

2023 Gratitude Report
every piece matters

Letter from the CEO and Board Chair

Dear Friend,

Have you ever looked closely at the pieces of a puzzle? Each is a combination of lines, curves and color. Together they create one cohesive picture. If a piece is missing, you search high and low for it because you know the picture is not complete without it.

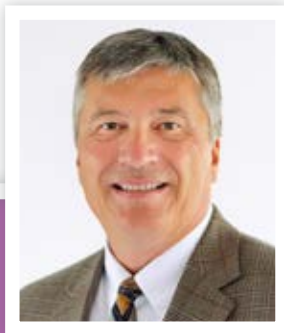
Cassia is like a beautiful puzzle made up of residents and their families, employees and board members, donors and supporting entities. We all unite to make meaningful impact in the lives of older adults.

When creating this year's Gratitude Report, we took a look at how all the pieces came together within each of these stories to foster fullness of life for older adults in the spirit of Christ's love.

- An Emerald Crest Shakopee resident gained peace when being baptized by the chaplain, a ministry supported by golf tournament proceeds.
- Elk Run residents enjoyed day trips and fun excursions, making meaningful connections with their community after donors funded the purchase of a bus; increasing independence, reducing isolation and creating joy.
- Two brothers found stable housing and healing at Harmony Gardens after lifelong hardship and homelessness.
- A Fargo Elim resident rediscovered his toothy grin when the Cassia Bridge Program paid to replace his lost dentures.
- Open Circle donors funded desperately needed renovations, transforming an uninviting space into one that will be warm and welcoming for members for decades to come.
- Donors and grant-funders stepped up to generously fund the recruitment and training of All-Star caregivers, making a critical difference in the workforce crisis.
- A Valley View Village resident with longtime involvement gave cheerfully to help restore the heart of Valley View Village, the chapel.

Each of these stories is unique, as are those who made them possible.

Thank you for being an integral piece of the puzzle that make these and many other stories like them happen every day. The picture would not be complete without you. With your support, we will continue to foster fullness of life for older adults in the spirit of Christ's love.



CEO Robert Dahl
and
Board Chair Nikki Weber Daniels



Robert Dahl Nikki Weber Daniels

Fullness of Life is Local

Your local community is where the mission of Cassia is experienced each and every day. This is where you make your impact. This is where older adults thrive.

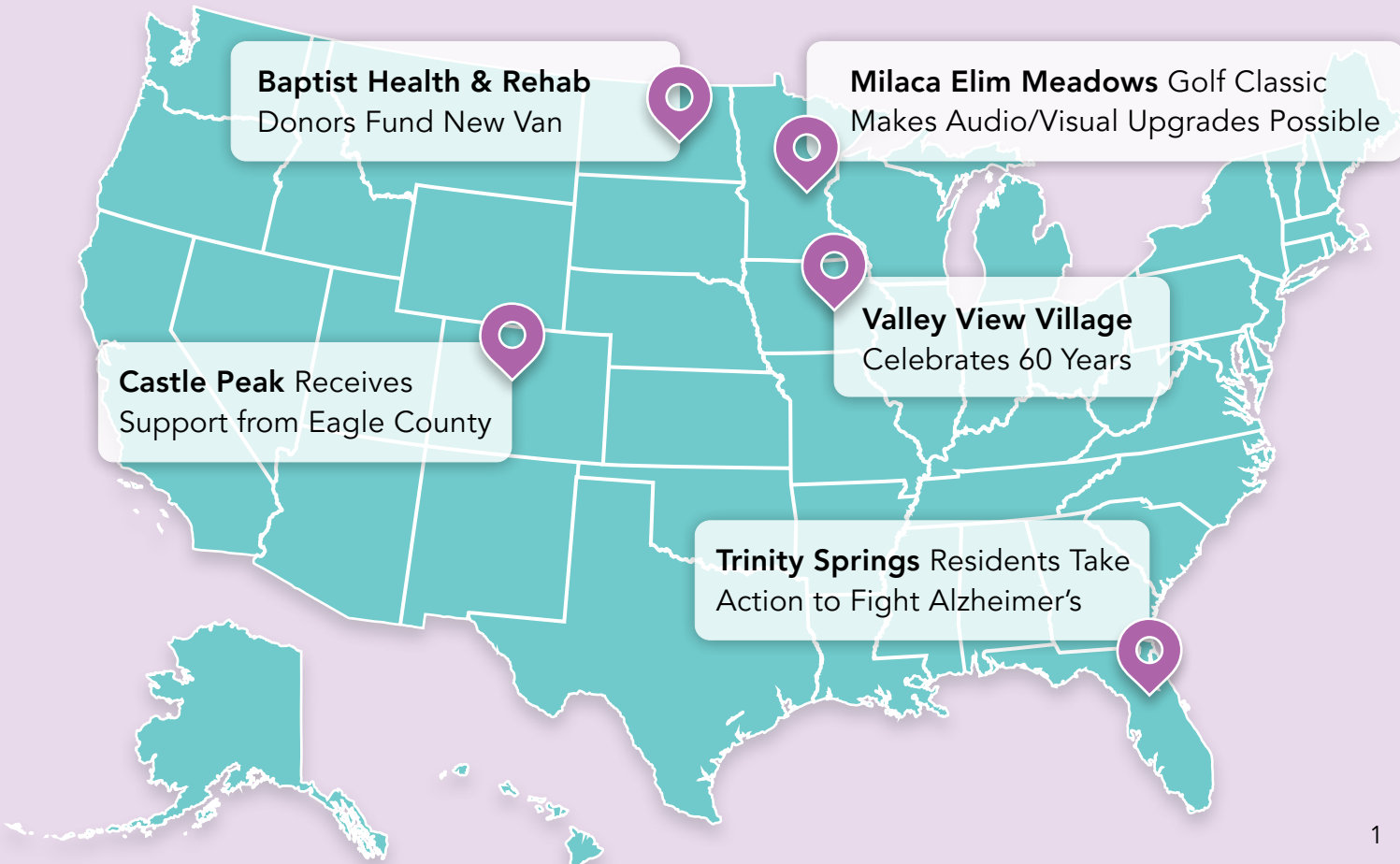
In a year's time, there are more stories of fullness of life at each local community than we can count. We have shared several in this gratitude report, but we didn't have enough space to fit them all in print.

