

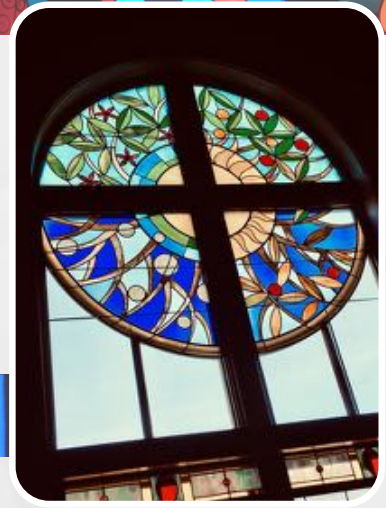


Ave Maria Village

SMP Health System

# Village Voice

Vol. 6 No. 2 Spring 2019



## A family tradition of giving

Paul and Bertha Mayer lived and farmed in and around the Gackle, ND area for most of their lives. In addition to raising their family, which includes a daughter Ardina (Jamestown, ND), and sons Rueben (Bottineau, ND) and Wallace who passed away at twelve years old, they were very involved in their community. They assumed many roles within their church, one of which was Bertha's designation as "the pickle lady" thanks to her generous canned donations at various church events. Paul served on several co-op boards in addition to the Gackle Hospital Board. In their later years the couple supported the area ambulance service.

Perhaps the most valuable lesson Paul and Bertha passed onto their children is generosity. "I always remember them being generous, and not for attention," recalls Ardina. "We learned by example," says Rueben.

The seed of generosity planted by Paul and Bertha resonates strongly with both Ardina and Rueben.

Rueben, an educator for most of his life, has volunteered for months at a time helping Holden Village in Washington state and the Mission Builders program through the ELCA Lutheran Church. He recently named a Private Room at Ave Maria Village in memory of Paul & Bertha. "Ave Maria did a very good job caring for my dad and it is a good facility," he says, a sentiment Ardina shares.

Ardina has carried on the family designation of "pickle lady," but her involvement doesn't stop there.

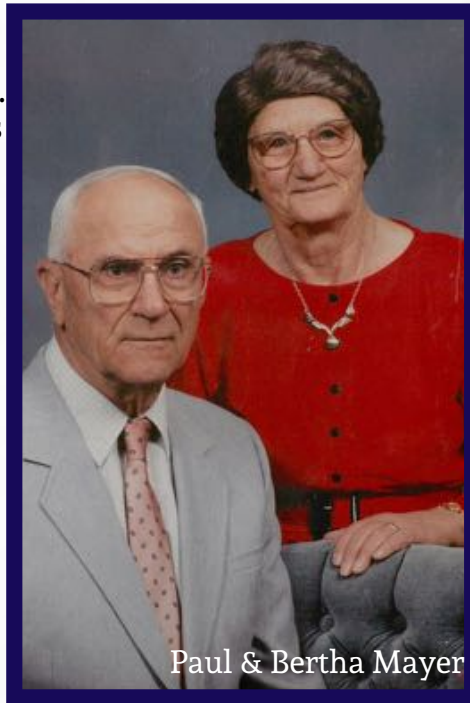
She volunteers her time at many worthwhile organizations in the Jamestown community and makes and donates beautiful quilts for volunteer fundraising events. Ardina and her husband Elmo support Ave Maria Village financially through memorial and honor gifts as well as by designating Thrivent Choice Dollars to the facility and directing Thrivent Action Team

funds for volunteer fundraisers. "It's not always about money," says Ardina. "I've been blessed with good health and I enjoy giving of my time as well."

Just as the tradition of generosity was passed on from Paul and Bertha, Elmo and Ardina's children have learned from their parents as well. Angie and Peggy both work at Ave Maria Village and participate in the employee giving program, the Hour Club. Peggy gives many memorials to the facility and Angie does the same in the form of honor gifts, often for her staff in the dietary department. Another daughter, Lila, shares the same generosity

with her workplace. Son, Troy, has passed away. Ardina is proud of her children. "It is a great feeling to know my children are generous."

