

# HERITAGE of Care

# THE BETHESDA LETTER

BETHESDA HOME...independence, respect, dignity since 1899

## *A legacy to serve*

Dedicated, passionate and generous are all attributes that describe Fred Schmidt.

Though Schmidt was an electrician in Goessel by trade, he functioned in many more capacities. He was a member of the board of trustees for Bethesda from 1990 to 1996, even serving as board president from 1991 to 1996.

He became the focus of our feature story this quarter due to his involvement with the current campaign. Schmidt was the co-chair of this campaign when the planning first began.

On February 12, 2006, Schmidt passed away. He had battled cancer for four years. Even through these trials, he continued to support Bethesda and was still involved in planning this current campaign.

“Building Community and Changing Lives” is the campaign’s name. The goal is to raise funds to renovate Bethesda for the creation of a “home” atmosphere. For a more detailed description of the campaign see page four.

Three people who worked with Fred closely at Bethesda are Linda Peters, CEO/Administrator of Bethesda, Pete Flaming, Director of Marketing and Development, and Mark Woelk, Director of Facilities Management.

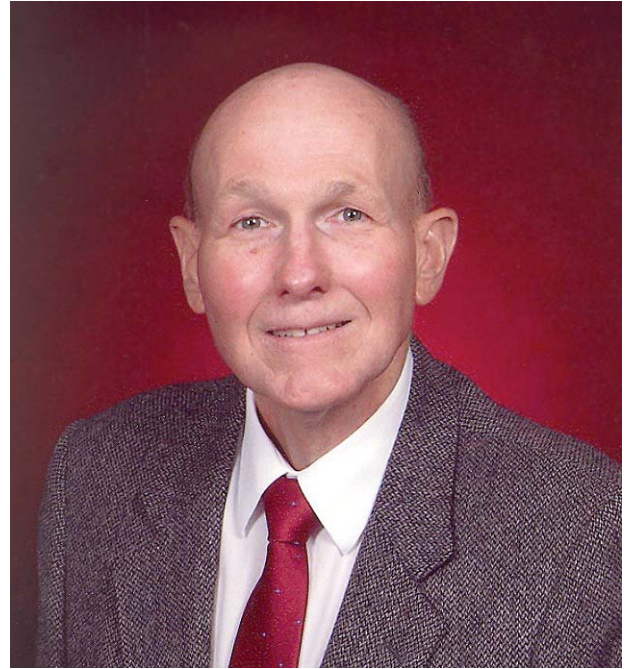
“Even though he is no longer here, Fred’s energy, enthusiasm and excitement are embedded in this campaign. They are truly great factors as we pursue our goal,” said Flaming.

“I came on to the scene after Fred’s term on the board had come to an end. My first involvement with him was on the duplex projects. He was the electrician. It was great to work with Fred on those projects,” said Flaming.

“For the capital campaign in 1999, Fred was the board division chair and was able to encourage past board members and get them excited about the campaign even when they weren’t on the board.”

Both he and Rudy (Fred’s father) have been sounding boards for me. Fred would always ask, “What’s the plan?” He always wanted to know what was going on at Bethesda and how he could help make it happen.

Fred’s family had a tradition of being involved in the Bethesda and Goessel communities. His father, Rudy



Schmidt, also served on the Bethesda board of trustees from 1979 to 1985 during which he also served five years as president and one year (1980-81) as interim administrator.

Linda Peters was impressed with Fred’s energy even during his illness.

“I came on at Bethesda toward the end of Fred’s time on the board, but right away I noticed how positive and encouraging he was,” said Peters.

“Fred was always dreaming about what could be. He was never afraid to dream big. He would always push the other board members to do more, be more positive and make things happen. He wasn’t pushy or obnoxious, but got his point across, usually using humor to do so,” said Peters. “He had a real gift for getting the best out of people.”

Even after Fred was diagnosed with cancer he was still very active in Bethesda life and service. He was asked to be the honorary chair of the current campaign. After thinking it over he decided he would rather step his role up to co-chair. His commitment sparked the enthusiasm of Richard Drake.

