

CARING NEWSLETTER

For family, friends, and supporters of Mount Olivet Home,
Mount Olivet Careview Home, and Mount Olivet Day Services



The Life-Changing Power of a Scholarship

Titus Orenge received the Lorraine & Jeroy Carlson Endowed Scholarship in 2024, in recognition of his dedication to professional growth and his commitment to enhancing the quality of care at Mount Olivet Home and Mount Olivet Careview Home.

In 2018, Titus graduated from Segero Baraton Adventist High School in Nairobi, Kenya. From there, he went on to pursue higher education at the Kenya Institute of Highways & Building Technology, where he earned a degree in Civil Engineering in 2021. Titus's journey brought him to Minnesota in 2022 to be closer to his family. Upon arriving, he was introduced to Mount Olivet Home (MOH) through his aunt, a dedicated Nursing Assistant at Careview.

Realizing that his civil engineering degree might not easily translate to the U.S. workforce, Titus began exploring new career paths. Encouraged by his aunt, he joined MOH, initially working in the Culinary and Environmental Services departments. During this time, he discovered a deep passion for the medical field. Inspired by his experiences and the meaningful impact he could have in healthcare, Titus earned his Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) license. Building on this foundation, he enrolled at Anoka-Ramsey Community College, where he is currently working toward becoming a Registered Nurse.

One of the biggest challenges Titus faced on his journey was the high cost of tuition. The Lorraine & Jeroy Carlson Endowed Scholarship provided crucial financial support, allowing him to focus on his studies rather than working extra hours to cover tuition expenses. Grateful for this opportunity, Titus emphasized how the



Titus Orenge

scholarship alleviated financial pressures and enabled him to dedicate more time and energy to excelling in his education. His goal is to continually grow in his ability to provide compassionate, high-quality care.

Titus also expressed deep appreciation for the generosity of MOH donors, whose contributions make these scholarships possible. Their support empowers employees like him to advance their education and expand their expertise in patient care. More than just an investment in individuals, the scholarship program reflects MOH's dedication to fostering professional growth and ensuring its staff is equipped with the knowledge and skills to deliver best-in-class care.

Looking ahead, Titus remains committed to his work at MOH while pursuing his RN degree, with aspirations of continuing to medical school. His experiences at MOH have reinforced his passion for healthcare and strengthened his belief in the profound impact of compassionate, skilled care.

Thank You for Making a Difference!

Dear families and friends,

At Mount Olivet Home and Careview, our scholarship program supports students pursuing careers in nursing and eldercare, helping them gain valuable knowledge and skills. By removing financial barriers, these scholarships enable aspiring healthcare professionals to gain the education needed to provide the highest quality of care for our residents.

Thank you for your contributions which play a key role in strengthening the Long-Term Care workforce, transforming lives, and enhancing care for nursing home residents. Together, we're building a more compassionate future, one scholarship at a time.

If you'd like to support our scholarship program or explore other ways to make a difference in the lives of our employees and residents, I thank you for your consideration! Please contact Peter Youngdahl, Director of Development, pyoungdahl@mtolivet.org

Sincerely,

Tim Hokanson,
Administrator



Laughter, Love, and Longevity

At Mount Olivet Home and Mount Olivet Careview Home, every day is an opportunity to create meaningful connections and celebrate life. At the heart of this vibrant community is Heidi Opitz, who stepped into the role of Director of Therapeutic Recreation in October 2023. Loved by both residents and staff, Heidi brings 26 years of dedication, creativity, and compassion to her work. For Heidi, Mount Olivet Home is more than a workplace – it’s a family and a calling.

Q & A with Heidi

What has been your career journey?

I’ve been part of the Mount Olivet family for 26 years. I started as the Alzheimer’s Coordinator at Mount Olivet Careview Home in Memory Care, where I worked for 12 years, developing programs to address residents’ cognitive, emotional, and spiritual needs. I absolutely loved working on that unit – the residents and staff were incredible.

Interestingly, I never planned to work in long-term care (LTC). While pursuing my Music Therapy degree, I did my internship on a Memory Care unit. From the very first session I led, I knew this population was where I belonged. Sometimes, life has a way of surprising us, and I truly believe this path was meant for me.

Over the years, I’ve held several roles, including Assistant Therapeutic Recreation Director, a position I held for 22 years, and Volunteer Coordinator. For a time, I juggled both roles simultaneously. But I eventually realized how much I missed directly interacting with residents. When a Therapeutic Recreation Coordinator position opened at Mount Olivet Home, I transitioned back to working one-on-one with residents, which remains my greatest passion.