"It is my privilege to give back and pay it forward," says Ardina of giving back. "I know my gifts are going to a good cause and are making a difference." Rueben reiterates, "My gifts help Ave Maria Village to provide excellent care for the residents."



Paul & Bertha Mayer



Annie Hancock  
Development Director

701.952.5677  
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## Well, hello there!

Dear Friends of Ave Maria Village,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Annie Hancock and I have been the Development Director at Ave Maria Village since Jan took her well-deserved retirement at the end of November.

I grew up on a farm in the Nortonville and Adrian area, about 20 miles south of Jamestown. I graduated from Edgeley High School in 2009, and then from the University of Jamestown (formerly Jamestown College) in 2013 with majors in Business and Communication.

While in college, I began working in the activity department at Ave Maria Village. I immediately fell in love with the atmosphere of the facility and grew attached to the residents. When the opportunity arose in my senior year of college to work with the new Development Director, Jan, I accepted without hesitation. Now, here I am a few short years later filling her shoes! It is truly an honor.

I am married to Karlie, who farms and ranches with my dad and brother. Together, we have a three-year-old daughter, Aurelia, and an eleven-month-old son, Knox. We enjoy being active and outside with our children, traveling, and visiting with family, especially my grandparents who are our next-door neighbors.

If I have learned anything from my life experiences thus far, it is this: teamwork is everything. At Ave Maria Village we depend on our staff to provide care for our beloved residents and our management team to provide support for those staff. Volunteers step in and make a big difference where they are needed most. Our friends and donors, like you, provide gifts and support that enable us to make continuous improvements to our facility and enhance the quality of care for our residents to its fullest potential. Thank you! --Annie Hancock

## Give a Gift in Honor or in Memory of a Friend or Loved One

Your name and address:

\_\_\_ ENCLOSED IS MY GIFT OF \$\_\_\_ TO AVE MARIA VILLAGE.

\_\_\_ IN MEMORY OF: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ IN HONOR OF: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send an acknowledgement to the  
family or person we/I am honoring:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this request form and your gift to:

Attention: Annie Hancock  
Ave Maria Village  
501 19th St NE  
Jamestown, ND 58401





**Ave Maria Village**

*SMP Health System*

501 19th St NE  
Jamestown, ND 58401

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

Need a place for your group  
or service club to meet?  
Call 701.952.5677 and talk to  
Annie about how we can  
accommodate you!

Send your updates to  
[annie.hancock@smphs.org](mailto:annie.hancock@smphs.org)  
or call 701.952.5677



Find us on  
**Facebook**

[facebook.com/AveMariaVillageJamestown](https://facebook.com/AveMariaVillageJamestown)

## Music is medicine

Recently, Ave Maria Village began a music therapy program thanks to a generous grant through the ND Music & Memory Program.

The program is designed to give residents unlimited access to their own personalized music through MP3 players. While we are excited to offer music to our residents simply for them to enjoy, the benefits of music extend beyond that.

Some of the program's benefits include reduced depression, anxiety, and sundowning behavior. A decrease in resistance to cares and in some cases, a reduction in the use of anti-depressant, anti-anxiety, and anti-psychotic medications have also been noted.

We are eager to get this new therapy program started and see these wonderful results for ourselves! Call Annie Hancock at 701.952.5677 for more information about this program or to find out how you can be a Music & Memory Partner!

### **Interested in helping?**

Here are a few ways you can be a part of this great program:

- Donations of used, working iPod and MP3 players
- iTunes gift cards and CDs to acquire new music
- Monetary donations for equipment upkeep

### **Kitchen Renovation Update**



Before: the space that was occupied by the old cooler and freezer



The space is opened up and existing walls are updated.



Ergonomic and sanitation friendly flooring is installed and the space is ready for shelving for dry goods storage.