

HERITAGE of Care

THE BETHESDA LETTER

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

Food Funds

What does buying groceries have to do with helping Bethesda Home?

Visit Keith's Foods in Goessel and find out!

From fresh baked pizza to customer service that astounds, Keith Banman has established his grocery store on Main Street as the friendliest grocery store around.

Not only does Keith's Foods have great selection, fresh pizza and great service, but they are making a difference every day at Bethesda Home as well.

Residents, staff, friends and relatives of residents and the whole community benefit from a program Keith Banman, owner of Keith's Foods, put into place years ago.

So what's new about this whole process? Keith has implemented a gift card system that makes the whole process easier and sends more money to Bethesda Home.

With the gift cards, the certificate is not changed out like cash, but every penny of the amount on the card is spent at Keith's store and thus more money is donated to Bethesda. "It works just like a debit card," said Banman.

Four percent of every dollar spent from the debit card is donated by Keith's foods to Bethesda Home. This may seem insignificant but in reality it adds up to big numbers for Bethesda Home. In one year, if 400 households purchased \$300 and used the debit cards for the Bethesda program, it would generate \$57,600 for Bethesda Home.

"The gift cards are available for purchase at Crossroads Credit Union, The Citizen's State Bank and also at Bethesda Home," Banman explained.

When asked what was involved to make the switch to gift cards, Banman explained the simplicity of it all.

"We already had the system in place when we set up our scanning system to take credit cards. The only thing we had to



Keith Banman, owner of Keith's Foods, offers gift cards that make a lot of cents.

do was to purchase the gift cards. Then we can charge them and re-charge them with amounts in increments of \$50.00," said Banman.

"People really seem to like the system. Older people especially like it since they don't have to count out the money or handle change. They get a receipt showing how much is left on the card. It's really easy to use."

Banman really encourages people to participate in this program.

"It's all about benefiting Bethesda. We get the business, but it is also a great way that we can help out Bethesda. Right now I would guess around 10 percent of our customers are using the program," said Banman.

Ten percent is a good number but it could easily be increased and thus the amount of donations to Bethesda could be increased exponentially. Stop in at the Citizen's State Bank in Goessel, Crossroads Credit Union in Goessel, or at Bethesda Home and pick up your gift cards for Keith's Foods today!

God's Gift...

As I write this article, we have just celebrated the season of Advent and Christmas. In the past few weeks we have baked, cleaned, bought, decorated, entertained, wrapped, unwrapped, undecorated, cleaned. Somewhere in the midst most, if not all of us, also sang Christmas songs, read or heard the Christmas story, and saw a program that included the story of Jesus' birth. For many people, by the time December 26 rolls around, they are weary of the hoopla, and ready for their houses and lives to get back to "normal." Back to routines of work, school, ballgames, shopping, etc. And celebrations of Advent and Christ's birth recede into memory, and we find that our lives were not changed. We were just extra busy.

Christ's coming to earth as an infant is not just a story. It really happened, and Christ did not come to earth to cause us stress. In fact, He came for the opposite – to free us from it. He came as redeemer and deliverer. He is the gift. We are free to let go of the fears of a culture that says we have to have the best decorations, the busiest schedules, and the highest priced gifts. When we live in fear, we miss the gift and the celebration!

Advent is anticipation of receiving the promise of Light in darkness, of Comfort in sorrow, of amazing Love, of unexpected surprise. Christ is the fulfillment of God's promise. Most wonderful of all; we don't pack Christ away with the decorations when the season is over. Christ is an all year gift to all of humanity. We thank God for the Gift in the way we follow Christ.

Here at Bethesda, I recognize the Gift in kindnesses shown residents and coworkers, in the acceptance of others, in friendly greetings, in the striving to intentionally become a "community formed by the Spirit of Jesus Christ."

Christ has come. Life does not just "get back to normal." Life is never the same again. We are now free to open our lives and our hearts and be filled with the Gift.

Gail Graber, Chaplain



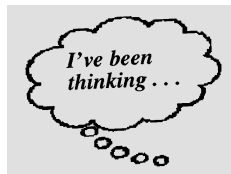
Autumn's Attic

The quarterly newsletter—I can't believe it's that time again. The old adage "time flies quickly when your having fun" is true about working at Bethesda.

