



Ave Maria Village

SMP Health System

VILLAGE VOICE



Vol. 2 No. 2 Summer 2014

Ave Maria's Joy Skeel named North Dakota's Adult Volunteer of the Year

Joy Skeel was “only” 65 when she stepped forward to make life a little better for the men and women who call Ave Maria Village their home.

Now — 25 years later — our tiny dynamo has been named the state's Adult Volunteer of the Year by the North Dakota Long-Term Care Association. When she received her honor in Bismarck last spring, she crossed the stage waving and blowing kisses to the audience, who gave her a standing ovation.

Now 90, the 4-foot-6-inch Joy remembers how she got involved: “Back then, I heard that some people who live here were lonely and needed something to do.” She and another couple, whom she recruited, began coming to Ave Maria every Friday afternoon to play whist with a dozen and a half residents.

Instead of slowing down as she celebrates more birthdays, Joy's volunteering has grown over the years. Along with playing cards, she now helps with baking and other activities for the residents. Her most valuable gift, though, is simply being here to visit with them.

“If I had it to do over, I'd do it in a heartbeat,” she says. She'd change just one thing: “I'd start sooner.”

Annie Strickland of Ave Maria's staff nominated Joy for the statewide honor. “Joy is our shining star,” she told the selection committee. “In addition to helping with cards, she has dedicated a lot of her time and talents over the years to contribute to our fund raisers.” She made and donated items for the white elephant sales that used to be held yearly and, more recently, donated four big boxes of baked goods to raise money for Bingo prizes.

Joy's late sister and her second husband were both Ave Maria residents. Even while tending to their needs, she found time to volunteer. “Her dedication and time spent at the nursing home playing cards and visiting never wavered,” says Annie, who is an

activity therapist and development assistant ... “even when her own life was the busiest.”

Joy has lived in Jamestown for most of her life, Joy knows many of the residents and has a personal connection. She remembers details about their lives and happy memories they may have themselves forgotten. “She

reminds them of a more independent time in their lives,”

Annie observes. “They love to reminisce about the ‘good old days’ together.”

The North Dakota Volunteer of the Year gave up her car about a year ago. Today she often has to rely on friends or public transit to get to the nursing home.

Yet she rarely misses a Friday card game. Residents anticipate her visits and ensure their schedules are free to play with Joy. She also encourages her friends and others to volunteer.

Says CEO Tim Burchill, “I was delighted when Joy was selected as the Volunteer of the Year. I can't imagine anyone more deserving. Though she is older than many of our residents, she has the energy and drive of a much younger person. Many retirees eventually reduce their volunteer activities as they age and their limitations make it harder for them. Not so for Joy! She gives them what many of us busy staff cannot: her time and her presence.”



Joy Skeel



Jan Barnes
Development Director

Join Ave Maria’s own ‘Walk of Fame’ by purchasing an engraved paver for you & your family in our courtyard

We’re closing the gap! In our spring newsletter, I told you we were \$269,000 away from our Capital Campaign goal. Now I can happily announce that we are only \$228,000 away!

Thank you so much for your support over the last three months. We’re getting closer.

People tell me that they’re looking for ways to help with the Capital Campaign right now. Here’s another: Leave your mark in our Legacy Courtyard by purchasing an engraved paver in honor of a loved one, in memory of someone who has passed away, or simply to leave your own legacy on our beautiful, growing senior-living campus.

The Legacy Courtyard surrounds the entrance to our new chapel. It’s landscaped with lush green shrubs and benches where visitors can enjoy the sun and the sights. A beautiful statue will soon be added.

About 50 landscaping pavers are now in place in the memorial garden. There’s room for many, many more to join this living tribute. Will yours be among them?

Friends who donate \$1,000 to Ave Maria Village’s Capital Campaign get to take their place in this serene setting. Yours might simply feature your family’s name, the names of grandchildren, your deceased grandparents or even your own.

Your donation of \$1,000 can be made as a one-time gift or in monthly or quarterly payments. Ave Maria employees can designate their Hour Club giving for this purpose. And if you’ve already contributed to Ave Maria’s campaign, let’s talk. Call me to check on your current gift total; you can simply top it off to reach the thousand-dollar mark.

