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# News & Views

## April 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

At Divine Providence, the comfort and safety of our residents are at the heart of everything we do. To ensure we can continue providing the high-quality, uninterrupted care our community deserves, we have some exciting news to share regarding our facility's infrastructure.

We have officially applied for Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) through the Department of Health and Human Services (HRSA). As a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, Divine Providence is eligible for these federal funds, which are specifically designed to support construction and equipment upgrades that directly protect patient health and safety.

We are overwhelmed and humbled by the incredible wave of support we received during this application process. This grant required demonstrating strong community backing, and you certainly delivered!

We want to extend a sincere thank you to everyone who wrote letters of support on our behalf. We received formal endorsements from Brown County officials, Region 9 Development Commission, every city and town within the county and numerous townships and local service organizations. Seeing our neighbors stand up for the health and dignity of our residents means the world to us. This united front shows just how much Divine Providence matters to our region.

Many of our residents rely on us for continuous, climate-controlled care and oxygen support. In the past, aging systems have led to "smoke events" or mechanical hiccups that required our staff to go into overdrive to keep everyone safe and comfortable. Because many of our neighbors call Divine Providence home for many years, maintaining a stable environment isn't just a goal—it's a necessity for resident dignity and wellbeing.

If awarded, these funds will go toward the most urgent "behind-the-scenes" needs of our building:

- **Fresh Air & Better Cooling:** We will replace eight aging Air Handling Units (AHUs) from 1992 with modern, efficient systems.
- **Reliable Power:** We are replacing our two aging generators with a single, state-of-the-art outdoor generator system to ensure the lights and medical equipment stay on during severe weather.
- **Structural Integrity:** We'll be repairing retaining walls and improving drainage in our crawlspaces to prevent moisture buildup and protect the building's foundation.
- **The Finishing Touches:** We will finally complete the last phase of our window replacement project, helping with insulation and comfort.

## Jayna continued:

By addressing these vulnerabilities now, we are ensuring that Divine Providence remains a safe, sturdy, and cozy home for years to come. We will keep you updated as the application moves forward!

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to Brian Braun, Knights of Columbus member, for his leadership in spearheading this grant and thank the Region 9 Development Commission, Lisa and Sam, for their invaluable technical assistance throughout the application process.

**Quilt Corner** **Where flowers bloom, so does Hope**

Our second "Quilt of the Month" is Fall/Spring Impressions (pictured right), a beautiful children's quilt! This quilt features vibrant pastel colors including lavender, aqua and pinks with a soft pink backing.



## **\*NEW Quilt Raffle!**

The Auxiliary will be holding a quilt raffle on June 25<sup>th</sup>! They will be raffling off the "Over & Under #2" quilt (pictured left). You can purchase tickets at the business office for \$2.00 per ticket or contact an Auxiliary member.

## **Meet the sewing team:**



A special 'behind the scenes' look of the famous quilters in action! These talented ladies donate their time and skills to create the beautiful quilts that are available for purchasing. We appreciate everything you do for Divine!

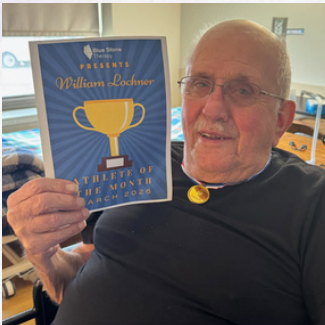


# Thank You

- Thank you to Mary Carroll, Michael Carroll, David Carroll, Nancy Carroll, Michele & Robert Borth, Wendy Fox and Yvonne & Marty Haala for their donations in memory of Darleen Carroll
- Thank you to Collette Irlbeck and Margaret Kiecker for their donations in memory of Nancy Steinhuis
- Thank you to Patrick & Debra Buley, Paul & Pam Penkert, Russ & Ann McCabe, Del & Carol Hillesheim, Cody & Hannah Ibberson, Neil & Rose Mangen, Jim & Mary Sommerfeld, and other miscellaneous donors for their donation in memory of Jerry Piehl
- Thank you to the Sleepy Eye Area Food Shelf for their donation in memory of Jeanne Vickery
- Thank you to Diane Willard for the donation in memory of Margie Seidl
- Thank you Barb Krzmarzick's Bright & Busy Daycare for their donated artwork
- Thank you Currans family for their support of our own March Madness Activities
- Thank you Margie Larson for the donated cards
- Thank you to the donors of the beautiful Easter Lilies



