

Administrator's Message- Jayna

Divine Providence Community Home received a 5 star rating from The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). The *Nursing Home Compare Five-Star Quality Rating System is a public reporting site updated by CMS* to provide residents and their families with an easy-to-understand summary of three dimensions of nursing home quality: health inspection results, staffing data, and quality measures. The goal of the rating system used by all nursing homes that participate in Medicare or Medicaid is to help consumers make meaningful choices when choosing a nursing home and help nursing homes to identify areas for improvement.

We are extremely proud of our dedicated caregivers for achieving the highest rating possible especially during a pandemic. This speaks to their dedication to our mission *Enriching Lives through Quality Services and Christian Care*. Every day they do their part to provide compassionate care under challenging circumstances.

Exciting news came from The Minnesota Department of Health when they released reopening guidance for inside visitors and increased social activities. This guidance has specific criteria that we will use to determine when we can safely re-open our setting for visitation based on the status and risk of exposure to Covid-19 for our residents and staff. It also provides guidelines on when we may need to restrict visitation too.

We need to ensure adequate personal protective equipment and staffing, a testing plan, diligent infection control practices that include facemasks and social distancing for all staff, residents, and visitors, and the status of COVID-19 in our building, our community and our county.

We are currently working on our testing plan. In the guidance, all nursing homes must complete or have completed at least one round of facility-wide testing (testing all staff and residents at a point in time) on or after May 1, 2020, but no later than two months after reopening. We have made arrangements for this Covid-19 testing on September 14th. While we encourage 100% participation, residents and staff may refuse testing and will be required to give written permission too. The cost of the testing will be covered by the resident or employee health insurance. If they do not have health insurance, the cost will be covered by Minnesota Department of Human Services.

Our goal in this next phase of our reopening is to protect our residents and staff as we create opportunities for more meaningful connection.

Gratitude for Divine Providence Staff

Endowment Fund Update

As the months of limited visiting stretch on, our Activities staff have worked wonders in accommodating family schedules, finding the right balance of sun and shade for each resident, being creative in finding outdoor spaces in which to visit, and keeping track of who is coming and when! If you've been here to visit a Grandfriend outdoors, you may have noticed that you're not alone. We sometimes have three or four (or more) visits going on at one time, and each has to be orchestrated by our Activities staff. There are temperatures to take, questions to ask, checklists for face masks and hand sanitizer, and mandated vigilance to make sure all family members abide by the State's guidelines for visits at all times.

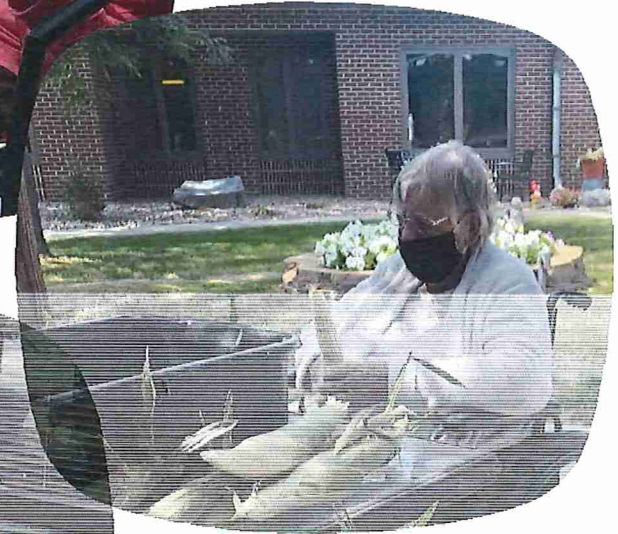
Yes, it's not like it used to be. In "the olden days," we used to love seeing the halls filled with family and friends, preschoolers, school children, 4-H'ers and oh so many others. There was a joy and enthusiasm that was a vital part of our Grandfriends' lives. Trying to find ways to get back to that while still keeping our Grandfriends safe is not proving to be easy. There is talk about "opening up" nursing homes to visitors again, but the Department of Health is taking lessons from other States who have experienced the loss of countless residents to this pandemic, and so even the most liberal of views would not picture families freely moving about the Home, as once happened.

