



Rimrock Echoes

A Publication of St. John's Lutheran Ministries

April 2005

"Providing Living Opportunities within Nurturing Environments of Hope, Dignity, & Love"

Vol. VII, No. 1

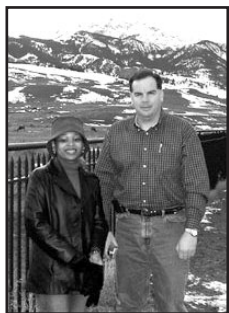
DIG IN *St. John's moves toward a new model of long term care*

With shovels of all shapes, sizes and colors in hand, multiple generations joined together in breaking ground on the first of two twelve resident cottages. Located on the property directly south of St. John's, the first two cottages will serve those with varying degrees of dementia.

Environments very similar to an individual's home are being created within the cottages. All rooms and baths will be private and will surround a central hearth within the living room. Meals will be prepared in an open kitchen within each cottage and will be served around a large dining room table. Cottages will receive support from a team of caregivers known as "Elder Sharaths." Staff members recently selected the Hebrew name meaning "minister or servant" to reflect the ministry of the work.

According to the general contractor and architect, weather permitting, framing for the first cottage should be completed by the end of March with finishing work completed by the middle of June. The opening of the second cottage is planned for approximately one month later.

Watch for information regarding the Grand Opening which will take place this summer.



*- Glenda & Alan -
Yellowstone National Park*

MONTANA & MISSISSIPPI *Share Common Threads*

Alan Brown, COO and Glenda Buchanan, Green House Guide from Mississippi Methodist Senior Services in Tupelo, Mississippi arrived in Billings on February 16 to share their journey from institutionalized nursing care to establishing the first Green House model in the country with the staff at St. John's.

The purpose of their visit was to share the lessons learned in developing a new model and culture for long-term care. Alan said, "This is the most challenging thing you will ever face, but it will be the most rewarding." Glenda shared her experience by talking about a day in the life of a guide and universal worker, which we at St. John's refer to as an "Elder Sharath." Both gave personal testimony to the value of education including the universal worker learning a new set of life skills and undertaking the majority of responsibility for all aspects of resident care. St. John's will be providing over one hundred hours of staff training for those that will be working in the cottages.

We are grateful and hopeful that this exchange marked the beginning of a long and faithful partnership.

Art is Ageless...

Essence of exhibit is reflected in the faces of family and friends as they view art!



Nearly 1000 art lovers of many different generations attended the Invitational Exhibit and Sale, Art is Ageless, on the Campus of St. John's Lutheran Ministries in December of 2004. Those who attended were astonished by the talent living and working within our region. For many of the residents living at St. John's it was an opportunity to view a captivating landscape without having to travel to do so.

115 pieces of art were displayed in Lillis Chapel at Mission Ridge and in Chapel Court at St. John's for the weekend event. Artists and collectors generously agreed to donate their art in full or to provide a percentage of the proceeds from the sale of their art to the charitable event which benefited the residents of St. John's. Half of the artists exhibited sold a minimum of one piece of work which was equivalent to approximately \$40,000 in total sales. The Annual Fund received a \$23,000 gift as a result of the event.



In addition to our sponsors; LaSalle Bank and Yellowstone Bank; our patrons; Dick and Lois Thomas, Hoiness LaBar Insurance and Merrill Lynch, the St. John's Foundation wishes to thank all who supported and attended the event. We invite you to join us for the encore!

Save the Date:

December 2-4, 2005



With Grateful Hearts, We Remember...

Thank you to the families of the following individuals who graciously remembered St. John's following the death of their loved ones:

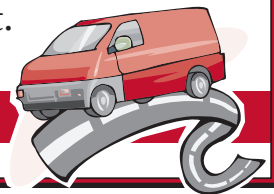
*Gladys Bell
Bernice Davis
Margaret Guthrie
Olive King
Eleanor Knight
Edith Larson
Howard Lorenz
Louis McCloskey
Elvera McLaughlin
Rosemary Schaff
Nedra Shope
Marion Skoog
Solly Staebler
Elizabeth Traphagen
Dorothy Webber
Catherine Winters*

The designation of memorials helps us carry out our mission of providing living opportunities within nurturing environments of hope, dignity and love.