I received a really useful gift for Christmas this year; it's a book of how to turn trash into treasure.

This is where you all come in. Some of the suggested items to be used for crafts are:

- clear plastic tray lids which are turned into sun catchers
- white men's or women's shirts decorated for the holidays
- milk cartons that are turned into cottage bookends
- neck ties and material combined with lampshades, jars and jugs filled or covered to make lamps
- two liter soda bottles when covered with cloth become dolls
- old picture frames that can be redone
- old tins that can be repainted and decorated
- plastic vinegar jugs, that can be made into totes for items
- plastic dish soap containers that when covered by a sock becomes a snowman
- wooden shutters that are used to make card holders



In his book, *The Fifth Discipline*, author Peter Senge writes: "... the basic meaning of a 'learning' organization (is) an organization that is continually expanding its capacity to create its future."

In every sense, Bethesda is a learning and growing organization. We've been learning, growing and evolving for 108 years! Throughout its history, Bethesda stakeholders, including residents, families, staff and board, have bravely sought ways to respond to the community's needs. We've added services such as independent living, assisted living, "special care" for persons with dementia, adult day care and home and community based services.

In the year that has just ended, we've worked towards clarifying our mission and vision. Our mission statement reads: "BETHESDA seeks to be a community formed by the spirit of Jesus Christ to fulfill the lives of adults with special needs in a place that is HOME."

Our Building Community/Changing Lives Campaign is about fulfilling this mission and creating HOME. The total campaign goal is \$1.55million. The Mabee Foundation has extended Bethesda a challenge grant of \$225,000. We are working very hard to raise the funds needed to successfully complete the BCCL campaign in order to receive this grant. We are very nearly there. At last count, we still need to raise \$116,462. If we do not raise these dollars, we will not receive the Mabee Foundation challenge grant. I believe we can do this. But it will take the financial support of our entire community to attain this goal. I don't believe that we can do anything less than move forward with this project. It is the right thing to do for our residents, for our families and for our community.

Pope John Paul II once said, "A community needs a soul if it is to become a true home for human beings. You, the people, must give it this soul." In this, our 108th year, we are working hard to restore HOME for our residents.

Thank you to all of you for your generous support. You truly are the soul of Bethesda Home.

Linda Peters, CEO/Administrator



If you have any of these items, they can be used by our residents to make useful or crafty items. Fabrics, buttons, lace, ribbon and socks (in good condition, but not necessarily having a mate) can also be used to make crafts. We would greatly appreciate any craft items, or help with our crafting. Check the attic for trash that can become treasure!

Our next big facility party for residents and their spouses is the Valentines Banquet on March 8. We will be nominating a valentines king and queen. Nominations can be made by making a contribution on behalf of the resident to their "jar" (much like the baby contests at the Alco stores). Family members, staff and residents will be eligible to vote in the contest by donating. The proceeds will go to the American Heart Association, and the winners will be announced at the banquet. The Valentines King & Queen will be awarded a "goodie basket" and have their pictures taken.

Autumn Hanson, Activities Director



Bethesda's Blessed Christmas

We thank all of the individuals and families who gave a Christmas Gift to Bethesda Home this past Christmas. We really appreciate your generosity and support, and thank you for helping us in our mission to serve our residents. Your Christmas gifts went towards many things; the BCCL campaign, Sit-to-Stand Lift, Oxygen Concentrator, Pill Crushers, Pet Care, Sewing Machine Cabinet, Combustible Gas Leak Detector, and Resident Care. Thank you again for being so generous to Bethesda Home.



Tired of shoveling snow?

Consider Independent Living at Bethesda Home

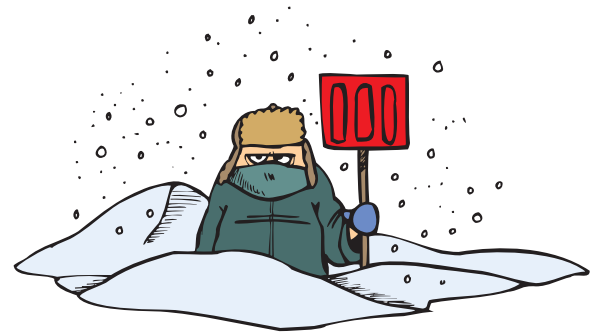
Current Vacancies:

308 Meadowlane

- Two bedroom, 1150 sq. ft. of living space plus a storm shelter, and storage room behind the garage.
- Furnishings include: central heating/AC, range, refrigerator, washer/dryer, draperies.
- Different stewardship options that range from \$83,500 down with an amortized refund ranging from 90% to 50% to \$55,000 down with no refund.
- Monthly service fee that provides for all yard maintenance (*mowing, fertilizing, watering, etc.*); facility and appliance maintenance; emergency call system; snow removal, insurance on the unit, utility hookups, etc.

