



Bethany Life

we want to

LIFT UP

STAFF · RESIDENTS · TENANTS · MEMBERS · FAMILIES · DONORS

As the coronavirus sweeps through the United States, families are especially worried about their elderly loved ones, who are among the most vulnerable to the disease.

The staff at Bethany Life took the situation seriously early in the pandemic. Betsy Warburton, CEO of Bethany Life, closed the doors to visitors earlier than most long-term care facilities and took other precautions as well.

“I’m grateful for this organization and all that we’re able to do”

Bethany Life has test kits and personal protective equipment (PPE) — things that are important in the diagnosis and prevention of the virus.

But what has made the biggest difference at Bethany Life are the changes they’ve made to the way they do things.

“We took it seriously quickly and just did what needed to be done,” Warburton said. “We talk about it regularly: Is there anything else we can do to keep our residents and staff safe?”

Bethany Life has been aggressive with the protocols it’s put in place. “All of us in long-term care are doing many of the same things,” Warburton said.

One of the most drastic steps was the decision to not allow visitors — a difficult but key decision Warburton made in the early days of the pandemic.

“It’s been very difficult but I’ve been very impressed with the response from both our residents and their families,” she said. There have been occasional visits allowed for the end of life, she added.

For the most part, however, the folks at Bethany Life are focused on the positive interactions they can have. Things like Zoom calls and window visits. They have been

encouraging phone calls and letter writing. They’ve also started a pen pal program.

Like other Americans who are sheltering in place, one of the most difficult things for residents is not being able to go on their regular outings, such as bus rides and shopping trips. But one blessing at The Households of Bethany is that each household has its own patio.

“The patios were an important part of our plan when we did our reconstruction project a few years ago,” Warburton said. “We wanted to have an outdoor area for all residents. We practice social distancing, so we are limited to how many people are on each patio at a time.”



Along with social distancing, Bethany Life takes other required precautions. Everyone on the staff is screened at the beginning and end of their shift. “And we all wear

masks throughout the building throughout the day,” Warburton said. “I would really like to lift up our staff,” she said. “It’s a challenge and extra work for them with the PPE procedures we have in place. I am incredibly proud and impressed with our team. They want to keep our residents happy and safe.”

Warburton also wants to lift up the families and the residents. “They’ve been through a lot,” she said. “But we have received so many supportive messages and thank-you notes.” *If you would like to send our staff a thank you note please visit our website www.bethanylife.org/thanking-our-staff.*

Bethany Life is concerned for the physical well-being of its residents and staff. But it’s more than that. They’re also mindful for their emotional and mental well-being.



“We have very intentional discussions with our staff about their fears,” Warburton said.

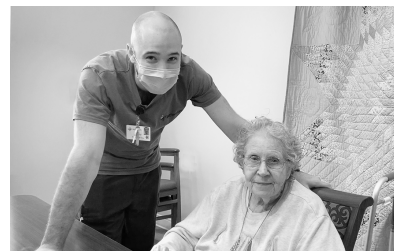
The residents and staff also rely on Bethany Life’s full-time chaplain, David Burling, who has created a warm, cozy conversation

area in the back of the chapel. “Residents and staff have taken advantage of that,” Warburton said. “It’s a great opportunity to pray and share concerns.”

Warburton also wants to lift up Bethany Life’s donors. “They have been very generous with their resources,” she said.

“Expenses have gone up for all of us in long-term care, with the additional staffing and other supply costs. Our donors have just been amazing.” Many of Bethany Life’s donors are from the area, and some are from out-of-state but have a close connection to the organization.

“I’m grateful for this organization and all that we’re able to do,” Warburton said. “We will keep pressing on. We will do our very best to keep our residents safe.”



**We are currently taking admissions.
Contact Morgan for more information at
515.509.6269.**

Bethany Life • 212 Lafayette Avenue • Story City, Iowa • 515.733.4325

BETHANYLIFE.ORG