



Inspired by Husband's Example to Support Chapel for the New Haven Homes

As you read this, builders are working on a new building for Cassia's Haven Homes that offers independent/assisted living, memory care, skilled nursing, rehabilitation and adult day. We are now in the midst of a capital campaign to support the new building's chapel and are featuring one of our lead donors, Cindy Bergquist, in this newsletter. As a Christ Lutheran Church parishioner, Cindy is guided by faith and inspired by her late husband Denny.

How did you and Denny meet?

We met at my cousin's wedding and married in 1963. Denny taught in Michigan and rural Minnesota for some years. We moved back to Maple Plain to be near family. Denny worked for Control Data and IBM as a programmer and later, we started our own business as a service bureau doing payrolls and data entry. We worked with the post office on zip code development. The business did well. We eventually sold it and retired.

What's your connection with Haven Homes in Maple Plain?

We knew friends who worked there. Our church members know many residents, and the care is excellent.

Why did you choose to support the chapel with such a generous, transformative gift?

Denny had polio at age five. Fortunately, he regained use of his legs and partial use of one arm, but his experience taught him to work hard, help others, have faith, and dream the American dream.

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Throughout our lives, we helped people and businesses. When I heard about plans for a new chapel, I wanted to give back some of the blessings we received. I know Denny would have cherished this opportunity! It would have brought him enormous joy.

How will residents' lives be enhanced by the new chapel and your gift?

Residents and families need a place to go to talk to God. The new chapel will have enough space for families to join loved ones and worship together.

Why do you think philanthropy is crucial to enhance the quality of older adults' lives?

I strongly believe in projects that are good for our community. We are all neighbors here. It's a humbling, rewarding experience to be able to help.

To learn more about Cassia's philanthropy work, please contact Matthew Crawford at Matthew.Crawford@cassialife.org or call 763-688-3415.

MISSION AND CREDITS

Cassia's mission is to foster fullness of life for older adults in the spirit of Christ's love.

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Cassia works with Centrex Rehab, Grace Hospice, Guardian Angels + Elim Care Home Care and Hospice and Pro Rehab to provide home health, hospice and rehabilitation throughout our communities.

Faith is Key for Haven Homes and Christ Lutheran Church

Our cover article introduced you to a special donor at Haven Homes, but that's only part of the story. As a member of Christ Lutheran Church, donor Cindy Bergquist is part of a faith community with a strong connection to Cassia's Haven Homes.

"We have visited or supported people at Haven Homes for about 20 years," says Christ Lutheran Pastor Ron Boettner. When Haven Homes sought to build a new chapel, Pastor Boettner joined the capital campaign committee.

Parishioners connect with Haven Homes residents in a variety of ways. Some work as nurses or nursing aides, while others bring residents to worship services held at the care community. Still others contribute funds to help support our Haven Homes capital campaign.

"I so admire people of faith. I can see how it gives them joy in tough times," says Pastor Boettner. "I think faith is the key for a good quality of life." The pastor also believes that those who give generously to help others show "a taste of God's generosity." We agree and are grateful to you all.



Pastor Ron Boettner goes over plans for Haven Homes' new chapel with lead donor Cindy Bergquist. "God is driving forth this plan to build this place," he says.



The Parks family envisioned Parks' Place: Memory Care Redefined as a family-centered, thoughtfully planned environment with personalized care. The community opened this fall in Plymouth.

Minnesota Family Directly Impacted by Alzheimer's Launches Parks' Place to Redefine Memory Care

When Mayo Clinic diagnosed Plymouth resident Jerry Parks, a former vice president at a large construction company, with Younger-Onset Alzheimer's at age 56, it did not provide a template for what comes next.

"Every day spouses are being thrust into the new role of caregiver as they deal with the impact of this disease, but it's not every day the children of those affected by the disease are spurred to action to change the face of memory care," says Jerry's wife, Karen Parks.

The Parks family envisioned a family-centered, meaningfully planned environment where people are excited to visit loved ones. With the support of spouses, relatives and friends, they leveraged their extensive Alzheimer's network to put their passion project in motion.

Parks' Place: Memory Care Redefined opened in October at 18040 Medina Road in Plymouth, Minnesota and can accommodate 36 residents. Care and services are coordinated by Cassia.

The community was designed with well-organized spaces and natural light to create an elegant setting with highly personalized care. A memory care program will focus on abilities rather than disabilities to help residents experience success. To arrange a visit, please contact Kaitlin.Kelly@cassialife.org or call 763-710-8484.

New Outdoor Features Make Life Livelier at Brookside

Cassia's Brookside Senior Living resident Elmer Boike is like many in his community who want a lively place to live—and in rural Montevideo, that often means spending time outdoors. Elmer loves gardening, and a new program at Brookside makes getting around outside easier than ever. The program was made possible by generous individuals and grants.

In 2017, staff and residents asked Lutheran Social Service for advice on how to connect more to the people and things that mean the most to them. The result? Raised gardens and a box garden allow residents to plant vegetables and flowers without straining muscles, according to Service Coordinator and Activities Director Kelly Snell.

In addition, a paved walking path links one garden to another. It's called "Margaret's Path" in memory of former Brookside administrator Margaret Norman, whose family made a significant donation to help create the path. Brookside also reconnected a sidewalk with an adjacent church—so residents using wheel chairs can easily get there.

"I do enjoy going out on the walking paths," says Elmer. "I'm looking forward to seeing the flowers grow."



Raised gardens make it easier for Brookside Senior Living residents like Elmer Boike to plant flowers and vegetables.

DONOR SPOTLIGHT:

Keeping the Legacy Going: Amy Woyke



Resident Amy Woyke (at right) shares a laugh with her friend Verna Lutes in the Augustana Apartments of Minneapolis courtyard. Amy donated funds to help the community purchase a special swing to memorialize her husband.

If you want to see Amy Woyke laugh, ask about her early attempts to cook for her husband Carl. “I was fixing corned beef Reubens,” she says. “Carl asked what I was doing. I said I just spooned out the can and he said he usually cooked the corned beef first.”

Amy’s real talents were in nursing. For 16 years, she was the nurse supervisor at the Augustana Minneapolis Health Care Center. In 2000, she and her husband Carl moved to the Minneapolis apartments and Amy continued to live there after Carl’s passing.

Recently, Amy helped donate funds for a swing that memorializes her husband. The swing reminds her of many happy years spent in her 44-year marriage—including time she and Carl sat and talked together in the apartment courtyard.

Amy donates to Cassia because she believes it’s vital for older adults to enjoy their lives and experience the many amenities the apartments have to offer. “I donate to keep the legacy of this place going,” she says.

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Save the Date for Fall Events

Buffalo Fall Gala

Friday, October 25

Medina Golf and Country Club

Contact Susan.Ask@cassialife.org

Festival of Trees

Saturday, November 16

Augustana Regent of Burnsville

Contact Beth.Woodward@cassialife.org

Life-changing Gifts

What's the best way to leave a legacy conveying your values while helping others for generations to come? Gifts by bequest enable us to improve the quality of life for those who give so much of themselves. Donations may be made using cash, securities, IRA and other retirement accounts, real estate or tangible personal property.

Gifts are deductible to the full extent of the law; consult an attorney to be sure. You'll also want your attorney to verify that the provision states our legal names: Augustana Care or Elim Care Ministries. Please inform us of your bequest so you may be acknowledged and we may better plan for the future. **For more information about planned gifts and other donations, please contact philanthropy@cassialife.org or call 952-855-5189.**