## Remembering Fred

*I've been thinking . . .*

It's hard to sit here and think about Fred Schmidt in the "past tense." There are so many reminders of Fred – here in the facility and around the campus.

Every morning when I come to work, I park my car in the lot near our maintenance building, and I remember how thrilled Fred was when he learned that we were planning to build the shed. Fred donated all of his time and materials to get our building "all wired up."

When Mark Woelk and I have discussions about our electrical panels and work that needs to be done, I think back to all of the work Fred did for us to satisfy the code requirements. I can easily recall him bantering with both residents and staff while he worked. He always wore a smile and had a funny story or joke to share.

Fred also served on the Bethesda Board of Trustees for six years and brought so much energy, wisdom and leadership to his role as board chair, challenging board members to "think outside the box" and pushing all of us to dream big!

Fred's connection to Bethesda endures. Come to think of it, it would be inaccurate to think of Fred in the "past tense." He may no longer be physically present with us, but Fred's vision, spirit and energy are evident wherever you turn on our campus. Bethesda is a better place because of Fred Schmidt. He was and continues to be a gift to our community.

**Linda Peters, CEO/Administrator**

*Linda Peters*

## *Carolyn's Corner...*

Spring is here and summer is not far behind. We have only a few more weeks of Generation Bridge. (Generation Bridge is where fifth graders from the Goessel Grade school partner with residents from the Bethesda campus for about 40 minutes each week during the school year.) On April 12, 2006, Generation Bridge had a beekeeper from Hutchinson share a video and his knowledge about beekeeping. We all wished he could have spoken to us longer. Then for two weeks following his program the fifth graders and Residents continued to study bees. The Generation Bridge members have plans to visit the one-room school on the museum grounds for a program with Jane Hiebert on May 3, 2006. Funding for bringing in presenters for several different special programs this year with the Generation Bridge members was made possible through a grant that Ilona Abrahams, the fifth grade teacher, received.

All of the intergenerational programs will soon be coming to a close for the summer. We always look forward to and enjoy when students from the Grade school come and spend time with us. Throughout this past school year the fourth graders have also been coming each week to do a special exercise program (Bal-A-Vis-X) with us. When they leave we all know how stiff our fingers, hands and knees have become, but we always look forward to seeing them again the next week. The "Grand Kids" (an after school

*Carolyn continued on pg. 3*

## Walt's Wisdom...

### *"WHAT'S THE PLAN?"*

Fred Schmidt stood very tall among the can-do leaders who nurture vision and who mobilize latent energies to create community and realize potential. These all look to new horizons; they see possibilities where we have seen obstacles. They gladly mix their gifts with the human resources in us that await release from our captivities to fears and traditions. They see a new world coming and are welcoming the surprises of the Holy Spirit. What's the plan? They invest zest.

Jeremiah spoke of such a coming age (31:31-33) when The Word would be etched into the human spirit. Jesus lived the plan: to leave the transformation work to his followers who inspire (breathe) the Holy (whole-making) Spirit of Christ into every age and culture.

What if Bethesda (a place for wholeness) looked with joyful boldness to the deep horizons to welcome in this very place the New World that lies utterly beyond the vexing state and federal rules and structures and far beyond culture change defined as moving from a medical model to a home/community model? (Already that beautiful vision ages and wants to become a part of an even more daring and penetrating future.)

Could Bethesda be a community devoted and developed to help all individual participants—residents, staff workers, board members, families and friends of residents and workers—to see and to make real their human potentials and so to complete

their lives with joy? What if we mobilized to welcome all travelers home,\* home to God-in-us?

*Walter Friesen*

**Walter Friesen,  
Chaplain**

\*Hear John McCutcheon's song  
"Welcome the Traveler Home."

## Memorial Gifts

*We appreciate the many gifts given in memory of loved ones that have been designated to the following funds / projects:*

Designation Pending  
**Marie Unrau**

"Building Community & Changing Lives"  
**Fred Schmidt**

Sit-to-Stand Lift  
**Ben Bergen**

## In her own words

*Helga Schmidt*

I always thought a nursing home was a place where people spent their final days, waiting to die. And maybe for some people that's true. However, an experience I had recently has opened my eyes to another side of care that takes place in a nursing home, care that is not directed toward the end of life, but rather toward new beginnings.

