



Bethany Life

Newsletter

SUMMER 2020

We are Blessed *in all times*

In March, we had the meeting that would change everything. It was up to us to keep our residents, staff, tenants and members safe. We were in a battle, and when you're in a battle you pray and you ignite your faith. That's what happened. We came together, we prayed as an organization and we fought. The battle isn't over but we feel blessed to have come this far and have felt the support of so many. "I can do all things through him who gives me strength. Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles." - Philippians 4:13-14

This year has been a difficult one for everyone given the pandemic we are experiencing. And in health care it is particularly challenging. We do our best to keep everyone well and have an elevated level of responsibility to make personal choices that keep others safe. Our team has talked about the lack of freedom that we are all feeling in this country and the burdens that go along with it, especially for these wonderful people we care for.

We have also talked however about the importance of remembering our blessings in all times. We have remained blessed as an organization and learned so much that will help us handle whatever may come our way in the future. We found the God-given strength we needed to persevere. We saw many team members rise to the occasion in ways that they didn't think were possible.

We felt the support of so many people – family members, community members, volunteers, board members, member churches, donors, and pastors. And we were and are continually reminded of how resilient this generation of people are that we are so blessed to serve. It has been an incredibly challenging time for them and they carried on in a way that speaks volumes about their faith and strength. They are truly to be admired.

None of us in this country or world would have chosen the path we are currently on. We pray that this ends soon for everyone and until it does we will focus on our blessings. We will continue to do our part to keep our residents, tenants, and members safe. And we will remember that we are truly blessed in all times.

Betsy Warburton, CEO, Bethany Life

We will focus
on our *blessings*





James Krueger was a resident on David's Place for 3 years. He was loved by the staff here at The Households of Bethany. He could often be found having lunch at the Tom & Stevie's Bistro with staff members. In June 2020, James passed away due to complications of COVID-19. James will be greatly missed by all of us here at The Households of Bethany.

We can not thank you all enough for the love and kindness you showed our dad over the last few years! We know that during the end he was with people who loved him and truly cared about him! We were so incredibly blessed to find your facility and the incredibly kind and professional staff you have! Keep up your good work.

James Krueger Family



“Thank you” is hardly enough to express the gratitude of this community and all the residents you are caring for during these stressful times. Your commitment and also the sacrifices each of your families must endure are a blessing to each of the residents you care for. “Thank You” and bless each of you.

Claudia Pauk, Foundation Board



“Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose hope is in the Lord.
They are like a tree planted beside still waters
that stretches out its roots to the stream:
It fears not the heat when it comes, its leaves stay green:
In the year of the drought it shows no distress, but still bears fruit.” - Jeremiah 17:7-8

For some of us, the last few months have been challenging and filled with a certain amount of anxiety. They have brought new challenges, but through these challenges our blessings have become even more evident. The tenants that live at Timberland are truly a blessing; as they have positive attitudes and they uplift and encourage their caregivers daily. Our family members have been uniquely supportive and understanding during these times and continue to be a blessing to us.

Our amazing staff are another blessing we cherish at Timberland. Our staff have gone above and beyond by providing tender loving care, activities, and emotional support to our tenants. We are also blessed at Timberland with the beauty of God’s creation in nature. Even during times of quarantine our tenants and staff have been able to go outside and enjoy the walking trail, enjoy time under a shade tree or take a quiet rest on one of the benches by the pond.

If this is our year of the drought we are not distressed or anxious! Our leaves are green with the encouragement we give each other. The water we are planted by is our trust in the Lord and our roots grow deep stretching toward Him. Our hope indeed is in the Lord and we are blessed!

Cindi Martin, Housing Manager at Timberland Village

Life Enrichment

The past few months has turned our world in Life Enrichment upside down. Our days were previously spent together in large groups doing activities like worship, live music, celebrations, games, bus trips, and crafts. The halls were filled with the sound of family members and visitors, our Grand Friends from the local daycare, and animals visiting. Then everything changed within a few short weeks, we had no group activities, no visitors, and no bus rides. To some it felt that there wasn't much life left to enrich. Yet, even with all of that, we are still blessed.

We have been showered with the generosity of folks sending cards and letters to cheer residents up. We implemented technology to allow families to stay connected with their loved ones on a daily basis. We had a Conversation Corner built to be ready for in person visits the very day it was allowed again. We purchased headphone sets so the residents can hear well when visiting with their loved ones with the addition of masks and plexiglass barriers between them, as well as in group activities when they are 6 feet from the closest person and possibly across the room from the activity facilitator.

