

CARING NEWSLETTER

Summer 2026

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



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: Dealing Up Joy at Careview

Once a month, Mount Olivet member Dave Kroog brings extra energy and fun to Mount Olivet Careview Home as a volunteer blackjack dealer. The friendly games give residents a chance to enjoy a little competition, share a few laughs, and spend time together in a lively, welcoming setting. Dave is joined by his “pit boss,” Jennifer Muckenhirm, one of the Recreational Therapy Coordinators, who keeps the cards moving with an automatic shuffler. Blackjack has become a favorite activity at Careview, with regulars lining up early to claim a seat at the table.

More than just a card game, Dave’s monthly visits create connection and moments of joy for residents and staff alike.

When asked why he volunteers, Dave shared,

*I look forward to my monthly shift.
It is a joy to gather with the residents
over a shared love of cards, and I may
enjoy our time together as much as –
if not more than – the residents do.*

A Word from the Administrator

As summer unfolds around us, I find myself reflecting on the many ways God brings renewal into our lives. Renewal is sometimes through big changes and sometimes through the quiet beauty of everyday moments.

Here at Mount Olivet Homes, we are experiencing both. Our construction project continues to move forward, and while it can occasionally feel disruptive, it is also a powerful reminder that we are building for the future. Each update and improvement reflects our commitment to creating a space where residents feel safe, valued, and truly at home. At the same time, summer has brought a different kind of renewal to our campus. Our outdoor spaces are in full bloom, offering vibrant color and peaceful places to gather. Whether it is a quiet moment in the sunshine or a shared conversation on a patio, these simple experiences remind us of God’s presence in creation and the joy that can be found all around us.

I am also pleased to share that we recently completed our annual state survey with exceptional results. It reflects not only the high standards we strive for, but the compassionate hearts of our staff who live out our mission every day. Their dedication is a true blessing to our residents and their families. In all of this, I am reminded that renewal is not just about change but about growth, hope, and faith in what is to come.

Thank you for being part of this ministry and for walking alongside us as we continue this important work together.

Sincerely,

Roger White,
Administrator



Phyllis Gilbert

1944 - 2026



Our Family's Journey to Mount Olivet Home

Like so many families, ours has walked alongside a loved one through Alzheimer's disease and this journey has touched us all deeply.

Last year, my mother was placed in a memory care facility. Living out of the country, I relied on my sister and father to oversee her care, but when I came home for a visit, we all agreed she was not receiving the consistency, safety, or dignity she deserved. We knew we needed a better solution.

I grew up at Mount Olivet Church, where Hi-League and summers at Cathedral of the Pines shaped some of my most meaningful childhood memories. Though I have lived away from Minnesota for more than four decades, I remembered Mount Olivet had a care home.

I also remembered a friendship from those years: Peter Youngdahl.

On a leap of faith, I found Peter on LinkedIn and reached out. The next day he connected me with Tom Litecky, and the day after that I was at Mount Olivet Home. What followed said everything about the kind of community Mount Olivet continues to be.

From the moment I walked through the doors, I could feel the difference. Tom welcomed me, listened to my mother's story, and personally walked me through the facility.

Every staff member we encountered greeted us, Tom knew each resident by name, and residents were engaged rather than isolated. The atmosphere felt vibrant, dignified, and deeply caring. Before the tour ended, I knew this was where my mother needed to be.

I am deeply grateful that we were able to move her to Mount Olivet Home, and the transformation was profound.

My mother was out of bed each morning and slept through the night. Her nutrition was carefully monitored, and we met regularly with an engaged care team. Just as important, the staff was consistent. The same faces create the trust and stability that mean everything.

What impacted us the most is that the care did not stop with my mother. The staff supported our entire family. They understand that Alzheimer's touches everyone who loves the person living with it.

After nearly forty years away, a church friendship helped guide my family back to something that felt like home.



Mount Olivet is so much more than a care facility. It is a continuation of the spirit and love I remember from childhood – a place rooted in faith, compassion, and genuine care for others.

Knowing this was my mother's final home before passing brings me a peace I cannot fully put into words. She was surrounded by people who saw her, cared for her, and honored her dignity, and for that our family will always be grateful.

