

HERITAGE of Care THE BETHESDA LETTER

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

Pillars Banquet succeeds through community effort



“The community really pulls together and makes this evening such a blessing for Bethesda,” said Schrag. “Many of the attendees have been to every single banquet since they started 19 years ago. That’s very impressive.”

Adding to the success of the event is the high level of quality entertainment that the banquet has always showcased. Ranging from local talent to nationally recognized speakers, the audience never leaves without smiles on their faces. This

Caring is something that Bethesda Home does well. In fact the staff does it so well that it spills over into the community and impacts many more people than just the residents. This is very evident every year when the Pillars Banquet happens.

Last year the banquet was filled to capacity and this year’s was no exception. The event is the largest fundraiser of the year for Bethesda. That’s no small feat for one evening.

The banquet is sponsored by the Bethesda Board of Directors; Karl Brubaker, Angie Duerksen, Ron Ferguson, John Goerzen, Margaret Hiebert, Bonnie Janzen, Floyd Nickel, Kermit Nikkel, Dennis Quiring, Kris Schmucker, Del Schroeder and Barbara Voth.

Eric Schrag, Director of Development finds that this event is really the pinnacle of the year for Bethesda.

year, Five Times Harder performed and delighted the audience with their family style of music. From secular to sacred, and classical to bluegrass this family is one talented and entertaining bunch!

The Pillars Banquet crowd can always come away from this evening with a sense of fulfillment. Their fulfillment is not only because of the delicious meal and wonderful entertainment, but also because they know that they really, truly help Bethesda Home continue their tradition of quality care.

Last year the event raised \$23,000 after expenses. The event consistently draws around 250 attendees and always brings back some familiar faces that are dear friends to the Bethesda community.

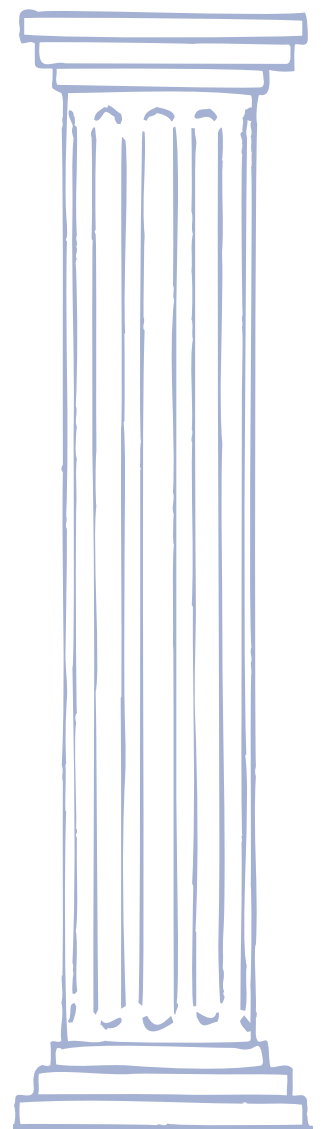
The event is called The Pillars Banquet because it is the supporters of Bethesda who are

“Pillars” continued on pg 3

BETHESDA



H • O • M • E



Showcased Entertainment

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|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| 1990 - Wedel Brothers Quartet | 1996 - “Victory Express” | 2002 - Tom & Lois Harder |
| 1991 - Larry Hatteberg | 1997 - Wedel Brothers Quartet | 2003 - Jason & Renae Peters - piano |
| 1992 - Wedel Brothers Quartet | 1998 - “Seeds of Joy” Quartet | 2004 - Ron Willis |
| 1993 - Rick McNary, Ventriloquist | 1999 - Testimony | 2005 - “Sisters Forever” - Funk Sisters |
| 1994 - Praise IV Quartet | 2000 - Al Schmidt | 2006 - Greg Claassen |
| 1995 - “The Brothers & Sisters” | 2001 - Jake Schmidt & Tim Peterson | 2007 - Five Times Harder |



Venita Schroeder

The Venita Network

Someone once said there are really only two prayers people pray. The first prayer is please, please, please. The second is thank you, thank you, thank you.

