

CARING



SPRING 2021



Each week, Trader Joe's shares extra flowers with Mount Olivet Day Services, Mount Olivet Home, and Mount Olivet Careview Home. It looks like spring!

Mount Olivet Day Services, Mount Olivet Home, and Mount Olivet Careview Home extend deepest gratitude to the 290 donors who contributed \$226,000 at the end of 2020! Thanks!

Gifts Fund Closed Circuit TV

The In-house Closed Circuit TV system is nearly up and running! Our therapeutic recreation staff have fun and interesting ideas for programs, like videoing "behind the scenes." Showing food preparation at Mount Olivet Home will spark memories. As spring arrives, recording a walk at Minnehaha Falls and playing it on an in-house channel will bring the season to life for residents. Opportunities are endless, and the creative spirit in our staff is infinite. The lives of our residents will be immeasurably enriched.



Offering a continuum of high-quality care for seniors and children in an inter-generational setting

FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR "We Got Through It Together"

Dear Family and Friends,

The expression "seeing the light at the end of the tunnel" could not be more appropriate for what all nursing homes are experiencing right now. Bit by bit, restrictions are easing, family visits are occurring in the common areas and private rooms. Hugs are back! But COVID-19 hasn't left us. There is still concern about staff and family members who have not been vaccinated, and that will be with everyone for a long time. Our society is going to have to deal with that reality, but I am convinced that, as is the case with the flu vaccines, a societal balance and understanding will eventually be reached. Society hasn't had to deal with a pandemic like this since 1918, so we are feeling our way back to a new normal.

During the past year we have done whatever needed to be done at Mount Olivet Home and Mount Olivet Careview Home to get through this. We've added extra staff to help with many things, which include feeding residents in their rooms and caring for residents with COVID-19 in a highly-controlled environment. Additionally, we have purchased many iPads to help with Zoom calls, providing another option for families to stay in touch with their loved ones. We have kept the staff and families well informed during this unexpected journey. Families and residents have displayed superhuman patience, knowing that we all have had to make adjustments. Our staff has been incredible. Every day, every shift, they have to have their temperatures taken and fill out a questionnaire about their health and potential exposure. They have suited up with masks, face shields, and oftentimes with gowns when they reported to work. Staff have put their own health on the line to care for our residents—incredible heroes, dedicated

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Gifts Make a Difference

Online at www.mtolivethomes.org

Scholarships Awarded to Staff

Each year scholarships are awarded to selected staff members pursuing higher education. Scholarships are an important benefit for staff at Mount Olivet Home and Mount Olivet Careview Home because ongoing learning improves care for residents—always our primary goal—and enriches the staff member’s vocation. The following staff members were awarded scholarships for study in 2021:

- Augustine Ani—Philip C. Helland Endowed Scholarship
- Tsehaye Desta & Archana Kharel—Ken & Ruth Jarcho Endowed Scholarships
- Celia Kpaahkpai—Lorraine & Jeroy Carlson Endowed Scholarship
- Joshua Miruka—Niles & Helen Joseph Endowed Scholarship
- Diane Mose—Eleanor T. Heegaard Scholarship
- Irene Nimpson—Lloyd & Jane Salin Endowed Scholarship
- Wilson Obunga—Naomi Nechtel Endowed Scholarship
- Antoinette Ozuzu—Augie & Jane Bauer Endowed Scholarship
- Jennifer Ozuzu—Mount Olivet Homes’ Auxiliary Scholarship
- Gernine Previl—Edgar M. Carlson Endowed Scholarship

Each scholarship winner indicates how they will use the money provided to continue their education related to their work at our institutions. Those educational opportunities will provide each staff member with a better understanding or skill for their work, and that in turn enriches the lives of the residents they serve.

We are very grateful to the generous donors for providing our staff with these opportunities! Nearly all of the scholarships are endowed, which means they keep on providing learning opportunities to staff members year after year.

If you are interested in establishing a staff scholarship, please contact Mari Carlson at 612.821.3150 or mcarlson@mtolivethomes.org.

FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR, continued from page 1

and unselfish are words that come to mind when describing our staff. We have all developed a new normal and have gotten through it together.