More local stories can be found via the link and QR code included below. We hope you enjoy these glimpses of fullness of life in your local community, whether in print or digital form. Thank you for making these stories possible.



Find many more stories in your neighborhood!

Scan the QR code with your phone's photo app or go to CassiaLife.org/local-stories



A Beautiful Journey of Faith: Roxie's Baptism at Emerald Crest

At 84 years old, Emerald Crest resident Roxie felt a calling to be baptized.

One afternoon, while talking with fellow residents, the group shared stories about being baptized in their younger years. Roxie had accepted the Lord as her savior, but had never been baptized. In fact, all of her children had been baptized and, for most of her life, they had all been involved participants in their shared faith.

In that moment, Roxie knew in her heart what was missing. She spoke to Pastor Arlen Solem, her chaplain at Emerald Crest, and expressed her longing for the sacrament.



With his support, her wish became a reality.

Pastor Arlen first called Roxie's daughter, Tracy, to plan the ceremony at Emerald Crest. Tracy says her mother tends to shy away from being in the spotlight, so she was initially surprised at the request.

However, she realized it wasn't entirely unexpected. Roxie had found spiritual support and acceptance at Emerald Crest, especially during regular worship services and her Bible studies with Pastor Arlen.

One Friday afternoon during a worship service, Roxie, surrounded by the love of her supportive daughters and peers, was baptized. With gentle hands, Pastor Arlen poured a little water over Roxie's head, marking this significant moment of her spiritual journey.

"I've never seen an older person be baptized," Roxie says, reflecting on her experience. "It was all new and beautiful."

Afterwards, Pastor Arlen organized a celebratory gathering at Emerald Crest, complete with cake and a commemorative baptismal certificate. He felt deeply honored and moved by Roxie's request, grateful to have been a part of such an important moment.

"It was a very powerful and honoring thing for me," Arlen says. "In the moment, it was a big honor to the other people there and what a special worship service to have."



Tracy observed how Emerald Crest played a pivotal role in fulfilling her mother's spiritual needs.

"It's helped contribute to her happiness," Tracy says. "She embraced it and felt a connection with God and the church."

"Arlen has become a very special person in my mom's life and we are so grateful for him," she adds.

Despite Roxie's usual reluctance to be in the spotlight, Tracy noticed a newfound sense of pride in her mother after the baptism, finding joy in sharing her story with others.

Roxie's baptism became a reality thanks to generous donors like you.

Contributions and proceeds from a Cassia-sponsored golf tournament play a crucial role in supporting spiritual life in our communities. The 2023 Cassia Golf Tournament raised more than \$220,000 and significantly aided in establishing chaplaincy programs in communities that do not have them.

These funds also help Cassia and site leadership expand existing programs, providing resources to enhance residents' worship services, such as those experienced by Roxie at Emerald Crest.

Your contributions are impactful, and we thank you for your generous support in enriching the lives of our residents.

Elk Run Residents Enjoy Bus Rides and Butterflies

The Evergreen, CO, area offers much for Elk Run Assisted Living residents to see and do. In the past, Elk Run's bus made such experiences possible. When it broke down, coordinating trips became much more difficult.

Director of Marketing and Admissions Barre Shannon McKee served as the activities director at the time and spent many hours trying to piece together transportation, even for the simplest outings.

Thanks to generous donors, Elk Run purchased a new bus in March 2023.

One donor, who asked to remain anonymous, said she donated in memory of her mother, who enjoyed bus rides because "her operative word was *go*." Because of generosity like that, many Elk Run residents are on the go once again.

The Butterfly Pavilion and More

Residents like Bettie Lynn thoroughly enjoy the Butterfly Pavilion. Bettie Lynn's first visit there was especially meaningful.



She and her neighbors explored the pavilion, admiring all the different types of butterflies. At one point, she sat down for a moment to rest and take it all in. Suddenly, butterflies surrounded her. They came from all over, coming to perch on her straw hat and cover her entire dress. Butterflies remind her of her mother-in-law Ruth and,

in this moment, she felt surrounded by the love Ruth had shown her.

