



# Sunset NEWS

Official Publication of Lutheran Sunset Ministries

Jan-April 2014

## *Lutheran Sunset Ministries and Goodall-Witcher Hospital Authority Collaborate*

In healthcare today there seems to be very few opportunities for providers such as Lutheran Sunset Ministries and Goodall-Witcher Hospital Authority to maximize funds provided through the federal and state Medicare and Medicaid programs. However, one such opportunity to maximize funding, the Medicare nursing home **upper payment limit** (UPL), recently became available through the state Medicaid program which dedicates additional state funds to underfunded government-related nursing home providers.

As a governmental entity Goodall-Witcher Hospital Authority is eligible to apply for the UPL and has collaborated with Lutheran Sunset Ministries to provide funding for Sunset Home, as well.

Adam Willmann, CEO of Goodall-Witcher Hospital Authority stated he was pleased that the two providers could work together focusing their energies to benefit their programs, and to also benefit the people of our area communities.

LSM and Goodall-Witcher have a long-standing working relationship and looks forward to future collaborations.



*Rodney Rueter, President/CEO of Lutheran Sunset Ministries and Adam Willmann, CEO of Goodall-Witcher Hospital Authority.*

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College Hill Assisted  
Living

Rainbow Retirement  
Community

Sunset Companion  
Services

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## Message from the President

Our cover article talks about LSM's recent joint venture with Goodall-Witcher Hospital Authority (GWHHA). At our Board Retreat in August, we discussed the need in the future to partner with other entities if opportunities presented themselves.

In October, Adam Willmann, President/CEO of GWHHA, contacted me about a possible joint venture. After about a month of discussion and education about the UPL program and the joint venture that was necessary to take advantage of the opportunity, Adam and I each approached our Boards along with our consultants to explain the venture and how it would work.

Both Boards approved us going forward and effective January 1st, the venture began. The agreement allows both entities to secure additional funding for our operations. The additional funding has allowed us to install wireless internet in Sunset Home, purchase needed computer hardware as we transition to electronic medical records, pay for computer training for our employees, and install a large screen high definition TV and sound system in the Womack Dining Room.

As the venture moves forward, we will gain additional funding for other projects that will improve our residents lives. This venture will go to a least March 1, 2015 depending on future changes to the regulations for the program.

Additionally, LSM has a new Campus Pastor, Rev. Doug Nemitz. We welcome him to our team and are looking forward to you meeting him!

As always, thank you for your prayers and continued support!



## Rev. Doug Nemitz Joins LSM as Campus Pastor

A Message from Pastor Doug:

Grace and Peace to you through our Lord Jesus Christ!

God is amazing and brings us many wonderful surprises. God certainly presented a terrific surprise to me in bringing me to Lutheran Sunset Ministries. I am truly delighted that the dedicated people at Lutheran Sunset Ministries also sensed God's call on my heart and made it possible for me to come and serve as Campus Pastor. It is a real joy and privilege to begin this part of my Jesus journey.



I come from Spokane, Washington and have served congregations in California, Idaho, Montana, and Washington. I have been married for nearly forty-three years and have two daughters and four granddaughters.

As a parish pastor I have journeyed with many people through all of life's twists and turns, hills and valleys. I am excited to accompany the residents and staff of Lutheran Sunset Ministries along their life journeys and trust that God's love through Jesus Christ will be lived out among us.

## Raymond Zuehlke Continues as Sunset Home Administrator

Raymond Zuehlke began his employment at Sunset Home in September 2013 as the Interim Administrator. However, in January he agreed to continue as Administrator since "coming to work is more rewarding than being retired".

Although he has only been closely affiliated with Sunset Home as Administrator for a short period of time, his roots with Sunset Home date back 56 years when his mother went to work for Clifton Lutheran Sunset Home, later retiring as Dietary Manager. Raymond states that if you knew Ella Zuehlke you'd know that she loved Sunset Home and that he sees the "Ella Zuehlke" work ethic and love for Sunset Home in the current staff.

Raymond retired three years ago as the administrator of another nursing facility, and, has since realized that there is still much in life to experience. He likes the name Sunset as it suggests a new beginning adding, "The sun's setting may close one day, but it opens a whole new set of opportunities for the new day. We talk about opportunity almost every day – raising and meeting expectations, enriching lives, and living a meaningful and satisfying life, whether it is the life of our age 20 something employee or our age 100+ resident."

Raymond says, "Come by to talk or just for a visit. We'd be proud to show you who we are and what we do."



## Sarah Turner, R.N. Retires After 37 Years



***Sarah Turner receives a certificate of appreciation from LSM President/CEO, Rodney Rueter and Sunset Home Administrator, Raymond Zuehlke.***

It's virtually impossible to guess the number of times the signature, "Sarah Turner, R.N." has appeared on resident medical records, care plans, and other documentation during the 37 years Sarah Turner was employed at LSM's Sunset Home.

Sarah served as the Director of Nursing and had several other duties and positions in Nursing Administration.

During her time at Sunset she saw many, many changes in both state and federal programs and how they impacted Sunset Home's services. Sarah witnessed the computer age coming to Sunset Home and played an important part in delivering the quality services.

Thank you, Sarah.

## Art Projects Abound at LSM



Recently residents of both Sunset Home and Rainbow Retirement Center have been expressing their creativity in new ways with the introduction of painting on canvas and mural painting. The mural art wall is a projected spearheaded by a staff committee and residents of Rainbow Retirement Community. The art wall is the remaining wall of the old Sunset Home left after demolition to serve as a retaining wall.



## Lift, Stretch, Bend.....Feel Better!

Fitness Instructor, Leah Miles, who spends most of her time teaching at a local Fitness Center, is working with residents of Rainbow Retirement Community and local community members at LSM's Fitness Room in the 9th Street Place. The goal is to help people reach their maximum physical potential regardless of their age which in most cases is helping people improve their mobility, strength, and flexibility. Plus, they feel better!!!



## Keyhole Gardens Introduced on LSM Campus



***Volunteer Virgil Curtis, above, places the last stones on Sunset's version of a keyhole garden. Right: Several people are busy placing the biodegradable materials which are an integral part of the success of the keyhole garden.***



With the guidance of Dr. Deb Tolman, owner of Avant Gardens who business mission includes developing sustainable approaches in gardening, the residents of Rainbow have enjoyed success with their keyhole garden project. Dr. Deb included the gardens on her recent tour of keyhole gardens in Bosque County. It looks to be a success.



***John Moore and Charles Dowdy top one of the keyhole gardens with an abundance of soil, compost, and manure. All that remains is planting with vegetables and letting Mother Nature take its course.***



## MEMORIAL GIFTS

The services provided by Lutheran Sunset Ministries are enhanced by the generous and appreciative memorials given. All memorials, whether directed or not, go to the care and services provided. The residents served going forward are blessed by your thoughtfulness. The following gifts were given between Jan 2014 and April 2014.

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GAVE THEIR LIVES IN OUR DEFENSE**

Donald C. & Maxine Smith, Dallas.

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All gifts help provide care to those served by Lutheran Sunset Ministries.

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