



## Kaseys' Comments

Kasey Klapprodt, President / CEO

We would like to take a moment to extend our deepest gratitude to Dr. Shives for his many years of dedicated service. His leadership, clinical excellence, and unwavering commitment to quality care have left a lasting mark on our organization and the residents and families we serve. Dr. Shives has played an integral role in shaping our standards, supporting our staff, and guiding us through challenges & growth. Jenkins Living Center would not be the amazing place it is today without him, and we are incredibly grateful for all his efforts. We wish him a relaxing retirement.

As we look to the future, we are excited to welcome Dr. Gauer as our new Medical Director. We are confident that her leadership, energy, and commitment to excellence will build upon the strong foundation already in place. We look forward to her partnership with our clinical teams as we continue to advance quality, safety, and innovation in the care we provide.

As we near the end of the fiscal year, we are also pleased to share that Jenkins' budget preparations have been successfully completed. While this year has brought ongoing financial challenges for the nursing home industry—to include rising costs of staffing, supplies, and regulatory requirements—we remain optimistic about the path forward. Our team has worked diligently to ensure we maintain a stable, secure, and sustainable financial future.

A key focus throughout this process has been thoughtfully balancing census growth with staffing needs. By aligning these two critical areas, we are strengthening our ability to provide consistent, high-quality care while also maintaining financial responsibility. Through careful planning, evaluation, and a commitment to adaptability, we are building a budget that supports both our residents and our team—today and into the future. We are encouraged by the progress we have made and remain focused on continued recovery and positive year-over-year improvement. With strong leadership, a dedicated team, and a clear direction, Jenkins Living Center is well-positioned for continued success.

We thank our entire team for their hard work, compassion, and resilience. Their dedication is what makes Jenkins such a special place, and because of them, we are able to move forward with confidence & optimism.

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Marian



Larry



## Soda Fountain Success!

On March 11, 2026, the Jenkins Main Street Old Fashion Soda Fountain lifted new blinds for a new look! A remodel was deeply needed with the cupboards, tile and countertop showing visible wear and tear. The original space was over 20 years old.

We created a bright, colorful, and efficient new space with bubble-gum pink, blue cotton candy and black trim paint. The new sleek white cabinets, set with black hardware, now include a trash slide-out and tall storage for plenty of cones and product. A new sink, faucet and refrigerator with a vinyl ice cream cone wrap capped off the project!

The existing machine threw a *twirl* into our plans. We knew it was on it's "last leg" and thought it would hold out until the new

machine arrived. That unfortunately did not happen. But the Open House was finally held on March 10th, complete with a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. Guests, Bev Stormo and Don Brosz were asked to hold the ribbon! We thank the many generous donors for their gifts to help this remodel come to life and serve residents for many years to come.

We also thank our local partners, Grassland Granite, Pivotal Printing, and Sherwin Williams for their part in updating this whimsical new crowd pleaser. The Jenkins Maintenance Team did most of the remodel so we thank them also for their attention to detail and efficiency.

The prices remain low at just \$.50 for a cone and \$1.00 for a sundae. *As always, RESIDENTS ENJOY THEIRS FREE!*

**\*\*Please see the continued list of donors on Page 7. The early donors were listed in the January newsletter.**



*National Skilled Nursing Care Week*  
**May 10th-16th**

Celebrating residents & staff.

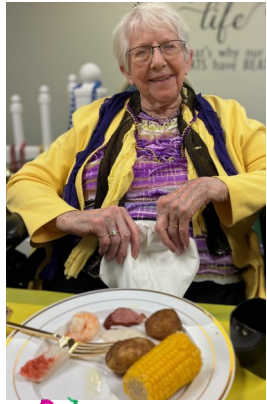


**HELP US BLOOM!**

We are accepting donations to spruce up our front entrance and rehab courtyard! Please see the back page for information. Thank you!



Valentines delivered Valentine's in for residents!