Events that occurred during this past week proved this statement to be accurate. For those of you who are not aware of what happened, I will give a brief account:

Our DON Venita Schroeder, without warning, became critically ill early Wednesday (Oct. 31) morning. She woke with a terrible pain in her head and asked her husband to drive her to Newton Medical Center. While there, it became apparent she would need the services of the highly skilled staff at Wesley Medical Center in Wichita. She appeared to have a bleed on her brain. Her condition steadily deteriorated.

When the family arrived in Wichita, they were told by doctors there was little chance Venita would survive. They could do surgery, but Venita had a 1 in 1000 chance of surviving, and if she did, brain damage was likely. The family opted for surgery.

What the doctors didn't know was when these events began to unfold, Venita's family contacted other family members, who in turn contacted others—church members, friends, co-workers.

If you watch TV, you're probably familiar with the Verizon commercials (the Verizon network that follows all of their cell phone users). Well, the doctors apparently are not familiar with the "Venita Network" which is a whole lot bigger than anything Verizon could ever come up with.

The Venita Network includes her Tabor Church family, her Hesston College family, her Bethesda family, the family of the Directors of Nursing for hundreds of nursing homes across the state of Kansas, the Progressive HealthCare Alliance family as well as the Mennonite Health Services Alliance family. I would guess to say there were literally thousands of people praying for her, and all of us were praying the same thing—please, please, please. None of us could imagine a world without Venita.

The doctors completed the surgery and don't you know that just a few hours later, she opened her eyes, moved her arms and legs, gave the "thumbs up" sign, and I am told she tried to remove her breathing tube. (Nurses are difficult patients!)

The following day, she had a second surgery to repair a small aneurysm on her brain. She is doing well. What's perhaps most remarkable is that she doesn't appear to have any memory loss, and she is able to speak and write. She's even beginning to worry about others. No surprise there!

I imagine many of you who are reading this can testify that things don't always turn out the way we hope for and pray for. Terrible, tragic things happen to good people every day. That is, perhaps, the greatest mystery in life and faith.

And now is the time to pray thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you God for giving Venita back to us. Thank you God for Your promise that You will never abandon us. Thank you God for this most precious gift of life.

In this season of Thanksgiving there is much to be thankful for—family, friends, faith. I am most thankful to all of you for your love and support of Bethesda.

Please continue to hold Venita in your prayers in the days and weeks ahead as she travels the road to recovery. We all look forward to the day when she returns to complete healing.

God Bless You and Keep You in the Palm of His Hand.

- Linda Peters, CEO/Administrator

IRA Charitable Donor Opportunity

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 (PPA 2006) created a new charitable planning opportunity. Under PPA 2006, an IRA owner age 70 or older may make a direct transfer to charity. The transfer may be up to \$100,000 in one year and PPA 2006 provided that this option will exist for year 2006 and year 2007. Sec. 408(d)(8)(A).

Board members, trustees and other major donors frequently are asked to make major gifts. As the rules have continually become more favorable for IRAs and the required withdrawals have been reduced, large IRAs will continue to grow. Over longer periods of time, there are occasional market dips and drops, but the longer-term trend is positive and large IRAs will continue to increase in value.

For many professionals and business owners, the IRA may even become the vast majority of the estate. They have a need to do some

"asset balancing" or there may be major future income tax problems. Therefore, it may be desirable for the major donor to give \$100,000 per year to charity from his or her IRA. This has the advantage of "balancing" the estate assets.

In addition, there may be income tax benefits. If the donor were to take the IRA into his or her own personal income, there are several types of exemptions that are phased out at higher income levels. Thus, it may actually be preferable to make the gift directly from the IRA rather than making a charitable gift from regular income.

If you would like to make an IRA charitable gift, please contact Eric Schrag, Director of Marketing/Development at 620-367-2291.

(www.crescendointeractive.com/ira_donor_profiles.jsp)

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. We look forward to your continued support this Christmas as together we move forward in our ministry of service.