"That lifted my spirits like you just couldn't know," Bettie Lynn says.

Residents have also enjoyed trout fishing, bowling, picnicking, happy hours and viewing fall colors. Other destinations include luncheons at a local church, a candy factory, a mall, grocery stores and a brewery.

Residents Appreciate Experiences

"Our outings are so well-attended that not only do we utilize our bus, but have to use our van, as well, in order to accommodate everyone," Barre says. "Residents with limited



mobility use the bus and those who are more mobile can get into the van."

As residents fill the vehicles, smiles stretch across their faces and laughter fills the air.

"The smiles and laughs illustrate how happy and grateful we are to experience life outside our community," Barre says.

Donors like you make these smiles and laughs possible.

Bridge Fund Gives Fargo Elim Resident a Reason to Smile

Gary Skramstad loves to smile.

In early 2023, he encountered a problem: he lost his dentures. Suddenly, he did not enjoy smiling, chewing or even speaking as much.

"I felt I was limited and not wanting to talk so much or be around people so much because I was self-conscious about my teeth or lack thereof," Gary says.

To make matters worse, Medicaid in North Dakota only provides one set of dentures every seven years.

"I shared that with the chaplains: 'Pray that God would help me find my teeth,'" the retired pastor says. "It was miserable not having them."

Gary did not find his teeth, but God came through for him in a different way.

A grant covered about half of the cost, while funds from the Cassia Bridge Program paid for the other half. The Bridge Program exists to support older adults who have outlived their resources through no fault of their own, and is funded entirely by the generosity of people like you!

"Lo and behold, I have teeth so I can smile instead of a big ole canyon here," Gary says. "I'm so glad to have them. I was without them for a long, long time. I'm so grateful to the people who give to this organization."



The generosity of people like you not only covered the financial gap—it also provided ease, comfort and joy to Gary. After being without dentures for eight or nine months, he appreciates them even more.

"It completely changes my quality of life," he says. "I love to smile. I always try to teach people that I encounter, 'Here, let's smile.' I try to be funny. It takes fewer muscles to smile than it does to frown. When people put on a smiling face, life turns out better for them."

He has many reasons to smile, from his home at Fargo Elim to his new dentures. He is so thankful for everyone who made both possible.

"I'm glad there are folks who believe in what Cassia is standing for and doing," Gary says. "It has made a huge difference in my life."

Thank you for being the reason behind Gary's restored smile and countless others like him. Your generosity truly makes a difference.

2023 by the Numbers

2023 Board of Directors

Nikki Weber Daniels, Chair
Charles Parks, Vice Chair
Jon Addington, Secretary
Cindy Morris
Jerry Nye
Kevin Bergman
Larry Kula
Lores Vlaminc
Michael Aderinkomi
Michelene Verlautz
Pat Nuss
Paul Anderson
Rick Ellingson
Scott Ramsdale
Paul Fox

More than **5,400 people**
were served at
health care centers.

615 volunteers
donated their time
and talents to Cassia

Nearly **23,000**
people received
community-based
services

(in addition to
residents, patients
and clients)

Services included:

- outpatient therapy
- adult day programs
- child care
- hospice and home health care
- pharmacy services
- caregiver support

More than **500 students**
participated in learning
programs,
internships
or projects.

More than **3,200 residents**
served in independent
or assisted living

Senior Leadership

Bob Dahl
Chief Executive Officer
Matthew Kern
Chief Operating Officer

Kathy Youngquist
Chief Financial Officer
Angela Brown
Chief Human
Resources Officer

Sharon Wilson
Chief Clinical &
Compliance Officer
Kathy Kopp
Chief Strategy Officer

In 2023
Cassia served
more than **32,000 people**



From Homeless to Hopeful: Harmony Gardens' Support Led to Stability

Sometimes a phone call can change your life and sometimes it can change someone else's life, depending on how you answer it. When Harmony Gardens Administrator Becky Holmgren's phone rang in September 2021, she answered the call to show compassion to someone in need, despite the risks involved.

Sandy Delgehausen, a coworker who works at the Cassia home office, was calling Becky, who was the New Harmony administrator at the time.

Sandy asked if the New Harmony community would be able to admit a man named Diego who had a long history of homelessness and substance abuse. Sandy had never met this man, but trusted the referring individuals when they told her the man said he was committed to his sobriety.

"I used to volunteer at the Salvation Army Adult Rehab and am familiar with the program," Sandy says. "The information for this man was that he was progressing in addiction recovery, but had multiple health issues and couldn't keep up with elements of the program. A Salvation Army Adult Rehab program staff member contacted me and said, 'We have someone who we feel is sincere about turning his life of homelessness and addictions around, but has multiple medical issues.'"

Admitting Diego was a risk due to longtime unhealthy habits, but it was one Becky was willing to take.

