

Comforts of Home NEWS

"A laugh is a smile that bursts!"

April/May/June 2008

News From St. Croix Falls

Hello from St. Croix Falls. We are all so looking forward for the nice weather to come and for the spring flowers to bloom. Many birthdays were celebrated; in February Betty Spofford and Beatrice Johnson. Bea's family had her 90th birthday party at the Trinity Lutheran Church with many family and friends. In March Violet Monson had her party with her family and friends. Dorothy Edgell also had a nice celebration with her family and friends and it was a special treat to have her daughter come from Texas. We made many crafts and played lots of games for Valentine's Day. On St. Patrick's Day we enjoyed corned beef and cabbage, little red potatoes and green juice! Easter Sunday the residents enjoyed a nice Easter dinner. Many families visited and many residents went out with families for Church and dinner. Easter came so early we still had snow on the ground. The snow just doesn't want to leave us this spring. We would like to take a moment to say goodbye to Carol Rhode, we will miss her and her wonderful family. We would also like to say goodbye to our Swedish Alva Parmenter, we will miss her so much and her words, "you girls work so hard." Alva in Swedish means 11. She was the 11th child and said she was "full of wheat". She is now with her husband, Howard, whom she missed so much. Alva and Carol, you will be in our hearts forever. One of our staff, Tiffany Lieske gave birth to twins: Ethan Jack, 8lbs 3oz, and Ava Raine, 7lbs 6oz. Congratulations Tiff. Until next time, Good Health and Happiness!



News from Baldwin

After a long and snowy winter, residents and staff are greatly anticipating the warmer days ahead. Plans are developing on this year's garden, flower beds and the many flower pots we will be planting, not to mention all of our outside activities, walks and family events. St. Patrick's Day celebration was another successful hit this year with a lot of good food, green beer and many visitors. Valentine's Day we celebrated with live entertainment and fresh roses displayed on every dinner table. We want to thank all the family and friends who stopped by to celebrate with us. We always enjoy your company. We have really enjoyed our Tuesday's bible study sessions with Dan McCune. This month we will be sending fliers to families and friends in anticipation of our yearly yard sale. The proceeds will go towards games and craft supplies for activities. Watch for the many upcoming events we have planned this year. On Saturday, June 14, we will be attending the June Bug Days Parade. Our theme this year is "Having a Hay of a Day". We look forward to spending this day seeing family and friends celebrating in the Baldwin June Bug annual celebration. Feel free to stop by anytime to enjoy a cookie and coffee. We look forward to seeing you.



If you would like to submit anything for the Comforts of Home Newsletter, please call Rhonda at 800/920-4725.



Our Name is our Promise.



News From Frederic

What a difference a year makes. Last year in March we had 80 degree days, this March there is still snow everywhere! To say that we all have spring fever would be an understatement. The first three months have been filled with birthday and holiday celebrations. For Valentine's Day the residents shared memories of their spouses and then had a Cornish Game Hen dinner. We managed to enjoy St. Patrick's Day and Easter very nicely even though they were in the same week. When the evening and weekends get a little too long, bingo and cards are the activities of choice for some; other TV viewing is

just the ticket. We would like to pay tribute to 2 very special people, Richard Goodman and Dorothy Fahland. Although gone from our sight, they each left us with invaluable experiences that will forever be etched in minds and hearts. Richard had Alzheimer's Disease. Before this disease took over his whole life, Richard was an artist, a father, a teacher, a woodsman; deeply devoted to his faith and church, a quiet gentle man. When he came to us, he was in the later part of stage 2 of this cruel disease. His mind was fading, his abilities decreasing, family was foreign to him and fear was tremendous. As his disease progressed and his body betrayed him, there were 3 things that always remained - his sense of humor, his manners and always that questioning look, as if he knew something great was gone from him and never really being able to make sense of it. His family missed the father they knew and prayed that during their visits that they could spark a memory. Prayers are answered, maybe not in the way or time that we need them to be, but answered they are. For in the last 2 weeks of Richard's life, he was blessed with the ability to speak and make his needs known. With tears in his eyes he hugged each of his caregivers, telling them that he knew "that the old gray mare would not be here much longer" and that it was up to us to take care of things for him. During those last weeks, his daughters got to reminisce with him and say all the things that they longed to say for years, and for Richard to hear and respond was such a tremendous gift. Dorothy Fahland was like a warm gentle breeze that one can never get enough of. She was a deeply religious person and she lived the concept on a daily basis. Dorothy never left the family farm, never married the love of her life; she was a devoted daughter, sister and aunt. She was a genuinely happy soul. Dorothy never ever spoke one unkind word to anyone, she lived her faith daily and always put other people first. Dorothy woke up one morning and told us it was her time, that she wanted the priest, last rights and family notified. We did as she requested. She told her family as well as friends that she was going home and four days later, very peacefully Dorothy did exactly that-she went home. The human mind and spirit are a mighty wonder, and our prayers are always heard and answered in time. Thank you to both families for sharing your loved ones with us. Richard taught us so much about Alzheimer's Disease, we will use this knowledge to better serve others. Dorothy taught us that living compassionately and with kindness, putting others first is not hard to do at all, what a wonderful example of goodness. There is a saying: "Our life is a gift from God: what we do with that life is our gift back to God". From our house to yours, we wish you love, happiness and health.



