

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SLEEPY EYE MN
PERMIT NO. 5

2026

Divine Providence
Community Home
700 3rd Avenue NW
Sleepy Eye, MN 56085
(507)794-3011



DIVINE PROVIDENCE
COMMUNITY HOME

Enriching lives through Quality Services and Christian Care

A note from the Administrator- Jayna

As we celebrate the arrival of the New Year, it is also appropriate to celebrate the following employees who had workplace anniversaries in 2025. They have consistently showed up, put in their best effort, and inspired the whole team.

5 Years

Laura Navarrete, CNA

10 Years

Elizabeth Molin, Housekeeping/Laundry
Crisanta Schmidtkecht, CNA

30 Years

Jayna Groebner, Administrator

45 Years

Marsha Sellner, Bedmaker/CNA

Following tradition, we will recognize their commitment to Divine at the annual employee Christmas Party in January. This year though our party plans are unique. Instead of one party, there will be two, so that more can attend. One in house for everyone, so we can include those that have to work the evening of the second party. For the second party, we purchased a block of tickets for Deuces Wild Dueling Pianos and will be joining the community at the Sleepy Eye Event Center the end of January.

As you will notice, my name is on the list this year. Where did 30 years go? I'll tell you one thing they sure go fast. Sr. Sharon hired me in 1995 as the business manager. While Sister has traveled a bit being called to different places, my only move was into the adjacent office as the administrator. For now, we are back together hopefully for a while. Over the years, my work family has supported me through exciting events such as the birth of four children and through some hard times like the death of family members. All their hard work and dedication made my job so much easier. I have been blessed to meet so many residents, families, co-workers, and Sisters over the years. Thanks for allowing me to work in your home.

We are all upstaged by Marsha though with her 45 years! That is truly amazing and doesn't happen too often, so we had an in-house party for her since she retired the end of December. We can't thank her enough for all the meals cooked, beds made, orders placed, dishes washed, rooms cleaned, laundry washed, cares given and everything else done in all her hours with us. We wish her the best as she transitions into retirement.

Congratulations to our receptionist and newsletter editor, Becky Sellner. She and her husband Brad welcomed a baby girl, Penny, into their excited family right in time for Christmas. We sure will miss her as the person that welcomes everyone into our home and keeps us updated with the latest news and pictures. Before she took her maternity leave, she left us in good hands with Kelly Blick who is ready to jump in and assume her duties until she returns. We are so lucky she agreed to help us out and with no time to waste she is already the editor of this issue. Please welcome Kelly to the front office.



"We Wish You a Merry Christmas" and a Happy Retirement to Marsha, who has been at Divine Providence for 45 years!



Marsha, Elizabeth & Sherri



Justine, Marsha & Nicole



Marsha & Patty



Jayna & Marsha



There were many surprises throughout the day for Marsha, including a blind chocolate taste testing contest where she wore silly glasses and of course, delicious cupcakes!

On Tuesday, December 23, we celebrated Marsha's retirement where the staff was invited to wear purple, which is her favorite color!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Residents

Kathleen Huberty, Kathleen Mennenga, Lavon Fischer & Bernice Goldschmidt

Employees

Alexa Crim, Elizabeth Edick, Justine Helget, Amy Johnson, Benard Kirui, Shirley Hornick, Crisanta Schmidtknecht & Zocorro Rico



Athlete of the month



Kathleen Mennenga

This month Kathleen Mennenga was chosen by our restorative team for Athlete of the Month. Kathleen participates in exercises with staff on her scheduled days. She really enjoys the exercises that are on her exercise plan. Keep working hard Kathleen!



Monthly Therapy Chat by Ashley Remus, Rehab Director

The therapy team at Divine Providence would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas. We are truly blessed to have worked with all of our amazing patients and families this past year. God Bless.

Business Office Employee Spotlight Sheena Hoffmann



How long have you worked here? 3 years

What does your job entail? Payroll, Benefits, Billing/ Claims, Receivables, Month end/Year end financials (entries, reconcile, spreadsheets, and prepare financial statements), annual audit (providing spreadsheets, reports, gathering records)

What inspired you to to work in business? I have always enjoyed Math in school but I also enjoy working in a health care environment (worked as a CNA/TMA throughout H.S and college). This job is the best of both worlds for me.

What is your favorite part of the day at Divine Providence? Typically, mornings when a resident is up front by the business office waiting for their ride. It's the perfect opportunity to visit and learn about them. Any opportunity to learn something about a resident or coworker is a good day in my opinion, we all need to take a quick moment to get to know someone.

What's your favorite memory while working at Divine Providence? There are so many, however, I would have to say anytime the baby goats come in for a visit is definitely my #1. The endless smiles that brings to everyone is truly heartwarming!

About your family: Husband Keith (Herman), 4 yr old son Maverick, dog Mindy, and about 15 farm cats. We also farm and raise cattle.