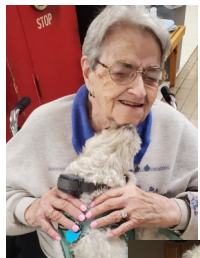
Mardi Gras complete with a seafood boil and parade



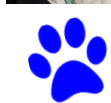
St. Pat's Day



It's All Fun & Games



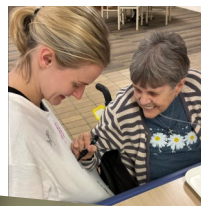
Pixie PUP-Up Smiles



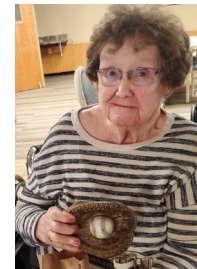
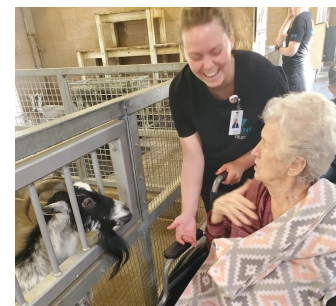


### Activities Professionals

During Activities Professionals Week 2026...the team gave t-shirts to staff and had residents & staff sign them! We salute the activities team for all they do all year long! Take a peek at just a sliver of the fun they provide!



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### Rolling Up A Heart Full of Goodness—Heart's Delight Wish Granted for Beryl McClung

On a wintry February morning gathered on Jenkins Main Street, Beryl McClung's wish came true!

Beryl was nominated for a Heart's Delight Request by Shannon Ashley, a CNA. Shannon was visiting with Beryl and asked what she had been missing since living at Jenkins. Sweet Rolls! She wanted to make sweet rolls and enjoy the fruits of her labor so we made it happen.

After some planning and coordinating of schedules, Beryl's wish became reality with the help of **Downtown Donuts** owner, Nicole Roof, and previous owner, Ardis Nielsen. They graciously accepted the request to share their talents and assist in the cinnamon roll making process. The day began bright & early at 8:30am. First Beryl rolled the dough. Then, spread butter, lots of butter. She sprinkled lots of yummy sweet cinnamon all over the sheet of dough and in the end, slathered on the sweet creamy frosting! The end result? SWEET, SWEET ROLLS! And to share in Beryl's sweet success, we ordered extras for all residents!

We are so grateful for the community collaboration on projects like these. Plus, we are able to bring the outside world in to create some happiness.

If you wish to support our Heart's Delight Program, contact Kristi Gloe at 605-886-1444 or [kristig@jenkinslivingcenter.com](mailto:kristig@jenkinslivingcenter.com) Thank you in advance, for your consideration.



## UNLIKELY SERVANTS

*Thomas said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" " The Gospel of John 20:28*

My Lord and my God. These words were first spoken by the disciple remembered as Doubting Thomas. And yet he was the first to ever speak these words. Neither an inherited or borrowed faith, but from the start, a very personal and firm foundation, to last a lifetime and forever.

It was a week after Jesus' resurrection when He returned to the upper room. But that first Easter Sunday night, Thomas hadn't been there, so Jesus sent the others to tell Thomas that He was risen and alive again. But even though he had spent three years together with these friends, and even though Jesus had told them numerous times that all of this would happen, Thomas said that he could not, and would not believe. Not unless faith was personal and not inherited. Unless he himself could see the nail marks and touch Him, he said that he could not believe.

Which I think makes the account of that second Easter Sunday night for us in the Gospel of John so personal. Especially if you are one like me who once stood outside of faith, seeking answers for philosophical questions, knowing that you couldn't borrow someone else's answers to find faith, but needed to find your own.