Wish List

BEEP BEEP

Center for Generations After School Program needs a 10-12 passenger van with the wheel chair lift.



As the Pheasant Flies



The St. John's Foundation happily welcomes Kathy Jobs! Her responsibilities include administrative office and board support. She is also involved in developing the Rimrock Echoes newsletter and special event communications.

Originally from eastern South Dakota, Kathy and her husband, Caleb, moved to Billings at the end of December 2004. A recent graduate of South Dakota State University, Kathy previously worked as a teacher assistant at the Easter Seals Child Development Center in Brookings, SD. In her free time, she enjoys reading, cooking/baking, and going on adventures with her husband.

Kathy enjoys St. John's because she works with a caring and friendly staff.



Welcome Back Brooke!

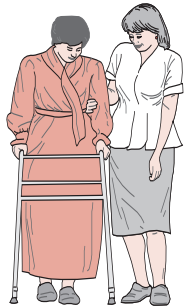


The St. John's family recently welcomed Brooke Wattam back to the Rehab staff! As a physical therapist, she evaluates and treats individuals who have physical functional difficulties such as the effects of a broken hip.

Brooke previously worked at St. John's from July 2000 to November 2001. She and her husband then relocated to Great Falls where she worked for three years. Brooke returned to St. John's at the end of January.

When not busy working, Brooke satisfies her adventurous spirit by waterskiing, camping, hiking, and traveling with her husband, Shawn and step-daughter, Taylor.

Brooke appreciates the caring and nurturing environment St. John's provides for the residents and the great rehab staff.



THREE DECADES OF SERVICE

A Wealth of Experience, Knowledge and Love

Laverne Beckner started at St. John's in February 1975 as a housekeeper on Wing 1. Thirty years later, she continues to bless Wing 1(Chapel Court) with her hard work and gracious spirit.



With thirty years of work experience comes a wealth of knowledge and stories about the past. Laverne says that when she began the staff was given breakfast leftovers for their morning coffee break and lunch was free because St. John's was so far from the rest of the city. She tells a favorite story about a female resident who had never used an electric dryer. The resident would wash her underclothing and hang it on the bushes outside what is now CEO Kent Burgess' office. When asked to move her wash, she took it to the horse pasture and hung it there. When asked to move her wash a final time, the resident resorted to hanging it on wire hangers and parading around the exterior of the building.



Laverne says she most enjoys the people at St. John's and while the building has grown, it remains to be a nice place to work. However; she never imagined she would work at St. John's for thirty years.

When not working, Laverne enjoys reading and spending time with her grandchildren. She also is an avid collector of spoons, plates, and cookbooks.



WARDELL SCHOLARSHIP

The Harry and Alta Mae Wardell Scholarship Fund for Academic Excellence has been created through the generosity of their four children in appreciation and respect for the services and hospitality received at Mission Ridge. This endowed fund memorializes the lives of Harry and Alta Mae, who both passed away during the Summer of 2004, and pays tribute to their lifelong support of education and healthcare.

The \$750 scholarship is awarded annually to students planning on majoring in Education or Healthcare. The recipient must be an employee or the child of an employee at Mission Ridge or St. John's Lutheran Ministries.

We are grateful to the Wardell Family for establishing a meaningful and lasting gift that will enhance the lives of many.

—AVAILABLE SCHOLARSHIPS—

St. John's Foundation Scholarship

Funding Available: \$500

Recipient Eligibility: Must be a St. John's or Mission Ridge employee who has been employed for a minimum of one year.

Application Deadlines: Summer: April 1, Fall: July 1, Spring: October 1

Harry and Alta Mae Wardell Scholarship Fund for Excellence

Funding Available: \$750

Recipient Eligibility: Must be an employee, or the dependent of an employee, who has worked for St. Johns or Mission Ridge a minimum of one year. The student must also be planning to major in Education or Healthcare

Application Deadline: Fall: April 1

Applications for all scholarships can be obtained through the Foundation Office.

Are Your Finances Making You Sick?