On November 16, 2005 I had a total hip replacement and was dismissed from the hospital three days after surgery. Since my husband is a truck driver and on the road for several days at a time, I found myself at home, unable to care for myself and without anyone to care for me. My daughter, Lisa Duerksen, who is an RN at Bethesda suggested I come to the facility to recuperate and also take advantage of the skilled therapies available there. This was no easy decision for me, especially due to those preconceived ideas I had regarding nursing homes. Seeing no other option, I agreed to be admitted and I entered the facility feeling depressed and sorry for myself. Those feelings didn't last for long as I soon realized that my ideas of nursing home care were way off base. I have been hospitalized numerous times for various health concerns, and the care I received while a patient

cannot even begin to compare with the excellent care I received while I was a resident at Bethesda. The nursing staff was absolutely wonderful. They were very attentive to my needs and made me feel so special. The therapists who provided the skilled therapy were also very good to work with. The therapy sessions which took place three times daily were hard and at times discouraging, but with a lot of encouragement from both the nursing staff and the therapists I was able to reach all of my goals in two weeks and I returned to my home just before Christmas.

Being a resident at Bethesda, even for a short time, allowed me to see and participate in a side of nursing care that I didn't even know existed. This care is focused on setting goals that help individuals achieve the maximum potential possible following surgery or illness. It is care that addresses the unique needs of each resident, care that strives to meet those needs in the most efficient, beneficial way possible. It is care that encourages independence and offers for many people, like me, a chance for restored health and a new beginning.

*Fred continued from pg. 1*

"It was Fred's commitment that actually solidified Richard's involvement and commitment to the campaign," said Flaming.

For Mark Woelk, it was the involvement with Fred on a professional level that was impressive.

"I got to know Fred as the local electrician. Fred purchased the electrical business from Jake Koehn. He was always willing to come out and fix whatever we needed. He was very responsive and would come out any time," said Woelk.

It was evident to Woelk that Schmidt had a servant's heart. He used his abilities and business to serve Bethesda in many ways.

"He always had suggestions for improvements. I used him for ideas all

the time. He was a major factor in the maintenance building being built. Most of his work was behind the scenes and nobody saw what he was doing," said Woelk.

Not only did Fred spend countless hours behind the scenes, but he also committed to providing all materials and labor to wire the building himself.

"When he offered that to us I was hesitant to accept his offer," said Woelk. "He had already been diagnosed with cancer and I was concerned for his health."

Fred responded by saying he always did one annual project for the community, and this would be his project for the year. Fred insisted that he wire the building and donate the time and supplies. This put the

finishing touches on the maintenance building which Fred worked so hard to get built. In July 2002, the building was completed and another one of Fred's dreams became a reality.

On November 27, 2005, Pete Flaming received a phone call from JoAnn Schmidt, Fred's wife. She explained to Pete that on a flight home from Canada Fred's health had taken a turn for the worse. From that point on, he was not able to do much physically. He did still want to be involved and stay informed about the campaign through email and phone calls.

Another one of Fred's dreams was to make sure there was always an electrician in Goessel. He was able to pass his business on to Kyle Funk who

*Fred continued on pg. 5*

*Carolyn continued from pg. 2*

program for grade school children) visit, play games and do crafts with the residents once a week.

We thanked our volunteers with a tea on April 18, 2006. We want to again say Thank You to all who volunteer. The volunteers are an important part of Bethesda. We encourage anyone who would like to do volunteer work to please come and visit with us. There are a large variety of tasks the volunteers are able to perform.

We have plans for a special program in May, featuring Max Dunn from Las Cruces, New Mexico. Plans are also in the making for some special activities in June.