For Barb and I, that would be some 35 years ago. Barb had grown up in a home where as a family they didn't go to church. Her dad did, but was also a pretty stern father. When he passed as she was still a young teenager there was a residual of unanswered questions and brothers who would be at times much less than loving. I had grown up in a home where Mom always took us to church. For me my descent into unbelief wasn't so much because of answered questions but rather an abrupt change in circumstances that didn't reflect the caring God I had always heard about. My dad also died when I was young. It was my senior year of high school, just about a month before graduation. I had received a Navy ROTC scholarship to Penn State just the month before. But when Dad passed, my Grandfather, who I loved and respected, suggested that since I was the oldest I should stay home and help mom with my brother and sister. It didn't take long to charge God with wrong doing and then walk away from faith for 20 years. At first I decided I was an atheist, but that wasn't rational, and so then an agnostic.

Over those 20 years, my draft number was 27 in 1972 so I joined the Army to avoid being drafted. My last duty station was north of Chicago where I met Barb at Toys R Us. We married, had our first son & daughter, then moved back to NJ where my mom & family lived. There we had our younger son and bought a home. For 15 years I worked for the same man managing his rental stores. All the while we were never a family of faith that went to church because I was so convicted that it could not possibly be true there could be a God that was loving & could be trusted with our lives.

In 1991, we had been married 16 years and in our home and jobs for almost 10. Life was pretty steady. Except that we and our marriage had begun to come apart at the seams. All the baggage we had each brought from our childhood we had never found a place to set aside. Barb was at times angry, I became more and more withdrawn. I didn't know then but it was me that was the problem. For Barb too. There was no peace, no hope, no purpose, and no expectation things would get better. Though we appeared we had everything we needed, we were missing peace & contentment.

Just before Christmas that year, I decided our answer was to separate for a while. So I moved out, and Barb sought out help to figure out what to do next. There was a little mission church a few blocks from our home in the NJ Pine Barrens. Barb went there to talk to Pastor Pete and ask for his permission to hate me for the rest of my life. Pete said they don't do that there, but did invite her to come for prayer on Friday mornings at 6am. There a small group of prayer warriors would sit on the carpet in the sanctuary and pray, sometimes aloud, sometimes silently.

One particular morning, Barb said that all of her memories, anger and bitterness ran through her mind and out of her heart and she wept and wept, opening her eyes to a circle of tears on a red tear stained carpet. She said that was the moment she KNEW that the blood of Jesus He shed for her, to set her free. A personal faith and a personal relationship, and she was different. I could hear it when I'd call home to talk with the kids. She had found what I had been looking for, and invited me home again. Except for me the journey from searching for faith to finding Him, would take much more than a prayer.

In the beginning of my search for faith, because I didn't trust churches or pastors, Pete would kindly meet with me on Wednesday mornings (my only day off each week) in a little restaurant in the NJ Pine Barrens. No pressure no condemnation, no fire and brimstone. Pete began by sharing Frances Schaeffer's writings on Christian philosophy, and then the Scriptures that support what I now believe to be the truth that God Himself came to rescue us, in that stable, on that cross, and in every heart ever since that invites Him to come in. As He Himself becomes the truth we can stand on, as a faith that is ours, neither borrowed or inherited, but Christ In us. Never because we are someone, but because He is. To become a band of brothers and sisters to shine His love in a world that so needs His Light.

As we near another Good Friday together, may we again thank Him for His grace, and invite Him to shine His Light in and through our frailty and brokenness, to light the way for others as well, all the way to eternity.

Pastor Scott Dempster serving as Chaplain



## Medical Message by Dr. Alex Gauer

Hello! My name is Dr. Alex Gauer, and I am now filling the role as Medical Director at Jenkins. I am originally from Watertown and graduated from high school here. I then went to Augustana University for my undergraduate degree before moving to Kirksville, MO to attend Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine. I completed my family medicine residency in Quincy, IL, and I moved back to Watertown in 2025 with my husband and two children. I worked as a CNA at a long-term care facility during college, and I learned that caring for seniors is extremely rewarding and enjoyable. This prompted my interest in long-term care and inevitably led to where I am today. I am excited to continue to get to know the staff and residents of Jenkins.