307 Meadowlane

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306 E. Main St.

- Two bedroom, 1115 sq. ft. of living space plus a storage room behind the single car garage.
- Furnishings include: central heating/AC, range, refrigerator, washer/dryer, draperies.
- \$ 550 / month rent plus utilities and monthly service fee.
- Service Fee provides for all yard maintenance (*mowing, fertilizing, watering, etc.*); facility and appliance maintenance; emergency call system; snow removal, insurance on the unit, utility hookups, etc.

408 E. Marion St.

- One bedroom, 600 sq. ft. of living space plus a storage room behind the single car garage.
- Furnishings include: central heating/AC, range, refrigerator, washer/dryer, draperies.
- \$ 340 / month rent plus utilities and monthly service fee.
- Service Fee provides for all yard maintenance (*mowing, fertilizing, watering, etc.*); facility and appliance maintenance; emergency call system; snow removal, insurance on the unit, utility hookups, etc.

For details about the benefits of Independent Living at Bethesda Home contact
Eric Schrag - 620-367-2291

To qualify for Independent Living at Bethesda individuals must: be 62 years of age or older, or meet disability criteria; be able to exit the building unassisted in case of emergency; and have no history of wandering or elopement.

THE BETHESDA LETTER

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THANKS to the more than 568 Donors that contributed over \$365,920.00 in cash and in-kind gifts to Bethesda Home in 2006!

Your generosity for our ministry is deeply appreciated by our staff and the residents that we serve.

Join the "Bethesda Donors"

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Duerksen Harvesting
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Duerksen, Chelan & Megan
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Hiebert, Johnnie & Bertha
Hiebert, Melvin & Norma
Hiebert, Merlin & Velma
Hiebert, Mike & Carol
Hiebert, Myron & Ann
Hiebert, Tom & Alda Mae
Higdon, Alpha
Holle, LaVerne & Carolyn
Holmes, Rev. Nel
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Losasso, Robert & Dena
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Maggard, Dennis & Janis
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Marie Flaming Estate
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Martin, Bob & Michelle
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Martinez, Norma
Matthies, Della
May, Mrs. & Mr. Jerry
McAdoo, WM & Joann
McCullough, Stephen & Dr. Pamela

