

# Messages from Maryhill

A Newsletter for Maryhill Manor Families

March, 2007

**GREETINGS!** It's snowing! We're getting more snow now than we've had all winter! Working in a nursing home where we are open 365 days a year, 24 hours a day, it gets interesting when the weather starts making travel difficult! We have quite a few staff members who live out of town and a few who travel 20 miles or so to work here, so the weather can definitely make it challenging for them to get to work. However, because we have such a dedicated bunch of staff members, it rarely causes much problem at Maryhill. Oftentimes those who live out of town will come in and stay with a friend in town or at Maryhill the night before they are scheduled to work if they hear a storm is coming the following day. Others will arrive at work several hours early to be sure they get here on time. Those living in town also willingly come in and fill in for someone who can't get here because of the weather. We really have a great group of people working here who are committed to the care and well being of our residents. I'm always grateful for their dedication and hope it is reassuring for you to know that they will be here for your family member, even if there's a blizzard swirling around outside! Soon (hopefully?!?) it will be spring and we'll see green grass and tulips out our windows! I can't wait to see that first Robin! ☺ Blessings to you.....Nancy Farnham, Administrator

## EDUCATION CORNER: "E" is for Environment

From time to time in this newsletter, we will feature one aspect of our care philosophy at Maryhill Manor. We call our philosophy the **RESPECT** philosophy, with each letter of the word "respect" representing one key part of our philosophy. The letters and what they represent are spelled out here:

**R**elationships    **E**nvironment    **S**tewardship    **P**eople directed    **E**thical    **C**ompassionate care    **T**eamwork and dedication

This edition will focus on the *Environment*, the first E of **RESPECT**. Our philosophy statement says the following about the environment:

**Environment is homelike and hospitable.** Our facility is *home* for most residents. In the spirit of hospitality, we provide a homelike environment to enhance socialization, independence, and dignity. Environmental adaptations, programming and educational efforts contribute to a homelike atmosphere.

We want our nursing home to have a homelike atmosphere. We wear street clothes instead of uniforms so residents can feel at home, rather than thinking they're in a hospital or some other institution. We have pictures on the walls that are attractive and could be displayed in any of our own homes and we keep notices to staff in "staff only" areas. We make environmental adaptations (such as handrails and plenty of lighting to help the aging eye) so residents can be safe and comfortable. We also keep the environment clean and clutter-free. To add to a homelike environment, we make programming decisions that contribute to that atmosphere. Things like pets, plants, and intergenerational programming make a big difference in people's lives. We recently had a gentleman move in to Maryhill who needed nursing home care, but he was not going to move anywhere without his dog! Our philosophy and programs allowed his dog to come with him, which made his move much easier...he didn't have to leave his companion behind at a time in his life when he really needed him! We recognize that the nursing home *is home* to our long-term residents. Because it's home, the residents are encouraged to decorate their rooms as they wish. A while ago we had a resident ask if she could paint her room. When we said "yes", she chose a color that really stood out from the rest of the nursing home...in fact, at her funeral the pastor called it "Pepto Bismol pink"! The change in her room color helped to make the room her own. Another big part of our philosophy on the environment is that we want it to be hospitable. This means that no one should be able to walk through the halls of our nursing home without receiving a greeting and a smile! We recently had one family tell us that they felt like they were talking with friends from their very first phone call to inquire about room availability all the way through the end of their mother's life. That's the way it should be! We want friendliness and caring to be part of each encounter we have with every person in our nursing homes, including residents, their families, vendors, visitors, and other staff members. We want everyone to feel welcomed and at home. And we always want to remember: Residents don't live in our facility; we work in their home!

## RESIDENT REMINISCINGS...First born

**Margaret Daub** remembers the year of 1942 when her first child was born. She and her husband Palmer, who went by "Polly", lived in St. Paul where Polly worked for a meat packaging plant. He was paid a whopping forty-two cents per hour and they had to pay \$25.00 a month for rent. Margaret had never changed a diaper or taken care of a baby. She managed, though, because Polly had to go back to work as soon as possible. When her second child was born, they got a flat tire just as they were nearing their home after leaving the hospital. "No big deal", Polly thought, until he opened the trunk and found that the spare tire was flat, too! They both had to walk a quarter of a mile home with Polly carrying the baby through the snow banks! Margaret states they were tough times but also good times!



### *In Our Memories*

Our sympathy to the family and friends of the following person who was part of our Maryhill family and has recently died. We treasure our memories of her and pray that God will be with her family at this time of loss. We will remember her...

*Alice Johnson, 1908-2007*

## Thank You for your Generous Donations:

- \*In memory of Mickey Berglund by LaRon Croft
- \*In memory of Alice Johnson by Ken and Charleen Grothe
- \*In memory of Alice Johnson by Rob and Deone Kulla
- \*In memory of Leo Lemna by Rob and Deone Kulla
- \*In memory of Ron Torbenson by Rob and Deone Kulla
- \*In memory of Bruce Pfaff by Rob and Deone Kulla

Happy   
St. Patrick's Day

## For Your Calendars...Feel Free to Join Us Anytime:

March 7<sup>th</sup> – 1:30 Methodist Church Ladies special lunch and Karaoke by the minister  
March 8<sup>th</sup> – 2:00 Bingo by the First Lutheran Ladies  
March 21<sup>st</sup> – 1:30 Monthly Trinity Lutheran Birthday Party  
March 24<sup>th</sup> – 1:00 Special music by Seth Mulder  
March 29<sup>th</sup> – 1:30 Joe Demasi special music  
March 29<sup>th</sup> – 4:00 Red Hat ladies from the community will join our in-house group for an event.  
Every Tuesday at 1:00 there is an ecumenical church service in the living room.  
Every Thursday at 9:30 there is mass in the Family Room.

*"I am certain in my heart that all that I am, I have received from God." – St. Patrick*



**Maryhill Manor**

Sponsored by Sisters of Mary of the Presentation  
110 Hillcrest Drive, Enderlin, ND 58027