## Blue Stone Therapy Athlete of the month



### William Lochner

Bill was selected for athlete of the month due to his determination and drive to improve on increasing his ability to be independent. Bill has made great progress with therapy regarding his balance, endurance, and overall strength. Keep up the great work! We are so proud of how far you have come in your recovery!

## Therapy News From Ashley Remus, Rehab Director:



I would like to take the time to introduce Lauren Zeug to our therapy team. Lauren is a PT who graduated from Creighton University in Omaha, NE with her DPT. Her favorite thing about being a PT is finding fun ways to help people move better and do things they love. The area of geriatrics and neurologic conditions is what she is most passionate about. In her free time, she likes spending time with her family and friends, outdoor activities, and reading.

If you get a chance, make sure to say hi to Lauren!

## Employee Spotlight JEANNETTE MERKEL CNA



How long have you worked here?

About 8 months

What does your job entail?

Helping and entertaining residents and making sure they are well taken care of.

What inspired you to to work in a nursing home?

Knowing I get to meet people and hoping I am making a difference in the residents and coworkers lives.

What is your favorite part of the day at Divine Providence?

Coming into work and seeing the smiling faces from the residents and coworkers.

What's your favorite memory while working at Divine Providence?

I have memories of all the funny and crazy things the residents and coworkers say.

About your family:

I have twins, Lillian and Melanie, who are graduating from college. My daughter, Julia, recently became a CNA. My daughter, Isabelle, will be graduating high school. My daughter, Holly, works hard in high school and has 2 jobs- one being here in the kitchen at Divine.

A fun fact about yourself most people don't know:

On May 12<sup>th</sup>, I will be cancer free for 15 years!

HAPPY ST PATRICK'S DAY

What kind of spells do leprechauns cast? Lucky Charms!



Joe, Justine

MARCH Madness



Green looks good on us

Georgie, Lavon



Don't worry, I'm still German.

Delmar

Sr. Sharon, Ginny, Sr. Ann, Sr. Samala, Lorie



Bev, AJ



Dorothy



Ellen



Gloria, Santi



Adeline, Mckenzie

Spring BASKET MAKING



Pat, Santi, Sue

# in loving memory

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

*Beverly Blumhoefer*

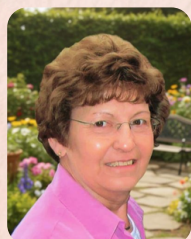


While Beverly was only a resident of Divine Providence for a short time, she was a wonderful addition to our community! In her younger years, she was the oldest of five children, growing up on a farm near Franklin, MN. After a few years living in Minneapolis after she graduated from high school, she came back home and found the love of her life in Norbert, eventually settling in Fairfax. They were blessed with three children - Bob, Annie and Joe. Being a mom prepared her for multiple opportunities that came her way, including working at 3M, the local nursing home, Fairfax schools, and ADC. In addition, she owned Bev's Upholstery for many years, worked as an election judge and a judge at the Renville County Fair. If Bev wasn't talented enough, she returned to school to become a nurse, first working at the Fairfax Community Home, then a group home in New Ulm. In her free time, she enjoyed sewing/quilting, knitting/crocheting, playing bingo, baking, playing cards and board games, gardening, traveling, especially to their winter home in Texas, and of course having coffee with her friends at The Sweet Spot Bake Shop. Her family was the most important thing to Bev, including her grandson and great-grandson. She will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved her!