McGinnes, Norma	Reimer, Irvin & Edna	Schroeder, Lavern & Jane	Voth, Bill & Nada
Meier, Gregory & Suzanne	Reimer, Jona	Schroeder, Lloyd & Marlene	Voth, Bryson & Janine
Mennonite Brethren Foundation	Reimer, Randolph & Ruby	Schroeder, Nancy & Ron	Voth, Delton & Janice
Mennonite Foundation	Reimer, Richard & Evelyn	Schroeder, Norman & Leona	Voth, Elmer & Josephine
Merklein, Carla	Reinhardt, Bob & Debra	Schultz, Wally	Voth, Frances
Merklein, Ehrhart	Rinner, Esther	Schwabauer, Aaron	Voth, Harold & Vernelle
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Mid-Kansas Coop	Roberts, Chet & Jeanette	Sebes, Dennis & Dorothy	Voth, James & Gayle
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Miller, Ivan & Floris	RPH Financial Services	Seiler, Robert	Voth, Jim & Barb
Milt's Small Engine Service	Rudolph, Judy	Seyfried, Francis	Voth, Joshua
Mission Co-Workers, Goessel Church	Sauerwein, Teresa	Siemens, Melvin	Voth, Kimberly
Moore, Cynthia	Schick, Max & Norma	Snow, Jerry & Irene	Voth, Lester & Lois
Morrow, David & Joanne	Schick, Merlyn	Soller, Ron & Kyline	Voth, Linda
Moundridge Telephone Co.	Schick, Steven	Sommer, John & Jan	Voth, Lloyd & Marlene
Mulder, James & Arlene	Schick, William	Sommerfeld, Justin & Carrie	Voth, Martha
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Navrat, Carole	Schmanke, Robert & Gayla	Squier Family Partnership	Voth, Milo & Verna
Neal, Charles & Priscilla	Schmidt Auction Service	Stahlheber, Alan & Debi	Voth, Phyllis
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Plenert, Ron & Nancy	Schmidt, Ken	Unrau, Marie	Withiam, William & Deborah
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Quiring, Paul & Mildred	Schmidt, Rannie & Meribeth	Unruh, Harold & Joyce	Zillinger, James & Diane
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Ratzlaff, Betty	Schmidt, Ruth	Unruh, Janice	
Ratzlaff, Bryce	Schmidt, Wilbert & Eunice	Unruh, John & Cindi	
Ratzlaff, John & Elaine	Schmucker, Blake & Kristine	Unruh, John & Elaine	
Ratzlaff, Leroy & Viola	Schrag, Eric & Gretchen	Unruh, Lewis & Carrie	
Ratzlaff, Norman & Wanda	Schrag, Jim & Judy	Unruh, Orville & Elsie	
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Ratzlaff, Wilbur & Viola	Schroeder Nursery	Unruh, Robert & Erlene	
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Regier, Willard & Julia	Schroeder, Del & Dalonna	Veldhoff, Norman & Sheryl	
Reimer, Erna & Milda	Schroeder, Dennis & Lavina	Vogts, Ella	
Reimer, Gladys	Schroeder, Doug & Vanessa	Vogts, Maxine	
	Schroeder, Elaine	Voran, Marlys	
	Schroeder, Jerry & Darlene	Voth, Arnold & Wilma	

"No person has ever been honored
for what he or she received.
Honor is our reward when we
give."
-- Calvin Coolidge

God's blessings to all of you for your
generous support.

Axing the Annex

In December 1973, the “new” Bethesda Hospital opened its doors. This modern facility was located at the east end of the nursing home. From the beginning, the hospital struggled to stay afloat.

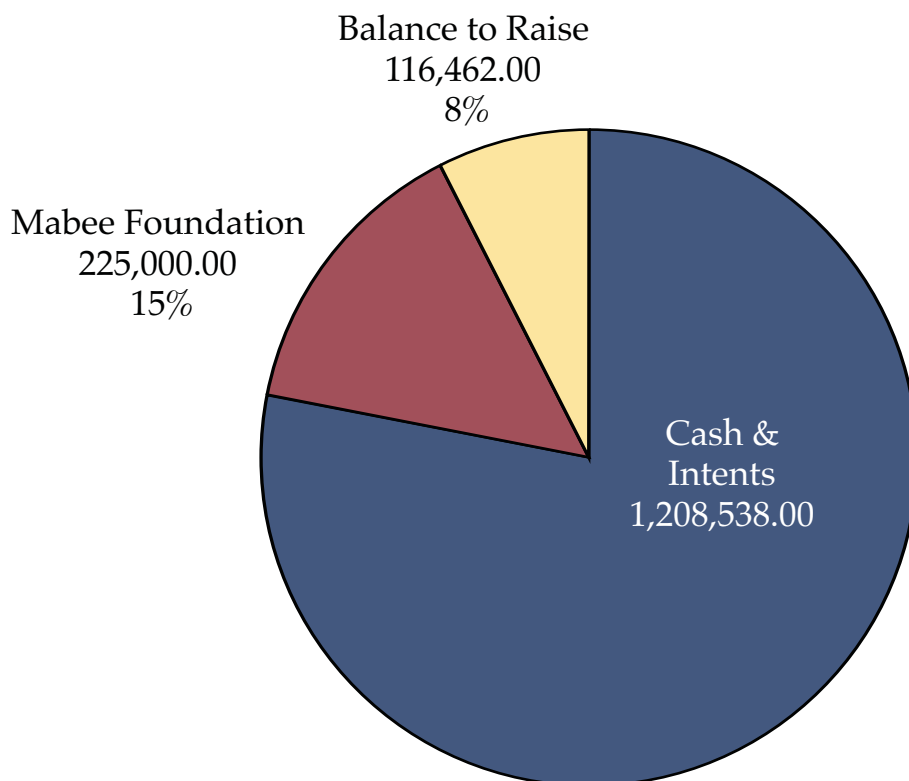
Primarily because of changes in government reimbursement, the hospital closed its doors in December 1982. The facility underwent some renovations and the hospital beds were re-licensed as nursing home beds. It was evident from the beginning that this area, now known as the “East Annex,” would not be a long-term solution. While these rooms functioned well as acute care hospital rooms, they were woefully inadequate for longer term nursing home residents. The structure was also very inefficient in its use of energy to heat and cool the area. Also of great concern, there was no automatic fire sprinkler system in this building—a huge safety issue.