Restrictions by the Minnesota Department of Health will continue to ease up, pending any new outbreaks in the community, and with that comes the responsibility to help residents and their families get back to the way things used to be. This is the residents’ home, and we as a staff are so happy and encouraged that it can start getting back to normal.

Thanks to all our friends who contributed to our year-end appeal. Great job! Our in-house closed-circuit TV (CCTV) is nearly ready to launch, along with many other programs that will be supported by your generosity. The support we receive from our donors is what helps separate Mount Olivet Home and Mount Olivet Careview Home from other nursing homes. We can provide resident enhancements that others cannot. This is such a noble gesture, and we thank you so much for your support.

Sincerely,



Tim Hokanson, administrator

Scholarship recipients, top to bottom, left column: Augustine Ani, Tsehaye Desta, Archana Kharel, Celia Kpaahkpai, Joshua Miruka. Right column: Diane Mose, Irene Nimpson, Wilson Obunga, Antoinette Ozuzu, Jennifer Ozuzu, Gernine Previl.



CARING

SPRING
2021

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Caring is published three times a year for family, friends and supporters of MOUNT OLIVET HOME, MOUNT OLIVET CAREVIEW HOME, and MOUNT OLIVET DAY SERVICES, organizations dedicated to providing loving care for children and seniors. Address changes, comments, and questions are welcome. Call 612.821.3151 or email thauser@mtolivethomes.org.

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CELEBRATING OUR CENTENARIAN

BRAGI MAGNUSSON

Bragi Magnusson moved into Mount Olivet Home just this past January, on Martin Luther King Jr. Day. He turned 99 on February 1, and what a life he has led!

Bragi was born in Akureyri, Iceland, in 1922. The Great Depression was sweeping the world when he was a child, and his parents, along with most Icelanders, had to find creative ways to make ends meet. For example, Bragi worked as a shepherd at nearby farms during the summer months in return for room and board. He and his dog Snorri stayed up all night watching the sheep. His daughter Loa says, "It was scary being all alone under the night skies of Iceland, but it helped him learn a lot at a very young age. He became resilient. He looked at the positive in situations and taught us to do that too."



Bragi in Iceland playing soccer

Growing up in Iceland, Bragi took advantage of just about any sport, including gymnastics, skiing, swimming, and soccer. He lived in Iceland until 1943, when he received a scholarship to study at the University of Minnesota in the Twin Cities. His field of study was physical education, and he completed both his B.S and his master's degree in 1946.

While at the University of Minnesota, he became acquainted with the famous coach Bernie Bierman, who asked Bragi to be the kicker for the Golden Gophers football team. It was a difficult decision, but he turned down the offer to max out his credit load and grades. While at the U, he met Gail Gudmundson, a Washburn High School graduate and also an Icelander.

After graduation, Bragi returned to Iceland and worked in the field of education and social work for ten years. For five of these years, he was superintendent of a state school for emotionally disturbed boys. Shortly after returning to Iceland, he wrote to Gail and asked her to join him to be married.

In 1955, Bragi and Gail, and their two young daughters, Vala and Loa, moved to Minneapolis. They completed their family with two more children, Dean and Lynn. Bragi worked in educational sales and consulting. But his mind was never at rest. According to Loa, "he was a forward thinker with an entrepreneurial spirit." He created several initiatives that centered on education, banking, tourism, and sports. He shared his ideas with many people in education and government who responded with genuine appreciation and interest.

Loa says, "And then he got into poetry." Icelanders value any form of creativity. How fitting that Bragi means "god of poetry" in Old Norse. According to Loa, "Dad was always interested in history, other cultures, and the roots and meanings of words." He loved rhyming and filled numerous binders with poetry spanning a wide range of topics. He researched and wrote a 274-verse poetic tribute to the Vikings who discovered and explored North America, entitled "Eagles of the Sea." Up until he moved into Mount Olivet Home, Loa says that her

dad carried some of his favorite poems to give to anyone he would meet. He would say, "They might get a kick out of it!"

Loa remembers, "He was always willing to help us kids. He was a great listener. He liked to argue back and forth, but it was a friendly debate. It was important to him that we grew up to be independent thinkers. He was also very supportive of my mom. She was an artist and small business owner."