"I talked to Becky and she said, 'That's our mission; that's who we serve,'"



Sandy says. "Becky took this man in and took a chance on him. He flourished. As New Harmony worked to stabilize his health, his continued commitment to sobriety grew. He was a hit with the staff because he was incredibly kind and had a strong faith in Christ. He was committed to his faith and rehab and the organization served him well."

Bringing Brothers Together

Becky took another risk when granting Diego's request for his brother Felipe to join him at New Harmony in February 2022. Like Diego, Felipe also had a long history of homelessness and substance abuse. In addition to those challenges, Felipe had a traumatic brain injury and did not speak English as Diego did. Diego translated and advocated for his brother.

New Harmony residents moved into a brand-new Harmony Gardens community in December 2022. The brothers moved from their double room into neighboring apartments in the new community. They continued to receive the services they needed. Part of the services that went above and beyond the call of duty included staff accompanying both brothers to multiple medical appointments throughout their stay, as they had no family to do this.

"They really thrived here," social worker Marissa Vogel says. "They got along with all the staff. They were very friendly and joking around with our staff and very appreciative of the care they got here."

Finding a New Home

After a life of homelessness, Marissa worked with a relocation specialist to help the brothers find long-term housing.

"It was a challenge for this relocation worker to find a place they could both live in an apartment together," Marissa says.

That day came in March 2023.

"They were both very grateful for finding this place," Marissa says. "They were very excited that they would be moving in together."

Cassia and Harmony Gardens staff joined in that excitement.

Donors Make Cassia's Mission Possible

Becky and her staff were proud to see Cassia's mission fulfilled in this way.

"Ultimately, we took both of these gentlemen in because we know in our hearts our mission is to serve," Becky says. "This was a gentleman we were able to serve emotionally and spiritually. We were able to bring in his brother and get them both on their feet ... Clearly with our motto being 'Serving all by following ONE' and our service standards that we live day in and day out, we were able to accomplish the end result."

Becky added that support from Cassia donors make success stories like this possible.

"In general, being a nonprofit, it takes additional funds to be able to make situations like this happen," Becky says. "Donors help us be able to live out our mission."

Thank you for investing in your Cassia community. Your generosity is changing lives as it did for Diego and Felipe!





Contributions Make Open Circle of Hopkins Improvements Possible

Coretta Scott King once said, "The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members."

That is especially true at Open Circle of Hopkins, where staff provide daytime social interaction, health and personal care and/or cognitive support to adults of all ages. This program provides much needed respite for caregivers.

"This community sees firsthand the magic we create and the compassion, respect, love and care staff demonstrates and how members positively respond," says Terri Joski-Lang, center director at Open Circle of Hopkins. "That is how all facets of our community become believers in Open Circle and become donors."

Contributions Make a Difference

So many people came together to make improvements at the center possible.

Contributions included \$100,000 from Mizpah Church, a generous gift on behalf of member Suzanne Pearl, labor at cost and a financial contribution from Bauer Design Build, pro bono interior design work by Amy Bursey of Monogram Design Consultants, a matching grant from the City of Hopkins for façade improvements and an Eagle Scout project completed by Sylvia Vannorman.



Exterior improvements included block repair work; new awnings and signage; and painting of the building, trim, window boxes and raised garden beds. Interior improvements include painting, flooring, reupholstered and new chairs. When Open Circle needed someone to design the interior and a contractor to complete the renovations, Amy and Bauer Design Build rose to the occasion to make the project happen on a limited budget.

"Having a building that is well maintained and looks as good as the magic Open Circle team provides for our members on a daily basis will be a nice reflection of who we are and how much we care," Terri says. "All who enter Open Circle can feel and witness the love and care that is evident throughout the building. Having a new and updated look will only enhance the overall experience provided on a daily basis."

Family Shows Appreciation for Open Circle

Jodie Dvorkin has seen the benefits of Open Circle firsthand. Her mother Suzanne moved to the area from Miami about three years ago. Suzanne was hesitant to visit Open Circle at first, but that quickly changed.

"The first day she came back and said, 'This is my place,'" Jodie says. "It makes my mom so happy. Staff go out of their way to make her feel comfortable and do a lot of activities so it's always interesting. The other people, Mom has forged some great relationships with. All in all, it is the best thing my mom has done in moving here."

Suzanne's family is proud to donate to Open Circle.

"We really wanted to do that as a thank-you for all the fantastic care she's gotten and a way to help the center provide such great care and make the enhancements they want to do," Jodie says. "She's gotten so much benefit that we felt the money would be used well based on her experiences there."

(continues)

Mizpah Members Support Open Circle

As Mizpah Church closed and the final chapters in its history were written, its members wanted to help write new chapters for about 45 other organizations, including Open Circle.

“As much as we hated to sell the church building, we had the happy job of giving away money,” says Mark Ruhland, who served as the congregation’s moderator, similar to a council president.

Mizpah Church has a longstanding relationship with Cassia, due to being neighbors with Chapel View, the Cassia community in Hopkins. That made it an easy decision to support Open Circle when multiple members recommended it.

“We were happy to support Open Circle because they were part of the Cassia family and a few of our members had family members who spent time there,” Mark says.