A fun fact about yourself most people don't know: I love to garden, can, & cook. I have also been dabbling in making breads, buns/rolls, pizza crust. If entered into a 1980's "name that tune/finish the lyrics" music contest there's a good chance I'd win.



The tenants and Sisters at Lake Villa Maria had a wagon ride under the Holiday Lights in Motion at Sportsmen Park thanks to Mike Suess. Anthony Braulick came and entertained the tenants with concertina music.

Thank You

- Thank you to the Sleepy Eye Wide-Awakes 4-H group for the festive Christmas ornaments they made and donated to Divine Providence and Lake Villa Maria residents
- Thank you to Rita Pyan for the Christmas treats
- Thank you to Wayne & Pattie Pelzel for their Christmas donation for the grandfriends
- Thank you to Lisa Hoffmann for her donation of Christmas decor
- Thank you to the Kosel & Vait families for their delicious rosettes
- Thank you to the Ministers of Music from St. John the Baptist of Searles for providing the grandfriends with musical entertainment
- Thank you to the Sleepy Eye Medical Center's carolers for sharing their musical talents with the grandfriends
- Thank you to Amelia Davis for her donation of games and prizes
- Thank you to the St. John's Lutheran Church carolers for spreading Christmas cheer through their songs
- Thank you to Cathy Haala for the festive Christmas head gear
- Thank you to the family of Jan Schilling for the beautiful bouquet of flowers they brought in for the residents to enjoy
- Thank you to Karen Jensen for her donation of handmade knit socks, hats and sweaters for the Gift Shop
- Thank you to Eugenie Simon for her donation in memory of her mother, Marge Simon
- Memorials Received In Memory of Gen Berberich
 - Larry & Lavon Braun
 - Family & Friends

Family Council

We have 3 family members interested in forming a family council. Many nursing homes have one and they accomplish many good things for the residents. Meet as you wish. We will provide the space for you to meet. All we need is 3 and we can call it a family council! This council can be friends or other family members of residents.

Please contact Shirley Hornick with any questions
call: 507-794-3011 or email: shornick@dpch.net

"It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year... for Christmas Visitors"



The Ministers of Music from St. John the Baptist Church of Searles helped bring some "Joy to the World"!



"What Child Is This?" Becky brought in her newborn daughter, Penny Marie, for the Sisters and staff to meet!



Carolers from the Sleepy Eye Medical Center stopped by to help "Deck the Halls" with their musical talents!



"O Holy Night"... The Concord Singers filled the evening with beautiful songs and stayed to visit with the grandfriends too!



Donna is having herself "A Merry Little Christmas" when her family stopped by for a visit!



St. Raphael confirmand Amelia Davis and her sponsor Shawn Davis brought by a gift box for our Grandfriends as part of her service project.



Santa's
coming
to town

Christmas
Is In The Air

ho ho ho!



Ruth



Rose

Bev

"Christmas is Coming" - the grandfriends made and colored Advent wreaths to prepare for Christmas.



Gladys



Sue



Agnes

All we were missing was "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" during our Reindeer Games! The grandfriends enjoyed Candy Cane Hockey and Jingle Bell Ring Toss!



Joe



Gloria



Adeline



Nancy



These lovely ladies played a few rounds of "Christmas Cards"!

December



Agnes



Gloria



Bev



Gloria



Kathy

"Chestnuts roasting on an open fire..." not quite! The grandfriends used walnuts to work on brain games!



Lois



Delmar says "I'm a tester, not a froster!"



"It's beginning to look a lot like..." Christmas cookies! The grandfriends helped frost and decorate some delicious treats!



LaVon

Gloria



"Underneath the tree"... Becky and Kelly were "twinning" in their black and white stripes!

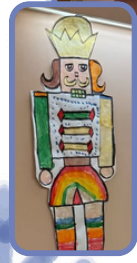




"We Wish You A Merry Christmas" from the St. Mary's Catholic School Band! They entertained the residents with their musical selections.



The grandfriends may not have "Run Rudolph Run", but they did work out with Edmee using presents straight from Santa's sleigh!

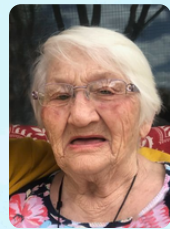


The grandfriends helped color the stars over Bethlehem.



Divine Providence extends our heartfelt sympathies to the family and friends of:

Mary Doyle



Mary led a wonderfully full life - first with her twin sister Margaret, then later her first husband Jim Doyle and their sons. Growing up on the family farm near Sleepy Eye, Mary attended country school before going to St. Mary's School. She would go on to marry Jim in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, before returning to Sleepy Eye to raise her family - sons Patrick, Tom and Mark. Mary and Jim also ran The Albin Store for many years before they moved to Montrose, Colorado where she worked for Volunteers of America. A year later, Jim passed away. A few years went by before she married Stan Kyrzak. In 2008, Mary moved back to Sleepy Eye. She was an active member of St. Mary's Catholic Church and the VFW. Mary enjoyed flower gardening, bird watching, music, crocheting, shopping, traveling and spending time with her family. She was also the proud grandmother to 6 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren. Mary will be remembered for her humor and contagious laugh!