This time has allowed us to get to know our residents better, and on a deeper level, as we were able to interact with them on a more individual basis. While these months have created challenges, brought constant change, and created distance, we know that we are blessed to be able to be here for the residents when they need us most!

Laura Severson, Director of Life Enrichment



Jean Kennedy was a resident here at The Households of Bethany for nine months. She was diagnosed with cancer and dementia and came to us for help with her care. Her son Bill, didn't live nearby. This situation is very common for our residents and during those times of distance from their family, we step in and become the family. In June, Jean passed away due to complications of COVID-19 surrounded by staff that truly cared for her and a window visit from Bill. She will be missed. Bill left us this wonderful message below after his mom had passed.



Betsy, you and your team were a God send over the last couple months and I have nothing but praises for every single one of you. Every person I have dealt with since the day I met you guys has been wonderful. I had a better ending with my mom than I could have ever imagined in my entire life. Bethany Life and God are a big part of that. Thank you!

Bill Murphy, Jean Kennedy's son



*Dan Shaffer,
member since
2010.*

LifeChoices® at Bethany is focused on keeping their members safe in their homes during this pandemic. Delivering groceries, zoom exercise calls and transportation when needed are just a few benefits

our members experience. Our advocates are in frequent contact with our members to ensure not only their physical health but mental health. Are you wanting to age in your home like our members? If so, contact Austin Mortvedt for more details.

LifeChoices®
at Bethany
Life Care at Home

Austin Mortvedt | 515.290.6756 | austin.mortvedt@bethanylife.org

Thank you notes from our families...



Thank you (Elizabeth in Life Enrichment) for always making my mom happier than ever with your amazing attitude, and your love for her, and all of the residents. You are always smiling, and in turn, makes everyone else smile! You always have fun with the activities, and the patience it must take amazes me, because you do it all with grace! You truly are the type of person everyone would want caring for their family members.

Resident Family Member

Donna Wilder is my mom. You are so appreciated, respected and valued by my family and me. It is hard for us to not be able to visit Mom, but we take great comfort in knowing you are giving her the best care. Most of all, we know you do so with the up most kindness, humor and love. I cannot express our appreciation enough, especially now. You are part of Mom's family and we love you! I hope you continue to be well and safe. Thank you again and again.

Peggy Redmond



We want to thank you for your dedication to my aunt and her housemates at Ivy's Place during this unprecedented time in our history. The care you show is not going unnoticed, it is appreciated more than you know! THANK YOU!

Mary June Cain

we are blessed

Bethany Life is strong because of the people who work here – people who at their core, CARE.

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



Becky keeps our facility clean and safe for staff and residents.



Deann is our scheduling manager and does an exceptional job.



G is our helpful maintenance employee at Timberland and the Twin Homes.



Susan Randall goes above and beyond as a CNA to take care of the residents.



Amber is a CNA on Christine's house and is known for her hard work ethic.



Connie is a great homemaker and is always willing to train new employees.



Cady's smile is contagious. Her personality is always positive!



Zach puts the safety and well-being of his residents first as a CNA.



Stephany is a homemaker and serves her residents with love.



Roni is a wonderful baker and keeps the kitchen organized and fun for the staff.

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 innovative agency.



Mel is the EVS Lead and is great at encouraging her staff.



Linda is always willing to pick-up shifts and train new employees.



Laura is known for her attention to detail and willingness to lend a helping hand.



Lindsay is a CNA mentor on our first floor and truly cares for the residents.



Lul is our second shift CMA. She is very compassionate and kind.



Emma brightens the day when she smiles for all of us and she cares deeply for her residents.



Ruot has been working as a CNA at The Households of Bethany for 18 months while attending nursing school at Ellsworth Community College. In July, he graduated and we are happy to have him continue his career here with us as a LPN!

Ruot embraces the opportunity to serve our elderly. He knows how important it is to be a good listener and show empathy with the residents. He was an incredible CNA and we know we are blessed to have him now as a nurse.

congratulations

Vision

Recognized resource for comprehensive and aging services.