*Lucille Losleben*



In her 93 years, Lucille has left her mark in a variety of ways! After dancing straight into the heart of Armin, the love of her life, they had 3 girls and 3 boys. Their family of eight grew up on a farm near Essig where she became far more than a farm wife... as her family says, she was a true partner in the operation, managing the complex bookkeeping and reports, as well as driving the tractor and baling hay. She also loved being in her garden and canning her produce. She was a dedicated mother, where birthdays were made extra special because of Lucille's flair for baking delicious treats! Lucille was a devoted member of St. Mary's Catholic Church, where she put her mark on many the church's festivities, especially if it involved her homemade dumplings or her legendary Angel Food cakes. It was the simple things in life that Lucille truly enjoyed, especially when they included those she cherished most. She loved card parties and 4<sup>th</sup> of July picnics with her eight siblings, having her family surround her on holidays, and morning coffee chats with her oldest daughter Connie. Lucille's memory will continue to live on in her three children, four grandchildren and four great grandchildren!



Although she wasn't a resident at Divine, Margie was a member of the Divine Auxiliary and did so much to support our nursing home! She also worked at Lake Villa Maria. We are especially grateful for her volunteering each month with her husband, Lenny, to seal the News & Views booklets for mailing. She also helped many years with the Bazaar cleanup. She gave so many hours of her time throughout the years and will be deeply missed!

*Margie Seidl*

## LENTEN LUNCHESES



Marjorie & Lisa



Mary Jane & Kathleen



Beth & Lois



Irene & Edmee

During Lent, special guests were invited to join residents for dinner in the Lake Villa Fireside room each week. Wonderful conversations took place around the dinner table learning about each other's families, current events, and favorite memories through the years.

## FAMILY GAME NIGHT



Betty



Lavon, Phyllis, Ginny

## RABBIT HOP!



Georgie

A Lenten prayer tree with special intentions from the Grandfriends is displayed for people to offer up in their own prayers.

# OUR NEEDS AT DIVINE PROVIDENCE

As of March 31st, we have received \$130,016.00 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](http://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.....	Sharon Liese
Environmental Services.....	Randy Renner
Health Information Manager/HIPAA.....	Alexa Crim
Lake Villa Maria Housing Manager.....	Gina McKeown

Website: [divineprovidencehome.org](http://divineprovidencehome.org)

Facebook: Divine Providence Community Home

## A note from the Facility Director - Sr. Sharon

### CHRIST HAS DIED!    CHRIST HAS RISEN!    CHRIST WILL COME AGAIN!

Each year Lent has given us an opportunity to draw into an ever-closer relationship with Jesus in preparation for the Easter Season. Hopefully this time of self-examination, our attitude adjustment or tune-up so to speak, now over but not really, where we might have mistakenly put other things, persons, or events before Him in our lives. It is like the tune-up that we have to give our cars periodically so that they run smoothly and not leave us along the roadside somewhere, or like running out of gas and there we sit, having to wait for some sort of help. From where comes our best help?

**Jesus, Resurrected, is always ready to help!** He refines the tune-up or injects the fuel we need to keep going! **He gives us Himself!** Prayer is our tune-up and the Eucharist is fuel! Are we on the Highway to Heaven? On the road to a **Resurrection Easter?**

He gave Himself up to a death of love for each of us as if we were the only one. Our **Salvation** He won for each so that we might **be with Him FOREVER!**

**Yes! He died!** Yet, **He Rose** for our assurance to give us the path to follow! **He will come again** to take us with Him whenever He sees fit!

### **ALLELUIA! HE IS RISEN! HAPPY AND A MOST BLESSED EASTER TO ALL!**

#### **Annual Lenten Appeal**

Shortly now you will receive our Annual Lenten Appeal.

It is truly with much gratitude and appreciation that we come before you once again to ask for your "Providential" assistance for the greater functionality of our/your HOME for your loved ones.

Last year was a great success, having raised \$127,000 from the Appeal. We were able to do many of the needed repairs, upgrades, and enhancements for the residents as well as the facility.

An additional handicapped entrance/exit by the Social Services office, often used for deliveries and the Ambulance Service. Hearing amplifiers for the Chapel. Continued outlet replacements, along with some window replacements and shade installation in the resident rooms and hallways offices. Ongoing plumbing, heating and cooling issues due to age of the original building and Mary Hall.

God Bless you and thank you in advance for your continuing support in offering a Home for all!

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](mailto:bsellner@dpch.net)