

CARING NEWSLETTER

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



A Family Affair: Finding Care and Connection at Mount Olivet Day Services

A source of joy, support and renewal for Jeri Weber and her family

By Beth Klemmensen + Stefanie Trebil

As a family deeply rooted in the Mount Olivet community, choosing Mount Olivet Day Services (MODS) for our mom, Jeri Weber, felt natural. Mount Olivet and its many outreach ministries have strengthened our family's faith and sense of community through the years. When mom needed extra care, we looked around and tried several options before discovering how perfect MODS was. For the past two years, it has provided unwavering support for her, and peace of mind to our dad, Jerry, who lovingly cares for her each day.

From the beginning, it was clear that MODS is more than a care program; it is a community of compassion. The staff takes time to get to know each member, celebrate their stories, and honor who they are. Days are thoughtfully structured yet full of freedom and joy. If music begins to play, someone may sing, another may dance, and soon the room fills with laughter and joy. Care here is not just about meeting needs; it is about nurturing spirit.

At MODS, our mom has found purpose, friendship, and joy. She is welcomed with genuine excitement, and she comes home with a sparkle that reminds us she feels truly known and loved.



For our dad, Jerry, MODS has been a blessing, a trusted source of care and respite that allows him to recharge, and continue his role as caregiver with strength and grace. His daily love and faithfulness are the heart of our family, and we are deeply grateful for the support that helps him continue caring for our mom with such devotion.

The impact of MODS extends beyond our parents to our entire family. As daughters, it brings us peace and gratitude to see both of our parents supported, our mom thriving through connection, and our dad renewed through rest. And for the grandchildren, it is a living lesson in love, witnessing how kindness and compassion ripple outward through this remarkable community.

A Word from the Administrator

Dear Families & Friends,

This year has been remarkably rewarding at Mount Olivet Home, Careview Home, and Day Services – despite cuts in federal and state funding. We've maintained nearly full occupancy at the Home and Careview and continued offering vital respite and care through Day Services.

Our 95% staff retention rate is unheard of in senior care, and it's thanks to your generosity and support that we're able to provide such high-quality service. Your support fosters a community where residents and staff can thrive.

As we celebrate 30 years of Mount Olivet Day Services, our year-end campaign will support and sustain this vital programming. Please consider making a gift today to help ensure this ministry continues to thrive. For questions about giving, please contact Peter Youngdahl, Director of Development, at Development@mtolivet.org.

Thank you for all that you do!

Sincerely,

Tim Hokanson,
Administrator



Celebrating 30 years of Mount Olivet Day Services:

Supporting caregivers, enriching your loved ones' lives.

In the mid-1990s, the board of Mount Olivet Careview Home identified a need for adult day services in the South Minneapolis neighborhood. In response, Mount Olivet Day Services (MODS) was founded in 1995, offering a unique intergenerational model that combined child and adult daycare. This innovative approach fostered meaningful interactions between seniors and children, enriching the lives of both groups.

Roberta George, MODS's healthcare lead for adult participants from 1995 to 2021, was a cornerstone of the community. A trained medication aide, Roberta described MODS as "a home away from home," reflecting her deep commitment to compassionate care given to its participants.

Ginny Cullen, who joined MODS in 1997 and served as Director of Adult Services until her retirement in 2021, emphasized respect and connection. "We offer respite care, socialization, stimulation, and a sense of purpose," she said. Ginny was especially passionate about supporting participants with memory challenges, meeting them where they were and engaging with their unique perspectives. She credited the wider Mount Olivet community for its progressive and inclusive support.

In 2022, MODS ended the childcare program when COVID-19 drastically changed the workforce landscape. The board of directors ultimately decided it was best to focus on adult day services programming and underwent renovations in 2023 to better serve its participants. Updates included replacing the playground with a ramp-accessible deck, expanding indoor spaces, adding accessible bathrooms, and installing a no-slip walk-in bathtub.

