.

VOLUNTEERS...PART OF THE BETHANY FAMILY

A fabulous group of volunteers joined Bethany Life staff members, Betsy Warburton – CEO, Larry Elphic – Foundation Director and Denice Reisetter – Manager of Affordables for a picture by the wheelchair accessible van purchased through volunteer work at Affordables by Bethany Life. The \$50,000, was made possible by merchandise sold at Affordables, a store that sells donated and new merchandise in Story City.

As one of the Bethany Life “fleet vehicles” it will be used to get residents to and from doctors appointments, as well as get them out for desired shopping trips and other social activities.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Quarterly Family Meetings
Monday, February 11 at 5 p.m.
Monday, May 13 at 5 p.m.
Monday, August 12 at 5 p.m.
Monday, November 11 at 5 p.m.

Palm Sunday Brunch
Sunday, April 14
11-1:30 pm
Story City Community Center

Golf Classic
Friday, June 21
River Bend Golf Course

Chaplaincy Celebration Dinner
Sunday, April 7
At the Households of Bethany

Annual Meeting
Thursday, April 25
5:30 Appetizers
6:00 Meeting
Chapel at the Households of Bethany

LifeChoices® at Bethany
Lunch and Learn 12:00 pm at Ames Golf and Country Club
Tuesday, March 19
Tuesday, April 16
Tuesday, May 21
Tuesday, June 18