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News from Hudson

Greetings from Hudson! We've been keeping ourselves busy the last few cold months of winter with a variety of activities. Dancing has been a big hit with everyone. Sharyl and Dave get everyone out on the dance floor with their wonderful Waltzes and Polkas. Some of the younger staff members need to work on their dance steps. Sharyl and Dave entertain us on the 1st Friday of each month at 3pm. Their next visit is May 2. Cowboy Jim brought us a nostalgic visit with the old west. We sang along and danced to the old country classics, some even joined in with instruments. Many family members joined us for an evening filled with cowboy hats and laughter. Cowboy Jim will be appearing again on June 12 at 6:30pm. Other entertainment has included a guitar strumming, folk singing group called the Three-Twos and a group of ladies called the Elk-ettes that tap danced their way into our hearts. We have also been busy with different craft projects such as scrap booking. A big thanks to Nila's daughters for all of their creative help. Our Book Club has also been enjoyed by a number of residents. Many stimulating conversations have resulted from our short stories. Many cups of coffee and cookies have also been consumed! Upcoming events include our Luau Party on April 18, Prom Night including a prom fashion show and a Fiesta Party. We have been expanding our daily activities such as Men's Group and beanbag shuffleboard. We look forward to enjoying the summer months with all of our family and friends.

News From River Falls

Where is spring? We've seen and felt glimpses of it here in River Falls, but eagerly await its full splendor! Tenants anticipate morning walks around the campus and afternoons on the patio in the warm sunshine. It will be a pleasant change of pace to take in the fresh air as we watch the new construction around us. Our second building, an assisted living home for residents needing higher acuity services, is scheduled to open in June. We've already had a lot of inquiries about the services we will offer there. Residents will be provided three meals, activities daily, housekeeping and laundry services, as well as beautiful fireplaces and sunrooms in which to relax. The third building is going up quickly. It will be condo-style living for independent seniors. We have all been amazed at the daily progress that occurs on that building. Tenants here in the apartments have been keeping busy with daily exercise group, movie and popcorn nights, musical entertainment, and special theme days such as Mardi Gras, Hawaiian Day and a Mexican Fiesta. We look forward to starting our flower and vegetable gardens and having a cookout on the patio. Soon we will be able to put spring flowers into pots and planters to brighten our landscape. We'll also be adding some bird feeders, bird baths, and ornamental elements as we settle in to our new places. We look forward to frequent visits from family and friends and encourage them to join us for a meal and/or time on the patio!



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"The staff couldn't be any nicer!"
Ginny Clausen

News From Chippewa Falls

It looks like spring is a little late this year. We are tired of all this snow and cold. Since New Years Day, we've celebrated many birthdays, Gaylord Howard, Dorothy Borowske, Irene Reiter, Alice Williams and Rae Hakes, to name a few. We even had an April Fool's Day birthday! Cake and ice cream was enjoyed by all. We held an Easter egg hunt and hid 250 eggs. There were about 30 children. All the residents had fun watching. The kids were so well behaved, some even shared their candy with other kids. We've had the Senior Center Singers and Music Mary in for entertainment. A church play and Bingo at the Knights of Columbus were enjoyed by residents. In February the headstart children visited us and showed us how to make ice cream in a plastic bag using ice-salt and a sugar and milk mixture. Everyone enjoyed it. Very tasty! We are enjoying watching our pansies and miniature roses grow from our AeroGarden. We made bird feeders with pinecones and peanut butter and seeds. The squirrels liked them also! In April we hired a local band called "The Old Timers". They play and sing the "oldies" and also polkas and waltzes. We're looking forward to our barbecue on Memorial day!

News from Menomonie

Happy spring! We have been busy here in Menomonie getting ready for it and then waiting and waiting. We have an array of flowers around our building hand made by our tenants to help us be patient for the real ones to start blooming. Darcy Boda, caregiver on the weekends, has now taken over activities during the week. She has us all baking and crafting and even did up little Easter baskets for each tenant over Easter weekend complete with colored eggs we did with her and her children. We are also excited to start our planter boxes outside and have lots of ideas of what we should put in each one, flowers, vegetables and for Jose and Joann Landeros, we must have jalapenos! Our candle lit Valentine's dinner was a hit with champagne glasses filled with strawberry dessert. We all felt like royalty. We have also enjoyed our furry friends this winter and have several that are getting quite brave and come right up to the window and really don't seem to mind if we all sit and watch them. We all look forward to seeing them every night. We have lots planned for this spring/summer. On April 21 we will be hosting a spring dance for seniors 50+. We have invited our families, friends, neighbors and several other senior housing tenants to come join us for snacks and great music by the DJ. We are also planning to start our weekly shopping trips for our tenants (now that it is getting warm enough). A family picnic and our participation in the town festivals and parade this summer are also on our list of planned events. Anyone with ideas and input on any activities please let Darcy know. She would love to hear from you.