Our Values

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

COVID-19 TIMELINE

March 9-17

- in service with all staff prior to media explosion
- inventory of all PPE, letters to families, signs hung at doors, families called, employee screening begins
- canceled group activities and meetings
- CMS, DIA & IDPH guidelines were given
- DHS data collection on dependents of healthcare workers for emergency childcare, rapid response team and emergency preparedness revised and management educated on duties

April 8-22

- all staff wear mask and shield at all times at work begins
- discontinue all services, vendors, and consultations that are not medically necessary for residents
- new requirements for admissions to prevent entry of COVID19, acquired positive air pressure respirators from local hospital

May 21-31

- lab capacities finally allow adequate testing and isolation of ALL residents and employees begins
- all residents and staff tested for COVID19 antibodies found to have the antibodies for the virus but without symptoms. 2 residents were found to be in memory care unit but without symptoms. Resident in memory care unit dedicated isolation unit.
- 5/30 retest memory care unit

- daily respiratory assessment of all residents began
- health insurance enrollment re-opens for COVID19
- begin acquiring PPE surplus from community businesses and supply chain
- Dept. of Inspections and Appeals surveys infection control practice and approves

March 18-31

- update all policies related to infection control per Iowa Dept. of Health guidance
- isolation unit formed on LifeBridge

May 5-15

- immediate lock-down of all entrances and alternate entrances
- temporary break room for staff, cohorting staff, clothing, laundry and laundry room
- results back with a

1-30

ate testing. Testing and employees with any symptoms

COVID19, 1 staff member the virus but never had d to be positive in a memory Residents moved to a

June 4-10

- 6/4 retest memory care unit
- informed all residents of outbreak and created notification system for speedy notifications to family
- results back with 3 additional positive residents (6 total)
- 6/9 retest memory care unit
- Ames Tribune communication and retest memory care unit
- FEMA shipment of isolation gowns
- restrictions for re-opening outlined

ck-down of all households including ances on affected units, supply delivery, eak rooms on households, locked doors, f, cloth masks on all residents outside of y and waste removal procedures revise with a 3rd positive resident

(OUTBREAK STATUS)

June 2

- 3 more residents identified for total of 9 positive residents
- 6/12 retest memory care, no new cases
- 6/17 retest memory care, no new cases
- 6/29 retest memory care, no new cases

June 11-29

As of August 1st:

During the course of the pandemic thus far, 13 employees tested positive in total. 7 employees believe they acquired it outside of work. 9 residents tested positive and 7 have recovered. We created a page on our website for all up-to-date information. www.bethanylife.org/coronavirus. As of August 1st, Timberland Village and Cedar Place are in phase 3 and The Households of Bethany is in phase 2.

We have had over 200 room moves for isolation purposes. Staffing shortages persisted due to strict guidelines on screening. We do weekly inventory of all supplies. We report all positive cases and potential shortages of supply to Story County Public Health, Iowa Dept. of Public Health, CDC, Story County Emergency Management, and the Dept. of Inspections and Appeals.

We have accomplished an immense amount of work while maintaining great care of our residents with staff and resource shortages. I couldn't be more proud of our nurses, CNAs, and entire staff throughout our continuum.

Rex Nelson, Director of Nursing

www.bethanylife.org/coronavirus



Throughout the pages of this Bethany Life Newsletter you have heard my colleagues talk about the blessings experienced in spite of the pandemic that has marked this year of 2020. They are correct! Many blessings have come our way... even in the midst of suffering. I would like to take some time in this newsletter to reflect upon the particular issue of suffering that we have all experienced over these last months and draw some connections between our suffering and our faith.

Suffering is a reality in life. I was leading a devotional discussion the other day when the participants started talking about what life looked like during the days of the polio outbreak and when scarlet fever was rampant among households.

At that moment, I knew I was in the company of people who understood what it means to suffer. About 500 years ago, Dr. Martin Luther, one of the founders of the Lutheran church was writing to his congregation in the midst of a breakout of the Bubonic Plague, a particularly nasty disease that destroyed the lives of half of Europe at the time. Luther, in an attempt to lift up the spirits of his congregation talked about what the signs of faith were that people could lean on in difficult times. He specifically talked about the sacraments of Baptism and The Lord's Supper. These sacraments contained the promises of God and assured the faithful that God had not abandoned them. He spoke of the power of the community of believers. The fact that people could gather together in church brought comfort to his flock. It reminded them they were not alone.

