

# EB Bethesda

*Bethesda Aberdeen: Providing Innovative Senior Living Options For Today's Family*

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## Greetings from Bethesda

Greetings from Bethesda! This is the first time since March, 2020 that COVID-19 will not be the focus of my greeting. While we are still following CDC, CMS, and South Dakota Department of Health guidance and recommendations, we still ask if you are experiencing any symptoms that you refrain from visiting until your symptoms subside.

Earlier this summer we opened our Twelve 24 Lounge. The intent of this lounge is a place for our residents to congregate before meals. It is also a space for activities and to offer some smaller group activities. The lounge helps keep the hallway outside of the dining room congestion free for families to visit and for emergency

personnel to have the space needed if we have an emergency. Please help us remind your loved ones on using the lounge.

Also, this summer we moved our Learning Academy over to the KO Lee Intergenerational Enrichment Center. This has allowed us to expand the number of children we can serve. We are also in the process of expanding our OST (after school) program, a service offered to those who are in kindergarten through 5th grade.

Enjoy the rest of your summer and fall.

*Blessings,  
Scott*



# Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Vaccine coming this Fall



Adults at the highest risk for severe RSV illness include older adults, adults with chronic heart or lung disease, adults with weakened immune systems, and adults living in nursing homes or long-term care facilities. CDC estimates that every year, RSV causes approximately 60,000–160,000 hospitalizations and 6,000–10,000 deaths among older adults.

These new vaccines – which are the first ones licensed in the U.S. to protect against RSV – are expected to be available this fall. These vaccines provide an opportunity to help protect older adults against severe RSV illness at a time when multiple respiratory infections are likely to circulate. Healthcare providers should also talk to their adult patients about what other vaccines they will need this fall to help prevent respiratory infections” (CDC, 2023).

“CDC Director Rochelle P. Walensky, M.D., M.P.H., endorsed the CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices’ (ACIP) recommendations for use of new Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) vaccines from GSK and Pfizer for people ages 60 years and older, using shared clinical decision-making. This means these individuals may receive a single dose of the vaccine based on discussions with their healthcare provider about whether RSV vaccination is right for them.

**For questions, contact Stephanie Herman, Infection Control Coordinator at (605) 225-7580.**

## What is Bethesda Aberdeen doing?

Bethesda Aberdeen and Avera Long Term Care Pharmacy are collaborating with the resident’s physician to determine eligibility for each resident.

Along with physician recommendation, family will need to consent to the administration of this vaccine. Consent forms will be available at the front desk and each nurse station. Please take the time to fill one out if you would like your resident to receive the RSV vaccine. Consents will be mailed out to family members mid-October if one is completed in house by then.

Avera Long Term Care Pharmacy will set up a clinic to administer the RSV vaccine tentatively in November. Our tentative plan is to administer Influenza and COVID booster vaccines in October to space the vaccines apart.







## *Raised Garden Bed Project*

### **Aberdeen Bethesda Foundation**

The Aberdeen Bethesda Foundation began fundraising for our Raised Garden Bed Project in December, 2022. We are excited to share that we were able to reach and surpass our goal of \$5500. We were able to purchase 6 raised garden beds and our residents have been busy planting and admiring their hard work! We cannot thank our friends, family and community members enough for helping us with this project!



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## Twelve 24 Lounge Completion



As we continue to enhance our dining experience for residents at Bethesda Home of Aberdeen, we have now added a lounge! Introducing Twelve 24 lounge, an area where residents can gather before meals for a time of fellowship, games, movies, or beverages. The lounge is located just off of the Twelve 24 Restaurant so be sure to take a quick look next time you are visiting!



# Bethesda LEARNING ACADEMY

*at the Intergenerational Enrichment Center*



May 1st, 2023 marked a big change for the Bethesda Learning Academy as renovations were completed and they moved to the Intergenerational Enrichment Center! Complete with updated classrooms and plenty of room for our youngest of the Bethesda family to run, grow and learn, we are sure this new space will be well-loved.

**For availability inquiries, contact Kennedy Reisenauer at (605) 225-7596.**



## Employee Spotlight



Alexa Feickert

*When it rains look for rainbows.  
When it's dark look for stars.*



Alexa Feickert began her career at Bethesda in March, 2019 as a sophomore in high school. She started in the Culinary Services department at Towne Square and quickly realized she had found a calling in health care. In the summer of 2019, Alexa worked in the Activities department to continue expanding her experience. When Bethesda started a Junior CNA program, she quickly jumped at the chance to gain some clinical experience not knowing how much would change over the next few years as the world faced the COVID-19 pandemic.

Alexa continued to work as a CNA through the beginning of the pandemic and this work helped inspire her to pursue her nursing degree. Alexa's own grandfather passed away during the COVID-19 pandemic and she was grateful that there were caring staff there to help along that journey when his family couldn't be there. This experience only further inspired her to pursue nursing so she could become that person for other families when they were unable to be there and help loved ones through difficult times.

