



2024 Gratitude Report

charting **paths** of **purpose** together

Letter from the CEO and Board Chair

Dear friend,

There are many ways to get from Point A to Point B—highways, byways, planes, trains, and automobiles. But the most meaningful journeys are those we take together, mapping out a shared path with purpose, passion, and partnership.

Thanks to your generosity, 2024 was a year of incredible progress, each gift paving the way for brighter futures:

- 📍 You fueled journeys—literally—by providing transportation so residents can go where they need and want to go.
- 📍 With deep dedication, MaryAnn Maple celebrated more than 30 years of service at Redeemer Health and Rehab, so moved by the mission that she has included Cassia in her estate plans.
- 📍 Together, we expanded outdoor opportunities at Elim Shores—adding a pontoon, dock, walking path, golf cart, and putting green—creating spaces for connection and joy.
- 📍 You strengthened our CARE Fund, providing crucial financial support to employees navigating life's unexpected detours.
- 📍 You helped provide the funding our chaplains need to offer spiritual support and comfort to residents, families, and staff; you also helped expand chaplaincy to touch even more lives.
- 📍 Through grant funding, Open Circle members embarked on creative new adventures in the arts, enriching their daily experiences.

As we look ahead, we know that the road before us is filled with possibilities. Your support helps us stay the course, ensuring no one travels alone.

Thank you for walking this journey with us. We are charting paths of purpose together.

*"I thank my
God every time
I remember you...
I always pray with joy
because of your
partnership in the
gospel from the
first day until now."
— Philippians 1:3-5*

CEO **Robert Dahl**



Board Chair **Charles Parks**



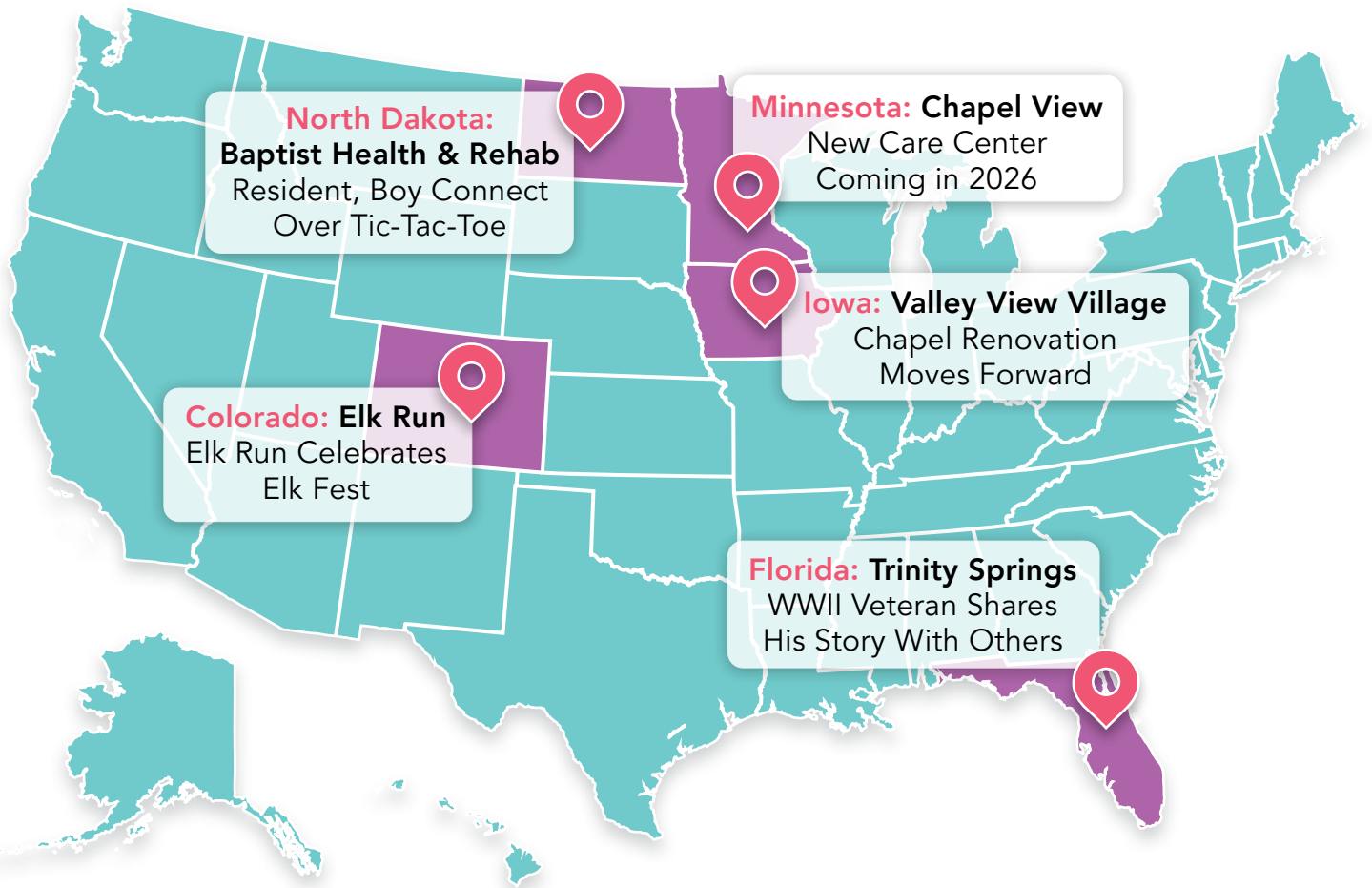


Fullness of Life is Local

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 camera
app or go to cassialife.org/local-stories-2024