Here’s what several of our present “paver providers” have to say:

Jodi Bunde, member of our Hour Club: “It all started with a call from Jan Barnes telling me my Hour Club donations entitled me to a garden paver with my name engraved on it. Me ... with my name on a Walk of Fame, just like Julia Roberts and Elizabeth Taylor! ‘I’d like to thank all the little people ... er, little dollars and cents, actually, that made this honor possible. One hour of my wage is donated to the AMV Foundation, and I don’t even miss it! Easy peasy! Hour Club donations can be made once a month, but I chose to double down during this capital campaign, and donate an hour each paycheck. And it’s really added up! Elizabeth Taylor would be so proud!’”

Betty Polries: “I give gifts to Ave Maria because it is a wonderful place. I have friends here, and they are all happy with the care. If I ever have to go to a nursing home some day, this is where I want to be. After I gave \$1,000, Jan told me about the pavers, and I said, “Sure!” Since then, I’ve added a second paver.

Judy Buegel: “My late husband’s mother Lillian Buegel was a resident at Ave Maria, and Fritz always appreciated how well she was taken care of. So I decided to give \$1,000 to name a paver in Fritz’s memory.”

Will you be next? Just contact me, and I’ll set up whatever method you’d like to get your name on a paver. You’ll be helping Ave Maria Village reach our goal for the Capital Campaign by making your mark.



Capital Campaign

Ave Maria Village’s Capital Campaign is on track!

In November, we reached a major milestone: the \$1 million mark.

Now we are just \$228,000 from our campaign goal of \$1,325,000.

— Jan Barnes, Development Director



Blanche Johnson: 'Living at Ave Maria is just like having a very big family'

Blanche Johnson says, "I love it here!" Since moving here in September 2011, the Ypsilanti native has come to enjoy every part of her busy life at Ave Maria Village.

"It's just like having a very big family. Ave Maria is my home," she observes. "I will stay here until the end."

Looking back, she remembers the moment in her youth when the direction of her life became clear. It was when young Earl Johnson, then 18, moved to her home town with his family. "All the local kids and everyone liked Earl," she says of the Marion, N.D., import who caught her eye. "I won out! I got him!" On Nov. 24, 1945, when both had turned 20, they were married in Jamestown.

Earl worked on the railroad for 41 years. Blanche taught school in rural Ypsilanti for six years until their only son, Larry, was born. Then she stayed home to raise him, always in close touch with her own parents, who lived next door and often babysat their grandson.

Earl and Blanche loved to dance. "Earl was a great dancer," she reminisces. Their favorite was the waltz, especially to the tune of "Tiny Bubbles." They also belonged to the Ypsilanti Square Dancers Club.

The couple were pinochle fanatics, too. They played often with Mike and Jackie Tarpinian, Larry and Gloria Braasch, and Clarence and Melva Oak.

Blanche went back to work at JC Penney's in Jamestown in 1968. After both she and her husband retired, they took on a new role: as bailiffs for the District Court. They thrived during their 16 and one-half years at the courthouse until Earl's failing health prompted them to retire again in 2005. "We were both 'people people,' and we met so many people over those years," Blanche says. "The judges and attorneys were so respectful."

The Johnsons were married for a total of 61 and one-half years. Earl passed away from heart disease in 2007.

Their son Larry himself is retired now from a health-care career in Portland, Ore. He'd attended the State College of Science for two years, then completed his degree at Minnesota State University Moorhead. He lives in Moorhead now; Blanche's grandson Jeff lives in Fargo, where he works as a driver for UPS.

Blanche moved into the Heritage Center for a few months in 2010, then came to Ave Maria the next year. She'd had a light stroke and was left with poor balance, which caused her to fall.

Always positive, she says, "I love living at Ave Maria Village. All the workers are kind, caring and helpful ... and Tim Burchill is a wonderful administrator who treats us all the same.

"So many things are always going on around here:



Blanche Johnson

playing pinochle, Skip-Bo and Bingo, lots of entertainment, coffee at 3:00 every afternoon, the annual family picnic, birthday parties"

In fact, those birthdays are one of her favorite highlights. "Tim gets his accordion and rounds up all the management staff," she reports, "and they bring a cupcake and balloon and candy. They all gather in your room to sing 'Happy Birthday' to you. Then each one of them gives us a hug. It makes you feel so special."

She also cherishes the memory of being crowned queen on Valentine's Day 2013, sharing her reign with king Emil Nelson. "It was such an honor," she exclaims. "They had a nice dinner for the two of us, along with the king and queen of the Heritage Center. I still have my crown. I will always keep it!"

She goes to Rehab three times a week: "They're a wonderful team, my guardian angel Sandy Sodawasser and my therapist Jason Anderson. They're happy and they encourage me."