Alexa was fortunate to participate in the Build Dakota Scholarship program in partnership with Bethesda Aberdeen. She graduated high school in 2021 and entered the LPN program at Lake Area Technical College. After graduating from that program, she stayed at Lake Area to pursue an RN degree. Throughout the course of her education, Alexa continued working at Bethesda Aberdeen in various capacities.

Alexa is grateful for the Build Dakota Scholarship program and Bethesda Aberdeen for helping her pursue her education. Through this program, Alexa was able to graduate from both programs debt-free, which she credits as life-changing. This program helps to pay for all tuition and expenses as students work towards advancing their education in exchange for a work commitment. Bethesda Aberdeen is proud to partner with this scholarship program and support our employees in their pursuit of higher education.

**Bethesda offers employment in a variety of departments, both clinical and non-clinical. We are passionate about providing quality and personal care and believe in supporting our employees in their pursuit of higher education, both through the Build Dakota Scholarship program and paid on-the-job training and certification.**

**If you are interested in employment at Bethesda Aberdeen, please visit <https://aberdeenbethesda.org/careers/> to learn more or contact April at (605) 225-7580.**

**Positions available in:**  
Nursing  
Culinary Services  
Maintenance  
Housekeeping



**Thank you** to our many donors who graciously provide gifts to Bethesda Aberdeen. In this edition, we gratefully acknowledge gifts given from **January 1st, 2023 through June 30th, 2023**. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of each donor's name and gift! If your name has been omitted or spelled incorrectly, please accept our apologies and notify us at 605-225-7580 or email [info@aberdeenbethesda.org](mailto:info@aberdeenbethesda.org).

**Bethesda Adult Services Donations**

In Honor of Wayne Mehlhaff  
by Sean & Veronica Wahl

**Bethesda Adult Day Health Center**

Judy Gelling  
Thrivent Choice

**Bethesda Home of Aberdeen Donations**

Amazon Smiles

**Thrivent Choice**

Martin C Bettmann  
James D Boekelheide  
Dorene Kay Borchard  
Vicki K Conn  
Richard R Omland  
Karen G Siefkes  
Gene Svihovec  
Joyce M Svihovec  
Laura May Thompson  
Judith Ann Bretsch  
Patricia Mae Dennert  
Lori A Bohle  
Jerrol J Erlenbusch  
Gay L Ristau  
Sylvia R Rohrbach  
David E Roth  
William E Stolle  
Howard N Swenson

**Comfort Crosses**

**In Memory of/Given by:**

**Pat Zens**

Lori & Stewart Bohle

**Bethesda Learning Academy Donations**

**Thrivent Choice**

Lynn Wanner  
Lori A Bohle  
Michelle L Buckmeier

**Aberdeen Bethesda Foundation Donations**

St. Johns Lutheran Church-  
Hecla  
SAVO Lutheran Church –  
Frederick  
Dacotah Bank Give Where  
We Live – Zach Anderson  
Emmanuel Lutheran Church  
– Groton  
Ray & Marcella Andersh  
Denise & Jon Beusen  
Good Shepherd Lutheran  
Church  
Larry & Kathy McHenry  
Debbie Eisenbeisz

**In Memory of/Given by:**

**Naomi Alexander**

Howard Swenson  
Arlen & Ramona Hanson

**Virginia Clark**

Howard Swenson

**Warren Criddle**

Dvonna Criddle

**Evie Holdhusen**

Howard Swenson

**Pearl Knutson**

Lorraine Anderson

**John Koerner**

Howard Swenson

**Dean Melland**

Dixie & David Melland

**Marian Mettler**

Arlen & Ramona Hanson

**Chuck Seaman**

Keith & Julie Kayser

**Dennis White**

Cindy Herman

**Raised Garden Bed Project**

Bobbie Buechler  
Rhonda Swanhorst  
Vicki Conn  
Whitney Stiegelmeier  
Brenda & Lonny Bahr  
Darnell Rainford  
Annie Stenvig  
Jill Larsen  
1918 Dirt Road Décor –  
Meredith Schumacher  
Avera McKennan Sioux  
Falls  
Cindy Jahr  
Prairie Partners Master  
Gardeners – Connie  
Groop  
In Memory of Virginia Clark  
by Roger A & Shirley  
Schuller

In Memory of Virginia Clark  
by Alice & Donald  
Anderson

In Memory of Virginia Clark  
by Blair & Linda Tremere

**Bethesda Towne Square Donations**

**Activities**

In Memory of Pearl Knutson  
by Julie & Glenn Flattum

**Bethesda Parkside Retirement Community Donations**

Sharlene Anderson

**Activities**

In Memory of Pearl Knutson  
by Julie & Glenn Flattum

**In Kind Donations**

**Supplies, Furniture and Clothing for Residents**

In Memory of Allan Layton  
By Liz Labesky  
In Memory of Marian Mettler  
By Rick Mettler  
In Memory of Janice  
Peterson  
By Gary Peterson  
In Memory of Eva Vilhauer  
By Gilbert Vilhauer  
In Memory of Patrick Gillick  
By Mona Gillick  
In Memory of Joel Wilson  
By Joyce Wilson  
In Memory of Virginia Clark  
By David Bunsness

