

Winter/Spring 2024

TRANSITIONS OF SEASONS & RENEWAL OF BODY AND SPIRIT

Hello, Mill Pond Community! My name is Nick Jedlicka and I am serving as Interim Campus Administrator, I came on board late November. It is an honor to serve at such an esteemed community. I've known Mark Hudson, the former Mill Pond administrator and now PHS Regional Director of Operations for the Iowa, for many years. Our paths first crossed at an educational conference put on by Iowa Homes and Services for the Aging (now called LeadingAge Iowa). That was how I first became aware of this fine community.

By the time you read this, I will be a few months into my role. What's important about that is just because there was a change of leadership at this community, doesn't mean our positive momentum has changed. In fact, it has been quite the opposite of that.

Just a few important items to note:

Wage increases - Team members who work and invest themselves in providing service and care to residents at Mill Pond have received wage increases. This follows an extensive market study to insure we are being good stewards of our human resources. All the while we remain competitive in our compensation.

Marketability - We've also taken steps to continuously increase the appeal of our portfolio of living spaces. Specifically, renovations of several Terrace I apartments are underway as well as the inclusion of a new model unit to help with our tour process. You've probably also noticed that we display the pictures of new residents on the TV's throughout the building, in addition to hosting new resident welcome events. Other items on the horizon include updating our entry signage at the intersection of Mill Pond Court and Delaware Avenue and launching electronic/social media marketing campaigns to our future residents.

Spring is around the corner – As I mentioned above, we worked hard to close out 2023 and took intentional steps to set the stage for an even brighter 2024. This is an important mindset for us to have for the new year. There is a grand merging of the physical and spiritual world. As we celebrate the new eternal life of Jesus with the coming of Easter, we are also celebrating the rebirth of the natural world. As the snow and ice melt, the sun radiates more with each passing day...gradually revealing green hues of the grass, trees, and foliage of the new season. Farmers fields open up and preparations slowly ramp up for spring planting, a time of growth as we start the cycle of seasons again.

Nick Jedlicka, Interim Campus Administrator

Mill Pond Times

IT'S SO NICE TO KNOW YOU...Bonnie & Max Grossnickle



Bonnie and Max Grossnickle first met when they attended college in Southeast Kansas. As Max recalls he first laid eyes on Bonnie as she worked in the “Slop shop” also known as the cafeteria. He had a friend who was also single and wanted to ask a girl out on a date but wanted to do a double date. Max decided then to ask Bonnie out and, as luck would have it, both couples got married.

Max and Bonnie married in 1962—that’s 61 years together! Shortly after the wedding, they moved to Northwest Iowa where they had a cattle and hog farm and raised their 4 children. They lived approximately 30 years in Northwest Iowa where they both worked as teachers. Max spent most of his years as a school guidance counselor, listening to students and helping them apply for college.

Bonnie spent her first year teaching grades 1-4 all in one classroom. She went on to become a substitute teacher working part-time while raising her own kids. Max and Bonnie both agree that raising their kids on the farm was

the best thing they did. Max believes that it taught their kids very important morals, influenced their faith-based lifestyle and developed their strong work ethic as well.

Once the kids were grown, Max and Bonnie decided it was time to go back to Kansas and they bought Bonnie’s Aunts farm. They lived on that farm approximately 25 years where Max spent many days updating the house and making it their home.

A few months ago, Max was in the hospital due to a serious heart attack. After that health scare their children wanted Max and Bonnie to come back to Iowa to be closer. Their daughter lives in Ames, so they began looking for senior independent apartments. touring different senior communities in Ames and surrounding areas.

The day they toured Mill Pond, a hymn singalong was being held in the chapel, and they found out they knew some of the residents and staff from when they lived in Iowa earlier. Although Max was not keen on moving to a senior living community at first, he and Bonnie decided that Mill Pond was the perfect place for them because it was consistent with their faith and their lifestyles. They loved that Mill Pond offers senior living apartments and follows the Christian ministry practice.

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It's so nice to know you, continued

Max and Bonnie love their apartment in independent living as they said, "We can come and go as we please, but we can also stay and enjoy the daily programs and amenities."

You will often see Bonnie and Max in the wellness center since Max loves the gym and Bonnie enjoys the exercise classes. They also enjoy going to the hymn singalong and church programs together.

Max and Bonnie have only been residents at Mill Pond a few months and are very happy they are here. Max says, "Staff is very accommodating and are always smiling."

If you happen to see Max and Bonnie out in the community, please make sure to say hello!



LATELY AT MILL POND—



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER — Shop at Heaven's Grocery Store

As I awoke this morning I realized it was 2024.

I decided it was time to go to heaven's grocery store.

As I got closer to the store I noticed the door was open wide.

It looked very welcoming so I stepped inside.

There were angels standing all around they shared a great big smile
but did not make a sound.

One handed me a basket and said, "Please take all you need."

The first row was marked patience. And I totally agreed.

As I went on up the aisle, I saw prayer and put some of that, too.

For when I stepped out that door, I would be faced with sin, as we all do.

Peace and joy were plentiful on the last shelf. Song and praise also so I helped myself.

Then I asked the angel at the counter, "How much do I owe?"

He smiled and said, "Just take them wherever you go."

He took my hand and said, "My child, Jesus paid your bill along time ago."