Employees seek financial healing through the St. John's Safety and Wellness Program



The Human Resource Department is sponsoring a series of seminars aimed at helping employees improve their financial outlook. Educational sessions are being presented by professionals from local organizations like the Yellowstone County Extension Program, EBMS and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and include:

- Smart Money; Developing a Personal Budget
- What Does Credit Really Cost
- Solving Debt Problems
- How to Use Flexible Spending Plans to your Advantage
- What is a TSA (Tax Sheltered Annuity)

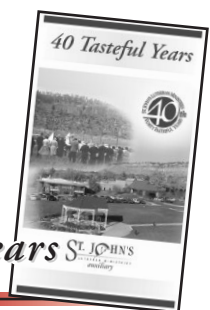
Additionally, specific requirements surrounding an exciting Employer Assisted Housing Benefit offered to first time home buyers with limited incomes will soon be available.

Auxiliary Cooks Up Something Really BIG!

Over 500 delectable recipes mixed with a bushel of enthusiastic Auxiliary members, lovingly spread over a caring community of ravenous St. John's supporters, colorfully sprinkled with large amounts of bubbly generosity recently served the St. John's Annual Fund with a scrumptious \$5000 check.

We toast you and your good work with a magnum of gratitude!

40 Tasteful Years



Hands and Heart of Jesus Awards



NANCY
Thomas



BONNIE
Molen



CARLA
Kimmell

Nancy Thomas has been an LPN at the Vista since 1998. “She takes extra time, even on her days off, to check in. She is always willing to stop and listen to residents as well as coworkers.” The staff and residents of the Vista feel blessed to have Nancy as their mentor and friend!

Bonnie Molen has been a housekeeper at St. John’s since 2001. She has “really taken ownership of Rimview Square” and goes out of her way to make it feel like home. Known to spend her own money for extra touches such as pictures and wall hangings, her contributions have shown us how much she loves and cares about our community at St. John’s.

Carla Kimmell is a CNA on Unity Square who began her work at St. John’s in 2002. “She is a dependable and kind woman who lives the mission as a humble, gentle and down to earth caretaker.” Families are touched by her compassion. Known to come in at a moment’s notice, -regardless of the hour- “Carla gives the residents her very best; hope, dignity and most of all her love.”

RESIDENT FEATURE



One of the first residents of Mission Ridge, Lucille Stockton was born in Illinois and grew up in Hardin. She attended Eastern Montana Normal School (now, MSU-B) where she became an educator. While teaching at a country school near Lewistown,

Lucille met her husband, Dan, at a school square dance the first Saturday she was in town. They continued to enjoy square dancing throughout 54 years of marriage although; her employment quickly drew to a close as teachers were required to be single.

Lucille’s family and her church have been of great importance. A colorful and vibrant woman, Lucille was a stay-at-home mother of two. The family spent many summers boating on Flathead Lake. She has been very active in her church and faithfully attends morning devotions at Mission Ridge. Giving of herself and her time comes naturally. For many years she tutored 2nd graders at Boulder School.

Living at Mission Ridge for 7 years, Lucille has had occasion to use the services provided through the continuum of care that is available on the Campus of St. John’s. Having both knees replaced on different occasions, Lucille praises the care she received while recuperating at St. John’s and the rehabilitation staff who worked to get her on her feet again. She says, “Mindy Oxman is a prize! She got my knees to work again.”

Seniors & Students Connect

Inter-generational volunteer programs are common on the Campus of St. John’s. Working in combination, the energy of youth and the wisdom of age create a special relationship that enlivens the spirits of all who participate.

ADOPT A RESIDENT

A partnership between MSU-B and St. John’s Lutheran Ministries, the Adopt a Resident Program has students from the university sharing their time to cultivate a friendship with the residents of St. John’s. Participants enjoy a wide variety of activities with the residents whom they have adopted. Some pairs send cards while others play cards, have lunch or discuss a favorite book or movie. Devoted to spending time one-on-one, students and seniors are flexible in arranging times that complement each others schedules.

TEEN TIME

Open to those entering the seventh grade, students 12 and older volunteer their time three afternoons a week during the summer months to assist residents with a wide variety of activities. Teens join residents in games, exercise and assist in hosting parties on holidays and birthdays. Because fun is always part of the itinerary, many choose to continue to volunteer on weekends throughout the school year.