I hope to help Jenkins continue to provide excellent care while constantly striving for improvement.

### Infections & Antibiotics

As part of my onboarding process, I was able to speak with the South Dakota Department of Health and learn more about their infectious disease programs. They are currently working on educating more about urinary tract infections (UTIs) and appropriate treatment. What has been found in the last decade is that most residents in a long-term care facility will have some amount of contamination in their urine, meaning they have some bacteria present all the time. This can show up in the form of a positive urinalysis that we may think is infection. However, these urinalyses often produce urine cultures that show no infectious growth. As a result, we are frequently over-treating UTIs in the long-term care setting. And as we all know, antibiotics can bring about their own set of problems and side effects. The goal would be to move toward obtaining a urine culture, pushing fluids to include cranberry juice, and waiting for those culture results prior to starting an antibiotic if we are concerned about an infection. Obviously, this also assumes that the resident is not severely ill, but this may be a good way to prevent over-medication and overuse of our antibiotics. This allows our antibiotics to continue to work when we need them to rather than creating more resistance. Because as always, our goal remains ensuring that our residents can meet their health needs and goals. ~~~~



## NATIONAL SKILLED NURSING CARE WEEK, MAY 10-16

# FREE TOUR!



## FUN & FRIENDS in your Senior Years

Experience living at 200 Maple Place in beautiful **UPTOWN** Watertown, SD!!

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- ~guest speakers
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- ~light housekeeping
- ~safety & security
- ~friendships
- ~happy hour
- ~holiday parties



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for your  
private tour  
and see why  
tenants love  
Maple Place!**



## People You Should Meet -Living at Jenkins Living Center & Rehab



### **Marian Ernst(Flom)— Many Talents Marian**

Marian Priscilla Ernst was born on April 2, 1929 as one of eleven children born to Claude & Margaret Flom . Her grandfather, Ole Flom, was of royalty and wealth with the famous Flåm Fjord named after their family. Her maternal grandparents, Edward & Evalena were from Mississippi. At just 15 years old, they wanted to get married but her parents refused. So they ran away and married in a buckboard wagon, barefoot and all enroute to Sioux City. Upon the news of their first grandchild, Marian's mother, Edward & Evalena convinced them to move back to Mississippi where Marian's mother, Margaret was born.

Marian was delivered not by a medical doctor but by a veterinarian. When planning to return home, recent rain and mud made the roads impossible to get home. However, a neighbor child with diphtheria had just died and was brought to town. So, following the funeral, they offered them a safe ride home.

Marian chuckles, "My first ride was in a hearse!" With her birthday being so close to Easter, she recalls one of her favorite gifts, a large chocolate egg, and even though it was broken it was delicious. As Marian and her sisters were raised during the Dust Bowl they found ways to create their own fun by building 'houses' by clearing a 'hidden patch' amongst the sunflowers and using milkweed as their 'carpet'. Water, often covered with alkali, was collected along creeks and runoff then stored in cisterns. With no electricity or plumbing, they used ice blocks to store food, canned, pickled, preserved or dried all they could for provisions during the year. The kids would raise hundreds of chicks each year, some for fryers others for eggs. There was very little waste. They kept the lard, the pork chitlins with pork being preserved in jars The milk that wasn't used and turned sour was made into cottage cheese. The family would have many books to read, games to play and much time to become artists of which they all were. Marian became an avid writer for the Midland Mail with her experience brandished a written published story, "Biscuit-The Desert Mouse" along with several poems. After her mother unexpectedly died at just 50 years old, Marian, being one of the oldest, helped to raise her siblings. \*One of the youngest of these siblings was the same age as one of Marian's own children.