By Donna Teigland, Mill Pond Resident, January 4, 2024



Our *prayers* and *sympathy* to the families of...

Carol Gnake
Rex Beach
Donnabelle Smith
Lois Jerome
Dewayne Ehler

Jerry Lewis
Wanda Smith
Steve Pennington
Dee Kurt
Gloria Camos



Mill Pond Times

HUMAN RESOURCES CORNER

Employee Anniversaries

February

Sandra Vagts: Physical Therapist	21 years
Katie Ojiambo: LPN	13 years
Vincent Bete: Pastoral Care Director	10 years
Sarah Olson: Clinical Coordinator	9 years
John Ramos: Cook/Chef	8 years
Janice Rees: Server	5 years
Albert Gesulgon: Maintenance Tech	3 years
Parker Greensky: Server	2 years
Annette Foster: Resident Assistant	1 year

March

Marcia Jensen: Receptionist	19 years
Amanda Nelson: Resident Assistant	9 years
Jessica Hatfield: Resident Assistant	7 years
April Gebhart: Resident Assistant	6 years
Shaun Faeth: Server	3 years
Jill Kenney: Server	3 years
Jill Pilcher: Resident Assistant	3 years
Mary Wilson: Resident Assistant	2 years
Louis Gologabin: Resident Assistant	1 year
Josalyn Adams: Server	1 year
Joshua Dahlheimer: Server	1 year

Thank You

FOR CREATING SMILES!

April

Sommer Ross: Clinical Administrator	24 years
Alicia Snell: Occupational Therapist	22 years
Catherine Cloninger: Resident Aide	13 years
Mia Monteverde: Clinical Coordinator	8 years
Lovelle Pasana: RN	6 years
Victoria Cole: Resident Assistant	4 years
Jessica Culp: Resident Services Director	4 years
Krysta Bryars: Physical Therapist	4 years
Angela Teter: Resident Assistant	4 years
Cindy Smalley: Resident Assistant	2 years
Kayla Harris: Physical Therapist	2 years
Barigboma Nordee: RN	2 years
Kylah Hughes: Resident Assistant	2 years
Jessica Lagerstrom: Resident Assistant	1 year
Michael Gologabin: Resident Assistant	1 year
Rebecca Tompson: Physical Therapy Assistant	1 year

Welcome To Our Team

Daphne Hoerner: Resident Assistant

Akila Payton: Resident Assistant

Claretha Turner: Resident Assistant

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

Assisted living resident birthdays

Cathie C.— Feb. 5	Gladys B. — March 12
Grace V.— Feb. 15	Jerry B. — March 22
Neva E.— Feb. 18	Donna T. — March 24
Joan J. — Feb. 20	Connie B. — March 29
Marlene A.— Feb. 25	Dorothy B. — March 31
Wally B. — Feb. 25	Helen J. — April 15
Trefor M. — March 6	Donna B. — April 23
Larry A. — March 9	Al C. —April 23
Ruby L. — March 11	Jane L. —April 26

Independent living resident birthdays

Phyllis S. — March 31	Freda E. — Feb. 9
Shirley S. — April 6	Jackie W. — Feb. 19
Mike W. — April 9	Connie S. — Feb 22
Pat L. — April 11	Paul W. — Feb. 24
Joyce K. — April 11	Gloria H. — March 3
Norman K. — April 18	Kay G. — March 3
Nadine G. — April 18	Bud B. — March 9
Bonnie R. —April 19	Don J. — March 13
Judy M. — April 20	Retha L. — March 27
Laurel S. — April 23	Woody P. — March 27
Gail M. — Aril 27	Dorothy I. — March 28
Jim H. — April 28	Darlene P. — March 29

Hoping that **YOUR DAY** will be as
SPECIAL as you are.

Care center resident birthdays

Alan C. — Feb. 4	Pat B.— March 2	Shirley D.— March 21
Gerri Z.— Feb. 8	Alice I. — March 8	Marjorie L.— April 12
Barb P. — Feb. 14	Ellen M.— March 8	Elaine E.— April 12
Beth H. — Feb. 24	Richard V.— March 14	



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Presbyterian Homes & Services is a nonprofit organization and an equal opportunity employer serving older adults through community services, housing, and health care.

Living well in challenging times

As a new year unfolds, God has blessed us with many opportunities despite no small measure of uncertainty around us. We believe that our strong history of caring and careful management practices will carry us through changing economic, social and political climates.

Presbyterian Homes & Services is grateful for a firm foundation set nearly seven decades ago, and for the dedication of 7,515 employees and 3,647 volunteers who help us enrich the lives and touch the hearts of more than 25,000 older adults. It is our goal to provide efficient and effective services by practicing good stewardship.

The root word for “economy,” as well as “ecology” and “ecclesial” is from the New Testament Greek word, “oikos” meaning household. A strong household is dependent on

upholding financial, environmental, and spiritual values to create a community where older adults can live well.

We maintain strong and resilient communities by applying the best practices by our staff, energy efficiency in our buildings and sound financial disciplines to maximize the use of our resources. Presbyterian Homes & Services is not overly dependent on government support.

Presbyterian Homes & Services appreciates the faith that residents, clients and their families place in us. We assure those who count on us that, while practicing stewardship, we are committed to providing our very best and giving personalized attention to the well-being of each resident while preserving their independence and freedom.