Some years ago, Bragi's son Dean died from multiple sclerosis. Five years ago, Gail passed away. Loa says, "Sometimes in our conversations now he slips into Icelandic. Often, he ends a conversation or a visit with "Guð blessi þig" ("God bless you" in Icelandic). In addition to three surviving children, he has six grandchildren.



Bragi and his family



After this article was written, Bragi passed away on Friday, February 19, after a vigorous and rich life. The entire Mount Olivet staff extends its deepest sympathy to his family.

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Gail and Bragi

FACES AND PLACES



Grant funds in 2020 provided technology for residents to listen to music.



Mocktails were a sweet treat on National Margarita Day, February 22, at Mount Olivet Careview Home. Can you see the joy on their faces? Salud!



Life stations have been set up throughout the buildings and even outside. Each venue gives residents a chance to experience something that is of special interest to them.

Top: The Desk Life Station offers residents a Rolodex, notepaper, and pencils.

Left: The Vanity Life Station is equipped with hats, jewelry, and perfumes.

Bottom: The Patio Life Station will be popular as the weather warms, with sunny seating and beautiful plants.



Families are able to come into the building to meet with their loved ones now.

Mike and Molly Gonsier were the first to make an onsite visit with their mother, Midge Gonsier. Visitors and residents are still wearing masks, but hand-holding has returned!



Pat Hawley Celebrates 39th Anniversary of Ordination

Patricia (Pat) Hawley is a resident of Mount Olivet Home. She is one of the first ten women ordained in the Lutheran Church and is rostered in the Minneapolis Area Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Pat says, "I was at my home congregation, St. James in Burnsville, when a speaker from Northwestern Seminary in St. Paul made a presentation. I asked him if he had any women in his classes. He thought a moment and then said, "I have one woman in class," and that was all I needed to know. By the fall of 1975, I was on the way to ordained ministry. It took me seven years to complete this journey. I was ordained on April 4, 1982." Pat served at House of Prayer Lutheran Church in Richfield, Richfield Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, and as visitation pastor at Normandale Lutheran Church in Edina.

"Four years into my ordained ministry, I was a founding pastor of the task force toward wholeness for women and men, for the Minnesota Synod of the Lutheran Church in America. Originally focused on the use of inclusive language for the church, it became a listening post for women who were experiencing some form of sexual harassment, which required more synod involvement than we had at the time," Pat adds.

Pat immediately quotes this benediction when asked to share with readers: "God bless us and keep us. God's face shine on us and be gracious to us, and give us light and peace."



Pat at her ordination with her mother

Mount Olivet Adult Day Services Is Open!

New admissions are welcome. We have been "turning the dial" under the direction of the Minnesota Departments of Human Services and of Health. We are currently serving small groups and have limited openings. Availability will increase over the next few months. For more information, please contact Ginny at 612 861-3305.



Bubbles are fun for babies and fun to watch for grandmas.

Children at Mount Olivet Day Services learn to share while playing together.



Seniors at Mount Olivet Day Services explore all the world-wide web has to offer.



MEMORIALS AND GIFTS



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Tyree Gravesite Inspires Interest

Howard Tyree was a resident of Mount Olivet Home for several years, and died in 2005. What many did not know was that Howard was born in 1916, along with a twin brother who died at birth. The Tyree family had homesteaded land in what is now Badlands National Park. They buried their son nearby, and shortly after moved east again. The grave was deserted for many years, until a series of Boy Scout troops discovered it and tended it each year during their horsepacking forays. They had built a fence around the gravesite anchored by four white posts. They also established a headstone.

When Howard died, he directed that his ashes be interred with his twin on the South Dakota prairie. A plaque notes that it is the grave of Howard and Eugene Tyree.

