



LSM nurse Nicki Foxx came out of retirement at age 81 to serve our residents during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As COVID spread in 2020, the call was put out to former nurses: we need your help. One of the many retired nurses who heeded this call was Nicki Foxx.

“The governor said come on, so I did!” she said.

Nicki and her husband have lived in Clifton for three years, coming to central Texas from Las Vegas. A former coworker convinced her to make the move, and it was a perfect fit. As a longtime nurse who had worked in many roles, including obstetrics for more than 25 years, Nicki knew her fellow nurses were struggling.

“I just wanted to be around my peers and wanted to be in the situation where I could talk to people and be involved,” she said.

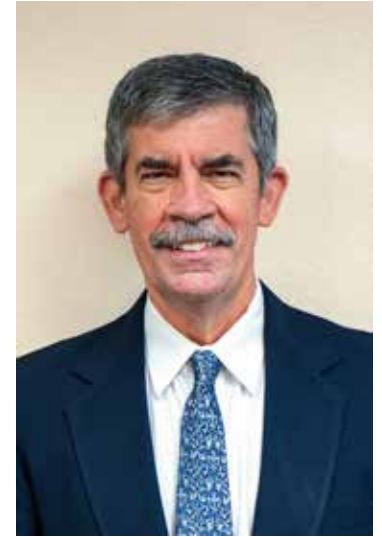
Continued on page 5



Sunset Home
College Hill Assisted Living
Rainbow Retirement Community
Hospice Sunset
Sunset Companion Services

Message from the President

As I was write this, I am also working on the testimony I will present to the Texas Senate Finance Committee about the shortfall of Medicaid reimbursement. Currently, Medicaid reimbursement does not cover the cost of a nursing home stay, which has been a chronic problem in Texas and most states. The spiraling costs of everything, along with the intense competition for workers, is making this shortfall even worse and even more challenging to overcome. Unfortunately, our base Medicaid rate has not increased in years so I will be heading to the capitol in Austin to plead our case for an increase in the Medicaid rate so we can better cover the cost of our services and compete for employees to come work here.



When it comes to our staff in all of our programs, we have a lot to celebrate. This edition of Sunset News highlights two of our employees: a longtime staff member and a more recent addition to our team who came out of retirement to help when COVID struck. These are only two out of all of our dedicated employees who have either stayed despite the hardships of the pandemic or joined us during the COVID storm.

I cannot begin to communicate to you what all our LSM team has been through as we sought to follow changing guidance on testing, mask wearing, etc. Early on, we didn't have the correct surgical or N-95 masks to wear, but our community came through for us. Many local seamstresses made and donated cloth masks until we had an ample supply and we will be forever grateful! Then production of masks ramped up and our Bosque County emergency manager was able to tap the state supply to get us all the N-95 masks we needed. Now we had the masks necessary to really protect our staff and residents, but have you ever had to wear an N-95 mask for a full eight- or sixteen-hour shift? Our nursing home and assisted living teams did. And because of their dedication to the safety of our residents, they wore them for months! They went to battle with COVID and adhered to much stricter rules than the average person to protect your loved ones. Now that the Omicron variant has waned, we can wear surgical masks which are much more comfortable to wear all day. How long will this last? We don't know, but our dedicated staff will continue to be here to care for our residents.

Please make sure to thank our staff for being here and going the extra mile to keep our residents safe. They have been fighting COVID long and hard and have endured! As always, please pray for us as we move forward.

Rodney Rueter, CEO/President

Easter Egg Hunt



Best of Bosque 2021

Best Retirement Community

Lutheran Sunset Ministries

Best Consignment Shop

Pot O' Gold

Thanks for voting!

Sunset Spotlight

Director of Social Work Suzi Bottlinger, LBSW

Helping others is in LSM social worker Suzi Bottlinger’s blood. Her mother was a teacher who later became a social worker for the State Community Care for the Aged and Disabled (CCAD) program and seeing her mother’s passion for helping others, in spite of limited resources, inspired Suzi to follow in her footsteps. In fact, her sister, daughter and niece are all social workers as well!

Suzi came to LSM after her husband had a farm accident and her daughter had just turned one. At a stressful time in her life, the new job at Sunset was like a breath of fresh air. Her grandparents also lived in Clifton, which meant she got to see them more frequently. They even eventually moved into Sunset Home.

“I never would have had that opportunity to spend so much time with them at the end of their lives had I not taken this job,” she said.

