

## Moving Mother to Ave Maria was the right decision for whole family

**W**hen Deb Gletne and her husband John see her mother Delores Dronen, she says, it feels like coming home. Best of all, she doesn't have to cross half the state to visit.

A native of Hatton, North Dakota, Mrs. Dronen and her late husband made their home in Moorhead, Minnesota. Her daughter's family is here in Jamestown, where Deb has worked for the State of North Dakota for 37 years, first at the State Hospital and now at the Human Service Center. John is a detective with the Jamestown Police Department, where he's been employed for 36 years.

The distance didn't present a problem for decades. Delores stayed in the home where she'd lived with her husband Ansel for 56 years, staying on after his death 13 years ago, until moving into Fairmont Eventide Assisted Living in 2013.

But her health was declining, and the distance became more problematic. "We wanted to spend more time with Mom and be available more when she needs help," Deb says. Finally they mutually agreed that she would move to Jamestown, where she could be closer to her family.

"When we walked into Ave Maria, I felt like I had just walked into my own home," Deb says. "Everyone welcomed us! Everyone was very kind. It just gave me a nice, warm feeling."

The dutiful daughter admits to having some initial doubts. "When I think about a larger facility like this one, I think about all the paperwork that needs to get done and how daunting it can all be," she says. "Trying to gather information is quite a task while you're getting acclimated.

"But that was not our experience here," she continues. "Everything was calm and relaxed. It was like everyone knew you already. I've never experienced another setting where you felt so comfortable ... not worried at all."

Deb explains that her mother has been a caregiver all her life, helping her husband through a long struggle with Huntington's chorea. After 11 years at home, he spent the last 7 of his life in a nursing home. "She's very independent and has a lot of experience, so she asked all kinds of questions when we came here," Deb reports.

The answers pleased both Mrs. Dronen and her daughter. "It's hard to put into words how we feel about Ave Maria," Deb muses. "A lot of it is the atmosphere. The

new chapel gives me such peace – I believe it's the most beautiful I've ever been in."

Delores has a double room – "a bright, beautiful room. Mom is a very social person. Her roommate is very sweet. When I come down the hall, I can hear them visiting together," Deb notes.

"However, I think Mom is the exception to the rule. Most people would like a private room. I will be the first to help Ave Maria get private rooms."

Deb loves the food choices tailored to suit her mother's tastes.. "Mom loves pizza! She'd eat it morning, noon and night," she says. "Knowing that, they incorporate it into her meals as often as they can while still maintaining good nutrition.

"The staff knows Mom loves Danny O'Donnell," she says. "When she was listening to him, one of the male CNAs helped her to her feet and danced with her. Another has sung with her. Those special touches are so heartwarming and so precious to our family. You want their last years to be good ones!"

Deb sums up her feelings about her mother's new home: "It's hard to encompass everything that's so incredible about Ave Maria. It starts with Tim, the CEO, and goes on from there – from the offices to the staff who work with the residents.

"Mom loves music. This quote has stuck with me, as it seems to sum up life at Ave Maria perfectly: 'Some days there won't be a song in your heart. Sing anyway!'

"Ave Maria's staff shows this spirit every day through their kindness, their compassion and their excellent care. Thank you all for being part of my mom's life!"



Ave Maria resident Delores Dronen with her daughter Deb Gletne and son Dwight.



## Looking back at 2015: You've done so much for Ave Maria!



Jan Barnes  
Development Director

The last three months of 2015 brought out all the amazing compassion and generosity of our donors for Ave Maria! First of all, you shared gifts of \$48,795 in our Thanksgiving Appeal! This is our third Thanksgiving Appeal in the time I've been here ... and by far the biggest outcome! Our friends' gifts have increased every year! I can't thank you all enough for that! Whether you gave \$10, or \$20,000, or something in between, each gift was appreciated more than my words can convey.

