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News & Views

July 2026

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

Return Service Requested



DIVINE PROVIDENCE
COMMUNITY HOME

Enriching lives through Quality Services and Christian Care

A note from the Administrator - Jayna

You may have recently seen news reports regarding the nationwide underfunding challenges facing the Christian Brothers Employee Retirement Plan (CBERP). This is a widespread issue impacting numerous Catholic dioceses, schools, and organizations across the country, including Divine Providence. According to reports from Christian Brothers Services, our 68% funding level is the result of economic factors. The pension fund never fully recovered from the market losses of the 2008 recession.

Additionally, like many traditional older pensions across the country, the plan has faced changing demographics—meaning there is an increasingly challenging balance between a growing number of retirees drawing benefits and a smaller pool of active, contributing workers. Locally, this reality is reflected right here at Divine Providence: we have 39 retirees currently relying on their earned benefits, supported by a dedicated team of 46 current employees.

We want to share how we are proactively addressing this challenge to ensure both the long-term financial stability of our organization and the continued well-being of our dedicated staff.

To maintain our participation in the plan at current benefit levels and reduce our long-term liability, Divine Providence will need to contribute an additional \$1.2 million over the next 25 years, starting with annual payments of \$115,000 on July 1. While future benefit accruals under the old pension plan will be suspended as of that date, our clear priority is to responsibly manage and protect every dollar our team has already worked so hard to earn.

To better secure our employees' financial futures, we are shifting our retirement program away from the traditional pension model. Starting July 1, we are excited to launch a modern 403(b) retirement plan administered through Fidelity for all current and future employees. Transitioning to our new 403(b) plan allows us to directly protect our current workforce's future savings while we responsibly fund our obligations to our valued retirees.

To help our team grow their savings faster, Divine Providence is offering a robust employer-matching contribution:

- A 100% Match: We will match 100% of the first 4% of employee contributions.
- Broad Eligibility: This match will be available to all full-time employees (working 30+ hours per week) after just 30 days of employment.

Our exceptional staff members give their hearts every day to providing wonderful care for our Grandfriends. We believe that supporting their long-term financial health is an essential part of living out our mission.

By taking these proactive, responsible steps, we are ensuring that Divine Providence remains a strong, stable pillar of care in our community for decades to come. Thank you for your continued support and prayers as we navigate this transition!



Brian Braun (Brown County Commissioner), Sue (resident), Sr. Sharon, Jeanne, Jayna, & Lisa from Region Nine. Missing from the picture is Sleepy Eye Mayor, Joann Schmidt

Jeanne Poppe, the Southern MN Outreach Director for the office of Senator Tina Smith visited Divine Providence to also learn about our needs and tour the facility as part of the application for the Congressionally Directed Spending. We eagerly await the outcome of the application and are grateful for the support of the Senators and Congress!

Auxiliary Quilt Raffle

~Winner~
Tony Hoffmann

The Divine Providence Auxiliary held the drawing for the quilt raffle on June 25th, and the winner was Tony Hoffmann! This raffle was a great success with nearly 500 tickets sold. All proceeds support the Auxiliary- thank you to everyone who purchased a ticket!

The Ladies also treated the staff to an assortment of delicious baked goods, meat and cheese trays, and fruit. Many thanks for all these treats!



Gladys drew the winning ticket!

Thank You

- Thank you Rita Pyan for the delicious rhubarb treats
- Divine Providence Auxiliary for the incredible amount of baked goods and snacks provided to the staff!
- Barb's Bright & Busy Patriotic Artwork
- Sleepy Eye Hospital Puzzle Donation
- Nick & Irene Lux Puzzle Donation
- Miss Sleepy Eye Royalty for co-hosting Divine's Red, White, & Blue Parade. Your enthusiasm, grace, and support helped make the event a wonderful success!
- Kelly Blick for her outstanding leadership, dedication and hard work in bringing this celebration together. Your commitment to our community is truly appreciated!
- Ann McCabe and A.J. Braulick for providing the wonderful post-parade music entertainment!
- Thank you all for helping create a memorable day filled with patriotism & community spirit!
- Jim Rathman for the colorful flowers enhancing the beauty of our chapel



A beautiful rainbow captured after a June storm!

in loving memory

Divine Providence & Lake Villa Maria extends our heartfelt sympathies to the family and friends of Caroline Welsch.



Caroline Welsch

Caroline fulfilled 99 years of devotion and quiet strength for her family. She was born on a farm near Rowena, and baptized and married at St. Anne's in Wabasso. Along with her husband Fred, they raised 2 children in Springfield- son, Fred and daughter, Carol Jean. For more than 20 years, she worked as a waitress and cleaned businesses.

She spent her summers gardening and canning many pickles! She was a member of St. Boniface Society, Legion Auxiliary and the Divine Providence Auxiliary. Prior to living at Divine Providence, she moved to Lake Villa Maria in 2011.

A favorite vacation spot for the family was the Black Hills, SD as well as visiting their families.