That brings into focus another group of employees who are working tirelessly to keep track of the ever-changing regulations: Our Management Team has been keeping abreast of the guidelines as they are issued and getting all of the required pieces in place so that when the cold weather comes, visits will be able to continue by moving indoors. This step will require us to have a designated visiting space, ensure that family members stay at least six feet away from Grandfriends (with few and confusing exceptions), and sanitize the entire area after every visit. While this step will help to continue the irreplaceable connection Grandfriends need with their families, it will be a "stop and go" measure, stopping completely if at any time COVID hits our Home or our county.

This isn't the news any of us wants to hear, but it is the reality we are currently living. We are grateful for the tireless dedication of the employees who are searching every avenue to find ways to keep family contacts alive and well, and to continue to care for and support our Grandfriends during these trying times.

Our deepest gratitude to our benefactors in August:

Ellen and Jay Vancura



Our Grandfriends
Rock thanks to
Shane Heiderscheidt
and his family's
donation of rocks to
our North Courtyard.

The Martinez
brothers were great
rock movers as well!



We enjoyed our own corn
days this August with
sweet corn shucking and
eating! Thank you Dietary
for helping us enjoy this
summer treat for us!

Home Improvements

As has been the case most months this year, our Home Improvements projects continue to be affected by the COVID shut-down. Even as much of the State has reopened, Nursing Homes are still permitted only to welcome “essential care givers” into our Home. This excludes starting any and all non-emergency repairs and updates. We have had some repairs that needed doing, but these have all been in mechanical room areas or outdoors, so didn’t bring workmen into contact with any residents.

We’ve been enjoying our new roof since June, waiting only for the gutters to be installed. That process has now begun so hopefully that project will be completed by early September.

The health department notified us earlier this year that our exhaust fan in the kitchen needed to be replaced as soon as possible, and that was completed last month. This proved to be our biggest and most expensive job, but also one that no-one will really even notice! We certainly noticed when it was being installed, though. The three-ton exhaust fan needed to be lifted by crane onto the kitchen roof, which doesn’t sound like such a big job until you realize that a crane can’t get onto the football field behind the kitchen. The huge machine was parked in the front parking lot, weighted-down to balance the load, and the new equipment was lift from the parking lot, across the length of the building, and position gently above the kitchen stove. We needed to vacate the kitchen, Mall and Service Hall during the procedure, just in case it fell and came crashing through the building. Thank heavens the whole procedure flowed like clockwork with no surprises or incidents.

The other improvements we’ve been working on are in the Lake Villa Maria area. We’ve had trouble with flooding in the crawl space under the “new” wing (which was built in 1970). The sump pumps were doing their job but in very heavy rains, there was just too much water for them to handle. After much consideration, it was recommended that we build up the landscape along the north wall of this wing, which was completed in August. Now we are just waiting for the grass to grow back and the rain to come, to see if it worked.

We’re also able to move forward with the repairs to the Lake Villa Gazebo, which we started planning for in June. As mentioned in previous months, with limited visitors allowed in the building, the gazebo has been getting increased use. We are hoping the project will be finished by mid-September so we’ll get at least a month of use before locking up for winter (burr!).

Corporate Culture - St. Louis Guanella

The challenges of these past several months have highlighted for many people just how very important family is. Father Guanella was keenly aware of this, coming from a large and loving family himself. But his love for family extended beyond his parents, siblings and close relatives. Fr Guanella took to heart the prayer Jesus taught us, and unwaveringly embraced God as Father. If God is Father to each and every one of us, that necessarily makes us all one family.

Fr. Guanella wanted his houses to be places where each one felt loved and accepted, as befits a family. He often told the Sisters that to succeed in their work of caring for others, they needed to be “sacks of Our Fathers.” Perhaps it loses something in the translation, but it is clear that he is telling us (*all* of us) to “pray always; pray without ceasing.”