Gratitude for Generosity

“We are incredibly grateful and indebted to our donors and the support they provide in making these improvements possible,” Terri says. “Without our donors, we’d have a wish list that might allow us to do a bit at a time. Getting a facelift all at once is fabulous!”

Terri says she believes in the mission of Open Circle and is appreciative that others do, as well.

“When I started as the center director two years ago, I knew immediately Open Circle was a special place,” Terri says. “I feel gratitude every day to be part of this community. We have an incredible team who believe in serving each member to the best of their ability with a goal of making each day a great day. We appreciate that donors believe in us because Open Circle walks the talk.”



Cassia’s Legacy Society

The Cassia Legacy Society recognizes those who have generously chosen to support Cassia, Augustana Care, or Elim Care through their wills, estate plans or charitable life income arrangements, as well as Service Legacy Awards and outright gifts of \$10,000 to Elim Care. Deceased members are listed with a †.

- Dorothy M. Abbey †
Donna Anderson
Ethel Anderson †
Gladys M. Anderson †
Irene L. Anderson †
J. Vincent Anderson †
Paul Anderson
Signe T. Anderson †
Anonymous †
Lennie and Lois Arnevik †
Judy A. Askelson
Sophie W. Aspelin †
Edsel and Katherine Aswegan †
Bea Baker
Pearl Baker †
Chaplain Clyde and Elizabeth Beissel
Clara I. Berg †
Ruth Berg †
Lorraine Berger †
Gerald Berglin

Lawrence and Audrey Berglund †
Irene Bergquist †
Lois G. Bernhardson †
Julius Beuch †
Dick † and Sharon Bjerkaas
Jessie D. Bonn †
Margaret Borgman †
Maxine Brandt †
Adele Brown †
Lester and Mary Burg †
Wayne Burslie †
Therese Cain
Laverne Carley †
Aileen V. Carlson †
Clarence C. Carlson †
Clarence E. and Irene M. Carlson Charitable Trust in Memory of Leonard H. Berg †
Donald and Norma Carlson
Irene V. Carlson †
Phyllis A. Carlson †
John Cevette
Rollin B. Child †
Donald † and Virginia Christensen
Lorne and Kathy Christensen
Dorothy Christianson †
Rev. Dr. Theodore and Alice Conrad †

Geraldine Coulson †
Ted and Rose Mary Coulson †
Chuck and Anna Mae Cullen
Lillian Cutler †
Ellsworth and Edna Dade †
Bernice Dahl †
Bob and Diane Dahl
Luverne Dahlquist †
Sr. Irene Danielson †
Linnea Danielson †
Brian Daury †
Lucille Decker
Harold and Mildred DeSmidt †
Gregory and Sandy Dickerman †
Karen Diehl †
Ann Dirks
Ruth G. Doffing †
Cora Domholdt †
Selma Domstrand †
Florence Eckberg †
Luverne Eckstrom †
Fern Edstrom †
Art and Barbara Ellingsen †
Rex and Marjorie Emerson †
Alice H. Erickson †
Brad † and Peggy Erickson
Cecilia Erickson †
Doris Eloise Erickson †





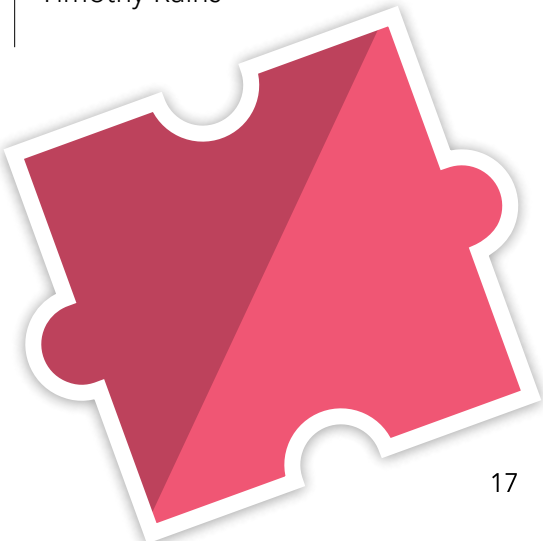
Ethel A. Erickson †	Mildred O. Hartji †
Sr. Ethel Erickson †	Edith G. Hauser †
Lucille G. Erickson †	Russell C. Hedlund †
Ruth C. Erickson †	Donna Hill
Wendell Erickson †	Helen E. Hokanson †
Gust and Alice Fallden †	Evelyn Hollander †
Naomi Fausch †	Russell Holm †
Charlotte E. Fernstom †	Anna P. Huber †
Charles and Gail Fiedler †	George Hull †
Donald and Erma Fillmore †	Martha Humsik †
Elsie E. Fisher †	Linnea T. Ingman †
Mabelle Forsberg †	Esther L. Isaacson †
Eunice Fredrick	Eric and Cindy Iverson
Julianne and Michael Fries	Edna Jacobson †
Steve and Jill Fritzke	Richard Jenkins †
Ruth M. Gabrielsen †	Doris L. Johnson †
Signe Gabrielson †	Dorothy E. Johnson †
LuJene M. Gedicke †	Edythe Johnson †
Bridget E. Gibson	Hilda Violet Johnson †
James R. Gifford †	Ingrid E. Johnson
Werner and Frances Gillquist †	Janice E. Johnson †
Rev. Ken † and Jeanne Gooden	Jean E. Johnson †
Rev. Highland Goodman, III	Levina C. Johnson †
Richard J. Grabow †	Pauline Johnson †
Dorothy Granquist †	Ruth and Willis Johnson †
Kay A. Gudmestad	Sherman W. Johnson †
Alpha M. Gustafson †	Sigrid Johnson †
Bernice M. Gustafson †	Vern † and Phyllis Johnson
Nora H. Hagglund †	Rev. Vernon W. and G. Jean Johnson †
Margery Harris †	Barbara Johnson-Nye
	Vida and Richard Johnston †

