

# Elaine's Hope®

LUTHERAN HOME MEMORY CARE

## SPRING NEWSLETTER

### Elaine's Hope Staff Spring Anniversaries!

*Harmony - 2 years*

*Teresa - 3 years*

*Pat - 4 years*

*Shameera - 5 years*

*Testimony - 5 years*

*Mark - 6 years*

*Karen - 7 years*

*Rosann - 7 years*

*Dannie - 14 years*

*Lourdes - 21 years*

*Autumn - 31 years*

### Upcoming Events - Families invited to attend!

\*See our activity calendar for  
location/time

March 30<sup>th</sup> - The Notaries

April 15<sup>th</sup> - Ukuladies

May 21<sup>st</sup> - Plank Road Project

June 18<sup>th</sup> - Restrung

June 19<sup>th</sup> - Ice Cream Social

\*weather permitting

(June 24<sup>th</sup> back up rain day)



### Elaine's Hope Residents Spring Birthdays!



*Marge - March 3*

*Betty - March 5*

*Karen P. - March 9*

*Shirlee - March 12*

*Nancy - March 12*

*Beverly - March 18*

*Punkie - March 22*

*Anne - March 27*

*Mary F. - March 28*

*Barb M. - March 30*

*Pat S. - April 1*

*Judy - April 8*

*Mary B - April 8*

*Shirley S. - April 12*

*Marlene - April 17*

*Ethlyn - April 26*

*Jane K. - April 30*

*Barb J. - May 2*

*Ruth P. - May 6*

*Mary D. - May 8*

*Marian - May 13*

*Greg - May 25*

*Karen M. - May 25*





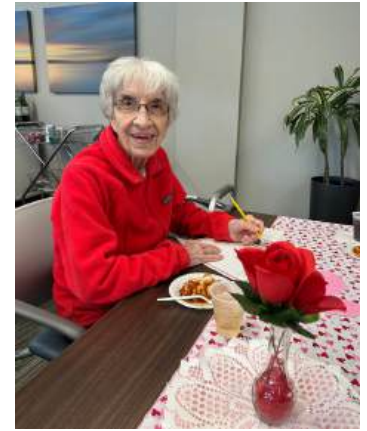
# Attention!!!

## KEY FOB USAGE

**ONLY use the key fob when you are entering or exiting the unit with your loved one**  
(and of course it allows you in the building)

**Improper use places all residents at risk for elopement because you are silencing the alarm and the safety features in place**

\*\*Always remember to look behind you when leaving the unit. Some residents are quick while others look like visitors. It is important to make sure you are the only guest leaving the unit and not any residents\*\*



### Why have families chosen Elaine's Hope?

- Social Engagement
- All inclusive pricing
- Experienced & dedicated CNA's
- Ranked as a Dementia Specific Community
- Onsite physicians
- Dedicated nurses on site
- Continuum of care philosophy
- Intergenerational Programming

CALL NOW!  
414-326-3398

**Openings available in Elaine's Hope Memory Care!**

Call 414-326-3398 to learn if Elaine's Hope Memory Care Assisted Living is a good fit for your loved one.

If you know a family member, friend, neighbor etc. in need of memory care, please call us to set up a tour!

# The moment you realize

BY STEPHANIE LEANES

Director of Caregiver Support

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Do you remember the moment that the decision was finally made to move your loved one into a memory care community? What may be months or years of you keeping them safe takes a different turn. Protecting them from not only physical harm, but also protecting them from fear, loneliness and a society that doesn't always understand people with dementia or the people who care for them. It is a labor of love. A battle you never wanted to fight but this awful disease doesn't discriminate. It doesn't care who you are or how much you are loved; and then comes the day you must step back and make some difficult decisions.

It may feel like surrendering; it may feel like failure. Anticipating the judgement from friends, neighbors, family and even strangers. The obtuse comments, the questions, the "they seem o.k. to me" statements. Inside your heart breaks in ways that nobody can see. The grief is immediate and sharp, like losing a part of yourself while they are still alive.

Here me when I say this to you. This is NOT abandonment. This is nothing but love.

For the family caregiver, letting go and understanding that you cannot do this alone, doesn't mean turning your back. It is acknowledging that it takes a village. You recognize that their safety, their dignity, and their quality of life are dependent on trusting others to supplement the care you already provide. I often hear people say, "well, I am not a caregiver anymore", after placement. This is the farthest thing from the truth. You are their advocate, their peace, their heart. That cannot ever be taken away.

Then, the day comes. Move in. You worry: will they understand? Will they be afraid? Will they be angry? You see their vulnerability and it twists at your heart. Let's not forget about the guilt whispering in your ear: "am I making a good decision?" But maybe, relinquishing some responsibility can help them to expand their world and yours. The chance for them to make friends who won't judge and create a space that is their own. Hopefully, you can have more moments of being the daughter, the son, the spouse, the friend. It can be empowering for both of you.

For those outside the understanding of caregiving, they see a facility, not the tears you shed in the car afterward. They see the decision, not the nights spent awake anxious, exhausted and praying you are doing the right thing. Unfortunately, they don't fully understand the human side of it all. One of the hardest parts of this journey is having close family that does not understand. They may not understand your devotion and that hurts.

Moving a loved one into memory care is not giving up. It is loving fiercely and with immeasurable courage. Your choice says you have chosen love above all else.

To the naysayers simply tell them: "I made the choice to keep them safe, supported, and empowered in an environment that is inclusive. That is love!" They didn't sit with your exhaustion. They didn't hear fear in your loved one's voice like you have. They absolutely did not carry the responsibility you carried and will continue to carry but with support, compassion and a team of professional caregivers who are committed to providing the best possible care; care for your loved one and care for you.

If you are struggling, please reach out to me.

# Spring Reminders

## **OUTINGS**

As Spring approaches, the activity team will be starting to plan outings for the months ahead. Each year we are fortunate to have the luxury of our own bus to transport us to many fun and unique locations around the Milwaukee and Wauwatosa area!

Outings are planned to specifically provide an experience for residents to reconnect with the community. We see the benefit and joy it brings to our residents with this change of scenery. Residents are selected on a rotating basis, including those who may not often have the opportunity or ability to leave the facility with family. If your loved one is not selected, you are always welcome to plan an outing of your own choosing.

Due to rotating our residents for outings, we also take into consideration these requirements and items:

- The bus only accommodates 3 wheelchairs at a time
- The bus has limited seating (staff included)
- Each trip needs a proper staff to resident ratio to ensure the safety of each resident during the outing. While there are residents and staff on the outing- we also need to maintain proper staffing ratios in the building
- Is the particular outing of interest to the resident?
- Has the resident been out of the building recently?
- Is the resident unhealthy or experiencing any mood or behavior concerns which may exacerbate with a change of environment?



*The Forum Outing*



*Balistreri's Outing*

## **USE OF PATIOS & MAIN COURTYARD**

Your key fobs work to provide access to the patios/ porches within Elaine's Hope. For everyone's safety, please escort only your loved one when going outside.

The Lutheran Home also has a large center courtyard that was recently renovated! It is located just off the Café and around the corner from the Childcare. All families and visitors are welcome to utilize the space for walking, sunshine, or visits in the gazebo with loved ones. We encourage you to enjoy any of these outdoor options during your visits when the weather permits!



# Resident Spotlights

*This newsletter we wanted to highlight a mom in each of our neighborhoods in honor of Mothers Day!*

## JEAN - HIGHLANDS



Jean met her husband, Bob, while studying at North Western University. “We got to know each other right away and had a lot of fun with our big group of friends,” Jean says. “We moved to Wisconsin and had four children, three boys and one girl. I love my family and am very happy to be in this facility where they can visit me. My advice to new mothers is to be open to new and different ideas.”

## RUTH - PASADENA

“I was an only child,” Ruth says, “so during the summer I couldn’t wait to finish breakfast to go out and play with the other kids in the neighborhood. When I had my three daughters they all had each other to play with and my husband, Irwin, would let them get away with murder,” Ruth says, with a warm smile and a laugh. “He was a wonderful father, and I loved being a mom.” Her advice to new mothers is short and sweet: “Give that baby a lot of love.”