### **Supplies, Furniture & Clothing cont.**

In Memory of Naomi Alexander  
By Linda Ellis  
In Memory of Pat Mitchell  
By William Mitchell  
In Memory of Gladys Voegelé  
By Rob Johnsen  
In Memory of Joy Palmer  
By David & Carla Palmer  
In Memory of Mary Rohrich  
By Mindy Bollis  
In Memory of Wilmer Kirschenmann  
By Jay Kirschenmann

### **Flowers**

In Memory of Betty Lehr  
By Allen Lehr

In Memory of Marilyn Lehr  
By Marwin Hofer  
In Memory of Dean Melland  
By Dixie Melland  
In Memory of Curt Bossert  
By Sharon Bossert  
In Memory of Naomi Alexander  
By Linda Ellis  
In Memory of Joy Palmer  
By David & Carla Palmer  
In Memory of Wilmer Kirschenmann  
By Jay Kirschenmann

### **Candy for Staff & Residents**

In Honor of Naomi Alexander  
By Linda Ellis & Zelda Chapel

In Honor of Audrey Davis  
Birthday  
By Wendy Gugel

### **Walkers/Wheelchairs**

Sherry Askland  
In Memory of Allan Layton  
By Liz Labesky  
In Memory of Marian Mettler  
By Rick Mettler  
In Memory of Janice Peterson  
By Gary Peterson  
In Memory of Mary Rohrich  
By Mindy Bollis

### **Hats/Mittens for Residents**

Sheila Ottenbacher

**Rhubarb for Parkside Residents**  
Jeanette Scherr

### **Baby Dolls for Residents**

In Honor of Elsa Zimmerman  
By Michelle Musland

### **Lap Robes, Afghans, Quilts**

Pat Mikkonen

## **Aberdeen Bethesda Foundation**

The Aberdeen Bethesda Foundation is dedicated to raising funds and awareness to advance Bethesda's mission of caring for others. The Foundation works with donors regarding charitable giving options that best fit their philanthropic goals. Since opening in 1969, Bethesda has expanded services thanks to the generosity of those who enthusiastically support our ministry of service. At Bethesda, every gift is significant as we strive to meet the needs of today's family.

The Bethesda Foundation is designated as a 501(c)3 charitable organization by the Internal Revenue Service.

Learn more about planned giving options at [www.aberdeenbethesda.org](http://www.aberdeenbethesda.org).



**For all the latest happenings at Bethesda Home of Aberdeen, follow us on social media or get the latest Bethesda Aberdeen news updates on our website [www.aberdeenbethesda.org](http://www.aberdeenbethesda.org) and follow us on our Bethesda Home of Aberdeen Facebook page!**



## BETHESDA ABERDEEN

PROVIDING SENIOR LIVING  
OPTIONS FOR TODAY'S  
FAMILY

1224 South High Street  
Aberdeen, SD 57401-7724

Phone: 605-225-7580

Email: [info@aberndeenbethesda.org](mailto:info@aberndeenbethesda.org)

Website: [www.aberndeenbethesda.org](http://www.aberndeenbethesda.org)

Bethesda Senior Living is a not-for-profit  
organization sponsored by 12 area  
ELCA Lutheran Churches.

Bethesda strives to promote a  
community-like quality of life by  
providing a continuum of affordable  
health care services, housing options  
and community services in a Christ-  
centered environment.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIVING

Enclosed is my gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for the programs and services provided by Bethesda Aberdeen.

Please note that my gift is given ...

\_\_\_ in honor of: \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_ in memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

**Estate Planning:** \_\_\_ I have included Bethesda in my/our estate planning.

### **Please send information that I/we can review to consider the possibility of:**

\_\_\_ Including Bethesda in my/our estate

\_\_\_ Inviting a speaker to our church/organization

\_\_\_ A Charitable Gift Annuity

\_\_\_ Learning about volunteer opportunities at Bethesda

\_\_\_ A Charitable Remainder Trust

\_\_\_ Inquiring about services for myself/someone else

\_\_\_ Considering a gift of land or property

\_\_\_ Keeping Bethesda staff and residents in my prayers

\_\_\_ I choose Bethesda for my Thrivent Choice dollars

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Please mail this form with your check or information request to:**

**Bethesda Aberdeen - 1224 South High Street - Aberdeen, SD 57401**

If you have made a legacy gift or would like to talk in greater detail about planned giving options, please call Bethesda Aberdeen at 605-225-7580. Bethesda is a member organization of Lutheran Planned Giving of South Dakota. Additional information may be found by visiting our website at [www.aberndeenbethesda.org](http://www.aberndeenbethesda.org).

\_\_\_ I (my family) would like to receive the Bethesda Aberdeen newsletter via email.

Email address(es): \_\_\_\_\_