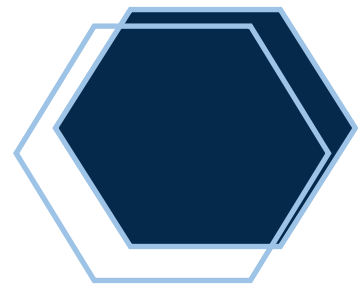
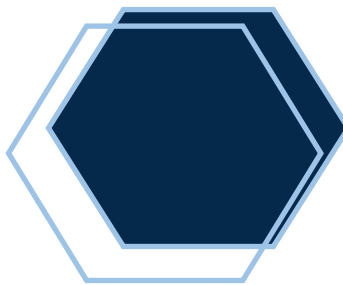
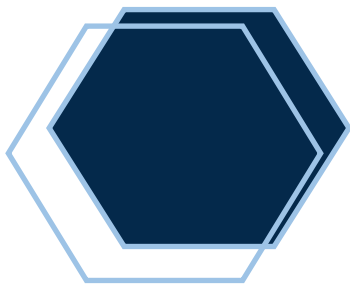




# MISSION IN ACTION

2018



**SMP Health System**



*"We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28*

The variety of stories in this edition of *Mission in Action* demonstrates that our mission is not a narrow or discreet function of our organization. Indeed, it is to permeate every aspect of our organization and its ministries. It does not fit neatly in a department, box or on a spreadsheet. It is difficult to measure. It is uniquely manifested by each person involved in a ministry of SMP Health System, either as a volunteer, employee or provider.

Sometimes our actions in furtherance of the mission are deliberate, such as a bake sale to help a coworker, a fun event organized for residents or a religious service. Other times we might live out our mission in unexpected and unanticipated ways, such as taking an extra moment to visit with a patient or resident who appears to be struggling with something, helping someone through a difficult time or recognizing a coworker for their good work. In any case, we don't know how to measure the impact of these kinds of activities, but the stories we hear, such as those contained in this issue, tell us that the impact is often well beyond what might be expected.

Thank you to those whose stories are captured in this edition of *Mission in Action* and equally thank you to the majority of you who live out our mission in your day-to-day encounters with patients, residents and coworkers but whose stories are untold but no less meaningful.

*Jack Kennelby,*

*Vice President of Mission*

# MARYHILL MANOR

## **SMP Health System Champions — Sheila and Paul Ripplinger, Enderlin, ND**

**By: Nancy Farnham, CEO**

Airplane rides for residents of Maryhill Manor, Enderlin, ND, were donated by Sheila (Nursing Services Coordinator) and Paul Ripplinger. Paul was a very gracious pilot and made sure the residents in the plane got a chance to see their old farm places and other points of interest to them. It was the perfect day to go up in a plane with clear blue skies and very little wind. Everyone came back from this experience buzzing about how much fun they had.



Paul Ripplinger, Katie Oehlke and Verna Fleischfresser

## **Christmas “Store” for Maryhill Manor**

**By Nancy Farnham, CEO**

Our Lady of the Scapular Catholic Church, Sheldon, ND, has come to Maryhill the last couple years and provided a “store” for residents at Christmastime. Residents are given tickets and can shop for a variety of items that they can keep for themselves or give as gifts to family members. This has been a very generous program and the residents have enjoyed and appreciated it.

# PRESENTATION MEDICAL CENTER

## Presentation Medical Center Family Starts Over with Help from Coworkers

By: Deborah Schleisman

On the Fourth of July, one of our own CNAs was at home with her young family when a fire broke out in a room of their mobile home. They were all able to escape safely, but they literally lost everything except the clothes on their backs. They also had no insurance on their dwelling. Presentation Medical Center sponsored a community-wide silent auction and ice cream float sale and raised over \$3,000 to help the family start over.

## Swing Bed Patients Experience Christmas Spirit

By: Deborah Schleisman

Our ward clerk and her sister, one of our CNAs, went shopping with their mother for bargains after last Christmas. They arrived at PMC last weekend with enough Christmas supplies to put Christmas trees, complete with lights and decorations, in every swing bed patient's room and door wreaths for their doors. The patients were very appreciative of the festive atmosphere of their rooms and their Christmas was made merrier thanks to a caring family.

## Marsha Mitchell Recognized as "Legendary" Nurse This story first published in the Turtle Mountain Star

Marsha Mitchell, the head nurse of the acute floor at Presentation Medical Center, was one of 12 nurses recognized as a "Legendary Nurse" by the North Dakota Center for Nursing. The award was created in 2015 to honor nurses who have made significant contributions to the nursing profession in North Dakota. Marsha received the Clinical Practice Excellence Award, which is given to a nurse who demonstrates exceptional clinical practice or patient care.

Marsha explained that as a little girl she did not decide to become a nurse. "I just always wanted to be one," she said. Another reason for her to become a nurse was to follow her mother's dream. Marsha explained, "She always wanted to be one but could never afford to go to school."

Nancy Carlson, Marsha's coworker of 37 years, submitted Marsha's nomination, which described Marsha as follows:

[She] leads with integrity by helping others and working alongside CNAs, other nurses, support staff and providers to manage the care of all patients... She is often found in patient rooms answering lights, providing care, helping CNAs and other nurses or can be found visiting patients and getting to know their needs. Many repeat patients express only trust and appreciation for her presence, knowing their needs will be met and they will be well taken care of.

Marsha was on duty at PMC when Chris Albertson, CEO, was born. "From the moment I was born, I knew she was a great nurse," Albertson said. He further praised her with, "Having people like Marsha on Team PMC is like our secret sauce... She always treats patients, visitors and other employees with dignity and kindness, and this is emulated by the people she works with."



Nancy Carlson (L) and Marsha Mitchell (R)

In all her years as a nurse, Marsha couldn't come up with a part of her job that she would deem "difficult." Next June she will celebrate 45 years in the nursing profession and she says, to the benefit of Presentation Medical Center, that she has no intention of leaving.



# ROSEWOOD ON BROADWAY

## A Rosewood Resident Travels In Style!

Fred Quam, a resident of Rosewood on Broadway, was chauffeured in style in Lisa Leabo's Mustang convertible to the Shriners' corn feed last fall on a beautiful top-down day. Lisa is the Maintenance Assistant at Rosewood on Broadway.



**Pictured: Fred Quam and Lisa Leabo**



**A Sweet Ride**

# SHEYENNE CARE CENTER

## **Stocking Stuffer Program** **By: Cindy Schwehr**

The stocking stuffer program started many, many years ago when staff noticed that there were residents who didn't have many, if any, family or friends and went without at Christmas time. Wanting to make sure that there is joy and love shown to all of our residents during the Christmas season, we continue to solicit small items and funds to make sure everyone has a merry Christmas.

At first, the items were toiletries, socks, perfume, sweet treats, etc. All of the items were wrapped and placed in a personalized Christmas stocking. Hence the name, "Stocking Stuffer." As time went on, donations became more generous and we went from stockings to large gift bags.

This is a HUGELY successful program. Each neighborhood planner knows their residents' likes and dislikes and with the help of the care givers we are able to give everyone things they need and some stuff that's just fun to have. Many happy hours go into shopping and preparing the gifts and it is worth every last second when we hand each resident a large gift bag filled with all new and fun Christmas gifts on Christmas Day.

## **The Heart of a 7 year old at Christmas** **By: Cindy Schwehr**

Cassandra O'Brien is a CNA at Sheyenne Care Center, Valley City, ND. On her days off, she sometimes takes her seven year old son, Carter, to Sheyenne Care Center to visit the residents. He has been visiting and hugging the residents on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor and sharing his contagious joy for some time now.

One day after a visit he said to his mom, "I want to make sure all the residents have a nice Christmas – I want to get them a gift." His mom pointed out that it would cost money and asked where he would get it. He responded, "you can make cookies and I will sell them for the money." And so it began. Mom made 12 dozen cookies and the young entrepreneur/ philanthropist was off!

With mom along, Carter went door-to-door in the neighborhood. He told his story to prospective customers and in two hours, at the cost of a free will offering, "sold" \$250.00 worth of cookies for a Christmas gift for his friends on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor.

Shortly after completing his project, Carter went to Sheyenne Care Center with his mom and presented the money to Linda Brobst, the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor Neighborhood Planner and asked her to please make Christmas special for his friends. When Linda asked what he would like her to do, he thought maybe a nice ornament for each resident or a pizza party or whatever Linda thought best.



Carter is the son of Cassandra and Tyler O'Brien, who are very proud of him. He is in 1<sup>st</sup> grade at Jefferson school and his teacher, Mrs. Altringer, told him he was awesome!

On December 24, 2018, Carter and his entire family joined his third floor friends for a Christmas Eve pizza party lunch, including homemade cake and coffee and lots of hugs. His dad was so proud and said "we will do this again next year." The money that he raised paid for the pizza party, cakes and a Christmas decoration for every resident's window on 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. The residents were so thankful and appreciative. They just love this handsome young man!!

For the residents and staff at Sheyenne Care Center the spirit of Christmas was alive and at work in the form of a young boy whose love and kindness is a reminder that there is good in this world. We thank God for Carter whose example reinforces our hope for the generosity of his generation.

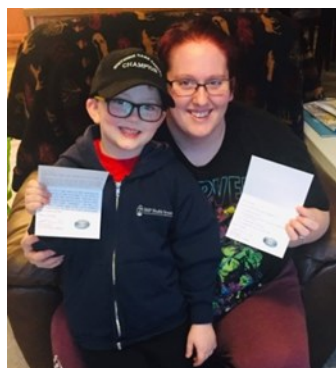
Carter was presented with an SMP Health System hooded sweatshirt and a Sheyenne Care Center baseball cap. He and his mother were also presented with SMP Health System "Champion" pins.



Cassandra, Carter and Linda Brobst



Linda Brobst, Carter and Cassandra



Carter and Mom show off their pins and his new SMPHS sweatshirt and Sheyenne Care Center hat



# ST. ALOISIUS MEDICAL CENTER

By Gail Grondahl, RN DON

Deb McAvoy, MSN, RN Clinical Instructor, has been chosen by the Dakota Conference on Rural and Public Health to receive its "Outstanding Educator/Mentor" award. Annie Paulson, Director of the Nursing Program at Bismarck State College, nominated Deb for this award. It was presented to her during the Dakota Conference on Rural and Public Health last June.

The following is from the letter of recommendation that I wrote in support of Deb's nomination. It provides more information about Deb's work at St. Aloisius Medical Center to promote our health care ministry, foster nursing education, benefit our community and serve our patients and residents.

Deb has made a tremendous impact on addressing our nursing shortage at St. Aloisius Medical Center by providing educational opportunities to our staff and community members without having to leave the area.

In 2010 we started working towards an agreement with the Dakota Nursing Program and Bismarck State College to become a clinical site for LPN education. We identified a number of our employees who would be excellent candidates for becoming nurses, but were busy with families and work and having the ability to stay in this area to complete their education would be beneficial to them and to our facility. Deb agreed to be the clinical nurse for a site at our facility. She worked on setting up our clinical site along with all of the technology needed such as lab and classroom space. Under her leadership/mentorship and instruction six of our employees graduated in August 2012 as LPNs. Deb agreed to enhance her education at this same time to obtain her MSN in order to assist nurses to attain their RN as well. Two of the six went on to become RNs in 2013 through Deb and Bismarck State College. We have continued to educate nurses since that time with the addition of four more LPN and RN nurses graduating from the program.

In addition, Deb is Our Nurse Educator for our facility. She conducts C.N.A. Classes with 100% pass rates. She also conducts classes to provide Medication II licensing for our Long Term Care. She also provides education for all staff beginning with new employee orientation and leads ongoing education as well as skills validation for our nursing staff throughout the year.



**Deb McAvoy MSN, RN, Clinical Instructor  
with Gail Grondahl, RN, DON**



## A Special Blessing for National Nurse's Day

By Marian Hase

Sunday, May 6, 2018 was National Nurse's Day. The following Monday, St. Aloisius Medical Center honored its nurses, including those who are retired from St. Aloisius, and nurses from the surrounding area with a special ceremony and blessing.

All nurses from the area were invited to the program, which started with a welcome by Mike Zwicker, CEO of St. Aloisius and his thoughts on the importance of nurses to the hospital. Gail Grondahl, LTC Director of Nursing, and Sherri Engkvist, LTC Assistant Director of Nursing, then took turns saying together the *Nurse's Prayer* by Florence Nightingale. At the end of the prayer, all of the nurses stood to recite the *Nurse's Pledge*. Gail then asked a nurse from each table to bring forward a rock on which was painted one of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit to place it on a table at the front of the room and read what each stone represented – Peace, Joy, Love, Kindness, Self-control, Faithfulness, and Generosity.

After the nurses returned to their tables, Sr. Mary Agnes said a *Prayer for the Blessing of Hands* and Father Franklin Miller and Pastor Phil Leer blessed the hands of those present. Sr. Mary Agnes went up to the floors to bless the hands of the nurses who couldn't attend the celebration.

After the hands were blessed, cake, coffee and punch were served while a slide show in background displayed photographs of the nurses at St. Aloisius Medical Center.





## St. Aloisius Offers Sports Physical Clinics

By Pam Stewart, Accountant

At the end of July, ninety student athletes participated in sports physical clinics sponsored by St. Aloisius Medical Center at the Harvey and Fessenden/Bowdon High Schools. The clinics were organized by Candie Thompson, Director of Nursing, and Kim Thorson, FNP performed the physicals.

St. Aloisius wanted to make the physicals easy to get and for a reasonable price. Then...it went one step further to "give back" to the communities by returning 100% of the fees collected to the local sports programs. The Harvey Wells County Sports Booster Club received a check for \$1,800.00 to be used equally for all students participating in the sports programs in the Harvey Wells County area. The funds will be shared equally with all students participating in the Harvey Wells County sports program, no matter which town they are from. The money will help to purchase uniforms and equipment.

This is just one way that St. Aloisius stands by its Mission Statement to minister health "to all we serve" and to support our communities and "give back" whenever possible. Our kids are important to our future and we all want them to achieve their full potential.



Candie Thompson, Director of Nursing, Colette Hertz, Harvey Wells County Booster Club and Kim Thorson, FNP at St. Aloisius Medical Center Clinic



# ST. ANDREW'S HEALTH CENTER

## St. Andrew's Partners with Local Study Club to Spread Christmas Cheer

By Brenda Arneson

St. Andrew's Health Center has collaborated with the Bottineau Study Club for the past several years in sponsoring an Angel Tree. The Study club provides St. Andrew's with a listing of the gender and age of children who might not otherwise receive a Christmas gift. An angel tag with this information is hung on a Christmas tree in the hospital. Employees and community members are invited to choose an angel tag and purchase a toy for that child.

The Bottineau Study Club also provides a "Cheer Box" to families in need during the Christmas season. The boxes contain food for a holiday meal along with Angel Tree gifts for the children. A number of entities in the community collect items for the Cheer Boxes and service groups assist with packing and delivering the boxes.

The Santa Tree is another Christmas program that St. Andrew's Health Center sponsors for the benefit of its swing bed patients. The tree is decorated with Santa tags with the name of a swing bed patient. Employees and community members are invited to choose a tag from the tree and purchase a gift for the patient. St. Andrew's hosts a Christmas party and Santa makes a stop to deliver the Christmas presents to the swing bed patients; entertainment is provided by an elementary school music class followed by time for socializing with a wide array of refreshments.



# St Andrew's Health Center Employees are Awesome When It Comes to Supporting Each Other During Crisis Times.

By Brenda Arneson

A food/meal drive was initiated for Dr. Hamilton's family to help them out during his wife's cancer treatment.



**Alfred Sams, Brenda Arneson and Dr. Hamilton**



**Food drive items**

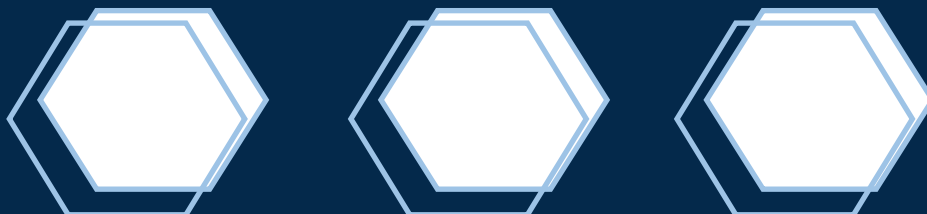
A silent auction was held with all funds donated to Crystal Greiner, SAHC employee, to help with her cancer treatment expenses.



**Crystal receives her check from St. Andrew's staff**



**Silent auction items**





## A June Wedding at St. Andrew's Chapel By Warren Emmer, Pastoral Care

Father Michael Hickin and the Honer family were very pleased with "the wedding blessing" service for Barney and Marian in the hospital chapel last June. The Honer's were swing bed patients at St. Andrew's. Their daughter, Judy, called Fr. Hickin to do a blessing ceremony and Father, in turn, called St. Andrew's and the staff set it up.

The attendance of St. Andrew's staff members helped to make the event even more special for the happy couple and their family. Warren Emmer said, "Seeing our married couple, of 65 years, hold hands and Barney's emotional response spoke volumes. The spiritual nature and importance of the Sacrament of Marriage was on full display in our chapel!"

Sadly, Marian died only six weeks after the ceremony. Barney continues to reside at St. Andrew's in the swing bed program.



Barney, son Bruce, Marion and Fr. Hickin



The Honers with family, St. Andrew's staff and Fr. Michael Hickin



# ST. MARGARET'S HEALTH



Bishop Daniel Jenky, Diocese of Peoria, granted St. Margaret's permission to take possession of a beautiful nativity scene that had been part of the Immaculate Conception parish for many years. Crafted in 1898, these pieces were some of the few things that survived the fire of 1913 that ravaged the parsonage and church, but spared the school.

We are especially grateful to Jake Kunkel, a longtime member of the Auxiliary and volunteer, for her generous efforts in securing this wonderful piece of art and religious history. It will be on display in the lower lobby during the advent season.

Immaculate Conception Church has great significance to St. Margaret's. Father John Power was its pastor at the time he requested the Sisters of Mary of the Presentation to come to Spring Valley in 1903 to care for the coal miners. He donated his homestead for the hospital with the request that it be named after his mother, Margaret. The people of the parish were also generous to the newly arrived Sisters as they welcomed them to Spring Valley and helped them establish their new home and build a new hospital. So, it is appropriate that this nativity set from Immaculate Conception, the parish church of the founder of St. Margaret's, should find a home in the hospital it helped to build.

## Breakfast - The Best Way for a Child to Start Their Day

St. Margaret's Cardiac Rehab Staff and their patients helped the Mission Committee by donating 25 bags of breakfast food for the 2018 Breakfast Food Drive. In addition, many employees from other departments also donated breakfast food. The Mission Team's goal was to collect 109 pounds, which was our total pounds in 2017. We were thrilled that we ended up collecting 277 pounds in 2018. All of the food was donated to the Hall Township Food Pantry to help feed area children. "We are so excited that we are helping feed our local children. We are so thankful for all of the employees and patients who donated to the Food Drive" stated Karen Gress.



St. Margaret's Dietary Department is rightly proud of its support of individuals with disabilities to help them contribute to the community as valued members by providing them with opportunities and training specific to integrated employment. In 2018, St. Margaret's received The Horizon House Employer of the Year Award for its support of Horizon House's employment exchange program.

St. Margaret's Dietary works with the Hall High School Life Skills & Transition Special Education Students. The program works with youth with disabilities. The purpose is for vocational exploration or training under general supervision of school personnel. The students' work experience is more than learning a specific work task. Students may be placed on a work site for the development of social skills or other behavioral issues or for the opportunity to practice social, communication and motor skills in different environments.

Currently St. Margaret's Dietary staff is working with three students. Work experiences include serving customers in the cafeteria, wrapping bread and desserts, sanitizing cafeteria tables, filling the salad bar and dishwashing.



Susie and David working at St. Margaret's

Students are not guaranteed to keep the job placements after high school but St. Margaret's has recently hired a graduate from the Life Skills Program as an on-call dishwasher. After graduation from the Life Skills Program, Brianna Hrovat transitioned into the Horizon House's employment exchange program.





One of our employees and his wife are donating lap robes to all of our hospice patients. They heard many of our patients in long term care facilities are cold. They buy the yarn and the wife crochets beautiful blankets.



# VILLA MARIA

## Our Meet and Greet Resident

By Deacon Jim Eggl

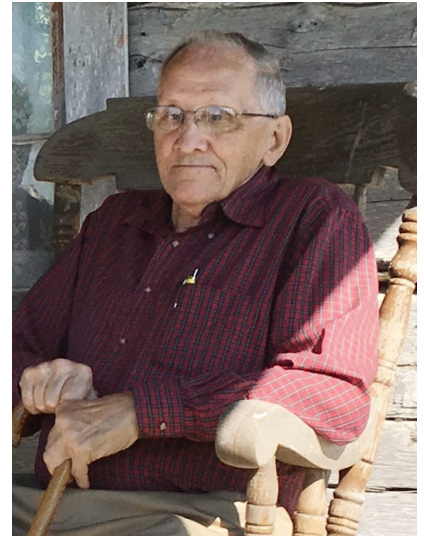
At Villa Maria, we had what I would call 'our meet and greet resident'. When you entered the building, or sometimes even before, you may have met this gentleman with a cane in his hand and a greeting on his lips. Sometimes he would be standing by the front door with cane in hand ready to tap the auto-door button to let you in or out. Seemed, wherever you went, chances were that you would see him and he would always have something to offer you, a greeting, a piece of candy or maybe just a toothless smile.

He was a man on a mission. His mission, to enter into your heart and move you towards him in a special way. His mission, to love those who needed loving, to help those who needed a helping hand, to encourage those who needed lifting up and walk with those who would walk with him. His mission, to do things without being asked that were beyond his job description of "resident".

He lived life with the joy and grace that makes you smile and brings joy to your own heart each time you think of him or see something that reminds you that he was a part of your life.

He was a big part of our family at Villa Maria, a very unique and special person. A one of a kind person.

His name: David "Davey" Gereszek, 82, Born 12/13/1936 – entered rest eternal rest 11/3/2018. Villa family member June 4, 2010 until his passing to eternal life. God Bless his beautiful soul.



David "Davey" Gereszek

# AVE MARIA VILLAGE

## Coats for Kids

By Deacon Ken Votava

Ave Maria Village has been involved with the Coats for Kids program in Jamestown since it was started ten years ago by then Ave Maria Village chaplain, Deacon Tom Geffre, and the Ave Maria Village Mission Committee in collaboration with the Salvation Army. Each year they reach out to the community for new and slightly used cold-weather clothing to ensure that local kids and teens are adequately dressed for winter.

Deacon Ken Votava, chaplain at Ave Maria Village, and Maj. Teri Nauta, of the Salvation Army in Jamestown, have coordinated the program for the last four years. Collection sites at Ave Maria Village and the Salvation Army received donations in all sizes, children through adults. They average around one hundred coats per year. Ave Maria Village staff launder and sort the clothing and the Salvation Army handles the distribution. "It takes everyone in the community to work together," Maj. Nauta said.

"The need for winter clothing is strong and there is always a need," said Deacon Votava. "The program offers a way to gather coats that are lying around so that people who want to help can fulfill the needs for children and young adults in our community," Votava said. All winter clothing is accepted, from coats and snowsuits, gloves, caps, mittens, gloves, scarves and boots. Donations are requested to be clean and in good working order but light repairs are made when needed.

Cash donations are welcome as well as donations of winter clothing. Maj. Nauta explained that "people can donate cash if they want to, and we buy things that are missing. The more common sizes, especially for kids, are sometimes in short supply and we use our cash donations to purchase coats to make sure that we have something in those sizes." "Winter clothing is expensive," she said, "especially for families that must buy multiple items for several children. Whatever they cannot obtain from Coats for Kids means that they must find some way of purchasing it."

The Coats for Kids campaign is a wonderful example of an SMP Health System ministry committing its people and resources, in cooperation with another community business or agency, to a project that directly benefits the local community in a very personal way.



**Major Tim Nauta, Jamestown Salvation Army, and Deacon Ken Votava,  
Ave Maria Village, with donations for Coats for Kids**



## PRAIRIELAND HOME CARE

Prairieland Home Care has incorporated some alliteration into its altruism with monthly messages captioned, such as "Oatmeal October" or "Noodles November," to promote donations to the local food pantry or Illinois Valley Area Rescue, an animal rescue program.

Every Christmas they go Christmas caroling at the homes of their patients. This year's caroling was enhanced by vocals by none other than Bob (aka "Bobby Night Club") Lesmann, PHC Administrator. (pictured below.)



**Bob Lesmann (left) and Prairieland staff at their annual Christmas caroling event**