In Gratitude,
Scott Gilbert

Mount Olivet Home Construction Update

Construction continues on the Mount Olivet Home (MOH) side of the building, bringing meaningful improvements that will enhance daily life for residents, families, and staff for years to come. While the project has taken longer than originally expected, our highest priorities remain the comfort, safety, and routines that help residents feel truly at home.

MOH3

- New south-end sitting area with a porch-like feel
- Redesigned nurse station to improve visibility into the middle lounge
- Reconfigured kitchenette and dining room to create more dining space (one of the most impactful changes)
- More secure kitchenette and a permanent steam table to enhance both safety and aesthetics



MOH Corridors

Upgrades include new flooring, wallpaper, ceiling tiles, handrails, backer board, signage, TVs, artwork, baseboard trim, and refreshed resident lounges and nurse stations.

MOH2

- New north-end nurse station with added privacy
- More home-like setting with walls and a door, allowing staff space to focus when needed



Business Office

- New flooring installation

These updates have taken longer than expected, but once completed, these changes will bring meaningful updates for the communal spaces for our residents to have their meals, relax, and congregate.



Memorials & Gifts

November 5, 2025 through June 1, 2026



Estate Gift:

Charlie & Kathy Cunningham

Grants:

Fairview Partners
LeadingAge Minnesota
Foundation

Memorials:

RUTH CARLSON

Benita Amedee
Deb Bushway
Jane Butterfoss
James Steffen &
Margaret Zverinova

BETTY DAVIS

Cheryl & Terry Johnson

RUBE & BERNICE DORNFIELD

Charlie & Dianne McCain

EUDORA DYTE

Lisa Dyste

MARKO FIELDS

Michael Fields

LEONA FOGARTY

Michael Fogarty

GARY HACKENMUELLER

JoAnn Hucko

EVELYN HANDE

Kenneth Hande

TERRY HOGAN

David & June Kroog

MARION KLASON

Charlie & Dianne McCain

DOROTHY KOCH

Elmer & Jackie Koch

JAMES "JIM" LAVIN

Kay Lavin

VIVIKKA NIEHAUS

Colleen De Vries

LORRAINE OKERSTROM OMAN

David & Laura Oman

SHERRILL OMAN

David & Laura Oman

DAVID ROSEN

John & Carrie Sandgren

MARGARET ROSEN

John & Carrie Sandgren

MAE RUOTSINOJA

Cheryl Froland

MARIE SAUTER

Eugene Sauter

BEVERLY SCHAUER

Friends & Family
Dean & Wendy Hurd
Mary Marxen

JOSEPH AND ELEANOR SCHEFFMAN

Dave & Paula Scheffman



MELBA SMRCKA

John & Sheila Bjorklund
Suzanne & John Haugen
Carol & Paul Kieffer

John & Susan Kretchmer
J Craig Scherf
Marvin & Mary Toombs



MARDELLE ULMAN

Gloria Jantzen
David Johnson
Lani Jordan & Tom Harm
Kristin & Jerry Kortgard
David Lundquist
Michael & Ellen Ryan

GLORIA WALLENTINE

Cheryl & Terry Johnson

In Honor of:

NANCY BIXBY

Marcia Bixby

TOM BURATTI

RE/MAX Results

E. KARL JOHNSON

Nancy Johnson

MEMORY CARE STAFF

Trisha Kirk

Gifts:

Craig Amundsen
Bruce & Janet Anderson
J.C. & Lori Anderson
Vince & Sharon Augenstein
Ecolab Community
Kathy Cunningham
Debbie Davis
Bruce & Mary Jane
Engelsma
Fritz & Barbara Ferris
Tom & Penny Graf
Kurt & Lizabeth Halva

Janice Hanson
Bob & Sharon Hatlestad
Julie Heegaard
Tim & Deanna Hokanson
Ken & Ruth Jarcho
John & Sherry Kapanke
Mary Knutson
Linda Krefting
John & Sandy Kuehn
David & Karin Lose
Sheila McIlonie
Richard & Janice Merwin
Roger & Nancy Nash
Sandra Nekola
Thomas & June Nellas
Michael Naas &
Mary Jo Nelson
Lance & Trudy Olson
Mark Opheim
Margaret Overland
Jan Schneider
William & Lori Skallerud
Nona & Brad Springer
Ruth Strand
Joanna Swanson
Trudy Taaffe
Bill & Pam Telleen
Dan & Mary Ystesund