MaryAnn Maple: A Legacy of Giving and Grace

"The Lord doesn't waste any experience in our life, good or bad. He can take that and turn it into something that glorifies Him."

These words, shared by the late Rev. Gil Maple with his wife, MaryAnn, throughout their 48 years of marriage, have been the compass guiding her life. For more than three decades, MaryAnn has poured her heart into Redeemer Health and Rehab Center. She has worn many hats, from receptionist to part-time chaplain, each role reflecting her deep commitment to the mission.

MaryAnn's story is one of resilience, service, and faith—a story that continues to unfold as she builds a legacy that will bless Redeemer for generations to come.



A Life Called to Service

MaryAnn and Gil's journey began on a Bible college campus. MaryAnn was there for her undergraduate degree, and Gil was a handsome seminary student. The couple fell in love and committed to a life of ministry together. Their journey took them from rural Wisconsin to Minnesota and California, then back to Minnesota.

"Every place we went, the Lord would say, 'Your time here is done; I've got a new door for you,'"
MaryAnn says.

In 1993, Redeemer became a cornerstone of their life when Gil was called to be its first chaplain. Together, the couple embraced the mission. MaryAnn started as a receptionist, but her role at Redeemer expanded as she threw herself into supporting residents and staff with boundless energy and a compassionate heart.

Tragedy Turned into Opportunity

Less than a year into their tenure, tragedy struck when Gil suffered a major stroke. Yet, what might have been a moment of defeat became an opportunity—they saw God turn their trials into something good.

“Gil said, ‘The Lord called me to this place and hasn’t taken the call from me,’” MaryAnn recalls.

Redeemer created a part-time role for Gil. He continued leading Bible studies and supporting residents. Eventually, in 2012, Gil became a resident at Redeemer. But even then, he kept working.

MaryAnn helped him prepare Bible studies, which became a shared dialogue with her leading Gil into his next points when needed.

“In some ways, I became an associate chaplain with him,” says MaryAnn. She was also working in the activities department at the time.



Loss and a Family Found

MaryAnn spent her lunch breaks with Gil and stayed with him late into the evening hours. They drew near to each other and the team rallied around them, offering a kind of care that transcends professional obligation.

When Gil passed away in 2017, the staff grieved with MaryAnn. “They entered into my sorrow because they had their own sorrow. It bound us together as family.”

While MaryAnn missed Gil desperately, she didn’t let that grief hold her back. She found comfort and joy in continuing to build the legacy they had started together.

Building a Legacy, One Generation at a Time

MaryAnn has loved every job she’s done at Redeemer, but one is particularly special to her. She played an instrumental role in starting Grandma’s House, a childcare center where intergenerational connections flourish.

As the first director, she envisioned a welcoming space where children of all ages could interact, much like they would at their grandma’s house—an idea that inspired the center’s name.

She loved watching the youngsters with the residents. Little things like singing “Happy Birthday” or just a wave from a child sparked the biggest smiles from residents.



After nine years, she knew the time had come to pass the torch. She entrusted Grandma’s House leadership to capable new hands and turned her attention to a new calling as the volunteer coordinator.

Pivoting to Part-Time Chaplain

As the volunteer program came to an end in 2020, Redeemer's administrator had a new vision for MaryAnn. He asked her to become a part-time chaplain—to take over Gil's old role.

She jumped at the opportunity.

"It's been a privilege to be able to continue the things Gil had done here," MaryAnn says.

She was especially honored when a resident's family requested that she preside over their loved one's funeral.

"I called the family and said, 'I don't know if you know my story—that I'm not ordained.' They said, we don't care. You loved my mom, and she loved you, so we want you to do it,'" MaryAnn says.

A fellow chaplain reviewed her sermon and told her, "Gil's looking down and smiling."

MaryAnn loves her job and finds joy even in the little things not in her job description, like helping residents with puzzles, handing out books and even getting earplugs for a resident to help her sleep.



Giving Beyond Her Lifetime

A few years ago, when MaryAnn was getting her affairs in order, she knew she wanted to include Redeemer in her estate plans. It wasn't just a matter of financial support—it was about investing in the mission to which she and Gil had dedicated their lives. She wanted to support the work even after she was gone.

"We may never see the fruit of the money we give, but it does something to us to be able to give," she says. "It's more blessed to give than to receive."