Stephanie Matthews, Executive Director At MODS, feels that every day is a reminder of the power of connection through compassionate, person-centered care. The simplest moments – sharing laughter, conversation, or a gentle touch – are what truly make a difference.

Adaptability is at the heart of our programs. From chair yoga to tailored activities, flexibility ensures meaningful engagement for all abilities. We also recognize the vital role of family caregivers and strive to provide respite alongside care for their loved one.

MODS is more than day services – it's a lifeline against isolation. We offer social interaction, in a safe, supportive environment that promotes independence and dignity. Our goal is to help participants live at home longer and with a higher quality of life.

Looking ahead, we're focused on innovation and community partnerships. By expanding outreach and securing funding for improvements, we aim to make MODS an even stronger resource for families in our community. We hope you can help support our efforts.



MODS 1st birthday: Mount Olivet Day Services celebrating its first anniversary.



*"Curiosity
is the wick
in the
candle of
learning."
– Albert
Einstein*



Building bonds one game at a time.

*That's
a
keeper!*





Memorials and Gifts

January 1, 2025 to October 31, 2025



Estate Gift:

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Make an Immediate Impact: Give to Mount Olivet Day Services



For more than 30 years, Mount Olivet Day Services has provided life-changing care and respite for adults and families in our community. Because of donor generosity, participants receive far more than basic care – benefiting from on-site therapy, personal care, and meaningful activities that nurture body, mind, and spirit.

Today, your year-end gift can help furnish and finish new individual activity rooms – calming spaces designed with sensory tools, music, and soft lighting to bring comfort and joy to our most vulnerable participants living with dementia or memory issues. Every contribution will help us open these rooms and expand this vital ministry. Thank you for your faithful generosity.

Questions? Contact the development department at

612.767.2214 | Development@mtolivet.org

Have you included Mount Olivet Lutheran Church or one of its affiliated organizations in your estate plan?

Please let us know! Or are you wondering about how you might go about blessing the ministry of Mount Olivet to the glory of God even beyond your lifetime, by including it in your will or trust or other possibility? Let us help you in your consideration or planning!

Please contact: **Rev. Brian Mortenson**

Head of Vision Partners and Planned Giving

Mount Olivet Lutheran Church and Affiliated Organizations

612.767.2259 | bmortenson@mtolivet.org



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Q&A with Peter Youngdahl

As a longtime member of the Careview Board of Directors and now serving as Director of Development for Mount Olivet Lutheran Church and its affiliated ministries, Peter is deeply familiar with Mount Olivet Careview Home, Mount Olivet Home, and Mount Olivet Day Services. To him, these ministries represent more than just care facilities — they reflect a sacred calling to serve all God's people with compassion and dignity.

What sets us apart?

What sets our programs apart is the exceptional care, the deep commitment of our staff, and the thoughtful touches we offer. Our therapeutic recreation provides enrichment opportunities that go far beyond what's typically available in senior living. Most importantly, our faith-centered mission keeps us focused on preserving and enhancing the dignity and self-worth of each person.

Do you have any personal experiences?

Absolutely. My grandmother, Ruth Youngdahl, lived at Careview in the mid-1970s, and I visited her weekly. We'd sing songs and share family stories. Those moments meant a lot to both of us—family meant everything to her. I still remember the framed photo of our entire family beside her bed. So much has changed since then and it's inspiring to see how we've continued to grow, by improving facilities, adding more single occupancy rooms, and the addition of our day services program. I look forward to seeing how we'll evolve in the next 50 years!



What's your favorite part of your new role?

Every day, I see how Mount Olivet is called to do good in the world through our affiliated ministries. This fall, I stopped by Careview for a University of Minnesota tailgate party. Even though I'm a loyal Badger, it was a blast to see Goldy the Gopher there! It made me think—what other senior care community in the Twin Cities is hosting a tailgate party? I'm honored to help support and sustain these vital programs.