Blanche is close to her family, who visit often. Her son calls every day. She adds, "My daughter-in-law Dee is so wonderful to me. She is my personal shopper. She will see something and say, 'That looks like Blanche.'"

She always introduces her sister Shirley Laber as her "million dollar sister." "She washes my clothes and brings me goodies," Blanche reports. "She's a real gem."

But her neighbors at Ave Maria are like family, too. "I love each and every one of the residents, and I enjoy visiting with them. I try to make the new residents comfortable when they move in with us. After all, this is my home!"



Ave Maria Village Gifts & Tributes

March 1 – May 31, 2014

Capital Campaign

David Deutscher
Haut Funeral Home
Heritage Centre Car Wash
Infinity Building Services
KSJB/KISS 93.3 Radio
Larry & Deb Lachenmeier
Gordon Larson Foundation
Medicine Shoppe
Bill & Theresa McMillan
David & Marge Nething
Family
Harold Newman⁺
Verna Peterson
Ray Sabinash
Elizabeth Szarkowski
Red Hat Society
Anna Stachlowski
Richard & Alice Wanzek

 **We remember
Sp. Phil D. Brown,
our fallen soldier**

Brad & Jan Barnes
Richard & Deidra Brown
& Family

In Memory of:

Roy & Lois Christensen

Ann Reisdorfer

Louise Eckart

Chuck & Marlene Axtman
Don & Joyce Bentz
Jerald & Fran Kurtz

Lois Gasal

Carole Hayes

Carol Gilbertson

Alden & Landa Kollman

Gertrude Guenther

Gene & Bea Andersen
Rose Bisbiglia
Dorothy Giamona
Marilyn Gregori
Gerald Guenther
Mary Harper
Betty Hoang
Jane Keltner
Thomas & C.A.
Kosobayashi

Gina Lassagne

Cindy Luengo

Mabel Moore

Luanne Nandwana
Lindsay Paper
Beatrice Patzer
Thomas Patzer
Sue Rice
Pat Salle
Bryan & Peggy Widmer

Marlene Gumke

Cliff Gumke

Dennis Hendrickson

Patti DeBuck
Marlyn Domek
Pam Golde
Alden & Landa Kollman
Rick & Carma Maddock
Joe & Karen Offolter

Hazel Holzwarth

Pam Golde
Charlie & Marge
Kourajian
Margaret Lambrecht
Jim & Sue Matthiesen
Gary & Donna Neys
Marlys Perleberg
Bruce & Susan Tomczak
Donna Tompkins

June Leimer

Wayne & Sally Albin
Rodney & Janice
Roaldson
Mike & Jackie Tarpinian

Earl Letcher

Helen Bureson
Marlyn Domek

Calvin Miller

Alex & Annie (Hanson)
Strickland

Joyce Sabinash

Dennis & Jill Bredahl
Lyle & Nancy Williams

Leon Skjeret

Jeanette Skjeret

Helen Suko

Jamie & Mary Alderman
Tim & Christine Burchill
Darrel & Marge Dockter
Dan & Colleen Eck
Pearl Eck
Kent & Karen Espeseth
Dale & Judy Fisher
Douglas Fisher
Martin & Dianne Fisher
Ray Fisher & Fran Diede

Sonny & Sue Fisher
Bruce & Shelley Fossen
Mark & Joan Gehlhar
Doug & Sharla Gohner
Ruth Gomke
Sandi Green
David & Elaine Hanson
Keith & Karen Hess
Blanche Johnson
Leona Krapp
Thomas & Bonnie Lavik
Lincoln School Staff
McCabe Church Bell

Ringers

Melissa Morris
Jay Nitschke
Rika Quittschreiber
Tom & Paula Redmann
Dave & Ann Reich
Ron & LuAnn Reich
Nick & Rita Scherbenske
Joe & Jeannie Schmidt
Bernice Suko
David & Jodene Suko
Loretta Suko
Neil & Connie Suko
Mike & Berta Swartz
Beth Swanson
Bill & Betty Unverzagt
James Vagneur
Paulette Webb
LaVerne Yetterboe

Marty Tag

Katherine Seifert

Robert Wells

Enid Wells
Friends & Family of
Robert Wells

Pat Wentland

Joe & Elaine Hegland
Marvin & Ruth Knell
Marilyn Lobsinger

James Wieland

Laura Feldner
Donna Kaiser
David Knain
Larry & Darlene Kropp
Elizabeth Lasanen
Gary & Donna Neys
Mr. & Mrs. Lee Smith
Chris Thune
Bill & Mary Ann Wieland