Her decision to include Redeemer in her estate plans is more than just a financial gift—it is a powerful expression of her unwavering commitment to the mission—to fostering fullness of life for Redeemer residents.

MaryAnn is ensuring that her legacy—and Gil's—will continue to touch lives for generations to come.

We are deeply grateful for MaryAnn and all that she has given. Her story reminds us that every act of kindness and generosity can make a world of difference in residents' lives.



Walking with Grace:

Spiritual Life Brings Comfort, Connection and Community Across Cassia

Residents and staff members gathered close, some joining hands, others wiping away tears, as they came together to honor a beloved Trinity Springs resident.

Veterans raised their hands in a solemn salute, honoring their fallen comrade with quiet reverence.

Loved ones and staff guided the Walk of Honor through the halls, every step a testament to the love and gratitude felt for their friend.

Voices united in singing “Amazing Grace” filled the lobby, the melody carrying their emotions as they said goodbye one last time.

Chaplain Chuck Tabor paused the procession to invite memories and reflections. One by one, heartfelt stories emerged—of kindness, laughter, and a life well-lived—creating a moment of grace and connection that will stay with all who were there.

This is a Walk of Honor. When any beloved Trinity Springs resident passes, they can be escorted through the community one last time in a Walk of Honor, if their loved ones so wish.

“When people come into our community as new residents, we celebrate. I suggested, ‘They came in with honor; let them go out with honor,’” Pastor Chuck says.

Moments like these are a common occurrence in Cassia communities, providing dignity and offering heartfelt reminders of the profound impact of spiritual life at Trinity Springs and beyond.

What is Spiritual Life?

“Spiritual life, for me, is meeting people where they are to help them realize that every aspect of their life has a spiritual dimension to it,” Pastor Chuck says. “I’m here to walk with them through that.”

This can take the form of individual conversations, prayer and counseling; Bible studies; prayer groups; chapel services and other programming.

Pastor Chuck makes himself available as much as possible.

“I tell residents I’m only here 20 hours a week, but I’m on call 24/7,” Pastor Chuck says. “I want them to know, in any situation they face, if they need counsel, an extra set of eyes or ears, or someone to help them think through issues, that I’m here for them and to help them.”

Pastor Chuck is ordained in the Evangelical Free Church of America and that shapes his ministry at Trinity Springs, but he also works to understand the faiths and traditions of every resident to ensure their spiritual needs are met.

Pastor Chuck strives to become a friend to all residents and encourages them to live every day to the fullest.

“Every day I walk into this building, I have one question I ask across the board: Are we having fun yet?” Pastor Chuck says. “I want them to see this day, this moment as a time to not only think positively about whatever the situation is but to realize there is an opportunity for enjoyment even in trials and tribulations.”



Dick and Yuka's story

As a pastor who visits residents at many senior living communities in and around The Villages, Dick Wolters made an observation: Trinity Springs is the only community that employs a chaplain.

He met Pastor Chuck while visiting congregants at Trinity Springs and the two quickly bonded. Dick's wife Yuka, who had Alzheimer's Disease, suffered a broken femur in 2023 and was unable to return to her senior living community because she couldn't take verbal instructions. Pastor Chuck and the Trinity Springs staff warmly welcomed Yuka.

Dick raves about the care Yuka received until her passing in January 2024.



"I was blessed to have my wife there the last six months of her life," Dick says. "Yuka being there was like the icing on her life's cake."

In that time, he and Chuck had many conversations and became fast friends.

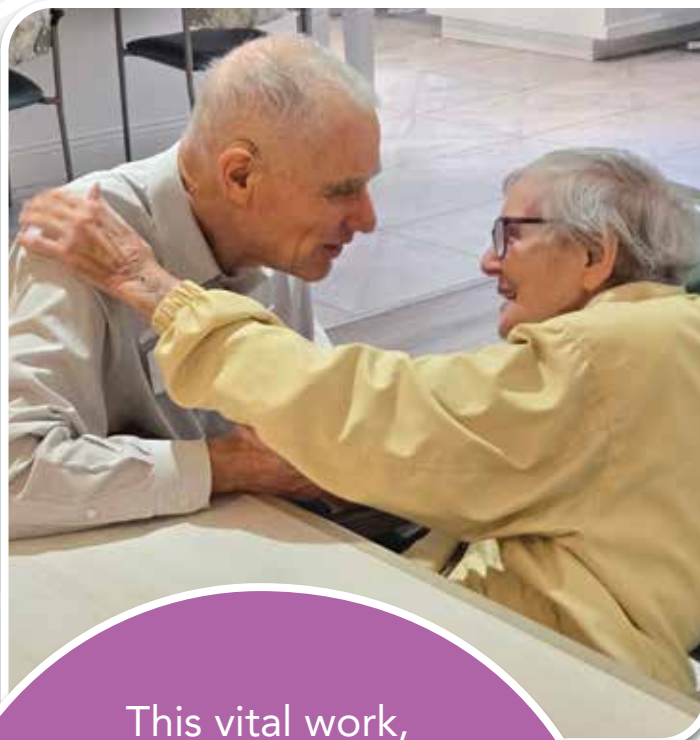
"Chuck very often would sit down with me to ask how I was doing," Dick says. "He was concerned about me as a caregiver, knowing my wife was nearing the end of her life. He was very supportive. He would talk to her and hold her hand. You could tell he truly loved her. He was there for me to help me as I was going through the grief of losing a loved one. I am very close to Chuck."