The one thing that I found most interesting was that Luther talked about the reality of suffering and that suffering was a sign of faith. Not that we should seek suffering. There is no value in seeking out suffering; it will find us soon enough. But it is in our suffering that we have the opportunity to claim our faith in God as a path, as a way, through the suffering. We look to the cross of Christ. In the Bible, the Apostle Paul, while sitting in jail in Rome wrote to the faithful saying, "we know that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not

hope

disappoint us...” (Romans 5) Hope. It is our way through the suffering. What do we hope in? Here is the crux of our faith...again, our hope lies in the cross of Christ and that because he lives we shall live also and that suffering will never have the last word. The final word will be one of life.

I, along with so many others, have seen the character of this place and its people rise to the challenge of our suffering.

There have been hundreds of books written about suffering. I don't pretend to have read even a portion of them. Nor am I going to say that I understand all there is to this idea of suffering. But what I can confidently say is this. I don't believe that it is helpful for us to wrestle with the reasons for our suffering. People ask me from time to time, “Pastor David, who is responsible for this virus?” When we try and point the finger of causality for our suffering we will simply end up wanting to blame someone or something for our current situation. My experience has been that what we are left with is a big pot of self-pity and anger that does no one any good. Yuck! What I think is more helpful is to wonder how we will respond to the suffering as it comes.

In these last few months of work at Bethany Life I'll admit that, at times, it has felt like a battle with endurance. The days are fluid and we respond to the latest of crises. We have tried to be proactive in our prevention, but sometimes the suffering has simply caused us to be reactive. It is exhausting and challenges the spirit of a place and its employees. But our endurance has produced character. I, along with so many others, have seen the character of this place and its people rise to the challenge of our suffering. In the end, we cling to hope. But our tight grip on hope is not out of desperation as though this is our last hope. Our grasp of hope is a statement of our faith, and this hope, this faith, will bring us to the other side of this pandemic and its inherent suffering...because hope will never disappoint.

My hope is for your health and safety. Peace to you in these days.

Pastor David Burling

Amanda Lankford Assistant Administrator



We are happy to announce our new Assistant Administrator, Amanda Lankford. Her name might sound familiar to many of you. Amanda is the daughter of Linda Lankford and the late Steve Lankford. Linda has been a nurse here at The Households of Bethany for 26 years. Linda's dedication to our continuum has been passed to the next generation!

Amanda attended Roland-Story High School. She graduated from ISU with a B.S. degree in Business Management and received her masters in Health Care Administration from Des Moines University. Amanda has been working at Bethany Life as a project manager for the last 8 months. In May she passed her Nursing Home Administration Board and was promoted to Assistant Administrator in July.

We are blessed to have Amanda on our team!

“Amanda is a ‘Story City Girl’ who joined us last fall while completing her internship. She worked here previously as a Domestic Aide and CNA and we were so glad to welcome her back. She has made a huge impact in her short time here and I look forward to what else she brings to Bethany Life!” -Betsy Warburton

Welcome

JOIN OUR *Team*

HOMEMAKER

rewarding | great for high school students

CNA

we will train you for your CNA certificate

HOUSEKEEPING

cleaning | sanitation

Teamwork {*noun*} The ability of a group or team to work together as a single unit to achieve a common goal. Teamwork is seen every single day, every single hour, and every single minute within the continuum of Bethany Life. In order to fulfill our mission (Bethany Life's mission is to help elders thrive in their life journey, living in a Christian environment of hope and compassion) we work as a team.

Are you looking for a change in your career? If you are looking to love what you do each day and make a difference in someone's life, Bethany Life is for you. If you are looking for flexibility in this uncertain time, Bethany Life is for you. We have full-time, part-time and PRN positions available. Visit our website to see all our current openings or call to talk to our scheduling manager, Deann at 515.509.6266.

NURSE

competitive wages | flexible schedule

WWW.BETHANYLIFE.ORG

THE SUMMERVILLE BUS IS IN PRODUCTION!

You know that great feeling of just jumping in the car and going - even if you are just shopping “curbside.” The Bethany Life Enrichment Team is already plotting grand outings – exciting excursions well beyond the trip to the doctor and admissions.

Thanks to so many generous givers, our new Summerville Bus – named for a generous gift from Corwin and Kay Stephan is now in production.

Do you want to provide a seat on the bus for our residents, tenants and members?

With your gift of \$4,500 you can name a seat and the Summerville Bus and take 14 residents for a fun ride -- even while following the 6 feet separation rule. The current bus is limited to only 3 at a time. With our new wheels we can take Timberland Village tenants, Cedar Place tenants and LifeChoices® members on memorable trips as well!