St. John’s welcomes volunteers of all ages who have a gift to give, a talent to share, or something as simple as a hand to hold. Contact Special Service Coordinator, Shelly Hoovestall at 655-5638.

St. John's 2005 Spring Scholarship Award Recipients

Four staff members at St. John's recently received scholarships up to \$500 through the St. John's Foundation.

Carl Myers-Employed at St. John's for two years as a Campus Safety and Security Officer, Carl is attending MSU – Billings majoring in Social Science Broadfield.



Amy Dixon-Employed at St. John's for two years, Amy works with the Grounds Crew. She is currently enrolled at BYU – Idaho majoring in Health Science with a minor in Family and Child Studies.



Emma Romain-Employed at The Vista for five years as a CNA, Emma is currently attending MSU – Billings College of Technology studying to become a Licensed Practical Nurse.

Jennifer Terrell-Employed at St. John's for five years, Jennifer is a CNA on Chapel Court. She is studying nursing at MSU – Bozeman.



The Foundation seeks to recognize and support St. John's employees committed to personal and career growth. Applications for scholarships can be obtained through the Foundation Office.

If you are interested in contributing to the Annual Fund, which supports staff scholarships, please call the Foundation Office at 406-655-5636.



Thank you

for blessing St. John's Lutheran Ministries with your faithful years of service.

- THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIFTS TO THE -
Seeds of Kindness Employee Campaign
Benefiting the Annual Fund, the Employee Resident Help Fund and the Center for Generations Support Fund.

5 Years

Erin Burrowes	Center for Generations
Fred Fresonke	Driver
Carrie Hartung	Pharmacy Technician
Michelle Henderson	Nutrition Services
Jana Hinkle	Licensed Practical Nurse
Georgia Ligatich	Environmental Services
Shirley McMurray	Environmental Services
Raymond Mork	Plant Operations
Erin Riveland	Nutrition Services
Kimberley Sanderlin	Certified Nursing Asst. - Vista
Katherine Stevenson	Pharmacist

10 Years

Rebecca Le'Fevre	Environmental Services
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20 Years

Darlene Rehling	Environmental Services
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25 Years

Sylvia Gollick	Director of Nursing
Roseann Sylvester	Nutrition Services

Joyce Archer	Roberta Jenkins	Larissa Payne
Loretta Beadling	Avonne Johnson	Tom Peterman
Jack Beals	Amanda Jones	Don Peters
Laverne Beckner	Diane Karina	JoAnn Peters
Theresa Blackman	Nicole Keating	Nancy Pietz
Helen Ble	Sandra Kehm	Geanine Pratt
Kent Burgess	Penny Klopich	Judith Renner
Jean Burwood	Kim Kolstad	Rose Marie Rockwell
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Judy Daniels	Nina Leiferman	Margaret Schantz
Joyce Dixon	Jamie Letendre	Kristi Schiff
Lynn Dixon	Don Louis	Tabitha Secord
Cheri Eaves	Dixie Ludwig	Carissa Seibold
Joan Erickson	Pam Makara	Amanda Sims
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Ashley Frodsham	Mary Jo Michels	Linda Thayer
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Shelly Hoovestall	Jamie Palagi	Craig Young
Nancy Huber	Bill F. Paterson	

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In memory of...
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John Bailey
Blanche Bailey
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Janice Brown
Gifts given to Garden Court:
In honor of Carol Higgs
Jeff Eastwood
Robert Higgs
In honor of Phil Dawes
Sherry and Carl O'Connor
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In memory of Jack W. Burnett
Dave Jorgenson
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Bert Lillis Estate
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High Tech Construction
Dale and Judy Peterson
Jane Reger
Lee and Irma Richardson
Gifts given to the Ocee Johnson Chapel Fund:
Dave and Deborah Peters
Gifts given to Rimview Square:
Anonymous
In memory of Rosemary Schaff
Bob and Donna Cardwell
Keith and Pamela Hanson
Loren and Deborah Herlyn
Vivian Michalies
Linda Obie
Leo Schaff
Loretta Glatt
Gifts given to the Scholarship Fund:
Karen Fox
Jim and Melissa Hill
Rick Hill
Pamela Rolley
Gifts given to Senior Day Services:
Women of Bethlehem
Lutheran Church