After graduation from high school, Marian went to Black Hills Spearfish Teachers college and attained her teaching permit and then taught at Markwed country school. Marian met her husband, John at a dance and together they had five children, Leslie, Gary, Laurel, Rosemary and Brian. They also have 11 grandchildren, 13 great grandchildren and 3 great-great grandchildren. They made their home between and around Midland, SD and Pierre, SD, back and forth several times. Marian & John moved to California in 1980 where she became an apartment manager for 200 apartments. She was a paralegal after that for 15 years. Marian & John retired in Bullhead City, AZ in 2000. John passed away after 59 1/2 years of marriage. Marian moved back to South Dakota to be near her other children .



Marian was an artist in many ways, her cake artistry was that to be rivaled. She would often make 2-5 wedding cakes each weekend, cakes for the state house events and for the 25th SD Governor, Richard Kneip's eight boys. She was known far and wide for her cake artistry, often supplying cakes the local Spies grocery. Marian was also talented in creating feather hats and jewelry. An artist through and through. We are so blessed to share in Marian's captivating life.

### **Larry Niles-The Music Man**

Larry was born to Herman and Mabel(Lentz) Niles on December 23, 1936 in Wilmot, SD. Larry was one of six children. He has one brother and sister still living.

Larry recalls riding horses with the neighbor kids, using sling ropes to crawl across the barn to see who would win and swimming in the ponds. He also remembers doing chores....lots of chores, to include milking by hand but he says he was a "fast milker". The Niles children also had to walk nearly a mile to school each day. Larry completed 8th grade but then went to work on the farm with his father. He also spent time driving truck and hauling feed.

But his life changed when he saw this beautiful young woman across the Casino Ballroom. He was putting on the charm by winking at her while he

was playing in his band. But winking wasn't where it stopped, Larry actually jumped off the stage to dance with who would be his bride, Darlene (Howard) Niles on November May 31, 1969. Yes, you read that correctly, Larry was in a dance band. He started his musical journey when he was just 9 years old. He played tuba but hated it and at just 16 years old, he saved enough money to buy an accordion and taught himself how to play. He was in the Harmony Kings & Niles Brothers Bands, He played until he was 33 years old until work required more of his time.

Larry still shares his talents on the keyboard and the microphone here at Jenkins! It is always a treat to have Larry perform. Just this past month when he played, he 'packed the house' with residents, friends and family! We are so blessed to have Larry as part of our Jenkins Family. Larry has two sons, Michael(Lynn) and Paul(Terri). Four grandchildren and two greats. Larry says, "Jenkins is home. All the staff are so friendly and go out of their way to help. The treat me just like family." We are thankful Larry is in fact a part of the Jenkins Family!



## Soda Fountain Renovations

(continued from January Jenkins News)

Renee Merten in memory of  
**Dr. John & Lorraine Rittman**



Miike & JoDee Kluck in memory of  
**Doug & Toie Kluck and Doug Tolbert**

Donna Kittelson in memory of  
**Floyd Kittelson**

Darrel King in honor of his wife, *Joan King*  
Rafe Mack in memory of his wife, **Jane Mack**

Brad & Karen Fishman in memory of  
**Jerry & Georgja Fishman**

Carol Pollard in honor of the  
*Amazing Therapy & Rehab Team*

Luann Edwards in memory of her  
husband, **Ernie Edwards** and in honor of  
*Phyllis Krull*

Bev Stormo in memory of her mother  
**Ruth** and sister, **Shirley Stormo**

Neiland Nelson in memory of  
**Bonita Nelson**

Ruth Coplan in memory of **Gene Coplan**

Oviatt Titze Family Fund  
Mt. Olive Lutheran Church  
Mother of God Monastery  
Dakotas United Methodist Foundation  
Jan Sharp

Sherwin-Williams Paint Store (Watertown)  
Scott & Kristi Gloe  
Duane & Deanna Bullis