Our volunteers' Holiday Bazaar also brought in a record amount this year — \$3,004. Amazing! The group is already planning what they can do next year to meet or surpass that goal! Our volunteers are the absolute best – and fun, too!

With all of your memorial gifts plus the staff's "Hour Club" donations added to the Thanksgiving Appeal and the Holiday Bazaar, only \$36,000 remains to complete our goal for our Capital Campaign. That means that since the last issue of the "Village Voice," you have given \$63,000! Thank you so much for valuing our mission. All of us – donors, volunteers and staff – are committed to one thing: helping our residents' last years be the very best and happiest they can possibly be.

When you come into Ave Maria, have you stopped to view our Wall of Honor? It displays the names of those whose contributions mean so very much to our community. Many people who initially were honored for gifts at the \$1,000 level have now moved to a higher level of giving. Do keep an eye on the Wall ... more and more names are being added all the time.

And now, how do we get that last \$36,000 accomplished for our Capital Campaign? Well, there are many ways ....

You'd be surprised at how your memorials add up. You may think these tributes are generally too small to make a difference. However, their collective effect is inspiring.

The Memorial Plaque that hangs outside the business office offers another way to commemorate loved ones who have passed away. A memorial of \$250 means they'll be honored in perpetuity here at their last home.

Gifts from our staff through the Hour Club are also phenomenally important. Most are pledged monthly – support we can count on.

Our residents and their families help, too. One woman who lives at the Heritage Center has set up a monthly withdrawal from her bank account that is automatically sent to Ave Maria. I would love to help more of our friends follow her example. These don't have to be large amounts; like the Hour Club, the secret is in their regularity. Over time, the impact is tremendous.

And one more reminder: Please remember Ave Maria in your will.

Whatever avenue you choose, please know that we're all in this together – sharing the compassion and sense of teamwork embodied in our mission to enrich the lives of our dear residents.

Happy new year! And from the bottom of my heart ... thank you.

— *Jan Barnes, Development Director*  
701-952-5677 — [jan.barnes@smphs.org](mailto:jan.barnes@smphs.org)

### Capital Campaign

2 **Ave Maria Village's  
Capital Campaign is  
close to the finish line!**

**Now we are within  
just \$36,000  
of reaching  
our campaign goal  
of \$1,325,000!**



## Spunky Lil Neva celebrates 100th birthday with her typical zest for life

The Ave Maria family celebrated a very special centennial a few months ago – the 100th birthday of our tiny, feisty friend and neighbor, Lil Neva. Friends gathered in the Barthel Room around a great, big cake as she opened a pile of cards and caught up with her guests: “Two very good friends were able to be there, Dorothy Erstad and Kelly Krein. I was so happy to see them!”

It was an extra-special day for Lil, christened Ruth Lillian, who jokes that she calls herself “Lil the Pill.” Born August 30, 1915, on a farm near Ludlow, South Dakota, Lil grew up on the farm her family acquired west of Pingree, North Dakota. Her parents, Esten and Inga Rude, raised her there, along with three sons and another daughter; a third daughter died in infancy.

“They were very good parents,” she remembers. “Dad was a very hard worker. I was always ‘Mommy’s little girl.’”

The young Lil loved riding horses, especially her beautiful strawberry roan Cricket. The family raised cattle. Her job was to jump on Cricket and ride out to round them up, while her mother and sister waited at home to milk them.

Since their farmstead was four miles out of town, the children were ferried to school via horse and buggy or, in winter, a horse-drawn sled, picking up a neighbor boy along the way. Lil fondly remembers the days when she was finally old enough to drive the horses herself.

One hundred years ago, she muses, “everyone stayed home more. As kids, we played outside a lot year round. In winter, we played in the snow.” On long winter nights, the whole family gathered around the table to play whist. “We always did things together in those days,” she points out.

Lil got her education in Pingree, graduating from Pingree High School in 1935. Afterwards she took several classes at what was then Jamestown College (now the University of Jamestown).