Sandra Anderson



Sandy will be remembered as a kind, compassionate and nurturing spirit, which she utilized during her long career as a nurse, first at the Sleepy Eye Care Center as an aid, followed by the Sleepy Eye Hospital as an LPN. Sandy would later return to school to become an RN. After a few more nursing opportunities in Gaylord and Arlington, Sandy returned to Sleepy Eye as the Director of Patient Care Services until 2021. Sandy loved being outside, whether it was spending time in her garden, going on side by side rides with her husband Bruce, traveling, and visiting with family and friends, especially her nurse friends. Sandy cherished the loud chaotic family holidays, and will also be remembered for having the best Thanksgiving stuffing recipe!

Jeanne Vickery



Jeanne led a life that was full of bright moments where she could connect with others, beginning with being a cheerleader on the A squad in high school at Winona. Later, she worked at BIC as a runner, which allowed her to visit different departments. On the weekends, she was a lector for Mass at St. Mary's Church. But Jeanne's favorite thing to do was to travel! She especially loved Ireland and visiting her in-laws' bed & breakfast there. Jeanne was a resident at Divine for only a short time before passing away on December 20. Jeanne leaves behind her husband Matt, son Matt Jr., daughter Katie, as well as her two grandchildren. Jeanne's youngest daughter Missy is a valuable employee at Divine Providence.

OUR NEEDS AT DIVINE PROVIDENCE

As of December 31st, we have received \$114,476.00 for our annual appeal. Our biggest project this year is raising funds for the remaining window replacements. We are incredibly grateful for all the generous donors that are helping us maintain our building, grounds, and purchasing necessary items to enhance the lives of our residents!

Please consider our following needs:

Handicapped Van	\$70,000.00
Window Replacement	\$382,000.00
Window Blinds for Resident Rooms	\$4,300.00
Sun Awning for North Courtyard	\$8,000.00
Automatic doors for ambulance entrance	\$7,000.00

Please consider Divine Providence Community Home with a bequest gift in your Will or Estate Plan, a Life Insurance Policy, or an IRA Rollover.

It is an opportunity to strengthen the legacy of caring for those who are most vulnerable, and keeping them safe.

Shop for Cards, Gifts, and Quilts at DPCH!

Visit the Auxiliary gift shop filled with religious gifts, handmade quilts, pot holders, embroidered dish towels, baby gifts and more! Cards are available for \$1.00 in the main lobby for any occasion.

A complete listing of quilts available with sizes and pricing is available on the website under the "Quilts for Sale" tab at:

divineprovidencehome.org

Proceeds benefit the Auxiliary which supports Divine Providence.

DIRECTORY

Facilities Director.....	Sr. Sharon Williams
Administrator.....	Jayna Groebner
Director of Nurses.....	Michelle Augustin, RN
Social Services.....	Shirley Hornick, LPN
Activity Director.....	ShellyRae Zinniel, ADC
Business Manager.....	Sheena Hoffmann
Dietary Manager.....	Jesse Steinbeisser
Environmental Services.....	Randy Renner
Health Information Manager/HIPAA.....	Alexa Crim
Lake Villa Maria Housing Manager.....	Gina McKeown

Website: *divineprovidencehome.org*

Facebook: Divine Providence Community Home

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 Becky Sellner. If you wish to receive a monthly copy by mail or email, call Becky at 507-794-3011 or email: bsellner@dpch.net

A note from the Facility Director- Sr. Sharon

Already the New Year is 2026 is upon us! How fast and fleeting these years pass! What will this new one hold for us? Many options for changes and opportunities ... or, ...on the other hand, will we be satisfied to stay stuck in our own, old familiar and well-known rut? That is the question now put before us! A challenge to us as to how we will use what this New Year will provide! A challenge that God puts before us every day of our lives.

"God makes all things work together for those who love Him!" Rom 8:28
But...

God wills our cooperation with His good Providence for each of us! God sent His Son as the Prince of Peace, Love, and Good will for all!

We have just received the many blessings of Christmas as Mary has brought forth for us God's greatest gift of His Providence, our salvation in the Christ child, so that we might have confidence once again to start out afresh for a New Year!

Courageously now, let us move forward with those new resolutions, new goals, new hopes, and dreams filled with the knowledge of God's abundant Providence, Love and Peace for each one of us in particular, desiring only our love for Him in return!



HAPPY, HEALTHY, AND BLESSED NEW YEAR!