



Ave Maria Village

SMP Health System

Village Voice VIRTUAL

inspired by the Sisters of Mary of the Presentation, Ave Maria Village serves those in our care with respect and compassion as we strive to fulfill the healing mission of Jesus.



A Note of Gratitude

by Tonie Lagodinski
Assistant Administrator

It is hard to believe, but it has been about six weeks since we had to make the hard decision to restrict our visitors and volunteers as one of many COVID-19 precautionary measures. The safety of our residents and staff is our main priority. I would like to recognize our dedicated staff and the numerous ways they have gone above and beyond during this time. The picture below is a prayer chain of hearts, one of many, hanging throughout our building. Our laundry and housekeeping director, Paulette, shared this idea and our activity staff made it happen. It is truly amazing and moving to read the prayers of both staff and residents.



I would like to take a moment to recognize each of you who are friends and supporters of Ave Maria Village. You are such an integral part of our organization. We simply cannot thank you enough for your understanding, your support, donations, and prayers during this time. We continue to encourage friends and families of residents to send mail, send e-mails through our website, schedule FaceTime calls, visit by standing outdoors by the residents' windows, post signage/cards in loved ones' windows, and/or call via telephone. Again, we are so grateful for each of you. Please stay safe and healthy everyone.

Sincerely,

Tonie Lagodinski
Assistant Administrator



us on facebook to keep up with our residents, activities, and fun pictures!

Click [here](#) to see & like our Facebook!

A Note from Tim

It goes without saying that this pandemic is new "territory" for everyone. After I traveled to Arizona on March 10 for a long-planned vacation, lockdown of all nursing homes came swiftly as we came to grips with the danger that this virus poses to the elderly and others who are medically compromised. Our thinking changed from the following on March 9: "We've got to be pretty careful, put up some signs on the front doors discouraging visitation, and do some education with the staff"; to this on March 12: "We are in total 'warfare' against this virus, and we must protect our residents at all costs because COVID-19 can be deadly". That transformation was swift to say the least. It was interesting being in another state, watching thousands of people who didn't take the danger too seriously, as the world continued to shut down around us.



At Ave Maria and the Heritage Centre, with each routine, event, and activity that had to be changed, or adjustment the residents and staff needed make, I thought it would be a real blow to everyone. However, I was wrong. I am amazed at how our exceptional staff and almost all the residents just accepted that "this is the way it has to be for now".

Make no mistake, life is very different around here. No group recreational or religious activities, no congregate dining, no in-person visitation or close socialization. Residents only go out for medical appointments that are urgent or extremely necessary, and otherwise see their doctor by electronic means. Staff are screened and rescreened every time they enter the building.

Yet in all this, there is humor, laughter, and an opportunity to grow closer to each other. There is a "new normal", and calm is the order of the day. Activities staff provide many diversions for the residents and staff. Our chaplain and social services staff are tuned in to the social and spiritual well-being of the residents, and help wherever they can. There are treats and fun little surprises. Everybody needs a haircut, but I guess that's another sacrifice we are all called upon to bear!

We all long for the "old" normal—but we realize that can't happen until the virus threat has largely passed. Until then we watch, learn, pray, and are encouraged by the wonderful support we receive from the entire community. Thank you—and pray for us daily. It is probably the most powerful way you can help right now.

Tim Burchill, CEO

Some "sweet" moments at AMV



Pat Calvert celebrated her birthday recently and shared cake with residents & staff. Thank you, Pat!

Mavis Lorig's family recently sent some sweet treats to our staff. Thank you!



CNA Cece Glinz made cookies for all the staff. Thank you Cece!



Over 230 cars came through AMV's parking lot recently while out on a cruise. The residents loved it! Robert Kipp is holding the sign.

Giving Tuesday May 5: a great opportunity to support Ave Maria Village

by Annie Hancock, Development Director
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I hope this note finds you and your loved ones happy and healthy. As Tonie noted it has been over six weeks since the decision was made to restrict visitors at Ave Maria Village. What a change that has been! It has been challenging and I think that word can also apply to the fundraising world at this time.

We have still been receiving memorials and donations and for that I am extremely grateful. We also recently received a \$5,000 grant from the North Dakota Community Foundation COVID-19 Fund to help with expenses we are facing due to this pandemic.

The grant will assist us in purchasing vital sign monitors, but there are still other needs including purchasing additional PPE (Personal Protective Equipment), temporal thermometers, and a UV light machine designed to kill germs.

Dakota Medical Foundation, the organization that sponsors Giving Hearts Day every February, has created a #helpinghearts campaign during this time to assist nonprofits like Ave Maria Village in obtaining the supplies and monetary donations necessary to help us be successful in our fight against COVID-19. You can read about Ave Maria Village's needs and donate [here](#).

In addition, the annual #GivingTuesday campaign which is traditionally held the Tuesday after Cyber Monday at the end of November or early December has created #GivingTuesdayNow. This global awareness and fundraising event is credited with helping causes raise over a billion dollars since its inception in 2012. Although usually held at the end of the year, Giving Tuesday has added a second date this year to help bring awareness and funds to nonprofits who need it now. I invite you to be a part of #GivingTuesdayNow by donating to Ave Maria Village tomorrow, May 5th. You can donate [here](#).

There are currently some tax benefits available for charitable giving thanks to the recent CARES Act that was enacted at the end of March. I encourage you to visit with your trusted financial advisor for more information.

Thank you for your continued support of Ave Maria Village and the beloved residents we care for.

Annie Hancock



OUR NEEDS:

\$10

100 SURGICAL
EAR LOOP MASKS

\$31

50 ISOLATION GOWNS

\$445

TEMPORAL THERMOMETER

\$500

UV SANITIZER

\$2,200

VITAL SIGNS MONITOR

Claudia Holm, Administrative Assistant, retired after 10 years of service! We will miss you!

Alvin Gruebele and his guitar, what a talented man!

Peggy Widmer, Activity Director, with her Hero of the Week bouquet from Don's House of Flowers

Orlee Howell, Elaine Hanson, & Bette Parsons enjoying Grant Invie, CNA, playing guitar and singing.