Donna Jones
Norma Jorgensen †
Thelma M. Joy
Joanne and John † Kendall
William D. Kenyon †
Rev. David and Myrna Kiel
Leone R. Kinseth †
Craig and Lori Kittelson
Edythe H. C. Kjellin †
Paul and Marion Klett †
Violet J. Kloth †
Ruth Kockum †
John and Patricia Kojis Family †
LeRoy Kreitlow †
Vivian Ladwig †
Dorothy H. Lande †
Lorraine P. Larm †
Frances D. Larson †
Grace H. Larson †
Karen M. Larson †
Mabel Larson †
Adeline C. Leraas †
Linda Letich †
Bowana V. Lietzow †
Lillian Lindahl †
Virginia E. Lindberg †
Arnold H. Lindfors †
Russell C. Lindgren †

Virginia Lindholm †
Fern Lindteigen
Ruth A. Long †
Judy A. Lunde †
Todd and Maggie Lundeen
Kirsten Lundgren
Victoria F. Mahoney
Maysil Malard-Lodoen
Rev. Gil † and Mary Ann Maple
Susan M. Marconeri †
Alice Marks †
Hazel Marsh †
Donald and Janet † Marxen
Irene Massman †
Arlene Mattson †
David and Harriett Mattson †
Mabel O. Mattson †
Marjorie McKean †
Doris McPherson †
Mildred Mead †
Hildur A. Meissner †
Robert W. Mellstrom †
Tim and Laurie Middendorf
David and Eileen Miller
Warren Moen †
Chris and Alice Mol †
Mark and Judith Monasky
Anita D. Moody †
Ruth Morris †
Ernest M. and Janette S. Muller
Anna Mumey †

Dorothy J. Murray †
Newell and Sandra Nelsen
Alida Nelson †
Anna V. Nelson †
Chrystal L. Nelson †
Dora S. Nelson †
Edith M. Nelson †
Ellen C. Nelson †
Elvina S. Nelson †
Joyce A. Nelson
Laurence and Allegra Nelson †
Mildred A. Nelson †
Ward Nelson †
Kenneth and Margaret "Peg" Newell †
Edwin and Edith Norberg †
Mae Nord †
Violet L. Nordstrom †
Hildur Noren †
John A. Norgren †
Ardis M. Norlander †
Pat and Linda Nuss
Melvin and Ardis Nyberg †
Walter T. Nyberg †
Annette M. Oberg †
Edythe A. Oberg †
Laurence W. Odean †
Dale and Marilyn Ogle
Clarice Ohman †
Ethel M. Ohman †
Dr. Al Ohrt
Harriet B. Oleyar †

Mayme Olschlager †
Alvin A. Olson †
Catherine M. Olson †
Charlie O. Olson †
Clara Jeanette Olson †
Dale and Ione Olson
Lorraine Olson †
Frances Osborne †
Teola Otey †
Esther S. Oyaas †
Eleanor Paulson †
Lolita N. Paulson †
Rosalie Payne †
Norma Pennington †
Martha M. Peterson †
Mildred Peterson †
Odrun E. Peterson †
Ralph J. Peterson †
Roland and Geraldine Peterson
Sadie H. Ponwith †
Edna Quinnell †
Vivian Quist †
Walter Quist †
Timothy Rains



Cassia's Legacy Society continued

Dr. Keith and Mary Pat Rapp
 Orrin A. Redman †
 Leo † and Marguerite Renaud
 Audrey N. Rhodes †
 Otis Robarge †
 Annette Rodriguez
 Oscar Roise †
 Mary A. Roy
 Leslie Rudell †
 Helen M. Rush †
 Rev. Tom Sahlstrom
 Virgil B. Sandquist †
 Ron Sanford
 Ilene Saunders †
 Ruth Scheuneman
 Jake and Elsie Schlafmann †
 Myrtle Schroeder †
 Clara Seck †
 Lorraine Seibel †
 John and Margaret † Severson
 Phyllis Severson
 Svante H. Severson †
 James and Mary † Shirley
 Rev. Dr. William J. Siegel †
 Lois A. Simons †
 Ruth Sjolín †
 Effie Skoglund †
 Blanche Smith †
 Dorothy Smith †
 Joyce Smith