Regarding the Our Father, St. Louis Guanella says, “By reciting the Our Father you can obtain that peace and harmony which are possible on earth.” He adds, “In the prayer of the Our Father, Jesus Christ has taught you to pray for yourself, and at the same time to make requests for your brothers and sisters. Consequently, united with them, you pray: “Our Father, and Most High Lord, may you be blessed by all your children. May all your children scattered over the face of the earth come to embrace you. We only want what you want. Give us, Father, bread to live. Grant us pardon for our faults so that we may be dearer to you. Give us also a field to work, a duty to fulfill. And protect us so that no evil can touch us. So be it, O God and our Father!”

This paraphrase, written by St. Louis Guanella, reveals the child-like love he had for our Heavenly Father. It was this love that motivated all of his works of charity and the founding of the Congregations of the Sisters, and of the Priests and Brothers, to care for the poor and those in need of assistance. His approach is simple, yes, but not simplistic. Fr. Guanella writes, “Simple-heartedness is the virtue which contains all other virtues... this admirable virtue of simple-heartedness is all present in the Our Father.”

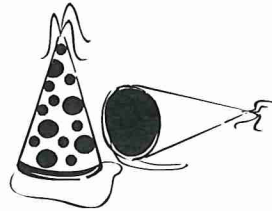
“Our House is called ‘House of Divine Providence’ because there the heavenly Father distributes his bread to all who invoke Him every day.” “The prayer of the Our Father is like the beam of the light-house which leads you in the night here on earth. It is like the... right hand of Jesus which accompanies and supports you. Why then do you delay? Entrust yourself to this blessed support, and afterward ascend until you will reach the sight of God the Father in the blessedness of paradise.”

Excerpts taken from *Let us Go to the Father*, chapter 2. Written by St. Louis Guanella in 1880.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Employees: Maleah Berry, Yessika Breidenbach, Jessica Eisel, Sandy Farrar, Jessica Herzog, Macey Ludewig, Gloria Martinez, Linda Mattson, Shauna Moldan, Dale Postel, Beth Vait

Residents: Rhoda Dietz, Lorraine Hofmeister, Rosalin Lemoine, Gerald Plahn, Lorraine Roiger



Directory

Facilities Director.....	Sr. Rhonda Brown
Pastoral Care.....	Sr. Bernadine Ugolini
Administrator.....	Jayna Groebner
Director of Nurses.....	Michelle Augustin, RN
Social Services.....	Shirley Hornick, LPN
Activity Director.....	ShellyRae Zinniel, ADC
Business Manager.....	Sue Thram
Dietary Manager.....	Donna Sellner, CDM
Environmental Services.....	Randy Renner
Health Information Services/HIPAA.....	Deanna Marshall, LPN
Lake Villa Maria Housing Mgr.....	Audrey Milbrett

Divine News & Views is a monthly newsletter issued by Divine Providence Community Home and Lake Villa Maria Apartments, Sleepy Eye, MN. The News & Views editor is Casi Giese

Outdoor visits have provided an important role in connecting family, friends, pastors and priests with Divine Grandfriends.

A Covid screening process, masks and social distancing mandates will still be in place as we move forward in offering a designated, indoor visit-space.



WISH LIST

We have been blessed to have many generous friends who made it possible to purchase necessary items to enhance the lives of our residents. Thanks to all who have contributed.

Please consider our following needs:

3 wider beds	\$2435.00 each
Replace welcome sign	\$4000.00

Divine Providence Community Home invites you to our presence on Facebook!
Find Us, Like Us, Follow Us!



Visit us on
Facebook

We are always pleased to add to our mailing list the names of others who may be interested in Divine Providence Community Home. You may add them by completing the form below. If you or someone on the list, no longer wishes to receive it, please let us know.

Please send News & Views to

Name: _____

Address: _____

Thank You

*LeRoy Hinderman for the garden produce

*Leon Tauer for garden produce

*Thank you Dick Zinniel for the great apple donations

*Thank you Ken and Karen Schaefer (daughter of Annette Johnson) for sharing in your 50th wedding anniversary celebration and treating us to dilly bars

*Thank you Dorothy Krzmarzick for sharing a special birthday lunch in honor of your 92nd birthday

*Thank you Shane Heiderscheidt for the donation of rock pile

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Doris Schroepfer, William Gentz, Mary Ziegler & Fr. Robert Goblirsch family.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen

