



Meals At Home *Celebrates 20 years* at Sunset

BY: HILLARY KRALEY • DIRECTOR OF DINING & CATERING SERVICES

Thanksgiving is a time to celebrate our faith, freedom, and family over a grand meal. For far too many older adults in our neighborhood, a fresh and nutritious meal is little more than a hope.

Meals at home is a ministry that was started long before Sunset took over, but has been kept alive by the faith and dedication of hundreds of volunteers within the community.

"Meals-at-Home" was started by two orthopedic doctors in 1968. The program originated in their church as a ministry to serve those recovering at home from surgery. The meals were originally prepared at Blodgett Memorial Hospital. In the 1980's Barb Vredevoogd and Gert Dykema were

volunteers when the ministry became part of the Grand Rapids Area Ministries. In the late 1980's the Grand Rapids Area Ministries dissolved, and the Fuller Avenue CRC took the ministry over. Meals were still prepared by what was then Spectrum Blodgett. In 1997 Barb and Gert, still volunteering, became aware of the need for Meals at Home in the Grandville, Jenison, and Hudsonville area. The church was willing to share the name "Meals at Home." Over time Sunset Communities has fully taken over this ministry and is dedicated to providing meals to those in the Grandville, Jenison, Hudsonville area who are home-bound.

Meals at Home provides a noon meal delivered to the

elderly or home-bound for a very low cost. This service is made possible by the amazingly generous volunteer drivers who deliver the meals 365 days of the year! We currently have 139 volunteers. Many are couples who have faithfully served for years. In fact, the first meal from Meals at Home as a part of Sunset was delivered on November 10th 1997. The very first delivery driver still volunteers today! The dedication of volunteers is truly inspirational. A few of them have been delivering meals for all 20 years. Currently we estimate that there are an astounding **2,190 volunteer hours per year!**

Barb and Gert were right all those years ago, the need is a

...continues on page 3

Brookcrest

Nursing Care

Phone: 616.534.5487

Home Services

Home Health Care

Phone: 616.667.4663

Manor & Villages

Independent & Assisted Living

Phone: 616.457.2770

Toll Free: 877.457.2770

Meals at Home

Delivered Meals

Phone: 616.457.7777

Rose Garden

Assisted Living

Phone: 616.538.1914

Waterford Place & Rehab Center

Independent Living

Rehabilitation &

Assisted Living

Phone: 616.667.1725

Emmanuel Hospice

Hospice Care

Phone: 616.719.0919

WEST
MICHIGAN'S
BEST AND
BRIGHTEST
COMPANIES
TO WORK FOR
WINNER 2017



LOCAL • CHRISTIAN • NONPROFIT

MISSION STATEMENT

To provide quality services for senior adults
in a spirit of Christian love.

In this issue...

- 3 Meals At Home Celebrates 20 Years at Sunset
- 4-6 Fall Gala 2017
- 7 People Places & Events
- 8 Calendar
- "Neighbor" Book
- Gala Sponsors

Find us on
Facebook

www.facebook.com/sunset.retirement

2017



big one. On average 80 – 100 meals are delivered to homes daily, however throughout the course of the year we see about 200 different community members receiving meals. True to the original mission, some only receive meals for a short time while recovering from a surgery or illness, while some continue for several years. By the end of 2017 we

project that about 19,000 will have been served this year alone. The food is prepared and packaged at Sunset Retirement Community. It is the same meal that is prepared daily for the residents who live there.

The program has evolved over the past 20 years to meet the needs of the community and will continue to do so to keep our ministry strong. It has been Sunset's honor to serve the community in this

19,000 fresh meals delivered each year

way over the last 20 years and it will continue to be rooted in the foundation of who we are; to serve our residents, and the community in the spirit of Christian love.

Much like the past, the future success of Meals at Home is due to the heart and compassion of many volunteers. The Meals at Home volunteers are appreciated and thought of as heroes. "The expressions on their faces as you hand them their fresh meal warms your heart to overflowing," recalled a volunteer. Because many current volunteers plan to travel south for the winter, Meals at Home is in need of volunteers. If you have a heart to help someone in need by volunteering a few hours a week or month to deliver fresh meals to home bound adults, please call Carrie at 616-457-7777.

Meals at Home is in need of volunteers, please call Carrie at 616.457.7777

Because Meals at Home receives no government assistance it's up to us, and our gracious volunteers to keep the program running. We've seen a growing need for subsidized meals, so we've started a fund to help those who struggle to

meet one of their most basic

needs. With your help, we can continue to provide fresh meals to homebound seniors in our neighborhood.

- A one-time gift of \$130 will benefit a homebound senior with (2) two months of fresh meals delivered to their door.
- An on-going gift of \$65 month will benefit a homebound senior for all of 2018.

As a Christian non-profit organization our mission is to take care of our residents and clients in a spirit of Christian love with dignity and respect. Will you consider helping us meet the needs of seniors in our community by returning the gift card attached and designating a gift to Meals at Home?

*Thank you
& God bless*



Fall Gala 2017

“How can I **BE
a neighbor to
someone in need
of God’s love?”**



Our 2017 Gala theme was ‘Who is My Neighbor?’ This question grew out of a challenge an expert in the law posed to Jesus in Luke chapter 10, “What must I do to inherit eternal life?”

In classic rabbinical form, Jesus answered the lawyer’s test question with two questions of His own: “What is written in the Law?” and “How do you read it?” Jesus’ questions took the issue from the theoretical to the personal.

The lawyer replied, “... love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind” and “love your neighbor as yourself.” Jesus confirmed the lawyer’s answer, “You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live.” But “wanting to justify himself (the lawyer), said to Jesus, ‘And who is my neighbor?’”

So, at this point the lawyer is not only trying to discredit Jesus, he is trying to justify himself. Jesus’ response allowed the lawyer to pull the rug

out from under his own feet. Our Master tells a story of two highly-respected Jewish leaders who bypass a stranger in need in order to maintain their observant appearance. To complicate the story further, Jesus makes a hated Samaritan the story’s hero. And to remove all semblance of pride from the picture, Jesus asks the smug lawyer to tell everyone who ‘proved’ to be a neighbor.

Aren’t you fascinated with our Savior’s uncanny ability to reframe a challenge! I sure am. He turns our tendency to justify ourselves into our need to humble ourselves. Life is not about us, it is about God’s love on full display through His Son, the Savior of the world.

Jesus set aside His communion with the Father in glory in order to restore broken and wounded people left for dead. We are part of the broken and wounded people for whom Jesus cares. We demonstrate our gratitude for Christ’s saving us by going out of our way to help others in need.

When we do that, our question ceases to be, “Who IS my neighbor?” It becomes “How can I **BE** a neighbor to someone in need of God’s love?”





In the parable of the Good Samaritan the Pharisee asked “who is my neighbor”? I would suggest that we should consider tonight what it means to be a neighbor to someone. Christ tells us that we are to show mercy to others.

Recently my wife and I visited our son and his family in Port Au Prince, Haiti. After having lived in Africa for a few years, I had certain expectations about our visit to Haiti and frankly, some things totally surprised me. The poverty in Haiti is overwhelming, where the average wage is \$8.00/day. The government does not even provide meaningful access to basic services such as roads, water, sewer or security. I couldn't help but wonder if Haitians are my neighbor.

What does it mean at Sunset to be a neighbor?

When I talk with residents from one of our campuses, I'm always reminded of what it means to be a neighbor to someone. It seems that regardless of the difficulties someone is living with, they

Love for our neighbor was fully on display at this year's Gala, where more than 600 gathered to celebrate God's faithfulness and raise more than \$200,792 for resident benevolence.

are always more concerned about their neighbor down the hall. King Solomon reminds us in Proverbs 27:10 **“Do not forsake your friend and the friend of your father, and do not go to your brother's house when disaster strikes you - better a neighbor nearby than a brother far away.”** When you look out at the community around you, whether that is extended family, the people next door, at church, or someone you work with, you can't help but see

someone in need of mercy and grace.



Several years ago I met two residents, Harold and Tony, who shared a room in the nursing home. Tony was kind of a grumpy guy who complained constantly that Harold would intentionally aggravate him. One day the social worker came to my office and told me that they were going at it again and wondered if I could try to talk to them. So I went down to the room and Tony immediately began telling that Harold mooned him while walking to the bathroom when he was trying to eat his breakfast. So I sat down with Harold and asked him if he would like me to look for a different room for him so that he and Tony wouldn't have to argue all the time. To my total surprise Harold said “I can't move. Tony is my neighbor and I used to be his elder in church. He needs me!”

By 2025, just eight short years from now, Michigan is projected to have 220,792 people with dementia. It is expected that in Kent and

...continues on page 6



Ottawa counties alone, 6,000 of them will require assistance with care in either an Assisted Living or Nursing Home. The emotional and financial strain on families affected by dementia will seem overwhelming. Over the next 20 years, nearly 40% of individuals >age 62 will have financial assets of <\$25,000.

Sunset's benevolence fund supports our neighbors like Fred and Helen. Fred was a retired pastor and Helen was involved with worship and music. They had no children and came to Sunset several years ago with enough saved up to last them many years except Helen became chronically ill. Eventually they needed help in assisted living. One day a staff member asked me to talk to Fred because he was becoming quite distraught over the fact that they had no more savings and couldn't afford the monthly rent. In his words "I'm ashamed that I can't provide for Helen". I asked Fred for permission to request benevolence help which he reluctantly gave.



Our ministry at Sunset is to serve seniors with the love of Christ right here in West Michigan. We have the



Food service team honoring Agnes (center)

joy of impacting the lives of thousands of people each year and the needs of our community keep on increasing. That is why we continue to invest in our Sunset campus so that we can increase the number of people served in our assisted living. We see the need for developing our

capacity to serve more residents with dementia and continue to look for ways to meet that need. Our Board and staff also recognize the fact that many people will have limited financial resources and we need to do all we can to keep it affordable.

Our Fall Gala was a time to celebrate God's goodness to Sunset and the people we serve and to raise support for our Benevolence program that allows residents to continue living in their homes even though they have outlived their resources.

Francis A. Schaeffer said, "If we do not show love to one another, the world has a right to question whether Christianity is true". Love for our neighbor was fully on display at this year's Gala, where more than 600 gathered to celebrate God's faithfulness and raise more than \$200,000 for resident benevolence.

Thank you all for giving so generously.

people places & Events

Our community is as active as ever! Here's a quick glimpse of what's been happening at each of our communities over the past few months.



Employee Appreciation Cookout



Big Game Day!



Rose Garden Anniversary & Car Show



Alzheimer's Walk



Centenarian Celebration!





Sunset Association
725 Baldwin Street
Jenison, MI 49428

NON PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
GRAND RAPIDS, MI
PERMIT NO. 657

With the help of our amazing donors, wonderful things have happened at Sunset. We've been able to help resident benevolence, give nursing scholarships, and lives have been enriched. You can help by gifting through the enclosed envelope, online at SunsetCommunities.org, or call 616.457.2770, ext. 1117. Thank you!

If at any time you would like to be taken off our mailing list, please call 616.457.2770, ext. 1118, or contact us through our website at SunsetCommunities.org.



NOVEMBER 16

MEALS @ HOME 20th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Where: Manor & Villages – 725 Baldwin Street, Jenison, MI (Village I Dining Room)

When: Thursday, November 16th 4:00pm-5:00pm

For: Meals @ Home Volunteers

A celebration to thank our volunteers for serving our neighbors.



"NEIGHBORS" BOOK FOR SALE IN MANOR & VILLAGES GENERAL STORE \$15.00

Benefiting Resident Benevolence

DECEMBER 5

HOMETOWN CHRISTMAS EVENT ... a walk down main street

Where: Sunset Manor & Villages – 725 Baldwin Street, Jenison, MI – Door A

When: Tuesday, December 5th @ 6:00pm-8:00pm

For: Neighbors in our Community

Sunset Manor & Villages in hosting their annual Christmas event. All are welcome to take a walk down Main Street and experience the holiday festivities and traditions of our Christmas season. RSVP 616.457.2770 X1113



There are many activities scheduled for residents & their family members – too many to note. Please contact the Life Enrichment staff at each community for further details.

calendar
OF EVENTS