In the last several years, Bethesda Administration and Board members have met with a number of community “focus” groups to discuss Bethesda’s needs in general, and the status of this East Annex area in particular. In 2000, the decision was made to close the East Annex. In March 2001, the remaining residents living in this area were moved to the main nursing facility and the doors were closed.

In the ensuing years, this area has been used for storage and has slowly and steadily deteriorated. In the last few months, Mark Woelk, Director of Environmental Services, and his crew, along with volunteers and others from the community, have been diligently working in the annex to remove salvageable items (see pictures). Later this month, Dirksen Construction will level the entire structure. At this point in time, we will use this area for parking as we ponder future plans.



BCCL Campaign Progress



*Getting really close!
Help us fill the gap
and meet the
Mabee Challenge!!*

**\$116,462 are needed
by April 7, 2007
to secure our
\$225,000 Mabee
Foundation
Challenge Grant.**

Serving in Love

In the first drawer of my desk I have an envelope that is a filled with notes. It started as a regular legal size white envelope, has become a 6 x 9 manila mailer, and will have to expand to a 12 x 16 mailer by the time this newsletter is published. The notes are hand written by the same person, come once or twice daily, and are always highlights of my day.


The notes are illegible, and come on a variety of different types of stationary, but I know what the notes mean, and that the message is a meaningful and thoughtful one. "Hey mister! What are you doing? I like those mugs. Get me one of those mugs." Much to the chagrin of the nursing staff, I have been trying to come through with these mug requests from one of our residents.

If you had asked me three months ago about what to expect as the Director of Development at Bethesda Home, I'm not sure I would have mentioned the "notes" or "mugs." What I have learned in my three months here is that this is not an isolated instance. When one spends a little time around Bethesda Home, one sees employees continually taking the extra steps to be "friends" along with being care givers. I think this models Paul's charge to the church in Galatia in which he asks the church to, "serve

one another in love." That is not the exception at Bethesda, it is the rule.

This Newsletter again looks at the BCCL campaign which is rapidly approaching conclusion, both in terms of the dollars raised, and in the necessity of having those dollars raised to get the Mabee Foundation Grant. If you have not already given to this very worthwhile project, I strongly encourage you to do so. If you have given once, I encourage you to give again. This current fund drive represents an important shift for our facility. It is a shift that will help us to follow Paul's instruction "to serve one another in love."

Bethesda Home seeks to provide loving care for each resident. You too can help us in this mission. Think of this as my note to you: "Hey mister. I think our residents would really benefit from this culture change. Get us one of those culture changes."

Blessings in Christ, 

Eric Schrag, Dir. Marketing/Development

Memorial Gifts

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

Designation Pending

Clarence Krause
Milton Schmidt
Roland Unruh

Pet Care

Agnes Unruh

Picnic Table, Sewing Machine, Vacuum Sweeper

Orlando Voth

Welcome

Edmah Boese
Randolf Flaming
Sam Quiring
Elva Quiring
Harold Plenert
Bertha Zook
Pearl Buchanan
David C Wedel
Lester Buchanan

Dismissals

Edmah Boese
Sam Claassen
Harold Plenert

In Memory

Agnes Unruh
Rachel Ratzlaff
Earl Bartel
Pearl Buchanan

New Employees

Irvin Voth
Andy Plett
Jane Downs
Ginger Hoffner
Sally Thiesen
Rachelle Nading
Linessa Duerksen

Bethesda Home Board Members

Karl Brubaker – Chair
Angie Duerksen
Ron Ferguson

John Goerzen
Margaret Hiebert
Bonnie Janzen

Floyd Nickel
Kermit Nikkel
Dennis Quiring

Kris Schmucker
Del Schroeder
Barb Voth



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