Thrivent Choice:

Christina Duchow
James & Lois Dust
Brian Farr
Carol Hilgendorf
Tim & Deanna Hokanson
Jason Morton
K L Solberg
Trudy Taaffe
Rich & Sandy Vigen
Kathleen Witzman

Gift in Kind:

Kara & Sri Sankaran

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

Proverbs 11:25



Memorials:

ROBERT "BUD" ANDRE

Jim & Ann Andre

JOHN BOLER

Jim Boler

Douglas Carlson

KIMMITT BROWN

Friends & Family

ANN ORR CARLSON

Richard & Susan Carlson

SYLVIA CARLSON

Richard & Susan Carlson

JUDY CRAWFORD

Mary Nelson

LIN FAN

Yvonne Lo

MARIE HAUGE

Beverly Miller

JEAN HELGEMOE

Merlin Helgemoe

MARIE HELGEMOE

Merlin Helgemoe

HELEN & NILES JOSEPH

Maureen Lally

TED & MARIE NELSON

Don Nelson



HELEN NORDENSON

Friends & Family

Scott & Mary Arneson

Janice Cornforth

Ruth Dahlgren

Sherryl Engstrom

Mary Fall

Paul & Marcia Gedden

Wendell Holmgren

Brian & Pamela Holsten

Marjorie Holsten

Debra Hovland

Michael & Kristin Kiel

Kay Krynski

Dorothy Lundberg

Ruth Olson-Bahe

Linda Solie

David & Lane Thompson

Arvid & Shelly White

Dorothy Wintz

THOMAS "TOM" OLSON

Jean Wallner

LILLIAN STAPLES

Ed & Sharon Hohertz

DAVID TAKAOKA

Steven Miles & Jeanette

Takaoka-Miles

MARY TOMLINSON

Mike & Michele Sexton

In Honor of:

SAM FUDENBERG

BJ Riner

MOH & MOCH STAFF

Alice Johnson

Gifts:

Jim Boler

John Cook

Tom Litecky

Ronald & Pam Sailer

Thrivent Choice:

Jane Brandl Larsen

Howard & Patricia Larson

Kimberly Stephenson

William Stephenson

Trudy Taaffe

Loretta Vossler

Elise Werger

Matching Gifts:

Ecolab

Jamison Fouks

Deanna Oliveira



Memorials:

EDWIN & EVELYN HANDE

Raymond Hartman &

Patricia Hande Hartman

SHERRI LE

Angie Vo

GARY MASON

Linda Mason

In Honor of:

BEN COPPAGE

Elizabeth Brown

Larry Brown

Nancy Lunke

Elizabeth Skoglund

LESLEY HAHN

Lucinda & Kenneth Klein

MODS STAFF

Barbara Moen

Gifts:

Anita Cook

Kathy Cunningham

GiveMN

Hung Nguyen

Barbara Moen

Carol Moller

Barbara & Jon Norrbom

Janet Peter

Nona & Brad Springer

Bob & Sheilah Stewart

Angie Vo

Washburn-McReavy

Funeral Chapels

Matching Gift:

General Mills



Mother's Day Celebration

On Saturday, May 9, the Mount Olivet Therapeutic Recreation (TR) Department hosted a Mother's Day Social for Mount Olivet Home and Mount Olivet Careview Home resident mothers, aunts, and dear friends in the Lund Chapel. It was a beautiful time for families to gather with their loved ones for refreshments, special music, conversation, and even a few dances with staff. For many, the afternoon offered more than a celebration – it created tender moments of connection shared across generations. This beloved tradition, hosted by TR for many years, continues to be a favorite for residents and families alike, reminding all who attend just how meaningful it is to simply be together.

