Fred and Janet Crawford: “Everything We Need is Right Here”

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How do you change people’s misperceptions about growing older? “One rock song at a time,” quips Michael Matthew Ferrell, founder of the empowering arts organization Alive & Kickin for older generations. Alive & Kickin joined Augustan Open Circle this year to celebrate older adults’ talent in our community.

The result is a group called Sing Out! which meets monthly at our Heritage Park location.

Sing Out! is free and open to the community. In May the group hosted special guest Kat Perkins, a local singer featured on The Voice. Perkins joined the group to sing hits like “Proud Mary,” “Lean on Me,” and more. Recent guests include Jennifer Grimm and Dieter Bierbrauer.

The group is led by Michael Ferrell and musician/composer Jason Hansen. “Michael and Jason know how to bring out joy in all of us,” says participant Jim O’Brien.

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Our annual report contained a photo and quote from resident Kay Jurgenson, but mistakenly listed her ordination date as 1957. In fact, it occurred in 1975.
You’re not at the end of the road; you’re at a bend in the road. Change can make your life more interesting.

When asked to join our new Ambassador Program, Senior Adult Program Coordinator Kari Snyder at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church agreed enthusiastically. “Augustana Care does a great job of serving older adults. People need to know that,” Snyder explains.

The mission of Augustana Care is to serve God by fostering fullness of life for older adults and other people in need through the provision of health care, housing, and other services in a Christian tradition.

If you have questions or feedback, please contact our communications office at gskoglund@augustanacare.org or 612-238-5202.

Creating Friendlier Communities for Those with Dementia

Can communities be more helpful to people with dementia? Last year, Act on Alzheimer’s distributed funding to help create a more dementia-friendly community in Hopkins, Minnesota.

Augustana Care staff joined with various partners to set up interviews in churches, businesses, clinics, caregiver support groups, schools and government offices, among others. Topics addressed at the interviews include the following:

• Raising awareness of resources that support people with dementia
• Disseminating warning signs of dementia
• Making public spaces less stressful for people with dementia
• Providing training for caregivers

An action team will choose the three largest areas of concern and work to find solutions. Those solutions might include creating easy-to-navigates environments in local buildings, or training community members on how to talk to people with dementia.

Brookside Senior Living’s new building will allow Augustana Care to expand its services in Montevideo to include memory care.

Since its opening fifty-one years ago, Brookside served more than 800 residents. The new building will serve many more. A new memory care option will allow more couples to stay together, should one (or both) need help with Alzheimer’s or similar conditions.

For more information on Brookside Senior Living, call 320-229-6506.

Ambassador Program Offers New Friendships and Connections

Click to view larger

The Ambassador Program brings volunteers Gary and Diane Burrow together with Augustana Care residents. The Burrows have become dear friends, and Gary Burrow was able to go to church with Diane at left, as residents find special friendships invaluable in getting a road to church.

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New Brookside Senior Living Building to Offer More Space, New Memory Care Options

Geri Henstein grew up in the tranquil community of Montevideo, Minnesota, raising six children there with her husband Harold. He worked for the Minnesota Power and Light Company forty-two years, while she worked at the local school.

After Harold Henstein passed away, the couple’s children thought it might be easier for their mother if she didn’t have to deal with yard work and chores. She moved to Brookside Senior Living in 2015.

Now, Henstein looks forward to living in Brookside’s new building, expected to be completed in September 2017. She plans to live in a two-bedroom apartment and devote one of the bedrooms exclusively to knitting. “I’ll have more room for my work,” she says.

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If you have questions or feedback, please contact our communications office at gaskoglu@augustanacare.org or 612-238-8552.

Ambassador Program Offers New Friendships and Possibilities

When asked to join our new Ambassador Program, Senior Adult Program Coordinator Kari Snyder at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church agreed enthusiastically. “Augustana Care does a great job of serving older adults. People need to know that,” Snyder explains.

Ambassadors strengthen connections between older adults and faith communities through educational programs (provided by Augustana Care), joint volunteer opportunities and more. Prince of Peace’s volunteer program is a perfect example of how the Ambassador Program can work.

“For us… it’s about forming a lasting relationship. Marilyn and Beatta have become dear friends!” says Diane Burrow.

“I’ll describe the experience in one word—wonderful,” Bowman says. “We were the new kids on the block, and they made us feel so welcome,” adds Swanson. To learn more about the Ambassador Program, contact us at crmlauf@augustanacare.org or 612-218-5202.

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The Augustana Awesome Awards annually celebrate the inspiring contributions of staff, volunteers and residents. The 2017 award for Excellence in Customer Service went to Home Health Aide Michelle Gary, Director of Health Services. Joanne Mecham received the Excellence in Leadership award, while Willie Felder received the Excellence in Volunteerism award. Our Resident Fullness of Life award went to Damarka Faulkner.

The Tim Tucker Spirit of Collaboration Award celebrates our exceptional partners. Those including the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program at Anoka Technical College and the Adler Institute for extraordinary internship programs at Augustana Open Circle adult day centers.

The Tim Tucker Spirit of Collaboration Award is sponsored by Tim Tucker (at right).

The Augustana Awesome Guys are sponsored by CEO Tim Tucker (at right).

“Augustana Awesome Awards Celebrate Those Who Inspire Us

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“We used to have a bus that brought residents here for weekly services, but then funding was reduced and the bus comes less often,” says Snyder. Volunteer drivers stepped up to fill the gap, and began connecting directly with residents.

Augustana Regent residents Marilyn Bowman and Beatta Swanson now ride to services with volunteers Gary and Diane Burrow. “For us… it’s about forming a lasting relationship. Marilyn and Beatta have become dear friends,” says Diane Burrow.

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The Ambassador Program brings volunteers Gary and Diane Burton together with Augustana Care residents like Marilyn Bowman and Beatta Swanson (at rear, with Gary); Ambassador Kari Snyder (right next to Marilyn), with Diane at left; new residents find special friendshipswhile getting a ride to church.

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Janet replies:

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