Dick became a volunteer assistant chaplain to serve memory care residents while Yuka lived at Trinity Springs and continues to serve in that role. He especially enjoys leading church services.

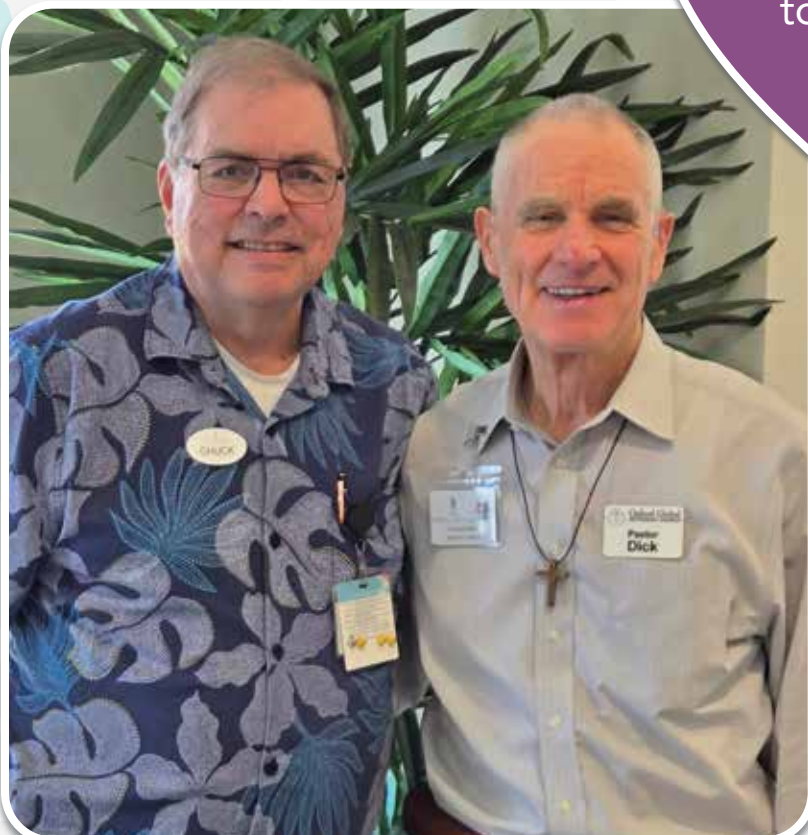
“When I have a church service with memory care residents, it’s very informal,” Dick says. “I play hymns, say prayers, take a Bible story and make it interesting to them. We spend an hour or so together talking about Jesus, praying and singing hymns. When they hear the old hymns, they come alive.”

The Impact of Spiritual Life

Spiritual life is the foundation of Cassia’s mission, touching and enriching lives throughout every Cassia community. With a dedicated team of chaplains, guided by vice presidents of spiritual life David Juve and Julie Ryan; Cassia offers compassionate care, guidance and support to residents, families and staff alike.



This vital work, from personal counseling and prayer to community worship and spiritual programs, is made possible through your generosity. In 2024, **884 donors** gave **\$753,280** to support spiritual life programs at Cassia communities.



Thank you for supporting spiritual life at Cassia and helping us nurture hope, faith and connection for those we serve.



Independence on Wheels:

Bus Fundraisers Empower Residents

When Cathy first rear-ended another vehicle with her car, it was more than just a fender bender. It was a wake-up call—a moment of realization that her days behind the wheel were over. The decision to stop driving didn't come easy for Cathy, a resident at Lake Ridge Assisted Living in Buffalo, Minnesota.

“If you need something to bake or make, it's hard not just jumping into a car,” Cathy shares. “It's very hard. I like to be very independent.”

Just a block away at Park View Assisted Living, Una faced her own turning point years ago. As much as she cherished the open road, the increasing risks made the choice inevitable.

“Giving up my independence was one of the hardest things I've ever had to do,” she admits quietly.

For both women—and so many residents like them—the transition to life without a car was a profound shift, one that could have meant the end of their independence. But thanks to a shared bus between Lake Ridge and Park View, the story didn't end there.

The Joys a Bus Can Bring

The bus wasn't just a vehicle—it was a lifeline. It meant trips to the grocery store, dinner outings, and excursions that reignited the joy of adventure.

“We were able to participate in so many things,” Una recalls, her face lighting up.

Buffalo Lake



park
view





lake
ridge



For Cathy, the bus was a window to the wider world—a way to stay connected, to feel part of something beyond the walls of her residence. Each ride brought laughter, camaraderie, and a renewed sense of purpose.