When the country opens up you know we will be ready to hit the open road!

Give Online at bethanylife.org/our-funds



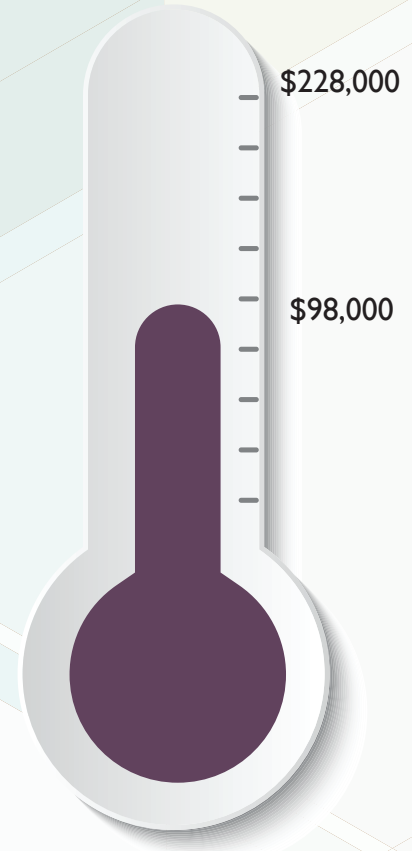
Adopt a Driver Seat	\$10,000
Adopt a Seat	\$4,500
Staff Sponsor	\$1,000
Sponsor a Trip	\$500
Fill the Tank	\$200

Your gifts so far have us in production! THANK YOU!

Your gift NOW of any size is needed and appreciated and will get us fully funded before our bus is finished in 6 months.

Please consider 'getting on board' with your gift today!

ROADTRIP
here we come



Affordables



Affordables, like many retail shops, was closed a few months due to the COVID-19 concerns. We are happy to be open again, taking donations and we thank all of you for your patience. Please call to schedule a time to drop off donations and feel free to come and shop Tuesday - Saturday! We are constantly changing the store so stop in often and check out our Facebook page for daily deals!

The Bethany Life Foundation's thrift store, Affordables, not only brings much needed resources to Bethany Life, but is also an example of the generosity and heart that makes central Iowa such an amazing place to live.



DONATIONS

We are always looking for gently used furniture to sell in the store. If you are moving, downsizing or updating your gently used furniture we would love your donation!



Affordables Hours:

Tuesday - Friday 10:00am-5:00pm

Saturday 9:00am-3pm

Please call first before bringing in donations. Thank you!



Bethany Life

LifeChoices® at Bethany
205 S Walnut Avenue
Ames, Iowa 50010
515.290.6756

Cedar Place
812 Cedar Street
Story City, Iowa 50248
515.733.2904

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

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

Timberland Village
725 Timberland Drive
Story City, Iowa 50248
515.733.6500

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 email office@bethanylife.org and request to be removed from our mailing list.
Thank you.



Bethany Life complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex. Bethany Life does not exclude people or treat them differently because of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex. Bethany Life provides free aids and services to people with disabilities to communicate effectively with us, such as: Qualified sign language interpreters; Written information in other formats (large print, audio, accessible electronic formats, other formats); Provides free language services to people whose primary language is not English, such as: Qualified interpreters; Information written in other languages. If you need these services, contact Betsy Warburton. If you believe that Bethany Life has failed to provide these services or discriminated in another way on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex, you can file a grievance with: Betsy Warburton, President and CEO, 212 Lafayette Ave, Story City, IA 5024; 515-733-4325. You can file a grievance in person or by mail, fax, or email. If you need help filing a grievance, Betsy Warburton is available to help you. You can also file a civil rights complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights electronically through the Office for Civil Rights Complaint Portal, available at <https://ocrportal.hhs.gov/ocr/portal/lobby.jsf>, or by mail or phone at: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 200 Independence Avenue SW, Room 509F, HHH Building, Washington, DC 20201, 1-800-868-1019, 800-537-7697 (TDD). Complaint forms are available at <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/office/file/index.html>.



Bethany Life

212 Lafayette Avenue
Story City, Iowa 50248

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
STORY CITY IA
PERMIT NO. 84

We are Blessed...



Bethany Life

212 Lafayette Avenue
Story City, Iowa 50248

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
STORY CITY IA
PERMIT NO. 84

*****ECRWSEDDM*****

Postal Customer

We are Blessed...