Roger Smith †
 Margaret Sorensen †
 William and Marcia Soules
 Danny L. Spearman †
 Clarice A. Staff †
 Phyllis A. Stanley †
 Raymond and Phyllis Stanley †
 Olga M. Stone †
 Chesley and Lory Strom
 Janice E. Sullivan
 John and Cheryl Sundman
 Eleanor A. Sundstrom †
 Evelyn M. Swanson †
 Rev. Milton and Margaret Swanson †
 Myrtle W. Swanson †
 Robert O. Swanson †
 Victor Swanson †
 Margaret E. Swenson †
 Tekla Swenson †
 Vernon S. Swenson †
 Bernice W. Taylor †
 Marlys Tellinghuisen
 Mildred C. Templin †
 Earl Tesch †
 Genevieve C. Theurer †
 Lyle and Evelyn Thomas †
 Lillian Thompson †
 Anna Thoreson †
 Mary Jo and Jeffrey Thorne
 Tim and Chicki Tucker

Inez Upham †
 Ed and Margaret Victorsen †
 Lawrence and Ethel Wagstrom †
 Dr. Lois Wagstrom and Lou Feagles
 Ancil Walden †
 William and Sandra Ward
 Margaret Weber †
 Mildred Weeklund †
 Myrle Wehlau †
 Betty J. Wellnitz
 Claudia O. West †
 Hazel Westlund †
 Florence Q. Westman †
 Christine Wierson †
 Valora L. Wiessner †
 Adolph Wiken †
 Warren and Gladys Williamson †
 Amy Woyke †

BEFORE RENOVATION



AFTER RENOVATION

Valley View Village Residents Value Chapel Renovations

Dick Jensen has a long history with Valley View Village; first as a pharmacist serving the community for more than 20 years, then as a family member of a resident, and now as a resident in assisted living with his wife ErmaDell.

“We’ve just been very pleased with our relationship with Valley View Village for the many years we’ve been associated with them, more so since we’ve moved in and have had opportunities to receive the benefits available here, including the chapel and events in the chapel and the relationships we have in the community,” Dick says.

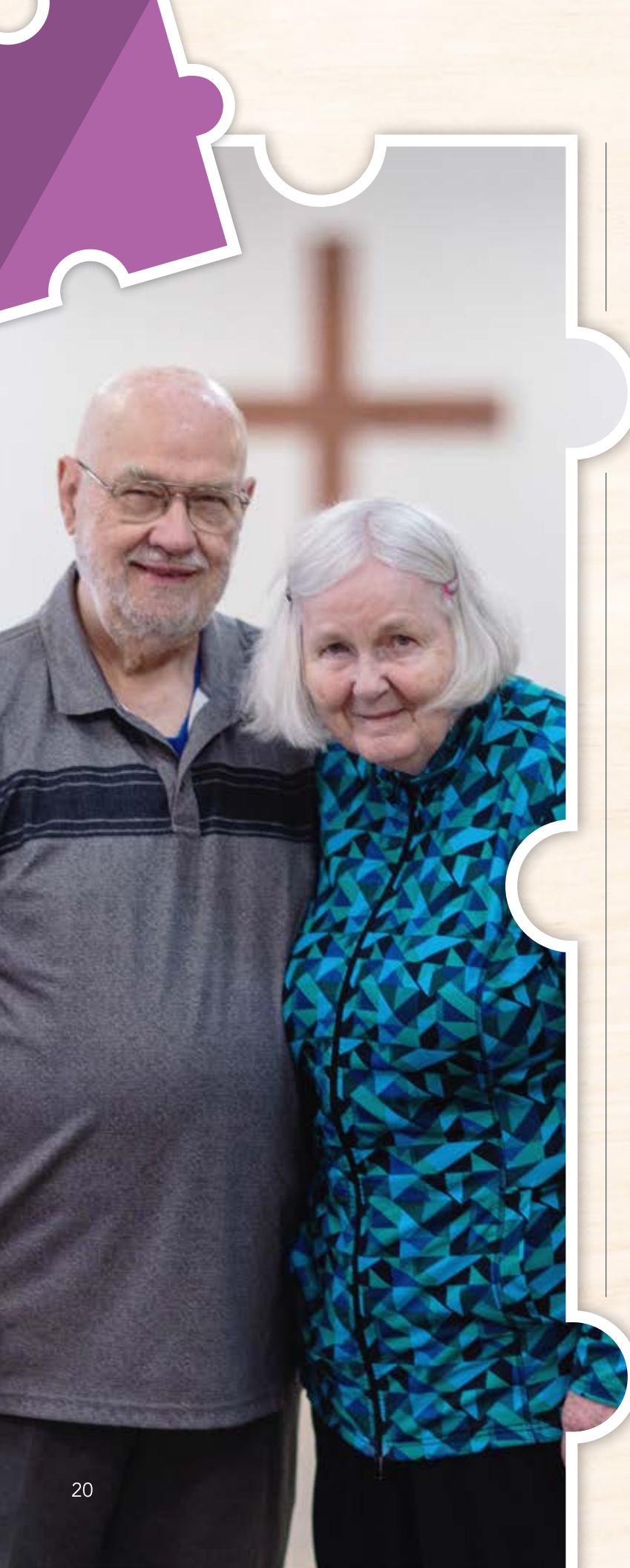
“It’s great to be involved with the people here. It’s a really a nice group of people.”