But over time, even the most reliable lifelines can fray.

The Struggles of a Well-Worn Bus

Affectionately nicknamed “Harley” by residents and staff, the aging bus was a character in its own right—loud, temperamental, and increasingly unreliable.

“The air conditioner quit and they were having some problems with it,” Una says.

Each mechanical failure was another roadblock to freedom, each canceled trip a disappointment for residents who had come to cherish their time on the road.

Something had to be done.

Driven by Generosity

When the call went out for donations to replace the bus, something incredible happened.

Families, businesses, churches, and residents themselves rallied together, raising more than \$93,000.

Una was among the first to step up, donating out of gratitude for the joy the bus had brought her. But as the fundraising poster seemed to inch forward too slowly, she felt compelled to do more.

“That’s when I gave the bigger one,” Una says with a determined smile.

Residents didn’t just donate—they became advocates, reaching out to friends and family, sharing stories of what the bus meant to them.

Every gift carried the weight of love and hope, often given in memory of someone cherished.

A Celebration of Independence

When the goal was finally reached, it wasn't just a victory—it was a triumph of community spirit. The day the new bus arrived, anticipation filled the air as residents, staff, family members and donors gathered outside. All eyes turned to the road, waiting for the moment they had all worked toward.

The bus made a grand entrance, with Lake Ridge activity director Tammy Scherr at the wheel, celebratory beats pumping from a bus-themed playlist curated by Chaplain Joel Pike. As the crowd erupted into cheers, the atmosphere was electric with joy and pride.

Grateful remarks were shared, celebrating the community's achievement, and Pastor Joel led a heartfelt prayer of blessing over the bus, inviting everyone to extend their hands in unity. With pomp and circumstance, the ribbon was cut, signaling a new chapter of freedom and connection for the residents.

Toasts followed as sparkling cider flutes were passed around.

"We toasted it and everything, and took pictures with it," Cathy recalls with a smile. "It was nice. It's hard to explain how happy we are."

Excitement filled the air as people lined up to tour the new bus, snapping photos to commemorate the occasion. Laughter and gratitude abounded, weaving through the crowd as everyone celebrated the incredible generosity that made it all possible.

Donors like you help make transportation possible across Cassia:

\$70,000 raised for a bus at Redeemer Health Care Center in Minneapolis, MN

\$120,796 raised for a bus at Haven Homes in Maple Plain, MN

\$93,712 raised for a van dedicated for medical appointments at Baptist Health & Rehab in Bismarck, ND

The new bus wasn't just a replacement—it was a testament to the power of community, the resilience of its residents, and the kindness of donors who understood the value of independence.

More Stories, More Journeys

The impact of donor-supported transportation doesn't end at Park View and Lake Ridge. Across Cassia communities, buses and special vehicles have changed lives, creating connections, adventures, and moments of joy that might otherwise have been out of reach.

Thanks to generous supporters like Una, Cathy, and countless others, residents across Cassia continue to have the world at their fingertips. Because independence doesn't have to end with the keys—it can live on, powered by the kindness of a community.





Creativity Without Limits: Empowering Adult Day Members Through the Arts

When asked to drum a rhythm to go with his name, Don didn't miss a beat. The Open Circle member struck the drum with a flourish and a big grin on his face. Everybody in the drum circle smiled right along with him.

"It was a really incredible moment and very validating," says Mark Rosen, director of therapeutic programming at Open Circle.

Mark admits he thought the concept of communicating one's name on a drum might be too abstract for members with dementia, but he was glad to be proven wrong.



"Some members are very progressed in dementia and they're all able to engage in this session," Mark says. "Finding rhythm is something you retain for a long time."

A \$34,000 Arts Experiences grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board (MSAB) made life-enriching arts programming like this possible at all five of Cassia's Open Circle locations.

Identifying a Need ... and a Solution

Adult day services staff in Princeton had come to Mark with a problem. Their volunteer who had helped with art stopped doing so, making arts programming almost nonexistent. The arts bring joy to members and help them thrive. They missed these programs when they didn't happen.

"Art is essential to our person-centered programming because it allows people to celebrate their identity and express their emotions and individuality," Mark says.

Mark connected with Cassia's director of grants and events, Chris Hinnenkamp, to identify funding options for arts programming. They learned the MSAB was prioritizing rural and urban sites for the Arts Experiences grant. This made it the perfect fit for the Princeton and Buffalo centers, along with the Minneapolis, Apple Valley and Hopkins locations.

They applied for the grant to fund a partnership with COMPAS (Community Programs in the Arts and Sciences), which connects community organizations and schools with more than 100 artists in a vast variety of mediums.

Celebrating and Getting to Work

Open Circle received the full \$34,000 grant, by far the largest arts grant the organization has ever received.

"I don't want to undersell it. It was elation," Mark says of the response to the news. "We've never had the benefit of such a large arts budget to create extraordinary experiences for our members."