*Carolyn Arrowsmith*

**Carolyn Arrowsmith, Activities Director**

## Mabee Foundation Endorses Bethesda Home Project with Challenge Grant

### News item

Bethesda Home has received the endorsement of a challenge grant of \$225,000 from the J.E. and L.E. Mabee Foundation of Tulsa, Oklahoma toward its \$1.55 million "Building Community and Changing Lives" capital campaign. These funds will be applied toward the renovation/construction costs of the existing nursing care facility for the creation of a "home" atmosphere, resident neighborhoods, and amenities conducive for a normalcy of life environment for its residents.

Over the last four and one-half years, numerous community meetings and staff/resident planning sessions were held to dream of what a retirement home should be, and to identify what culture changes and facility changes would be necessary for Bethesda to become such a home for its residents. Suggestions and changes that didn't require major facility modifications (i.e. buffet dining, expanded dining hours, nurse call buzzers giving way to wireless pager systems, etc.) have already been implemented, but to fully embrace the transformation from a staff-centered culture to a more welcoming and warm resident-centered culture, the Bethesda Board of Trustees endorsed a major renovation proposal. The first phase of the fund raising campaign was launched in May, 2005 and the community campaign began on April 30, 2006.

Richard Drake and Jan Schmidt, Co-Campaign Chairs are confident that the community will rise to the challenge of the grant. "This community believes in Bethesda and has a long history of supporting this mission," said Drake, President of Citizens State Bank, Goessel. Within the 12 month challenge period, Bethesda supporters will be required to contribute the balance needed to complete the project to qualify for the \$225,000 from the Mabee

Foundation. "It is exciting to know that this challenge grant will, in effect, double the next \$225,000 donated," added Drake.

The general objectives and purposes of the Mabee Foundation are to assist religious, charitable and educational organizations through challenge grants toward the funding of construction projects of non-profit, non-tax supported, established institutions which combine sound character and stability with progressiveness and purpose. Such projects must be in the states of Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas.

The \$1.55 million goal of the "Building Community and Changing Lives" campaign is the largest fund raising goal in Bethesda's 106 year history. "The support thus far is very encouraging and I feel that the goal is a challenge, but very attainable. With the Mabee Foundation challenge we will need to secure about \$522,300 within the next year (in cash and/or intents-to-give over the three year campaign) to receive their contribution. We sincerely appreciate the support of the Mabee Foundation toward achieving our goal," said Jan Schmidt, Campaign Co-Chairman.

We invite you to help us meet the Mabee Foundation challenge. Contact Pete Flaming (620.367.2291 or e-mail [pflaming@bethesdahome.org](mailto:pflaming@bethesdahome.org)) to make your contribution or intent-to-give arrangements. Contributions acceptable include: monthly or quarterly automatic bank withdrawals, checks made payable to Bethesda Home (BCCL Campaign in memo), gifts of stocks and/or marketable securities, Charitable Gift Annuities, Charitable Remainder Trusts or pooled income funds and paid-up life insurance policies of which Bethesda is made the owner.

### Welcome

Eldon Bargaen	Otto Quiring
Milford Brandt	Elsie Schmidt
Nellie Esau	Mildred Schroeder
Anton Fast	Frances Voth
Marie Jantz	Rosella M Wedel

### In Memory

Ben Bergen	Marie Unrau
Lenora Stanbery	

### New Employees

Heather Foth	Larry Pawloski
Sherie Klassen	Jennifer Pugh
Gertrude Morgan	Bryce Ratzlaff

### Dismissals

Milford Brandt	Evelyn Schmidt
Anton Fast	Homer Stucky
Viola Ratzlaff	Orlando Voth
Elsie Schmidt	

*The most valuable inheritance you can leave your children is not a lot of money, but rather the example you set in life.*

