



Ave Maria Village

SMP Health System

JANUARY 2021
VOL 2 ISSUE 1

Village Voice VIRTUAL Mission Moments

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.

Thank you to area businesses & Mary Voight, Mary Kay representative for Christmas gifts for each resident!



Lois Wieck



Elsie Hieb

Thank you to Don's House of Flowers & all the giving hearts that purchased plants for our residents!

Mission in Action

by Annie Hancock
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Each year within our health system the corporate office requests some examples of what they call "Mission in Action." Their "Mission in Action" newsletter is comprised of stories of how our ministries, employees, and volunteers have lived out our missions in a number of ways.



As I was compiling our moments to send for this year's newsletter, I thought I would also share them with you, our friends and donors.

All of the stories in this short publication are feel-good, heartwarming, and they show the compassion that is lived at Ave Maria Village day in and day out. Who couldn't use a little good news these days? And, most importantly, they wouldn't be possible without you, our friends and donors.

Thank you for supporting us and helping us to create the respectful, compassionate atmosphere that defines Ave Maria Village. Our residents and staff truly thrive here and it is beautiful to witness.

I hope you enjoy these stories, and if you have some examples of our "Mission in Action" from your own experiences, please share them with me! Past or present, I love to hear how Ave Maria has impacted you, our friends and donors!



Like

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

Click [here](#) to check it out!



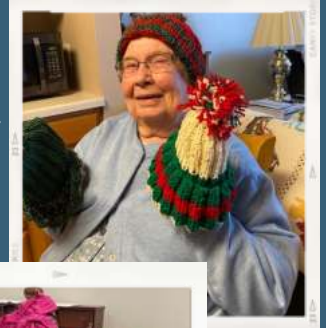
schedule your gift here!

Annual Coats for Kids Campaign

This year Ave Maria Village's annual Coats for Kids campaign collected over 80 coats for all ages as well as dozens of hats, mittens, scarves and a few pairs of boots. The items were donated to the Jamestown Salvation Army.

Gladys Ley, a tenant at the Heritage Centre Assisted Living, which is attached to Ave Maria Village makes hats all year long for the Coats for Kids campaign. She and another lady, Denise Steele, make and donate the hats on behalf of St. John's Lutheran Church in Jamestown.

Gladys Ley



Ed Lean & Marva Miska

AMV Helps St. John's Academy Mask Up!

Ave Maria Village received over 150 cloth masks that were too small for our residents, but would be perfect for kids. The residents had a fun time tie-dying the masks, which were then donated to St. John's Academy and are being used by the students as they learn!



Orlee Howell



Peggy Widmer



Marva Miska

Cassie Eli-Reidburn is an AMV employee and also teaches at Midkota High School. This year she arranged for a group of her high schoolers to begin a pen pal program with approximately 30 residents from Ave Maria Village. They exchanged letters and activity staff assisted residents in writing back and forth. It has been a fulfilling experience for the students and the residents. We are thankful for Cassie's extra effort to bring smiles to AMV!

Thoughts from Deacon Ken Votava

Greetings to everyone,

Once again, I continue to be in awe, and a state of gratitude, for how this facility, this business, this family, holds true to its mission. Last month, I wrote that I really did see **"Jesus at the heart of what we do, and with the Sisters of Mary of the Presentation praying for us to hold true to that mission, I really do see an awesome reflection of Jesus' heart in how THIS business deals with the people who we have been entrusted to care for."**

On October 21, I was reading the daily mediation for *Romans 6:12-18* in The Word Among Us. I saw this business, this family, in that reading. The following is the reflection from The Word Among Us:



Although you were once slaves of sin, you have become obedient from the heart to the pattern of teaching to which you were entrusted. Romans 6:12-18

Scripture uses many images to explain God's relationship with his people: we are a body, and he is the head; we are an army, and he is our King; we are a family, and he is our Father. One that shows up in today's reading tells us that we are the servants, and he is our master. So imagine yourself today in an old-fashioned stately home, perhaps like the one depicted in the television show Downton Abbey.

The master is good, and he wants his house to be a place of peace and generosity, where guests are honored and he is able to be about his good work. The work that his servants provide is essential, but he doesn't just want them to work hard; their well-being has an impact on him and the way he wants his house to be run.

When the servants gossip or vie for the more respected position, it creates an atmosphere of mistrust and bickering. When they are lazy, the standard of service slips, and they begin to resent one another, perhaps even coming to blows. And when they don't know each other well, the house feels cold and inhospitable.

But when the servants work together as a team, they enjoy their work more. When they are quick to serve not only the master but each other, a spirit of warm camaraderie arises, and the servants' quarters are filled with laughter and kind words, which the master loves. People love to come and visit this house.

Think of an environment in which you serve alongside fellow servants of God. It could be in your parish, in some kind of community project, or among your own family. Now think of your place there. How do you treat your fellow servants? Could you do more to support them in their work? Think of how far a kind word or a patient attitude can go to strengthening your "team." Even small acts of kindness to those you serve alongside can deepen your relationship with them. Every little thing you do can help make the Master's house—this creation—a warm, hospitable place for all!

*"Lord, show me how I can care for my fellow servants more faithfully.
I want to make our home shine with your love!"*

Some examples of Mission in Action I have witnessed:

Amazing to watch staff from Activities, Housekeeping, HR, Development, Laundry, Maintenance, Dietary, Management, Nursing, etc., all work together as so many changes happen every day, from rules for dealing with COVID to room changes.