Open Circle staff began selecting what types of arts programming to have at each location. In addition to drum circles, activities include metal working, puppetry, songwriting, jewelry making and social justice poetry.

About 12 artists have been providing residencies, allowing as many Open Circle members as possible to benefit from the programming.

Benefits for Members, Staff

Just like Don, other members can express themselves through art because of this funding.

"They get to share their history, interests, passions and inner emotions," Mark says. "These different artistic mediums allow them to express who they are in a time when



verbal or written expression may be very challenging.”

Arts experiences also build community.

“They’re with other people engaging in something together,” Mark says. “At some level, there is social connectivity. We obviously know there are a lot of emotional and mental health benefits to social connection.”

The grant has allowed Open Circle to provide unique programming that would be challenging to deliver without professional artists. It has also allowed staff to learn from those artists and continue aspects of what they teach going forward.

Open Circle now has a strong partnership with COMPAS, as well. The organization has already contacted Open Circle about additional grant opportunities.

Collaboration at its Finest

“We are creating moments that validate and celebrate life experiences and histories and passions of our members,” Mark says.

Without working together, Open Circle would not have been able to provide these new experiences for members like Don.

Employees from all Open Circle locations, Mark, Chris and staff from COMPAS and MSAB came together to make it all possible.

Thank you MSAB, COMPAS, donors and others for coming alongside us as we find innovative ways to serve all by following One.




open circle
adult day services
a ministry of  CASSIA





2024

BY THE NUMBERS

2024 Board of Directors

Charles Parks, Chair

Kevin Bergman, Vice Chair

Jon Addington, Secretary

Aaron Youngdahl

Bert Norman

Cindy Morris

Jerry Nye

Jone Tiffany

Larry Kula

Lores Vlaminck

Michael Aderinkomi

Micheline Verlautz

Nikki Weber Daniels

Pat Nuss

Paul Fox

Rick Ellingson

Scott Ramsdale

In 2024,
Cassia
served
almost

**50,000
people**

More than
3,300 residents

served in independent
or assisted living

More than
**500
students**

participated
in learning
programs,
internships
or projects

2,455 donors, sponsors and grantors contributed over

\$2.5 million

to help foster fullness of life across Cassia

Over **40,000**

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

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

Nearly
5,800
people
were served at
health care centers

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. Deceased members are listed with a †.

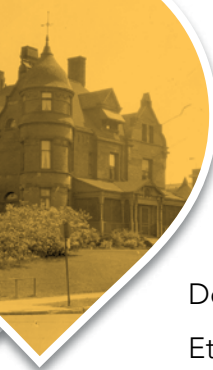
Dorothy M. Abbey †
Donna Anderson
Ethel Anderson †
Gladys M. Anderson †
Irene L. Anderson †
J. Vincent Anderson †
Signe T. Anderson †
Anonymous †
Lennie and Lois Arnevik †
Judy A. Askelson
Sophie W. Aspelin †
Edsel and Katherine Aswegan †
Pearl Baker †
Chaplain Clyde and Elizabeth Beissel
Clara I. Berg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

Sister Irene Danielson
(standing, at right)





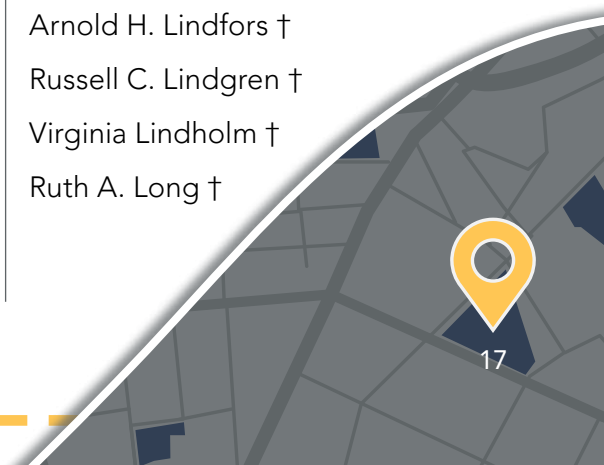
Doris Eloise Erickson †
Ethel A. Erickson †
Sr. Ethel Erickson †
Lucille G. Erickson †
Ruth C. Erickson †
Wendell Erickson †
Gust and Alice Fallden †
Naomi Fausch †
Charlotte E. Fernstom †
Charles and Gail Fiedler †
Donald and Erma Fillmore †
Elsie E. Fisher †
Mabelle Forsberg †
Eunice Fredrick †
Julianne and Michael Fries
Steve and Jill Fritzke
Ruth M. Gabrielsen †
Signe Gabrielson †
LuJene M. Gedicke †
Bridget E. Gibson
James R. Gifford †
Werner and Frances
Gillquist †
Rev. Ken † and
Jeanne Gooden
Richard J. Grabow †
Dorothy Granquist †
Kay A. Gudmestad
Alpha M. Gustafson †
Bernice M. Gustafson †
Nora H. Hagglund †
Margery Harris †