In Honor of:

Audrey Barnes

Brad & Jan Barnes

Jessie Blewett

Oliver & Loretta Jung

Elaine Millsbaugh

Patty Schwab

Chapel Fund

Rev. JoAnne Moeller
St. Paul's United Methodist
Church Members

In Memory of:

Magdalene Bartkowski

Glory Ebertz
Monica Lubbers
Darold & Claudia Soupir
Elsie Weber

Donald Boyle

Elaine Nieland
Elsie Weber

Steve Burkart

Duane & Lois Knudson
Gary & Deb Koebernick
Elsie Weber
Bryan & Peggy Widmer

Muriel Edgekoski

Walter & Laurel Gusaas

Carol Gabrielson

Brad Gabrielson Family
Virgil & Gertrude
Neumiller

Lois Gasal

Judith Buegel

Dennis Hendrickson

Helen Bureson
Family of Dennis
Hendrickson

Duane & Lois Knudson

Linda Misemer

Donald & Marie Olson

Ron Hoggarth

Ronald & Janice Roaldson

Hazel Holzwarth

David & Fay Falk
LaVerne Hunt
Duane & Lois Knudson
Linda Misemer
James & Ione Somsen

Violet Klammer

Tim & Carol Staiger

**June Knudson**

Lorraine Schroeder

June Leimer

James & Ione Somsen

Ruth McKay

Marian Rumer

Gertrude Neys

Rodney & Janice Roaldson

Allen Schlenker

Murray & Edna Schrader

Art Schmidt

Bryan & Peggy Widmer

Vincent Stoddart

Rodney & Janice Roaldson

Helen Suko

Richard & Debra

Gutschmidt

Edwin & Mary Holzworth

David & Marge Nething

Raymond & Lillian

Spravzoff

Ken & Ellen Suko

Rodney & Charlotte Suko

Enid Wells

John Szarkowski

Glory Ebertz

Jim & Sue Matthiesen

Marvin Thorp

Walter & Laurel Gusaas

H.L. Bud Tordoff

Don & Marie Olson

Gerald & Barbara

Srozinski

Pat Wentland

Larry & Tish Johnson

Shirley Laber

James Wieland

Elaine Nieland

Jean Willman

Tim & Carol Staiger

Bernie Wojick

Glory Ebertz

*In Honor of:***Glory Ebertz**

Mariana Rumer

Dorothy Hendrickson

Family of Dorothy

Hendrickson

Hour Club

Anonymous

Jan Barnes

Kay Benson

Jodi Bunde

Ariel Daugherty

Amanda Dockter

Diana Elhard

Sarah Eppen

Barb Erickson

Joe Fieber

Sarah Frieze

Linda Fuchs

Sharyln Geerdes

Tom Geffre

Cecelia Glinz

Missy Hase

Darlene Hass

Michelle Hass

Claudia Holm

Michael Jan

Linda Johnson

Sue Johnson

Shannon Just

Debra Koebernick

Gary Koebernick

Marilyn Lobsinger

Michele Lunder

Lavonne Magstadt

Lori Mettert

Robyn Nething

Heather Olson

Shirleen Pettet

Sue Purdy

Doreen Reister

Kim Ryan

Keely Sabinash

Jeanine Schmidt

Caroline Scholand

Raelene Schuh

Amie Schultz

Stacy Schulz

Lenore Seitz

Brenda Smaage

Deb Steckler

Annie Strickland

Paulette Webb

Peggy Widmer

In-Kind Gifts**12,680 lbs of Scrap Iron**

Valley Plains Equipment

Candles for Chapel

Martin Suko

Plant in Memory of Obert Somsen

Johanna Somsen

Raffle Permit

Charlie Kourajian

M&M Day Sponsors

Dominoes

Papa Murphy's

Pizza Hut

Pizza Ranch

McCoy Suite

Arva Dell Tahrn

*In Memory of:***Magdalene Bartkowski**

Ginger Campbell

Judy Schaible

Steve Burkhart

Aileen Astrup

Elmo & Ardina Bentz

Hazel Holzwarth

Ken & Pam Daus

Thomas & Mary Elaine

Falck

Donald & Ginny Steele

Leona Meisch

Judy Buegel

Barbara Tarno Glisson

& Family

William & Julie Meister

Bob & Linda Meisch

Arva Dell Tahrn

H.L. Bud Tordoff

Wanda Walker

Paver Appeal*In Memory of:***John & Natalie McElroy**