All who knew Caroline will miss her sweet and gentle personality.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

RESIDENTS

Jane Mueller 7/12
Diane Nazarenus 7/6
JoAnn Seifert 7/5
Irene Weiss 7/2
Verna Wendinger 7/1



EMPLOYEES

Tina Altmann 7/28
Kimberlyn Case 7/14
Sheena Hoffmann 7/19
Jody Juni 7/15
Ximena Larios 7/16
Carlos Martinez 7/6
Kris Nelson 7/1
Rita Pyan 7/16
Jaylynn Sellner 7/7
Nicole Shaw 7/26
Wesley Sitienei 7/12

JULY

Employee Spotlight Missy Vickery Bedmaker



How long have you worked here? **22 Years**

What does your job entail? **Each morning I make the beds for the residents**

What inspired you to work in a nursing home? **To work out in the community and be around coworkers and residents**

What is your favorite part of the day at Divine Providence? **Every day when I make Jane's bed! She always says funny things & makes me laugh!**

What's your favorite memory while working at Divine Providence? **When my mom lived here, I was able to see her and visit with her.**

About your family: **Dad- Matt, Mom- Jeanne (in Heaven), Brother- Matt, Sister- Katie, Niece- Layla, Nephew- Max, Dog- Lexi**

A fun fact about yourself most people don't know: **I can play the guitar!**

SWEET Summertime



June was a busy month around here with enjoying the sunshine on the pontoon, trishaw rides, outdoor bowling, bean bag games, and reminiscing the days of picking strawberries in the patch. The weather has been nearly perfect and bug free!



OUR NEEDS AT DIVINE PROVIDENCE

As of June 30th, we have received \$64,500.00 for our 2026 Annual Appeal. Due to the significance of the window project, we are continuing to raise funds for this project and we also are working on purchasing a wheelchair van with quotes at \$90,000 before sales tax. 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:

Wheelchair Van	\$90,000.00
Balance of Window Replacement & Shades	\$150,000.00

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.....	Sharon Liese
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



Welcome Sr. Samala!

In late winter, Sr. Samala moved from Chicago to Sleepy Eye on her next assignment. She is currently taking the classes to become a Certified Nursing Assistant and will join the nursing staff of Divine Providence.

How long have you been a Daughter of St. Mary of Providence?

In 2015, I made my first profession. Right after my 10th grade of school, I joined the congregation.

Where were you raised and when did you come to the United States?

I was raised in India and I had all my formation there. Four years after my first profession, I was asked to go to Italy to prepare for my final profession. There I had two years of formation for my perpetual profession, and made my final profession in Como, Italy (north of Rome) in 2021. I was then asked to be a missionary to the United States and came in 2023.

Tell us about your family and childhood:

I have four siblings, and I am the oldest. They are just wonderful, God-fearing, happy, and adapt to any situation they are handed. I had all my schoolings with the nuns and that's where I had discerned myself to become a nun. I kind of wanted to wear the habit all my life. I am grateful to the sisters for shaping me all through my life. I learned British English at the age of 16.

When and how did you know you wanted to become a Daughter of St. Mary of Providence?

Right after my 10th grade, I was approached by my parish priest about my interest to become a nun and that very day, Sisters from the Daughters of St. Mary of Providence happened to be meeting with the pastor for vocation, and there he asked me if I was interested in joining them and I said yes.

Explain your journey of becoming a Daughter of St. Mary of Providence: As I was stepping into the DSMP, I wasn't so curious about the mission that they do; rather, all I wanted was to become a nun. As my journey continues, I have come to love working with developmentally disabled people and the older generation. I always felt this is God's work, which is a wonderful way to do His will.

What have you enjoyed most about being a Sister?

To be a nun is special call from God and not everyone has this call. I am so grateful for the gift of my call. I have enjoyed every moment of my mission with the people of God.

What has been the biggest challenge?

In one of our facilities in India, I was the assistant warden for graduating women in science and arts for five years. For two years, I had the chance to work with graduates, and that was so challenging. It was hard to understand them from their point-of-view and we had a language barrier. But my life was changed there-after; I have learned a lot from them and tried to help them as well. I looked at myself and thought, where am I standing, what am I here for, am I in the right place? It opened my eyes for a lot of things that I needed to work on and still am working on.

What do you hope to fulfill as a Daughter of St. Mary of Providence?

I need to be faithful to my vocation, congregation and mission all through my life. I need to be helpful to any specific needs willingly, with love and respect and giving God whoever is in need of Him.



A note from the Facility Director - Sr. Sharon

GLORY, GLORY HALLELUIA

Faith, Family, and Freedom 250

Can these three still go together after 250 years? Why not really? We have been created in these, by these, and for these!

The month of July, especially this July marking our 250th anniversary as a Country, gives us opportunity to reflect, to really contemplate on the great Mystery of Christ's shedding His Blood for love of us and the other of those men and women who by their ultimate sacrifice paid the price for the freedom we experience and enjoy in our country.

Both of these are great mysteries of a Divine and Human nature, an opportunity to imitate that great Love which was first given to us by God in His Son, and to us, His sons and daughters.

What blessings in which we live in abundance: the ability to practice our Faith (all Faiths) in freedom; to generally live our lives without undue government constraints. Although our Country is not without its imperfections it is, in my opinion, the greatest experiment on earth and we are privileged to have the opportunity to live here! Just look once at the news about all those who are coming here to enjoy the World Cup events-they have become our biggest fans! They are traveling everywhere and talking about it to everyone! Even this German soccer fan "Freddy" is all over the news critiquing our country, lifestyle opportunities, not to mention food!

So then, let us not forget the Cost of Life both Divine and Human for which we have our ultimate Freedoms! Let us be filled with gratitude for Spiritual Freedom and our daily Freedoms!

MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS AMERICA AND ALL PERSONS
WHO LIVE THEREIN!

HAPPY 4TH OF JULY & HAPPY 250TH BIRTHDAY AMERICA!