CARING NEWSLETTER

Fall 2026

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



HELP BUILD A NEW PATIO! FOR MOUNT OLIVET HOME

Mount Olivet Home is planning a new outdoor gathering space where residents, families, and visitors can enjoy fresh air, spend time together, and take in a welcome change of scenery. The plans are in place, and we're ready to build an accessible and inviting patio behind the building, designed around the needs of our residents.

What your gift will make possible

- **Accessibility:** ramps, stairs, curbs, and retaining walls that help residents and visitors move through the space with ease and confidence
- **Comfort:** a cabana or gazebo that creates welcoming spots to gather out of the sun
- **Beauty:** low-maintenance turf, new landscaping, and a peaceful water feature

Your Gift, Doubled

The anticipated cost of this project is $240,000. Thanks to a generous donor, every gift made to this project by December 31, 2026 will be **matched dollar for dollar**, up to **$100,000**. Your gift will help move this project from plan to reality. Visit our website at **mtolivethomes.org/donate** to make a gift or contact Peter Youngdahl at 612.767.2213 or **development@mtolivet.org** with questions.

ROGER'S *Reflections*

Fall has been a season of joy, fellowship, and meaningful engagement across our community. Our residents have enjoyed spectacular opportunities to connect with one another, staff, families, and the wider Twin Cities community including memorable outings to see the Vikings and the Minnesota Twins! These experiences remind us that life remains full of belonging and new memories regardless of age.

Our annual State Fair celebration in August was another tremendous success, bringing familiar traditions, food, laughter, and community right to our residents. We were also delighted to welcome a group that shared their horses and even demonstrated trained steer riding – an event that brought amazement and wonderful conversation throughout the day. Our employees have played an essential role in making these events possible. Their willingness to assist and spend time with residents reflects the compassionate spirit that defines our organization. The annual employee picnic was equally successful and provided a well-deserved opportunity to recognize the dedication of our remarkable team.

As we plan for 2027, we look forward to expanding opportunities for music, animals, movement, and physical engagement throughout our community. Following the beautiful rejuvenation of the Kenneth & Ruth Jarcho Rooftop Garden at Careview, we are exploring a similar treasured outdoor space at Mount Olivet Home. We trust that God will guide these plans and continue to bless our residents, families, and employees in the year ahead!

Thank you for your continued prayers and support for our ministries at the homes.

– Roger White
Chief Executive Officer



Mount Olivet Home Resident Spotlight: **Mavis Fisher**



Mavis Fisher grew up in “Nordeast” Minneapolis, the oldest of four children in a French-Canadian and Norwegian family. Her active, service-minded spirit emerged early. While raising her six children with her husband, George, she led Brownies and Girl Scout cadets and found every opportunity to bike, swim, and camp. Because organized sports for girls were limited at that time, she made sure her daughters stayed active and learned to love the outdoors. Once an avid cyclist, Mavis now enjoys the trishaw rides offered at Mount Olivet Home.

After years as a homemaker, Mavis began office work and studied home health care, supporting people in their homes as an aide. She also square danced with George and her in-laws as part of the Bloomington Swirlers and sang in a women’s group. As she puts it, “After raising six kids, I needed something to do.”

Mavis credits her mother with shaping the way she raised her own family. She carried forward both her mother’s example and her French-Canadian heritage, including the tradition of making tourtière, a savory meat pie. One of her proudest accomplishments is seeing her children grow into upstanding people; today, her family includes grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren.

At Mount Olivet Home, Mavis is comfortable in a familiar neighborhood and has discovered a lively community that changed her ideas about nursing homes. She makes a point of learning people’s names and fills her days with bingo, chapel music, crafts, blackjack, cards, handbells, and tambourine performances. “If there wasn’t bingo, you’d sure hear about it,” she says.

Kindness, curiosity, and a willingness to help has guided Mavis throughout her life.

Her challenge to younger generations is simple: look up from the phone, notice what others need, and find ways to care for one another. For Mavis, connection is at the heart of a meaningful life. “I am enjoying the now,” she says, choosing gratitude over worrying about what comes next. She hopes to be remembered as content, slow to anger, and unwilling to hold a grudge.





Captured three decades apart, these two photographs feature the Fishers at different points in their lives, while preserving the enduring bonds that connect them.