What’s your favorite part of your job?

Everything! My amazing Therapeutic Recreation (TR) team brings joy and purpose to our residents’ lives. Living in LTC doesn’t mean life stops – our residents are cherished, challenged, and offered endless opportunities for meaningful experiences.

We organize outings like trips to the Minnesota State Fair, the zoo, riverboat cruises, and drives through the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. We also host wonderful in-house events, including themed parties, holiday celebrations, reindeer visits, and, of course, Bingo!

One of my personal favorite traditions is making homemade buttermilk waffles for the residents. It’s a simple gesture that has become a beloved tradition.

I also treasure collaborating with other departments and building connections with residents’ families, who often become like extended family to us.

Do you have any fun stories about colleagues or residents?

Absolutely! One of my most memorable experiences was with a Memory Care resident who had completely isolated himself. After some gentle persistence, he shared that he missed his horses from his farming days. I found a hobby farm willing to bring a horse to visit, and the transformation was incredible. His joy was contagious, and it opened the door for him to engage with others and participate in activities.

Another heartwarming moment happened during a baking group. A resident who had been a homemaker was fully immersed in making brownie crinkle cookies. When I noticed her licking the bowl clean, I couldn’t help but smile – it was such a pure, happy moment. Our nurse Dede summed it up perfectly: “Let her do it!”



And I can’t forget my love of practical jokes! On one April Fools’ Day, I hid open sardine cans in a colleague’s office. The prank backfired when ants took over, and I spent the day cleaning up the mess. It was a hilarious – and humbling – reminder to think twice before pulling a prank!

Why have you stayed at Mount Olivet Home and Careview for so long?

The residents are my heart. They inspire me to constantly find new ways to meet their needs and bring joy to their lives.

My connection to Mount Olivet Home and Careview is also deeply personal. My dad was a patient here and passed away in the Transitional Care Unit. The respect and love he received from the staff solidified my commitment to this community. Giving my all to Mount Olivet Home is my way of honoring him and giving back.

When my time comes, I hope to live in a place like Mount Olivet Home and Careview where residents are truly cared for and advocated for with love and respect.



Interactive Fun for Seniors

Mount Olivet Day Services is delighted to introduce a new addition to our program offerings – Obie, an innovative interactive gaming system designed specifically for seniors. Obie brings a host of benefits, including:



- Combating isolation
- Enhancing cognitive skills
- Reducing stress
- Increasing opportunities for socialization
- Providing plenty of fun!

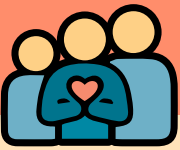


Participants enjoy building connections and camaraderie as they solve puzzles and play games together, incorporating physical movement and coordination. Using their hands as the “controller,” they engage in activities such as answering trivia questions, popping bubbles, and other exciting games projected onto a playing surface. These interactive experiences go beyond entertainment. They foster cognitive development by improving memory, attention, and problem-solving skills. By keeping participants mentally and physically active, Obie helps maintain cognitive function and reduces the risk of cognitive decline.

Special Thanks to Our Donors

At the end of 2023 we asked you, our faithful supporters, to help fund innovative technology to benefit the seniors that we serve. Thanks to your generosity, we were able to purchase Obies and VR glasses for Mount Olivet Day Services, Mount Olivet Home, and Careview.

Your support enables us to provide exceptional care and enriching services for our participants. It is truly a wonderful blessing for those we serve. Thank you for your continued generosity and support!



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. For more information, please contact Tyler Hauser, Development Coordinator, 612.767.2214, thauser@mtolivet.org or Peter Youngdahl, Director of Development, pyoungdahl@mtolivet.org.

Gifts Make a Difference

Extend Your Legacy



Have you included Mount Olivet Homes, Careview, and Day Services in your estate plan? If so, please tell us about it. We would love to include you in our Vision Partners program!

Not sure where to start? Discover how you can bless our community beyond your lifetime by including us in your will, trust, or other estate plans.

Let us guide you through the process. Whether you’re exploring options or ready to take the next step, we’re here to help. Please contact Rev. Brian Mortenson, Head of Vision Partners and Planned Giving, 612.767.2259, bmortenson@mtolivet.org



Memorials and Gifts

April 1, 2023 through December 31, 2024

“A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.”