The Jensens especially appreciate being able to gather and take advantage of activities in the chapel.

“We enjoy the opportunity to get together with people here, get to know them and have those opportunities to be encouraged through entertainment, speakers and other things they have in the chapel,” Dick says.

Residents can also reserve the chapel for private events, as the Jensens did for a family Christmas gathering.

(continues)



Improvements Make a Difference

Spending time in the chapel is now more pleasant thanks to improvements made possible by generous donors.

"The new windows on the west side make an amazing difference in the look of the chapel: it's so fresh and clean," Dick says, adding that the light that pours in through those windows brightens up the space.

Renovations also included a new roof, a new fire sprinkler system, new drywall in the front area, fresh paint, asbestos abatement and improved accessibility.

"It just makes it much more convenient for people in wheelchairs and walkers to get in and out of the chapel," Dick says of the accessible entrance.

Not only do the Jensens appreciate the chapel, they've also donated to support the renovations.

"It's always important to give back to things you get value out of, whether it be church, civic organizations or Valley View Village," Dick says.

More Improvements Needed

The Jensens continue to give and encourage others to join them as more renovations are needed. Future improvements will include the addition of restrooms, a kitchenette and new audio/visual equipment.

"I think all the people are excited about it," Dick says of the improvements that have been made, as well as those planned.

The Valley View Village Difference

Dick says he believes Valley View Village stands out from other communities.

"Christian organizations have a different feel and that's good," Dick says. "You have a goal you're looking for, not just making money but sharing the love of Christ. That's important."

We're grateful for donors like the Jensens who believe in Cassia's mission "to foster fullness of life for older adults in the spirit of Christ's love" at Valley View Village and beyond.



Contributions Make All-Star Teams Possible

As you may know, the most critical challenge in eldercare today is the staffing crisis.

At Cassia, we are committed to solving this problem. But we can't do it alone.

Late in 2023, we shared the story of an All-Star caregiver named Bobbie, the kind of person we want to stack our teams with: she loves what she does, and you can tell. Caring for older adults is a calling—one she takes seriously. Bobbie was able to overcome significant obstacles and made a huge career switch because we had funding available to cover her training and certification.

We invited partners like you—residents, family members, community members and grant funders—to be part of making these stories possible. An incredible \$4.6 million was raised, providing significant funding to recruit and retain the next generation of All-Stars. Thanks to this generous partnership, All-Stars like Jade are able to discover and pursue their calling.

Meet Jade

With ambitions of becoming a Registered Nurse, Elim Wellspring's posting about a job with free nursing assistant training caught Jade's eye. She was ready to return to work after being a stay-at-home mom with her two young children. But she didn't want to work in retail, food service or childcare as she had previously. Thanks to this opportunity that covered the costs of her training and even provided wages as she completed it, Jade was able to follow in her mother's footsteps and begin a career in eldercare.

"I feel like I am on the path of becoming a nurse one day," Jade says confidently.

And, she's building bonds with residents along the way through actions both big and small. Every shift, she assists residents as they go to bed, when they wake up and even checks on them throughout the night.

When one resident with a particular routine had a rough morning, Jade requested help from overnight supervisor Rebekah Templin.

"She asked me directly to show her his routine and do it with her so she could be better at it and make his routine better and smoother so he would have a better day," Rebekah says.

When another resident struggles to fall asleep, Jade knows just what to do. She fires up the toaster, slathers butter on the toast and sprinkles cinnamon sugar on top. Then, she steeps a cup of sleepy time tea. The comforting scents waft through the halls as Jade delivers the resident's favorite late-night combination.

Jade recognizes that small actions can make a big difference. "Little things definitely matter," she says. "I love how even a tiny gesture can make our residents really happy."

Rebekah says Jade focuses on doing just that.

"She goes above and beyond to try to give them what they need to make their lives better," she says.

A Multifaceted Approach

Recruiting and retaining All-Star employees like Jade and Bobbie is not easy. It takes a concerted effort, creativity and financial support. Cassia is grateful for recent grants from the state of Minnesota to our skilled nursing communities, as well as the incredible generosity of donors like you.

These funds have made a profound impact on our efforts to overcome the workforce crisis, empowering our Cassia communities to attract and retain caregivers who are passionate about fostering fullness of life for older adults in the spirit of Christ's love.

We are truly grateful for all the support we receive and are committed to building up teams of All-Stars dedicated to excellence for every resident we serve.

If you missed Bobbie's story, you can check it out here!



Bobbie with a resident in Moose Lake Village

Where Your Donations Go

Donors, sponsors and grantors contributed \$6,642,017.04 to Cassia in 2023. Through your designated gifts, here are some of the ways your support fostered fullness of life for older adults in the spirit of Christ’s love throughout our communities.

For more information on ways you can make a difference in Cassia communities, visit CassiaLife.org/Giving or scan the QR code with your phone’s photo app.

A PDF of this report is available at CassiaLife.org/Gratitude-Report.

Financial information is available on request by writing to Philanthropy@CassiaLife.org.





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