Nickel Health Caregiver Scholarship

Megan C. Wedel of Canton, Kansas is this year's recipient of the Alvin R. Nickel Health Caregiver Scholarship.

"My experience at Bethesda Home has prepared and encouraged me to pursue an education and a career in health-care by making me realize that I enjoy helping people each and everyday and that they rely on me to do what is best for them," Megan wrote. She has worked at Bethesda two years and is pursuing nursing at Hesston College.

The Nickel Health Caregiver Scholarship originated in 1990. It was Alvin's desire that this would be a scholarship that

would continue to strengthen the quality of care he saw and experienced at Bethesda Home. As trustees of the Health Caregiver Scholarship, we are excited to help individuals as they pursue individual call into the field of healthcare. Currently the scholarship totals approximately \$13,000 and is housed in the Mennonite Bethesda Society Endowment. Each year five percent of this amount is offered as a scholarship. It is our hope that this scholarship will be used by individuals who currently work, or who will receive their education and return to their work, at Bethesda Home.

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the Pillars that build up the community. They have built it up to where it is today, but Bethesda is not content to just maintain a good facility either. That's where the BCCL campaign enters!

This year's banquet and the following two banquets to come will help to fund the BCCL campaign. The campaign is an exciting one for Bethesda. The campaign will help Bethesda to move into a family environment like "home" in which elders can be cared for in an environment that does not feel like a nursing home. We are looking forward to the completion of the BCCL campaign and the physical changes that will result in living rooms, front porches, sitting areas and dining rooms.

With construction work scheduled to begin very soon, it will be very evident what a difference the support of Bethesda's pillars have made!



Welcome New Employees!

Victoria Jones Alice Fensky Kim Martin

We would love 4% of your Turkey!



Get your holiday groceries at Dillons and Keith's foods with Bethesda Home Grocery Certificates – four percent of your purchase will come back to Bethesda Home.

Bethesda Christmas Wish List

Help us to provide for the needs of those whom we serve

Individuals, Groups, Businesses, or Memorial funds can help provide for the needs of our residents/staff.

Contact: Eric Schrag, Director of Development/ Marketing (620) 367-2291 E-mail - eschrag@bethesdahome.org

"It's the little things in life that determine the big things. Thank you to all who have contributed toward the purchase of the "little things" that make a "big" difference in Bethesda's ministry. Following are some of the current project opportunities and approximate costs:

1. Late 90's or Newer Pick-up Truck for Maintenance Dept.
2. Staple Gun - \$25
3. Rubbermaid Cart for Nursing Dept. - \$130
4. Metal Park Bench for Walking Path - \$875
5. Vision Equipment - \$1900 used - \$3000 new
6. Linens for Residents (towels, washcloths, blankets, sheets/pillowcases) - any amount acceptable
7. Soft Serve Ice Cream machine - \$3250
8. Pet Care (fish, birds, cat) - any amount acceptable
9. Pressure Relieving Mattress Pads - \$80 each
10. Positive Air low Mattress - \$1,000
11. Vacuum Sweeper - \$100
12. Carpet Extractor - \$200
13. Wheel Chair - \$300
14. Electric Bariatric Resident Bed - \$3,000
15. Wheel Chair Accessible GLider Swing - \$3,000
16. Sit-to-Stand Lift - \$4,000
17. Bladder Scanner - \$11,500
18. Radio/cd Player - \$50
19. Movies - (any amount acceptable)
20. Resident Care Fund (Helps defray the costs not covered by Medicaid which average about \$17.50 per day or \$6,600 per year for each Medicaid resident. Approximately 60% of our residents are on Medicaid).
21. Talking Books - any amount acceptable
22. Pathway Lighting (seven fixtures) - \$500 each
23. Parking Lot Lighting (east side) - \$2,000

Give cash or make checks payable to "Bethesda Home." To assure that specifications are met, Bethesda will purchase the item(s). (Donors / memorials will be appropriately identified on all suitable items.)



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