Proverbs 11:25



In memory of:

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James & Ann Andre

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David & Catherine Hurd
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John & Joanna Aamodt

SONJA ASHNER
Raymond Hartman & Patricia Hande Hartman
Janice Schneider

COLLEEN BOYER
Sandra Nekola

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Memorials and Gifts

April 1, 2023 through December 31, 2024

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Trudy Taaffe
James & Marguerite
Van Epps
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Gifts in Kind:
Lowe's
The Home Depot
Joanna Troy



In memory of:

**LOREN & BETTY AAMODT
& DOROTHY AAMODT
WEITZ**

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Janice & Jeff Nedrow



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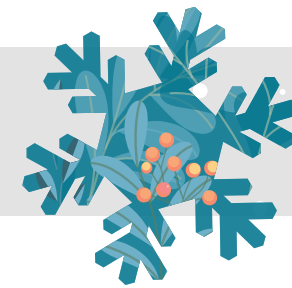


Ecolab Spreads Holiday Cheer with Christmas Tree Setup

On December 3rd, 13 Ecolab volunteers came together to bring holiday cheer by setting up 30 beautifully decorated Christmas trees across nine resident floors and common areas. This was the second year of Ecolab's partnership, with a wonderful mix of returning volunteers and first-timers bringing both experience and fresh energy to the effort.

The team's camaraderie and holiday spirit were contagious, making the setup process both efficient and fun. Their dedication didn't end there – on January 6th, they returned to help take down the decorations, highlighting their ongoing commitment to supporting our community.

Holiday Magic Brought to Life By Our Wonderful Volunteers!



Crafting and Connections with First Western Bank & Trust

On December 5th, four volunteers from First Western Bank & Trust brought creativity and connection to 70 participants during a festive wreath-making event. Residents designed unique wreaths with an array of colorful decorations, while volunteers assisted and shared meaningful conversations. The day was filled with laughter, storytelling, and the holiday spirit, leaving participants with beautiful creations and cherished memories.



US Bank Volunteers Bring the Spirit of Christmas to Mount Olivet Day Services

On November 21st, five dedicated employees from US Bank generously donated their time and energy to help spread holiday cheer at Mount Olivet Day Services. For two hours, the team transformed the space into a festive wonderland, bringing joy to clients, staff, and visitors alike.



Accra Homecare Volunteers Light Up the Holidays

On December 11th, a team of five enthusiastic volunteers from Accra Homecare joined us for a day of holiday joy. They started by helping residents enjoy a spirited round of holiday-themed Bingo – a long-standing favorite among our community members.

After the Bingo games, the volunteers got creative by making festive paper bag luminaries. Each luminary was carefully crafted, filled with sand, and fitted with candles to bring a warm, inviting glow. These beautiful decorations lined Lyndale Avenue on Christmas Eve, creating a magical display for all to enjoy!



Be a Volunteer!

For information on volunteer opportunities at Mount Olivet Home, Careview, and Day Services, please contact Laurie Hancer, Coordinator of Volunteers and Service, 612.767.2267, lhancer@mtolivet.org.

MOUNT OLIVET GALA

Together We Can

THURSDAY, MAY 1

Open House 5-9pm, Program 7pm

OAK RIDGE COUNTRY CLUB

700 Oak Ridge Road, Hopkins



MOUNT OLIVET HOME
MOUNT OLIVET CAREVIEW HOME
MOUNT OLIVET DAY SERVICES

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Join us in supporting the life-changing work
of Mount Olivet Home, Mount Olivet Careview Home, and Mount Olivet Day Services!

The Mount Olivet Gala is a special evening of celebration and fundraising dedicated to making a difference. Every dollar raised through donations, fund-a-need, and our silent auction directly benefits these incredible organizations, enabling them to provide exceptional care and services to more than 15,000 individuals each year. Together, we can empower their mission of compassion and excellence – don't miss this meaningful opportunity to give back!

ATTEND THE EVENT

Thursday, May 1, 2025, Oak Ridge Country Club, \$40

Registration opens March 1

Contact: Laurie Hancer, Coordinator of Services and Volunteers at 612.767.2267 or lhancer@mtolivet.org.

BECOME A SPONSOR

Sponsorship levels available from \$1,000 to \$15,000

Contact: Tyler Hauser, Development Coordinator, 612.767.2214, thauser@mtolivet.org

MAKE A SILENT AUCTION DONATION:

A few ideas: gift cards, tickets, experiences, bottles of wine, restaurant gift cards, experiences such as sporting event tickets, overnight stays at hotels, cabins, or vacation homes.

Contact: Emily Osnes at 612.336.0762 or eosnes@mtolivet.org.