Mildred O. Hartji †
Edith G. Hauser †
Russell C. Hedlund †
Helen E. Hokanson †
Evelyn Hollander †
Russell Holm †
Anna P. Huber †
George Hull †
Martha Humsik †
Linnea T. Ingman †
Esther L. Isaacson †
Eric and Cindy Iverson
Edna Jacobson †
Richard Jenkins †
Curtis G. and
Sharon E. Johnson †
Doris L. Johnson †
Dorothy E. Johnson †
Edythe Johnson †
Hilda Violet Johnson †
Ingrid E. Johnson
Janice E. Johnson †
Jean E. Johnson †
Levina C. Johnson †
Pauline Johnson †
Ruth and Willis Johnson †
Sherman W. Johnson †
Sigrid Johnson †
Rev. Vernon W. and
G. Jean Johnson †
Barbara Johnson-Nye
Vida and Richard Johnston †
Donna Jones
Pennye Joos †

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 †
Chaplain Lori Lathrop
Adeline C. Leraas †
Scott and
Jackie Liestman
Bowana V. Lietzow †
Lillian Lindahl †
Virginia E. Lindberg †
Arnold H. Lindfors †
Russell C. Lindgren †
Virginia Lindholm †
Ruth A. Long †



Sister
Bothilda
Svenson



Judy A. Lunde †
 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 †
 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



Alvar Nelson,
 former Director
 of the Augustana
 Home of Minneapolis



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 †

Virgil B. Sandquist †

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 †

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 †

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 †



Sister Bothilda
Svenson with
children from
Augustana's
Children's Home

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 †

Valorais L. Wiessner †

Adolph Wiken †

Warren and Gladys
Williamson †

David L. Word †

Amy Woyke †



The purchase of the Little Red House in 1918 was symbolic in Augustana's increased focus on care for the aging population of Minneapolis.

CARE Fund Supports Employees in Time of Need



When the transmission in Bea Baker's vehicle failed, she could have been stranded. But the Valley View Village employee knew just where to turn for assistance. She and others had been contributing to the CARE Fund for years and now it was there to help in her time of need.

"It meant that I didn't have to figure it out on my own, how to pay for the repairs," Bea says.

"It meant that I had a village willing to help. It meant that I work for a company that cares about me."

Bea Baker,
Valley View Village
employee



Bea is one of many Valley View employees who have benefited from the CARE Fund there. In 2024, 9 valued employees received critical support, totaling \$5,344.68. Overall, throughout the Cassia organization, 46 employees from 29 communities benefited from \$24,000 in CARE Fund dollars in 2024.

The CARE Fund in Action

At Valley View, Chaplain Mike Evans gets to know employees and connects them to the CARE Fund when needed.

"I consider myself a chaplain to all residents and staff," Pastor Mike says. "That means getting to know them, their struggles and life events. We walk through life together. Sometimes staff will come with financial needs. I really like to direct them to the CARE Fund if they have emergency financial needs."

When Bea and other site leaders learn about employees who are struggling, they encourage them and help connect them to Pastor Mike.

"If someone is having a troubling day, we try to step out and be their friend," Bea says. "Mike is very good at that. He's so great at reading people and saying, 'Hey, is there something I can do for you?' If they open up to him, he goes from there."

When Pastor Mike learns about a specific financial hardship, he presents it to the CARE Fund Committee that reviews applications and distributes the funds.

CARE Funds have literally kept the lights and utilities on for employees; provided day-care and helped cover rent, auto repairs and medical expenses.

Response to the CARE Fund

Even before employees receive the funds, just knowing resources are available can lift their spirits.

"When they know money is available, they feel, 'I'm not just another cog in the wheel. I'm a person,'" Pastor Mike says.

Employees respond gratefully to receiving the funds.

“Whenever we offer money to them, they really appreciate it,” Pastor Mike says. “I don’t think anyone takes it for granted or has entitlement. Most people who experience this are just overjoyed. That’s why I like to be the one to tell them the good news.”

“Over the years, I’ve known different people who have used it, and they are so grateful and thankful that we care,” Bea adds.

A natural response to generosity is to give back when able.

“Even though we all come from different walks of life, the CARE Fund helps bring us together,” Pastor Mike says.

He believes Cassia’s mission statement of “Fostering fullness of life for older adults in the Spirit of Christ’s love” extends to staff through the CARE Fund.

“It’s not just a philosophy,” Pastor Mike says. “We really do care about God’s love being worked out practically. That’s what people experience when they get these unexpected expenses taken care of. It’s such a blessing. That’s in the nature of Jesus to be giving.”

Small Gestures, Big Impacts

The CARE Fund exists at each local Cassia community to support its employees, and anyone can contribute to it.

Bea has been giving a portion of her paycheck to the CARE Fund since 2008, and many other employees do the same to help coworkers in need. In fact, most of the 160 CARE Fund contributors in 2024 were Cassia employees or board members.

Bea says it’s also a great way for residents and their families to show appreciation to those who serve and care for them.