Twenty-two years later, her time at Sunset has been more than a job. She knows how important it is for residents to have help with the transition as they age and to have someone advocate for them.

“I try to treat my residents as if they were my grandparents, because that is the respect they deserve,” she said. Being able to be a small part of others living at Sunset Home for the end of their lives, like her grandparents, is a blessing.

“The rewards in working at Sunset Home come in the forms of making someone smile (or even better, laugh!), receiving a hug, a ‘thank you,’ or just helping someone when they need it. Being a part of improving someone’s life and assisting when needed is a great satisfaction for me as a social worker!”



Longtime LSM social services team members Suzi Bottlinger (left) and Jackie Kettler (right).



In January, we celebrated longtime Heckmann resident Mary Bergman’s 100th birthday!



Continued from page 1

She wanted to be in the trenches with them, so she got her license back at 81.

“[LSM] saw my age and didn’t have any preconceived ideas. They might have thought I wanted a room,” she joked. “It’s good. It’s been kind of my salvation to come here. This is a nice place to work. I really love it. I love the people - the people are really good.”

Working in a nursing home for the first time during a pandemic was an unusual experience for Nicki, especially when Sunset was operating under strict protocols.

“It’s been kind of my salvation to come here.”

“The first day when the residents were able to gather and a couple came in and played music, everyone was so excited and it made me cry,” she said. “It was a side of the place I hadn’t seen. It was a big deal to me.”

She’s really connected with the residents and had many moments where she’s been glad she was there since she has a perspective that a younger person may not understand. Now, even though the COVID storm has calmed, Nicki still shows up at work every day with a smile on her face.

“I worked on the floor for six months until I was passing pills using a walker,” she says with a laugh. Now, Nicki has taken on a different role working with medical records. “I love coming to work. And truthfully, I know there’s a time when I won’t be able to come, and I will cry when I have to leave.”

We had a full house for painting class at Sunset!



Friends of LSM

Thanks to generous donors, Lutheran Sunset Ministries is able to provide Christ-centered care based on Christian values. The following gifts were given between January 1, 2022 and April 30, 2022.

Memorial Gifts

All memorials, whether directed or not, go to the care and services provided. The residents served going forward are blessed by your thoughtfulness.

BETTY BARRON

Rodney & Melanie Rueter, Clifton;
Lance Allen, Clifton; Dave Anfenson,
Clifton.

MARK BEYER

Rodney & Melanie Rueter, Clifton;
Lance Allen, Clifton; Dave Anfenson,
Clifton.

PENNY BLUE

Albrecht's Pharmacy, Clifton

WILLIAM BRUTON

Rodney & Melanie Rueter, Clifton;
Lance Allen, Clifton; Dave Anfenson,
Clifton.

EMMA CONRAD

Albrecht's Pharmacy, Clifton; Clara
Dee Bronstad, Clifton; Joe & Mary
Sue Crawson, Valley Mills; Erwin &
Margaret Abel, Woodway; Rodney &
Melanie Rueter, Clifton; Lance Allen,
Clifton; Dave Anfenson, Clifton;
Mildred Van Winkle, Dallas; Larry &
Sherry Schulze, Clifton; Patricia
Moore & Family, Round Rock.

MINDY DAHL

Rodney & Melanie Rueter, Clifton;
Lance Allen, Clifton; Dave Anfenson,
Clifton.

GEORGIE EBERHARDT

Rev. Paul & JoAnn Krupicka, Waco.

MILLIE FARRAR

Rodney & Melanie Rueter, Clifton;
Lance Allen, Clifton; Dave Anfenson,
Clifton.

GUY FINSTAD

Rodney & Melanie Rueter, Clifton;
Lance Allen, Clifton; Dave Anfenson,
Clifton.

CALVIN GOERDEL

Albrecht's Pharmacy, Clifton; Arlene
Schwarz, Waco.

IRENE GUSTAFSON

Albrecht's Pharmacy, Clifton; The
Curlee Family, Clifton; Clara Dee
Bronstad, Clifton.

MELBA RUTH HAFER

Rev. Paul & Joann Krupicka, Waco.

IMOGENE HORN

Rodney & Melanie Rueter, Clifton;
Lance Allen, Clifton; Dave Anfenson,
Clifton.

ELEONORE JOHNSON

Rodney & Melanie Rueter, Clifton;
Lance Allen, Clifton; Dave Anfenson,
Clifton.

RUDY KITTLITZ

Rodney & Melanie Rueter, Clifton;
Lance Allen, Clifton; Dave Anfenson,
Clifton.