# Bethesda Home Fiscal Year End Giving Summary

<u>Designation</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Activities Department	100.00
BCCL Campaign	372,189.30
Bond Reduction	7,614.46
Bulletin Board for Assisted Living Unit	80.00
Butterfly Garden	115.00
Commercial Blender	420.00
Cross Trainer	6,018.00
Designation pending	1,865.00
Dietary Department	100.00
Employee and Resident Special Meals	500.00
Employee Enrichment	240.00
Endowment Fund	2,522.33
Hall Tree for Assisted Living	75.00
Pet Care	246.00
Pillars Banquet Corporate Sponsor	1,200.00
Pressure Relieving Pads - Beds & Wheel Chairs	800.00
Resident Care	7,325.39
Resident Room Renovation	740.00
Special Care Unit Courtyard Bench Cushions	500.00
SCU Digital Camera etc.	865.00
Special Care Unit DVDs/CDs	80.00
Sit-to-Stand Lift	1,470.00
Special Care Unit	150.00
TV / DVD/VHS combination unit	460.00
Videos / DVDs / CDs	100.00
Where Most Needed	34,873.81
Wireless Resident Assistance System	10,000.00
	<b>\$450,649.29</b>
	<b>Gifts in Kind \$1,336.62</b>
Library books, fund raising expenses, maintenance equipment, nursing care equipment, resident furnishings, etc.	
	<b>Total Contributions \$451,985.91</b>
	<b>Total Gifts from Memorials 9,738.00</b>
	<b>Total Christmas Gift Contributions 12,655.43</b>

Everyone is invited to attend the Bethesda annual meeting on May 24, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the Bethesda Activity Room for a complete report of the past year and an opportunity to discuss the visions for Bethesda's future. A refreshment/social time will follow.

*Fred continued from pg. 3*

had worked for Fred since he was in high school. After going to school and passing the master electrician's licensing exam, Funk was able to assume all of Fred's responsibilities.

"He (Schmidt) was already thinking about his future plan many years ago. He always wanted to have a local apprentice and be able to leave the electrical business in good hands when he retired," said Woelk.

Another one of Schmidt's dreams was to light the walking path around Bethesda. He provided in-kind services and made that happen. Now residents can enjoy nighttime walks along a lighted path.

Schmidt was committed to MCC and was also the treasurer of the Goessel Investment Club. He made it a point to always be involved in the community.

Schmidt's wife Jo-Ann remembers his involvement the most.

"Fred was always passionate about Bethesda and Goessel as a whole. He recognized that Bethesda is a very large part of the Goessel community. Fred chaired the board meetings and was a part of the \$100 a plate fundraisers that started in the Goessel grade school. He really enjoyed being on the board and felt really good about getting Pete on as development director," she said.

Schmidt lived a life of service. He was dedicated to the Bethesda and Goessel communities, passionate about his dreams, and worked hard to achieve them. The Goessel and Bethesda communities are grateful for Fred's service and leadership.



## THE BETHESDA LETTER

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Bethesda Newsletter is now on-line at [www.bethesdahome.org](http://www.bethesdahome.org) – tell your friends about it!

## Keith's Foods makes Bethesda grocery certificates even **EASIER!**

Keith Banman of Keith's Foods in Goessel has gone to modern technology in making his contribution to Bethesda. Purchase your \$50 gift card, shown below, from Citizens State Bank, Crossroads Credit Union, or the Bethesda Home business office. To pay for your purchases at Keith's, simply swipe the card and your receipt will show the balance left on your card. When your card is used up, give the card back to Keith's Foods and purchase more cards from the sites mentioned above.

Kroger gift certificates are also still available at the sites mentioned above and are sold in \$50 or \$100 packages comprised of \$5, \$10, and \$25 certificates as shown above. These certificates can be used at any Kroger owned store in the United States, including local Dillons stores, for any items in the store—including prescriptions. They can also be used at Kwik Shop stores to purchase gas.

Kroger and Keith's foods contribute four percent of every dollar of certificates purchased to Bethesda Home. Small amounts add up in a year's time. Did you realize that if 400 households purchased \$300 of grocery certificates per month, it would generate \$57,600 per year to Bethesda Home?

You say you always forget to buy the certificates until you get to the check out stand, and then it's too late? See Pete to set up an automatic bank withdrawal at Bethesda Home. You will be assured to have certificates delivered to you by the first or 15<sup>th</sup> of each month as you choose. The small effort you make can make a big contribution to Bethesda in the long run.