## SUSIE - RAVENSWOOD



“I loved ballroom dancing with my husband, Jim. He was my absolute favorite! He got me and I got him. We had a good family. We had five kids who were all well-behaved. As a mom, I made sure to keep an eye on them when they were playing outside. Raising kids is interesting,” Susie says. “I was cautious, and made sure they were safe. It’s important to give your kids a lot of love and make sure they have lots of friends.”

# Employee Spotlights

## **TANEKA WILLIAMS**



Taneka has been a CNA for 8 years. She was first inspired to get her CNA license by her grandmother, a retired RN, when she was helping her take care of her grandfather. Her background in homecare and skilled nursing eventually led her to memory care, which she appreciates how hands on it is. "The residents are positive and awesome," Taneka says. "That's just one of the reasons I love working here. Everyone is so genuine. I enjoy helping the residents and the staff, and I love utilizing the employee fitness center. This is one of the best places I've worked."

## **MARQUEA PERKINS**



Marqueea first considered becoming a CNA while she was working at Goodwill. She often found herself helping the older ladies there, and found others encouraging her to pursue a career in healthcare. She obtained her CNA license in 2017 and her first CNA position was at Lutheran Home and never left! She spent a year working in skilled nursing, but feels that she belongs in memory care where she can ensure the residents are cared for until end of life. She loves getting to know the new residents that move into Elaine's Hope. "I'm a charmer," Marqueea says, "And I care for the residents like they're my family." She prides herself on knowing details about each resident and being one of the best parts of their day. "Why not give them joy?" Marqueea says.

**At Elaine's Hope, we feel extremely lucky to have such dedicated, compassionate and hardworking staff. We appreciate the positive impact they make on our residents and families lives everyday.**

# Thank you!

*Appreciation can be shown in many ways. The Elaine's Hope team is always grateful when family members go above and beyond to express their gratitude and kindness. Thank you to those who feed us and remind us of our passion and mission in health care. The food fuels our stomach and soul to get through the day. Thank you for entrusting us with the care of your loved one and reciprocating the recognition.*



## Lutheran Home & Harwood Place are celebrating 120 years!

Established in 1906, the story of the Altenheim, known today as the Lutheran Home, began with one man's vision and compassion for older adults, motivated by faith and love. George Steuber inspired others to act which ultimately impacted the lives of thousands and thousands of people through the generations. The same spirit remains at the heart of the Lutheran Home 120 years later.

John Pritzlaff who started Pritzlaff Hardware, was one of the earliest German settlers in Milwaukee. His three children and their spouses are considered the core group of Altenheim founders. Elizabeth, John Pritzlaff's eldest child, is credited with providing the very first contribution of \$5000 to begin the Lutheran Altenheim. She was the wife of Mayor John Koch. Between the Pritzlaff siblings and their spouses, the total contribution equaled \$20,000. This money was used to purchase land and original buildings in Wauwatosa... and so began the story of the Altenheim.

Learn more about our history at [thelutheranhome.org/120th-anniversary/](http://thelutheranhome.org/120th-anniversary/)

# A note from the LHP Foundation

## Save The Date!

Annual Monarch Ball  
Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup> 2026  
Greenhouse No. 7



Thank you for choosing Elaine’s Hope as the home for your loved one. Because of visionary supporters 120 years ago — and the faithful donors who followed — your loved one now lives in a community rooted in history, strengthened by generosity, and committed to the future.

You are now part of a legacy that began in 1906 with the founding of The Altnheim. Established in faith and philanthropy, the organization began with a \$20,000 gift from five members of the Pritzlaff family to purchase land for the original home.

Like its beginnings, Elaine’s Hope was built through philanthropy. More than 50 individuals, families, companies, and foundations contributed over \$4,000,000 to bring this community to life. Combined with gifts carefully stewarded through the Lutheran Home Foundation, Elaine’s Hope was built completely debt-free in 2019.