She met the love of her life one night at a dance in nearby Spiritwood. Albert Neva spotted her there, then confided to a friend, “I’m going to meet that little girl.” After a long period of dating, they tied the knot on July 20, 1938. Despite their storybook meeting, she confides, “Albert really wasn’t a great dancer.” But she loved to dance, and, she says with a smile, “We did go to a lot of dances.”

The couple were married a total of 71 years until his death at the age of 98 on Nov. 9, 2009. They made their home in Jamestown, where Albert, a truck driver, graveled roads for Stutsman County. Lil worked as a cashier at

Scott’s Department Store for 13 years, then went on to serve as financial manager and office secretary at Trinity Lutheran Church.



*Lil Neva celebrated her 100th birthday with her friends at Ave Maria on Aug. 30.*

“I loved my job and church dearly,” she reminisces. Over the years, Lil was active in circles, pinch-hitted as confirmation teacher when the pastor was gone, led countless Bible studies and sometimes chauffeured women who didn’t drive to and from church.

“I always drove everywhere,” she adds. “My mother would sometimes say, ‘Lil, let’s go get lost today!’ We weren’t very familiar with the southwest part of town, so we’d drive out there and look around – get lost. We just kept on driving until we’d spot something familiar, like Highway 281 – then we knew where we were.”

Lil has been a resident of Ave Maria for about a year. “I love it here!” she says. “I spend my days fiddling around and talking to others, though I’m pretty hard of hearing. Everyone is so good to me!” She enjoys Bingo, Happy Hour, monthly birthday and theme parties and, she notes, “anything that has food.”

“The food around here is very, very good,” she comments. “I have never liked to cook, so this is great for me. And I do love to eat!”

Lil’s nieces Donna Fischer and Kathy Vandenberghe visit her often – bringing treats, of course. “I just love it when they bring krumkake,” she hints.

Now a certified centenarian, does she have advice for living a long and fruitful life? The lively little lady says “I think I’m still around because I’m kind of ornery! Even after 100 years, I think I’m still pretty smart, too.

“Holy cats! I guess that pretty soon I’ll be 101.”



# Gifts and Tributes

September–November 2015

## Capital Campaign

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Thomas & Mary Geffre  
Haut Funeral Home  
Knights of Columbus  
Alan & Genny Lindberg  
Darrell Ova  
St. Paul's Methodist Church  
Julie Wenner

### *In Memory of:*

#### **Pearl Anderson**

Brad & Jan Barnes  
Tim & Christine Burchill  
Friends of Pearl Anderson  
Helen Geinert  
Tim & JoAnne Geinert  
Jim Huber  
Rev. Philip Lint &  
Rev. Mary-Lee Lint

4

Sharyl Overby  
Robert & Therese Solinger  
Margaret Warcken

#### **Don & Bonnie Bell**

Marilyn Lobsinger

#### **Lanny Bell**

John & Sue Johnson

#### **Mary Ann Reidman-Bowles**

Mary Jean Burkhardt

#### **Bill Chapin**

Patricia Hinze

#### **Marion Drenth**

Rick & Bev Allen  
Brad & Jan Barnes  
Gary & Deb Koebernick  
Marilyn Lobsinger

#### **Diana Elhard**

Brad & Jan Barnes  
Patti DeBuck  
Jeff & Linda Fuchs

#### **David Hanson**

Brad & Jan Barnes  
Tim & Christine Burchill  
Linda & Jeff Fuchs  
Curt & Darlene Goehner  
Lyle & Betty Hanson  
Dr. Larry & Bev Hoffman

John & Sue Johnson  
Gary & Deb Koebernick  
Marilyn Lobsinger  
Jack & Karen Lueck  
Myron & Laurie Mosolf  
Sharyl Overby  
Jerry & Deb Steckler  
Margaret Warcken  
Bryan & Peggy Widmer