In early May, feeling overwhelmed with cancellations... Mission and Motivation Days, Memorial Services, church services, funerals, bingo, weddings, graduations, visits to grandparents, children, grandchildren, and friends, etc. Sign posted by Activities staff reminds us to turn to Jesus as it reads: **Trust in Jesus. Be patient in prayer. TRUST JESUS!**

Often housekeeping, activities, CNA's and others are found visiting with and/or praying with residents as they strive to comfort them and let them know they are NOT ALONE! One family in Christ.

Two roommates are in the COVID wing. One is doing much better than the other. I ask the one who is doing well if we can pray for his roommate. Reverently we pray together. When finished, he is grateful and overjoyed that he has something to do, a mission, in praying for his roommate.

I was visiting with a lady who was 101 years old and she was a bit confused. She asked me if I knew where Rogers was. She asked, "Can you give me a ride there. I want to see my parents. They don't know where I am. I just want to go home and tell them I am ok and safe." We prayed the Our Father together. She was delighted that she remembered the words and exclaimed, "I KNEW IT! I said it all, by myself."

CLYDE GETS A VISIT

This year has been a tough one for Clyde Becker. In addition to not seeing family and friends, he has also had to miss a number of Jimmie volleyball and basketball games due to Covid-19 restrictions. It was getting the best of him and Clyde, the number one Jimmies fan, was feeling pretty blue.

Taylor Sabinash, a CNA at Ave Maria Village and member of the Jimmies Volleyball Team heard about this and sprang into action. She recruited her entire team, coaches included and surprised Clyde outside his window. She and a few other players read Clyde some encouraging notes, which he was able to hear through the phone and then the Jimmies' Head Coach, Jon Hegerle spoke and said a prayer for Clyde and everyone was emotional. The girls also brought Clyde some of his favorite snacks. Taylor shares, "I was so thankful to be able to bring Clyde some holiday cheer! Not only did we bring a smile to his face, but he brought one to ours!"



Advisory Board Member makes stained glass windows for Good Shepherd Chapel

Deacon Tom Geffre, former Chaplain at AMV and current AMV Advisory Board Member recently upgraded some of the windows in the Chapel to stained glass. The stained glass comes from St. Michael's Catholic Church in Pingree, ND, which closed in 2020. Deacon Tom spent a few months reconfiguring the stained glass to fit into the windows of the Good Shepherd Chapel at Ave Maria Village. Deacon Tom is responsible for much of the stained glass that adorns the Chapel and we are so thankful for his donation of time and talent to make the Chapel a beautiful place of worship for the residents in our care.

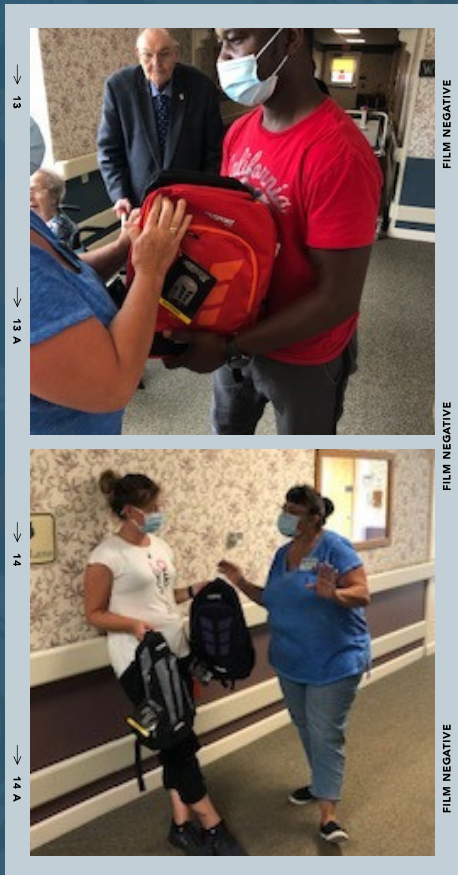


LONGTIME CNA CECE GLINZ MADE THREE DIFFERENT KINDS OF HOMEMADE COOKIES IN HER SPARE TIME TO SHARE WITH ALL SHIFTS AT AVE MARIA VILLAGE. CECE'S KINDNESS KNOWS NO LIMITS AND SHE IS WELL-LOVED BY BOTH RESIDENTS AND STAFF ALIKE.



Ave Maria Village Donates School Supplies to Staff

Trying to find creative ways to show staff they are appreciated, Ave Maria Village donated backpacks with school supplies to all the elementary-aged children of staff members in August. This project was the brainchild of Peggy Widmer, Activity Director, and Peggy Reidburn, staffing/direct care specialist. Staff members were so appreciative of the thoughtful gifts.



AMV Advisory Board member shares the love with staff and residents

Linda Johnson, former employee and current Advisory Board member has gone above and beyond to show the staff and residents some love during these difficult months. When regular Covid testing began, Linda would bring fresh muffins and baked goods for the nurses and staff helping with the testing (often coming at 4:30 in the morning!). She made homemade rhubarb desserts for the residents to enjoy and donated her time again to make fresh lefse for the staff and residents at Christmas time in addition to meat and cheese platters for staff working on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. She also decorates our common area outside the Crossroads Café for each holiday. We are blessed by Linda's dedication to our staff and residents and the Christlike way she cares for us!