Gary & Linda Schumacher in memory of  
**Dolores Lindner**

Jane Dugan in memory of **Jim Dugan**

Gary & Sherry Jongeling in memory of  
**Phyllis Jongeling**

Darlene Bailey in memory of **Vic Yexley**

Family in memory of **Kathy Raml**

Family & Friends in memory of **Vic Yexley**

Dick & Robbie Jurgens in memory of  
**Jane Mack**

Marilyn Thomas in memory of her mother,  
**Arleen Larson**

Janet Tesch in memory of **Dennis Waege**  
and in honor of *Sandy Nelson*

Karen Carmichael in honor of *Don Workman*

Janice Solum in memory of **Vic Yexley**

Carol Henrichs in memory of her mother,  
**Lorraine Perkins** and niece, **Ardela**

Family in memory of **Katie Weber**

## DONATIONS

### DIFFERENCE MAKERS

Duane & Deanna Bullis

### GENERAL FUND

Ron & Kaye Johnson in memory of  
Leo Hanten

### ACTIVITIES

In memory of Gloria Brugman by  
Karen Roe, Kristi Brugman

### MISCELLANEOUS

Jeff Roe  
Christina Vasquez

### JLC REHAB

Revive Studio

### JLC FOUNDATION

Scott & Kristi Gloe in memory of  
Gloria Brugman, Valerie Wendt,  
Kim Helseth, Mary Ann Yseth

Watertown Area Community  
Foundation

~Anonymous Donor Fund  
~Jack & Maisie Barrick Fund

### FLOWERS

Family of Elks in honor of  
Veterans  
Hy-Vee  
Blossom Shoppe Flower Station

### VALENTINES

Encore Athletics

**Thank you** for the memorial gift but most of all the good care Leo received. I would like to thank you each personally but we were on a first name basis and never knew last names. Leo was a pillar in the community. We had over 300 at the funeral, surrounded by love!

Ginger Hanten & Family



### April

Marian Ernst.....2  
John DeBoer.....4  
Royal Hudson.....10  
Jerry Lindberg.....26

### May

Karen Ostrander....4  
Marcine Aaker...5  
Phyllis Krull...9  
Beryl McClung...17  
Barb Capiello...18

### June

Anna Rhody...3  
Marjorie Tesch....7  
June Burke.....21  
Joyce Aas.....22  
Jack Kennedy....22  
Pauline McCabe...22  
Donna Pope....30

**Thank you** very so much for the lantern. Our world can be a small place & the loving attention you provide to those in your care is such a wonderful community resource. We are so proud of you & your work!

Jeann Bevers Family

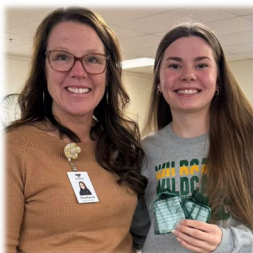
**Thank you** to the staff, from the 3rd floor staff, the social workers, activities, Pastor Scott, and to rehab, we became friends with you all. You made me jealous of all the hugs you gave Vic. He will never forget you & neither will we. God bless you all.

Karen Yexley & Family



## Amazing Angels

We have the most AMAZING STAFF! See a few of our Amazing Angels here! Residents, families and staff are encouraged to nominate staff that exceed the normal expectations of their work here. Those selected receive angel wings, recognition & reward!




Jenkins Living Center News  
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**HELP US BLOOM!**

We are accepting donations to spruce up our front entrance and rehab courtyard with flowers & landscaping.



**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

Please notify us if you wish to no longer receive this print publication. The most recent newsletter can always be found on our website and Jenkins Facebook Page.

Please accept my gift to help Jenkins **BLOOM** this Spring Season!

\$25     
  \$50     
  \$100     
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In **MEMORY** of \_\_\_\_\_


In **HONOR** of \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

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**THANK YOU!**

*And as a reminder, donations are tax deductible!*

**OR** for EASY, SAFE, and SEAMLESS electronic giving, go to:

**<https://secure.givelively.org/donate/jenkins-living-center-inc>**