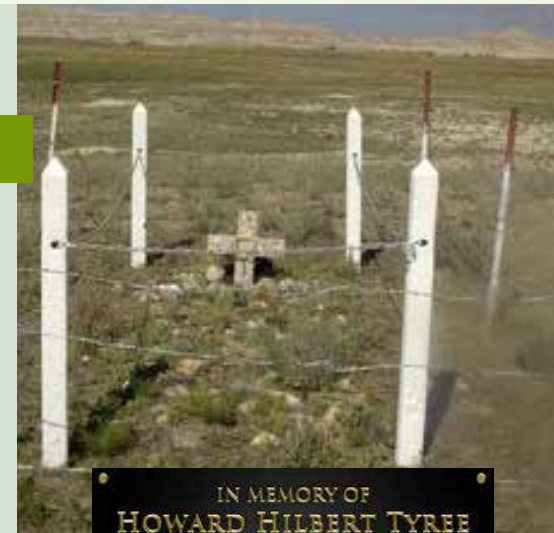
Last summer Lance Smith, a runner, jogger, hiker from Sioux Falls, South Dakota, was involved in a program, Fastest Known Time. He had set a circuit in the Badlands to set his Fastest Known Time. During his run through the wide open, deserted spaces, he looked up and caught site of four white posts. He wandered up the hill to see what was there and discovered the gravesite of Howard and Eugene. It intrigued him, and, back at home again, he went online to see what he could find. The information there led him to Mount Olivet Home and eventually

The Howard Tyree—Eugene Tyree gravesite

to the Tyree family. A long conversation with Jim and Sharon Tyree consolidated a plan.

This summer Lance and his son, plus Jim Tyree, Jim's son and grandson, along with Jeff Kuhlman, Lance's friend who works for American Fence (which now is donating fence materials) will be hiking to the gravesite to put up a more permanent fence and clean up the site.

"It's a super-tiny gravesite," Lance says, "which I could easily have missed. For me, it meant a lot to find it there. I thought, 'what a cool place to be buried!' The Tyree Basin is a flat, grassy area that people think is barren wasteland. But it's not. It's a very special place. Now, through the rest of my life, I'll probably visit it regularly, to look after it."





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 Permit No. 3617
 Twin Cities, MN

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT



Dear Friend and Supporter,

We are thrilled that the 2018 renovation at Mount Olivet Careview Home provided a state-of-the-art physical therapy center located adjacent to our transitional care unit.

Victor “Vic” Moose, a Mount Olivet Church member since 1971, but living in Portland, Oregon, for the last couple decades, developed a neurological condition called Guillain-Barre. Because of his connections to Mount Olivet and especially to Pastor Kurt Kalland, Vic arranged a medical air transport to Minneapolis to get both the physical and spiritual care he needed to recover. In June 2015, he arrived at Mount Olivet Careview Home on a stretcher, unable to walk or talk.

With the high-quality physical therapy program, Vic’s optimistic determination, and frequent visits from Pastor Kalland, he regained much of what he had lost. Sadly, Victor died in 2019, but he remembered Mount Olivet Careview Home with a generous bequest in his will. To recognize this amazing man, the unit will be the Moose Therapy Center. American artist George Turner created the fun artwork, “Bull Moose,” which will hang outside the entry.

Have you considered remembering Mount Olivet Home, Mount Olivet Careview Home, or Mount Olivet Day Services in your estate plan? There are many ways to do this. Let us know how we can help. Any size gift makes a difference and will most certainly be an example for others. Thank you. Happy spring!

Warmest regards,

Mari Carlson, Director of Development
 Mount Olivet Lutheran Church & Affiliated Organizations
 612.821.3150 | mcarlson@mtolivethomes.org



Gifts Make a Difference

Mount Olivet Home, Mount Olivet Careview Home, and Mount Olivet Day Services are grateful to receive support through memorials, tributes, general gifts, matching gifts, stock transfers, charitable IRA gifts, and estate gifts. These gifts provide much-needed financial support for specific programs and other needs that enhance the lives of the people served.

Memorial gifts are a wonderful way to remember family members and friends who have died. Making a gift is a meaningful way to express our feelings as we go through the grieving process.

Gifts given in honor of someone are a great way to celebrate birthdays, weddings, and anniversaries. The tribute makes the people involved feel special and pleased that the gift benefits our residents and participants.

Every gift given “in memory of” or “in honor of” is acknowledged through a thank-you letter. Gifts can be designated for a specific program. Donor requests to notify someone of their gift are always fulfilled.

For questions about ways to make a gift, please contact the development office at 612.821.3150. Thank you!