#### **Phyllis Hochhalter**

Lucille Mayer

#### **Ray Kautzman**

Brad & Jan Barnes  
Linda & Jeff Fuchs  
John & Sue Johnson  
Gary & Deb Koebernick  
Marilyn Lobsinger  
Bryan & Peggy Widmer

#### **Ray & Bertha Kautzman**

Roger & Gloria Kautzman

#### **Lloyd Krueger**

Marilyn Lobsinger

#### **Marguerite McIlonie**

Bernard & Darlene McIlonie

#### **Polly Ann Neumiller**

John & Susan Johnson

#### **Donnie Perleberg**

Brad & Jan Barnes

#### **Arlie Rud**

Dale & Norine Knudson  
Bryan & Peggy Widmer

#### **Clarice Schmoker**

John & Sue Johnson  
Gary & Deb Koebernick  
Marilyn Lobsinger

#### **John Snyder**

Julie Wenner

#### **Alan Spanjer**

Kate Spanjer

#### **Charles Stowman**

Mary Jean Burkhardt

#### **Delphine Sulsky**

Don & Joyce Bentz

#### **Hazel Weatherly**

Brad & Jan Barnes  
Jim & Sue Matthiesen  
Richard & Marlys Pieske

#### **Mary Young**

Audrey Barnes  
Cindy Barnes

## Chapel Fund

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Sharon Falk  
Thomas & Pamela Merrick  
Deacon Ken & Tammy Votava

### *In Memory of:*

#### **Ardis Anderson**

Grace Ottmar

#### **Pearl Anderson**

Janet Minogue

#### **Vincent Anderson**

Grace Ottmar

#### **Marion Drenth**

Elmo & Ardina Bentz  
Jim & Sharon Hatlewick  
Sharyl Overby  
Don & Melida Schwehr  
Margaret Warcken  
Bryan & Peggy Widmer

#### **Diana Elhard**

Rick & Bev Allen

#### **Eugene Hall**

Wanda Walker

#### **David Hanson**

Don & Sharon Caine  
Gordon Gilbertson  
Pam Golde  
Duane & Lois Knudson  
Ardelle Loose  
Linda Misemer  
Donald & Marie Olson  
Karen Overn  
Lawrence & Connie Pederson  
Arnold & Joyce Roorda  
Mariana Rumer  
Wanda Walker  
Enid Wells

#### **Gerald Lux**

Sharyl Overby  
Margaret Warcken

#### **Joann Martin**

Marlene Wolf

Please consider including a bequest to Ave Maria Village in your will.