PROST! Celebrating Oktoberfest

On Friday, October 2, residents, staff, and guests gathered in Lund Chapel for a joyful Oktoberfest celebration hosted by the Therapeutic Recreation department. The event offered a special opportunity to share food, music, and German traditions while strengthening friendships throughout the community. Heidi Opitz, Director of TR, was delighted to share her culture with everyone who attended.

Classic German dishes, including sausages, pretzels, and sauerkraut, filled the space with inviting aromas and gave guests time to visit, laugh, and enjoy one another’s company. Rachel Hastings, Director of Music Therapy, and Mike Opitz, accordion talent, performed lively German music. Residents danced, sang, clapped, and tapped their feet along with the melodies. More than a seasonal gathering, the celebration brought everyone together to bring in the autumnal season.

Ein Prosit der Gemütlichkeit!
(translation: a toast to cheer, warmth, and good times!)



Rachel & Mike performing Edelweiss



Heidi & Tana serving our residents

New Skills, New Flavors: ***Bringing Culinary Inspiration to Our Residents***

Cairo Turner, Director of Culinary Services, has had the opportunity to expand his skills as a chef with the guidance of a local private chef. What makes this experience especially meaningful is that it extends beyond professional development. As Cairo learns new techniques, explores fresh flavors, and builds even more confidence in the kitchen, residents will be invited to take part in the experience alongside him.

Some may be reconnecting with a lifelong interest in cooking, while others may be discovering a new passion for the first time. By creating opportunities to participate and practice new skills, this new initiative turns the kitchen into a place for connection, creativity, and shared learning.

Resident involvement is not simply an added feature; it is central to the purpose of the initiative. Our facility is resident focused first, and that means listening to residents, recognizing their interests, and creating experiences that are shaped around what brings them joy and meaning. Engaging residents in hands-on culinary activities also supports resident independence and a sense of contribution. Through this collaboration, Cairo’s growth becomes an opportunity for residents to learn, connect, and help inspire the meals and experiences offered within their community.



Cairo helping prep lunch with his team.

Give through a Donor-Advised Fund

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MOUNT OLIVET CAREVIEW HOME
MOUNT OLIVET DAY SERVICES
5517 Lyndale Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55419-1719

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A Donor-Advised Fund (DAF) is a charitable giving account that lets you make a contribution, receive an immediate tax deduction, and recommend gifts to charities over time. Think of it as a charitable checking account designed for long-term generosity.

More and more donors are choosing DAFs because they:

- **Offer tax benefits** for those who itemize
- **Simplify record-keeping** by consolidating your giving in one place
- **Provide flexibility** in when and where you give
- **Make it easy to give appreciated assets,** such as stocks

Please contact the Development office with any questions at **development@mtolivet.org** or 612.767.2214

Generosity in Action: A Year of Impact



by Peter Youngdahl

The Mount Olivet Development team connects donors with meaningful opportunities to strengthen Mount Olivet Home, Careview and Day Services. Through planned giving, special appeals and long-term relationships, we help people invest in the ministries and services that matter most to them.

Thanks to your generosity, we were able to make investments in all three entities. Here are just a few highlights from 2026.

- **Estate Gifts.** Mount Olivet Homes received more than $100,000 from people who included the ministry in their wills or estate plans. These legacy gifts provide lasting resources for the people, programs and services that will shape the ministry's future.
- **Scholarships & Training.** Our scholarship program awarded $15,000 in continuing education scholarships for our staff, allowing them to further their education. Additionally, scholarship dollars are helping to support a new, innovative facility-wide training program to strengthen our memory care services. This is a 12-month training module that will involve all staff and help us continue our legacy of leading care.
- **Gala Gifts:** Mount Olivet's annual gala raised $46,613 in gifts for the Homes, allowing us to invest in resident programming and purchase new paraments for Lund chapel and umbrellas for the back patio.

As we look forward to 2027, we are excited to continue supporting this important work in partnership with our donors. Our big project next year will be to build a new outdoor gathering space for residents and their families (see page 1 for more information on this campaign).

Thank you to all of you for supporting these causes, helping to make Mount Olivet Homes one of the leading care facilities in the state. If you would like to include Mount Olivet Home, Careview or Day Services in your will or estate, or are interested in our planned giving program, please reach out to me! I'd love to connect!

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