LILLIE LONG

Rodney & Melanie Rueter, Clifton;
Lance Allen, Clifton; Dave Anfenson,
Clifton.

HAROLD MCMAHAN

Rodney & Melanie Rueter, Clifton;
Lance Allen, Clifton; Dave Anfenson,
Clifton.

EARLEEN MESSER

Rodney & Melanie Rueter, Clifton;
Lance Allen, Clifton; Dave Anfenson,
Clifton.

DONALD METCALFE

Sally & Ron Bates, San Antonio;
Donna & Vic Barranco, Liberty.

KATIE OUTLAW

Albrecht's Pharmacy, Clifton

HR SANDERS JR.

Rodney & Melanie Rueter, Clifton;
Lance Allen, Clifton; Dave Anfenson,
Clifton.

JAMES SCHWERTFEGER

Rodney & Melanie Rueter, Clifton;
Lance Allen, Clifton; Dave Anfenson,
Clifton.

WILBURN & MARALEE

SHANKS

Beverly Bearden, Valley Mills; Don &
Beverly Bearden, Valley Mills.

ALICIA SHEFFIELD

Rodney & Melanie Rueter, Clifton;
Lance Allen, Clifton; Dave Anfenson,
Clifton.

DORIS SIKES

Rodney & Melanie Rueter, Clifton;
Lance Allen, Clifton; Dave Anfenson,
Clifton.

CONNIE O SMITH

Gerald & Cindy Thies, Clifton.

MARTHA SWENSON

Rodney & Melanie Rueter, Clifton;
Lance Allen, Clifton; Dave Anfenson,
Clifton; Kenneth & Clarice Nelson,
Clifton.

MYRNA VANDIVER

Rodney & Melanie Rueter, Clifton;

Lance Allen, Clifton; Dave Anfenson, Clifton; Robert & Lauralee Jenkins, Gatesville; Betty Everett, Oglesby; Debbie & Terry Spicer, Valley Mills; Jo Kathryn Cox, Waco.

SIDNEY WALKER

Albrecht's Pharmacy, Clifton.

FAYE WALLACE

Albrecht's Pharmacy, Clifton.

KAREN WILLIAMS

Mildred Van Winkle, Dallas.

ALICE WILLMAN

Joyce Symank, Valley Mills; Rodney & Melanie Rueter, Clifton; Lance Allen, Clifton; Dave Anfenson, Clifton.

MIKE WINDSOR

Jack Allday, Dallas.

LINDA WOLCOTT

Rodney & Melanie Rueter, Clifton; Lance Allen, Clifton; Dave Anfenson, Clifton.

GEORGE WRIGHT

Rodney & Melanie Rueter, Clifton; Lance Allen, Clifton; Dave Anfenson, Clifton.

Honor Gifts

These gifts are given to honor and appreciate special people, events, celebrations and/or achievements. All gifts help provide care to those served by LSM.

PASTOR BILL & LINDA METTING

By: Niels & Karen Bentsen, Meridian.

General Gifts

All gifts help LSM in its work and mission.

Mr. & Mrs. Niels J. Bentsen, Meridian

Dr. & Mrs. James Bowden,

Cranfills Gap

Mrs. Nancy Bratcher, Meridian

Calvary Lutheran Church,

Richland Hills

Central Lutheran Church, Dallas

Christ Lutheran Church, Dallas

First Lutheran Church, Temple

First Presbyterian Church, Clifton

Dr. & Mrs. D.A. Gloff, Clifton

Mrs. Adele Hanus, Waco

Pastor & Mrs. Paul Krupicka, Waco

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth G. Nelson, Clifton

Family of Olaf Omenson, Clifton

St. John Lutheran Church – Coryell,

Gatesville

St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Waco

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Crawford

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans,

Appleton, WI

Your gift means we can continue to provide the highest standard of care, based on Christian values, for those who need us most.

**Make a donation
online by visiting
lutheransunset.org/give**

OR

**Mail a check to
P.O. Box 71
Clifton, Texas 76634**

Sunset News

Official Publication of
Lutheran Sunset Ministries

P. O. Box 71
Clifton, TX 76634
254.675.8637
www.lutheransunset.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Lutheran Sunset Ministries is a not-for-profit organization sponsoring programs of skilled nursing care, assisted living, retirement living, hospice services and companion services.

Sunset provides services to qualified individuals without regard to race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status, national origin or other protected statuses according to applicable federal and state law.

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Clifton, Texas 76634
Permit No. 27

Around Campus