**Marguerite McIlonie**

Bette Parsons

**Donnie Perleberg**

Donna Tompkins

**Mary Peterson**

Mary Jean Morth Burkhart

Grace Morth Fraser

**Gottlieb Schock**

Thomas Schock

John & Polly Jo Snider

**Tom Vie**

Rosine Stahlecker

**Elsie Whitman**

Nancy Madson

Joyce Thomsen

Elizabeth Whitman

**Mary Young**

Judith Buegel

*In Honor of:*

**Lil Neva's 100th Birthday**

Jan Parfit

**Hour Club**

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Jan Barnes

Kay Benson

Roberta Bohl

Jodi Bunde

Sandi Burns

Paige Christ

Jane Christensen

†Diana Elhard

Lisa Entzminger

Sarah Eppen

Barb Erickson

Sarah Frieze

Linda Fuchs

Sharyln Geerdes

Kristi Gerszewski

Cecelia Glinz

Nichole Greenstein

Sheri Gunderson

Eric Hamley

Missy Hase

Darlene Hass

Becky Heglund

Claudia Holm

Katrina Johnson

Linda Johnson

Sue Johnson

Debra Koebernick

Gary Koebernick

Laurie Krebsbach

Marilyn Lobsinger

Michele Lunder

Paula Moore

Robyn Nething

Janeane Otto

Shirleen Pettet

Sue Purdy

Jennifer Quam

Doreen Reister

Kim Ryan

Jeanine Schmidt

Caroline Scholand

Raelene Schuh

Amie Schultz

Lenore Seitz

Marilyn Sheets

Rich Sky

Deb Steckler

Annie Strickland

Peter Vondal

Deacon Ken Votava

Paulette Webb

Donna Wiberg

Billi Zupan

**In-Kind Gifts**

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**Walker**

Calvin & Bev Patzner

**Wheelchair**

Diana Elhard Family

**McCoy Family Hospice Suite**

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*In Memory of:*

**Marion Drenth**

Duane & Lois Knudson

Bernard & Darlene McIlonie

Rod & Barb Monson

Rosine Stahlecker

Donna Tompkins

**Diana Elhard**

Marilyn Lobsinger

**Janet Roesler**

Rosanne Farrell

**Jean Wanzek**

Patti DeBuck

*In Honor of:*

**Deacon Ken Votava & Abiders**

Grace Walz

**Portable Oxygen Units**

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North Dakota Community Foundation

**Resident Memorial Plaque**

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*In Memory of:*

**Joann Martin**

Ron Martin

**Elsie Whitman**

Elsie Whitman Family

**Thanksgiving Appeal 2015**

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Agri-Cover

Anonymous

Arrowwood Prairie Co-op

Tim & Christine Burchill

Ebenezer United Methodist

Women (Streeter)

Curt & Darlene Goehner

Dave & Trish Greenwood

Lorraine Greenwood

HCIS/Vaaler Insurance

Richard Hamkens

Bob & Sandy Hill

† Harvey Holzwarth

Duane & Lois Knudson

Judy Kulla

Mary Lackman

Margaret Lambrecht

Kenneth Laraway

Myron & Gertrude Pryor

RM Stoudt, Inc.