Join Our Volunteers

If you are looking for a meaningful way to share your time, talents, and heart, we would love to welcome you as a volunteer at Mount Olivet Homes. Our volunteers bring joy, connection, and support to residents and their families, and there are many ways to get involved.

Volunteers work alongside our staff to help create positive, memorable experiences every day, and we strive to match each person with opportunities they will find enriching. The time commitment is up to you, with flexible hours and self-registration for volunteer opportunities. Volunteers must be aged 15 and above and pass a background check through the State of Minnesota, which we help initiate in-house through our Human Resources Department. Some opportunities include:

- Escort residents to Chapel
- Assist with manicures
- Play cribbage with residents
- Go on outings throughout the community
- Run the Gift Shop
- Join in the fun of Bingo
- Visit one-to-one with a resident



If you are curious or ready to get started, please contact lhancer@mtolivethomes.org or 612.821.3232 to begin your volunteer journey.

Laurie Hancer,
Volunteer Director, Mount Olivet Homes

Mount Olivet Gala: Invest in Hope

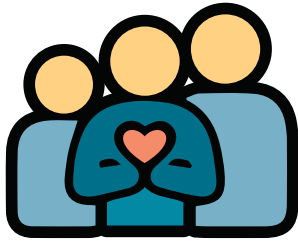


The 2026 Mount Olivet Gala was a wonderful success, and we are deeply grateful to everyone who helped make the evening so meaningful. Nearly 500 people gathered on May 7 at Oak Ridge Country Club, and together, our community raised an incredible \$201,000 for all the Mount Olivet Affiliates. This new event record is a testament to the generosity, compassion, and shared commitment of those who believe in our mission. These proceeds will help the affiliates continue to go above and beyond for the people they serve.

One of our Fund-a-Need offerings for Mount Olivet Day Services, the “Nurture Nook,” was thoughtfully funded by generous attendees. Because of their support, this transformative space will provide Day Services clients with animated therapy animals and dolls, sensory and fidget tools, and curated memory care games and activities. We are especially thankful for this investment in some of our most vulnerable participants and the comfort, engagement, and joy it will bring.

This event continues to bring people together in support of the remarkable work each of our affiliates does for the community. We are sincerely thankful to every guest, donor, sponsor, volunteer, and supporter who helped make this year’s gala our best one yet. Your generosity and partnership are making a lasting difference!





MOUNT OLIVET HOME
MOUNT OLIVET CAREVIEW HOME
MOUNT OLIVET DAY SERVICES

5517 Lyndale Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55419-1719

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 3617
Twin Cities, MN

Have you included Mount Olivet Home, Mount Olivet Careview Home or Mount Olivet Day Services in your estate plan?

Please let us know! Or, if you are wondering about how you can support these organization beyond your lifetime by including it in your will or trust, we'd be happy to help you.

Please contact: **Peter Youngdahl**, Director of Development

Mount Olivet Lutheran Church and Affiliated Organizations

612.767.2213 | development@mtolivet.org

Donor Support: Q+A with Peter Youngdahl



Q: Why are donations to Mount Olivet Homes so important?

Donations help make possible the kind of care and community life that go beyond the basics. Charitable gifts allow us to host seasonal events and special celebrations, maintain a therapeutic music program, offer community outings, and provide experiences that enrich residents' daily lives. Donor support also strengthens spiritual care and helps enhance the shared spaces that make Mount Olivet Homes feel welcoming, and distinct.

Q: Why should people feel confident that their gifts matter?

Because every gift helps us do more than meet needs – it helps enrich lives and make Mount Olivet Homes feel like home. Donor support gives us the flexibility to respond with compassion, creativity, and excellence in ways that set our community apart. It is through that generosity that we can continue providing exceptional care, meaningful programs, and the sense of belonging that residents and families value so deeply.

Q: Where can donor support make the biggest difference right now?

With funding cuts at both the national and state levels, Mount Olivet Homes faces growing pressure to sustain the programs and level of care our residents deserve. Donor support helps us meet those needs while also investing in our staff. One important example is our scholarship program, which helps team members further their education in skilled care. Each year, we award 10 to 15 scholarships to current staff – an investment that supports retention, strengthens our team, and helps ensure we continue providing state-of-the-art care.