“I know at different times throughout the year, we’ve had residents who want to give special recognition to employees,” Bea says. “If they want to do something for employees, this is how they can do it.”

Whether you’re an employee, board member, resident or family member, thank you for supporting our team through your generous donations to the CARE Fund!

“People are so grateful to have received this money that sometimes they want to join in on the generosity,”



Chaplain
Mike Evans,
Valley View
Village

Expanding Cassia’s Mission

Not only does the CARE Fund support employees, but it also embodies so many of Cassia’s values: unity, compassion, collaboration, excellence and integrity.



Did you know that CARE is an acronym for **C**assia **A**ccess to **R**esources for **E**mployees?



A Community of Friendship and Fullness at Elim Shores

Nestled along the peaceful shores of Mitchell Lake in Eden Prairie, Minnesota, Elim Shores offers more than picturesque views—it's a place where friendships bloom, laughter fills the air, and memories are created under open skies.

In the last few years, generous donors have made many outdoor amenities possible, including walking paths, a dock and pontoon and a putting green. Residents like Nancy and Steve don't just have a beautiful backyard; they've gained deeper connections, companionship and an ongoing joy in life's simple pleasures—all because of your generosity.



Where Community Comes to Life

For Nancy, who moved to Elim Shores more than two years ago, she didn't just gain a home; she found an extended family. The beautiful outdoor spaces created unique opportunities for connection.

"When I first moved in, that was one of the first ways I got to meet people. Someone would be sitting on a bench out there, so I'd sit down and visit," Nancy says describing how she's met neighbors who quickly became friends.

Today, Nancy still treasures her walks, stopping to admire wildlife that gathers by the lake. She watches birds gliding through the air, squirrels scampering along the path and even an occasional deer walking through the woods.

"I look at the birds more than anything else. Other than the squirrels that you almost trip over, there are so many!" she laughs.

Each stroll brings a sense of peacefulness that makes her feel completely at home.



A Path to Friendship

For Steve, a resident and long-time golfing enthusiast, the putting green is more than just practice; it's a connection to his lifelong love of golf. Here, he can feel the warm sunshine and gentle breeze, smell the freshly mown grass, and hear the quiet sound of the ball dropping into the cup.

The backyard provides more than fresh air and exercise; it also led Steve to a best friend.

"When I moved in, I was walking the path with my brother. He approached one of the residents and said, 'My brother needs someone to walk with.' And we became best friends. I play cribbage with her every night now," Steve says.

"I found that when kids come to visit their grandmas, they enjoy being out there too," he adds with a fond laugh. "They call it Grandma's backyard."



These outdoor spaces—brought to life by your generosity—were designed to do more than beautify the grounds. They've become gathering places where residents like Nancy and Steve can connect, laugh and build memories.

A Community United by Generosity and Joy

Fullness of life comes in many forms. For some, it's a calm walk through nature. For others, it's the chance to glide across a lake on a peaceful pontoon ride or sink a putt on a well-loved green.

At its heart, Elim Shores is more than a place to live; it's a community where life is celebrated every day. Thanks to you, these spaces bring laughter, joy and companionship to the residents who call this place home.



Where Your Donations Go

Donors, sponsors and grantors contributed \$2,543,601.63 to Cassia in 2024. 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.



Bridge Program \$41,716

to aid residents in need of financial assistance through the Bridge Program



Building Enhancements \$42,668

to enhance existing community buildings, improving the overall environment



CARE Program \$18,431

to assist staff experiencing financial emergencies due to unexpected difficulties



Outdoor Enhancements \$98,253

to develop/enhance outdoor leisure spaces such as patios, gardens and walking paths



Spiritual Life and Chapel \$753,180

to provide spiritual life programming and worship spaces

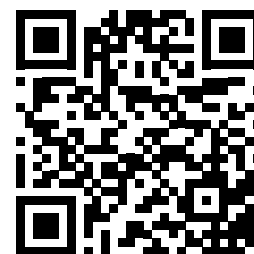


Staff Appreciation \$50,587

to share appreciation with staff, lifting spirits and encouraging their work

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

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



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.



Equipment Needs

\$264,592

to provide equipment
to enhance care and
fulfill Cassia's mission



Greatest Need

\$1,092,176

to support the area
of greatest need



Staff Scholarships

\$27,850

to enhance staff care
and mission delivery



Workforce

\$47,750

to recruit, retain and enhance
Certified Nursing Assistants
and Cassia caregivers



Therapeutic Recreation

\$106,399

to enhance therapeutic
recreation programming,
enriching resident
community life



cassia foundation

The Cassia Foundation serves as the trusted steward of charitable giving for each individual Cassia community. Our purpose is to partner with you to support the specific Cassia communities and causes closest to your heart.

Thank you for your support!

GRAPHIC DESIGN | Dana Miller | Troy Peterson

WRITING | Shawnee Prewett | Gabe Licht | Megan Tucker

PHOTOGRAPHY | Jessica Schelitzche | DNA Illustrated | AGNT Media

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