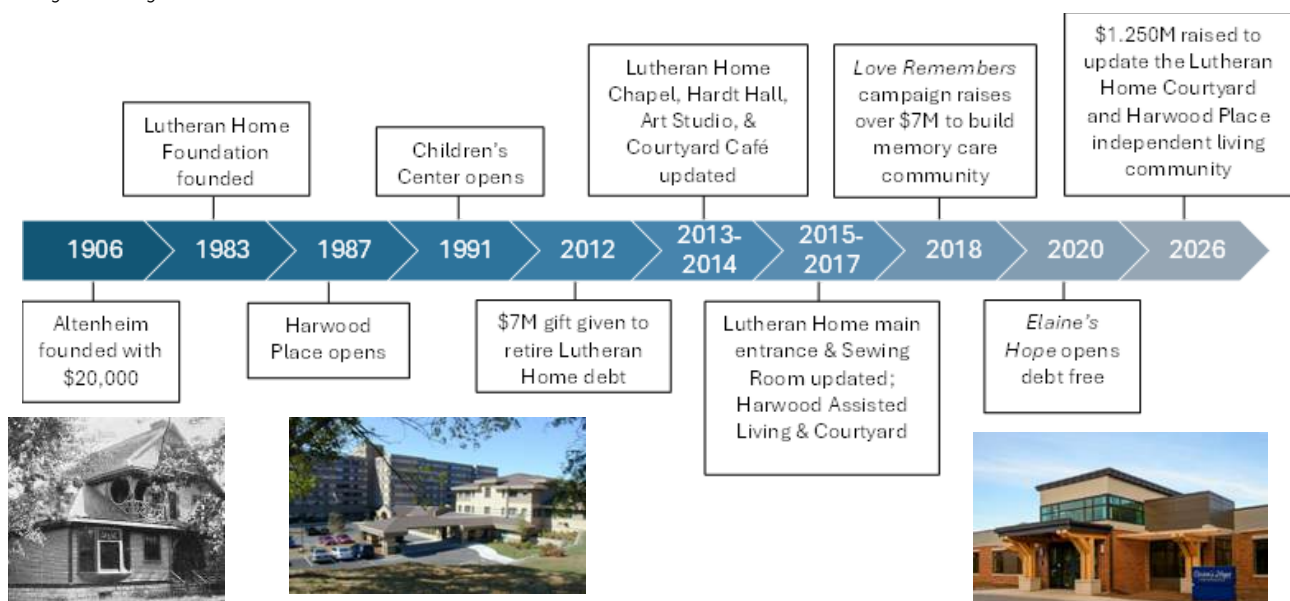
For 120 years, generations of supporters, residents, and leaders have safeguarded this mission, ensuring today’s residents benefit from stability, excellence, and faithfulness. Thank you for becoming part of this continuing legacy. Please reach out at any time with questions or ideas — we are grateful to walk this journey with you.

Join us for an unforgettable night fundraising to support the residents and staff of Lutheran Home, Harwood Place and Elaine’s Hope. Check out details on our Facebook page under events.



**Bridgette Frommell**  
Executive Director

**Bridgette.Frommell@thelutheranhome.org**  
414-256-6836



# Dementia Presentation

Marty Schreiber

Come hear Marty talk about the importance of caring for yourself and navigating the Alzheimer's journey with your loved one



**April 17th**

Friday



**3:00 - 4:00 PM**



**Elaine's Hope  
Community  
Room**

7500 W North Ave  
Wauwatosa, WI 53213



Families, guests  
and local  
neighbors  
please join us!

*Elaine's Hope*  
LUTHERAN HOME MEMORY CARE

Please RSVP to Sydney at  
[Sydney.Buck@thelutheranhome.org](mailto:Sydney.Buck@thelutheranhome.org)

**ADMINISTRATIVE  
PHONE NUMBERS**

414-258-6171

**Administrator**

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**Care Manager**

Sydney Buck x326

**Nurse Manager**

Dannie Rombca x727

**Program Coordinator**

Cooper Ledvina x230

**Director of Caregiver  
Support**

Stephanie Leanes x726  
(Office located on SE  
side of LH)

**Nurse Cell Phone**

414-217-0873

Urgent Matters ONLY



**FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!**

Looking for a way to stay up-to-date, and see some great pictures of our activities and events? Scan the QR code, or find us on Facebook at Lutheran Home & Harwood Place.