Bart & Kathy Davis

Transport Center

Richard & Shirleen Pettet

*In Memory of:***Magdalene Bartkowski**

Brad & Jan Barnes

Gloria Bartlett

Gary & Donna Neys

Luella Struble

Steve Burkhart

Brad & Jan Barnes

Jeff & Linda Fuchs

David & Elaine Hanson

Mark & Claudia Jacobson

Ardelle Loose

Monica Lubbers

Ester Evans

Elaine Nieland

Willie Fercho

Alden & Landa Kollman

Norman Gall

Brad & Jan Barnes

Carol Gilbertson

Brad & Jan Barnes

Hazel Holzwarth

Bryan & Peggy Widmer

 **Ozzy Johnson, beloved dog of Sue Johnson**

Brad & Jan Barnes

Kathleen Kassman

Walter & Laurel Gusaas

Lloyd Kollman

Alden & Landa Kollman

Nell Krueger

Russell Krueger

June Leimer

Bryan & Peggy Widmer

Allen Schlenker

Patti DeBuck

Helen Suko

Brad & Jan Barnes

Pat Wentland

Brad & Jan Barnes

James Wieland

Bernard & Marilyn

Anderson

Joann Bloomquist

Janice Eberle

Kevin & Pam Eberle

Brenda Frahm

Lyle & Wendy Hogue

Sandra Ueland

*In Honor of:***Gary Koebernick**

Grace Walz

Vendor Appeal

Hurley's Religious Goods

MGI Landscapes &

Outdoor Living

Redlin Johnson Siding

& Windows

Julie Rokke

Scott's Electric

Terracon (Midwest Testing)

YHR Partners, Ltd.



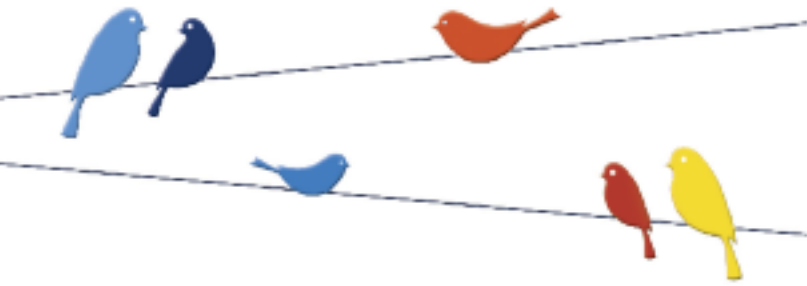
Ave Maria Village

SMP Health System

501 19th St. NW
Jamestown, ND 58401

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Honor or Memorialize a Friend or Loved One with a Gift to Ave Maria Village

Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____ to Ave Maria Village.

_____ in **Memory** of: _____
(Name of person you are memorializing)

_____ in **Honor** of: _____
(Name of person you are honoring)

Your name and address:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Who shall Ave Maria Village notify about your gift?

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Mail this request form and your gift to:

Ave Maria Village
Attention: Jan Barnes
501 19th St. NE • Jamestown, ND 58401

Raffle Winners Announced

Thanks for your support of our Building Raffle by selling and purchasing tickets! Together we raised \$10,000 for our Building Fund.

— *Jan Barnes, Development Director*

Medora Foundation: One night's stay, two tickets to musical, two tickets to pitchfork fondue at Medora. **Richard Pieske**

Knights of Columbus: \$50 gift certificate. **Nick Scherbenske**

Mary Jean Burkhart: 60x60 in. Chinese Magic Quilt.

Marcy Feilmeier, Watford City, ND

Mark Coppin: Assorted white, dark, and milk chocolates.

Mary Olson

KSJB Radio, Ingstad Family Media, & OIG: 4 Nickeloden

Universe ride wristbands, 4 tickets for mini golf at Mall of America, & 2 tickets to Chanhassen Dinner Theatres.

One night's stay included. **Theresa McMillan**

Jetstream: 4 "The Works" tickets. **Sandy Wilhelm**

Dairy Queen: 2 medium blizzards each month for a year. **Reuben Liechty**

Perkins: A pie a month for a year. **Brad Barnes**

Hampton Inn & Suites & Buffalo City Grill: One-night stay in King Studio Suite & \$20 gift certificate to the

Buffalo City Grill. **Tom Harty**

James River Family YMCA: 3-month general membership. **Jeff Burton, Harvey, ND**