Bob Richardson

Sons of Norway

Marion Stampka

Glyndon & Dorothy White

*In Memory of:*

**Ardis Anderson**

Eugene Anderson

**Harry Astrup**

Aileen Astrup

**Jack Barnes**

Audrey Barnes



**Leonard Dodgson**

Donelda Dodgson

**Esther Fuchs**

Jerry & Nancy Fuchs

**Caroline Gall**

Lue Struble

**Eva Goldade**

Carol Kaiser

**Harry & Eileen Gusaas**

Jerry & Nancy Fuchs

**Beverly Hanson**

Cliff Hanson

**David Hanson**

Norman & DeLette Winkelman

**Faye Heim**

Annie Faye (Hanson) Strickland

**Jerome Johnson**

Irene M Johnson

**Woodrow Lee**

Corene Lee

**James & Bernice Lippert**

Wilbur Lippert

**Lawrence Loose**

Ardelle Loose

**6 John & Polly Lueck**

Wanda Walker

**Lillian Madsen**

James & Angela Madsen

**Mary Marks**

Dale & Ann Marks

**Joann Martin**

Ron Martin & Family

**Adam Lee Nill**

Tim & Kathy Nill

**Francis Orr**

Doris Orr

**Loretta Parfit**

Marlyn Domek

**Elvin Patzner**

Betty Brosz

**Charles & Ruby Prentice**

Edith Prentice

**Del Rick**

Ralph & Sandy Dick

**Ardelle Rosenau**

Rosanne Farrell

**Don & Phyllis Schlecht**

Rick & Kay Albrecht

**Edward Schlosser**

Delores Schlosser

**Martha Stadel**

Ervin Stadel

**Frieda Stiefel**

Keith & Judy Zhorela

**Martha Tag**

Cindy Tag-Nygord

**Selma Tag**

Cindy Tag-Nygord

**Joseph Thompson**

Maris Thompson

**Gilford Tompkins**

Donna Tompkins

**James Warmuth**

Harriet Halvorson

**Irving Wirkkunen**

Ellen Wirkkunen

**Harry & Leah Wolff**

Clayton & Beverly Wolff

**Florence Wozny**

James & Angela Madsen

**Ethel Yetterboe**

Chad & Barbara Williams

*In Honor of:*

**Ave Maria Village Staff**

Ken & Janeen Tanata

**Phyllis Carlson**

Bonnie Symon

**Lee R. Fisher**

Sonny & Sue Fisher

**Donna Heer**

Monica Lubbers

**Blanche Johnson's 90th Birthday**

Rev. JoAnne Moeller

**Nazarene Church Members**

**Past & Present**

Arnold & Joyce Roorda

**Larry Tag**

Roger & Vickie Schlotman

**Vera Zottnick**

Annie Faye (Hanson) Strickland

**Transport Center**

*In Memory of:*

**Pearl Anderson**

Bob Barnick

Friends of Pearl Anderson

Mark & Linda Stone

**Emil & Gertrude Guenther**

Gerald Guenther

**Ray Kautzman**

Jerry & Nancy Fuchs

**Mary Faith Young**

Duane & Lois Knudson

**Give a Gift in Honor or in Memory of a Friend or Loved One**

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

**Your name and address:**

\_\_\_\_\_ in Memory of:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ in Honor of: *(Name of person to be memorialized)*

Address \_\_\_\_\_

*(Name of person to be honored)*

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send an acknowledgement to the family or person we/I am honoring:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

*Mail this request form and your gift to:*

Attention: Jan Barnes

Ave Maria Village

501 19th St. NE

Jamestown, ND 58401



## Are you compassionate and willing to help? Ave Maria's residents need *you!*

**A**ve Maria Village is looking for some more volunteers! There are so many things that you can help make possible for our dear residents. Volunteers are an essential part of their lives. They help our residents, families and staff in so many areas ... and we need more and more helping hands to do all kinds of tasks.

We literally have volunteers from age 6 to 100. Everyone – absolutely everyone – can contribute to making our community even better. Here are a few of the ways:

- Assisting residents with Bingo.
- Playing piano, leading singing and entertaining in virtually any way.
- Having short, regular visits with some of our residents.
- Reading books, poetry and short stories to residents.
- Helping at our special parties, picnics and community events.
- Joining our residents to play cards.
- Accompanying residents on shopping trips on the Ave Maria bus.
- Escorting residents to medical appointments and keeping them company.

There are so many more things we could do for our beloved residents, if we only had enough volunteers! We're open to your new brainstorms, too.

### Guardian Angels

Here is one more way in which you can help: Become a Guardian Angel.

We'd like each of Ave Maria's 100 residents to have her or his own guardian angel. These angels simply spend a little time each week or so with their residents. Perhaps they just stop by. Maybe they remember their residents on their birthdays. The angels might read to them, play a game, help decorate their rooms for holidays ... or simply be a friend.

If you have a few extra minutes each week, please let me know! I know you will find it quite fun and rewarding.

**Jan Barnes**

701-952 5677

jan.barnes@smphs.-





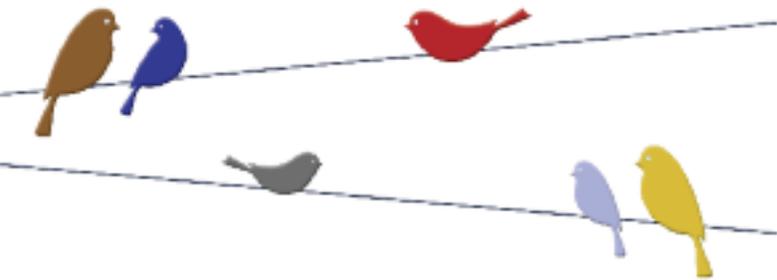
# Ave Maria Village

*SMP Health System*

501 19th St. NE  
Jamestown, ND 58401

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## Happy New Year!

The residents, volunteers and staff of Ave Maria thank you for all you've done for Ave Maria Village this past year! We wish all of you a very blessed, healthy, happy 2016 filled with an abundance of love!