Gifts given to the St. John's Endowment Fund:
Holly Brown
Rockwood and Marilyn Brown
Frank and Kathy Cross
Wayne and Clare Hansen
Rick and Nicki Larson
Duane and Lora Schultz
Gifts given to the Spiritual Care Endowment:
David and Michelle Trost
Gifts given in Celebration of St. John's Best Non Profit recognition by the Billings Chamber of Commerce:
First Interstate Bank
Gifts given to the Wellness Center Fund in honor of Dr. Paul Crellin:
Lorraine Armstrong
Mary Barovich
Judith Lamb
Businesses Supporting our Seeds of Kindness Employee Campaign:
A 1 Landscaping
Cactus Creek Steak Outfitters
& Saloon
Deb's Dancewear and Uniform
Gusick's Restaurant
IHOP
Lone Wolf Photo Express
Magic City Kids
Osco Drug
Papa John's Pizza
Reporter Office Products
Sanctuary Spa & Salon
Nailissimo, Melaina Price
Julie Leno
Miscellaneous In Kind Gifts:
Allen and Karen Bertapelle
Art and Sandy Brownell
Kay Cahill
Computer Software Associates
Charlotte Crittenden
John and Dorothy Evans
Loretta and Arnold Glatt
Angie Gray
Bill and Geraldine Hauck
Gail Heatherly
Tom McKenna
Dorothy Miller
Montana Flooring Liquidators
Arlen Offt
Virginia Phillips
Joe and Athna May Porter
Production West Inc.
Lawrence Shadoan
Jessie Sire
Christy Vogel
Jim and colleen Wolf
Wade and Connie Zinnecker
Flowers given to St. John's for the enjoyment of our residents:
Ray Cosman
Loretta and Arnold Glatt
Cendri Hutcherson
Laverne Ivie
Metrapark
Paul Mock
Candace Phillips
Claire Poppler
Luella Rogers
Marian Staebler
Kaye Suhr
Pulpit Honorariums - These are funds which our pastors have received from preaching engagements at church, wedding, and funeral services, which they in turn, gifted to St. John's Foundation.
Pastor Joan Erickson
Pastor Jeff Olsgaard
Pastor Tom Peterman

Thank you to our donors... the gifts listed here were received from October 26, 2004 - February 15, 2005

Gifts given to Senior Day Services:
Women of Bethlehem
Lutheran Church

Volunteer of the Month

DECEMBER
Magic City Singers

JANUARY
Claire Conter

FEBRUARY
Sons of Norway Jubileers

FOUND

*Ladies Necklace following
"Art is Ageless"*

*Please contact the
Foundation Office, 655-5729*

FEATURED VOLUNTEER

BINGO!

Don and Joyce Amos are active volunteers who contribute their time and talents to St. John's twice a month conducting Saturday bingo. They began volunteering in 2000 as a way to spend time with Don's mother and thought it would be an interesting volunteer opportunity. Don and Joyce are responsible for all bingo related duties including set-up, calling bingo, and take down. Don is always a good sport about dressing for the holidays. He has been known to wear silly headbands while calling bingo. The residents enjoy them very much. Don and Joyce are also known for bring goodies to share with the residents. Both Don and Joyce are faithful attendees of all the volunteer parties and meetings. Don and Joyce take pleasure in seeing the residents enjoy themselves. It makes them feel good about their volunteer commitment!



Don & Joyce Amos

This article is part of a series meant to recognize individual St. John's volunteers.

Be My Valentine

Thanks to the activities department at St. John's, the residents experienced a fun and special Valentine's Day. Each wing engaged in a romantic lunch complete with table decorations and live music. The afternoon followed with the Activities Department delivering Valentine Grams to residents and staff. Each gram consisted of one song and either a balloon, carnation or candy. The activities department delivered 240 Valentine Grams across the campus.



ST. JOHN'S
LUTHERAN MINISTRIES

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