

JANUARY 2021
THE VILLAGE NEWS
NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 8 | JANUARY 2021

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MESSAGE

If you are anything like me, the new year is always a time of reflection and a clean slate for who I want to be and how I want to live for the coming 12 months. This was especially true of 2021.

Globally and locally, 2020 was a year of unprecedented challenges. I have remarked many times at how humbled and grateful I am for the staff at Risen Son and how they approached the extraordinary trials of working in a healthcare facility during a pandemic. I can say with confidence that the goal of the staff every single day was to ensure the physical and mental health of our residents. And they have been wildly successful!

Many of our usual group and social activities had to change, delivering direct care had to change, and even

the way our maintenance staff cared for the facility had to change. Daily socially-distanced activities in each of the units staved off isolation and using technology to see the faces of loved ones quickly became the norm. Every day I hear an anecdote about a staff member who went out of their way to do something special for a resident. Our campus was full of new kinds of joy and engagement.

We are all thrilled that the first round of COVID-19 vaccines has started being administered to staff and residents. This is crucial to stopping the spread within our truly vulnerable population. We are now able to see the possibility of returning to a more normal and care-free environment within the year.

As our community prepares for a holiday season celebrating Christ, family and traditions, it delights me to know that our residents have so many ways to stay healthy, happy and connected to one another.

We encourage all of our staff to “get” the vaccine for Covid-19. Because Covid-19 is highly contagious, one infection can grow into an outbreak and do damage our community, families, friends, and co-workers” The Medical Director at Risen Son Christian Village, Dr. David Sharp, recommends “that we staff are vaccinated with the Covid- 19 vaccine as well.



- MATT ROMSHEK

CHAPLIN'S MESSAGE

Greetings! I hope that you all are well and are continuing to persevere through the struggles you are facing. Please keep praying that COVID stays away from our residents and staff and we will be able to open back up when wise to do so. Pray that the vaccine is safe and effective. Most importantly, pray that our hearts are softened towards God.



We see so much chaos and destruction in our world, and it can get overwhelming. We can become distressed and discouraged wondering, “What is going to become of our country?”

With so much that seems to be spiraling out of control, what can we do? How can I make an impact in a chaotic world?

The first thing we absolutely have to do, before we do anything else, is turn to God. If we want restoration and healing in our country, we first have to look to God to be the one that restores and heals our hearts.

Psalm 51:10

Create in me a pure heart,
O God, and renew a
steadfast spirit within me.

With many aspects of life out of our control, we do control if we, as individuals, are going to cling to the one who brings restoration, healing, and strength, or if we are going to rely on our own strength. Our own strength is bound to fail us, but it is God who renews our strength.

- HANNAH LANGLEY

I'VE BEEN THINKING

VACCINE FOR OUR WORST DISEASE—NOT COVID-19

The antidote for coronavirus is a precious thing to those who will use it. If it works as described, it will likely prevent a person from getting the virus, and I suppose it will help heal a person who has become ill from the virus. It's great that smart men and women worked together to make the remedy for covid-19.

There is another remedy that is even more precious. Oh, I don't mean the vaccine for polio. And I don't mean the vaccine for flu. I mean the "vaccine" for sin. Sin is a whole lot worse than coronavirus. Sin a killer of the worst kind...killing the soul. And everybody has the "sin disease"—it is terribly catching. In fact, it is self-infecting via autoinoculation. Masks don't provide any protection against sin. Yes, sin is a worse disease than covid-19, and more people have it.

But the remedy for "sin disease" is better, and it is available to everyone...free of charge. This remedy is not made by smart men and women working overtime in sterilized rooms; this remedy is made by God Almighty, formulated in Heaven above—a place that doesn't need sterilization. This remedy is not just 95% effective; it is totally effective without fail. It does not expire, so it requires no refrigeration. It does not require two shots—there is just one baptism (Ephesians 4:5), and the Bible says that baptism is what takes you into the precious blood and death of Jesus Christ (Romans 6:3 and 4).

Jesus' blood is the "serum" that heals us from sin. How is that? By decree of God, Himself. He said in Hebrews 9:22 that "without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness." There are not two or more "serums" that can heal us from sin...only one. Acts 4:12 says, "There is salvation in

no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." The "serum" against sin is not available down at the drug store...it's available only from God. It's not paid for by our government...it's paid by Jesus and supplied free to us according to Romans 6:23. It's not administered by a nurse, but by Jesus who "forgives our sins and cleanses us from all unrighteousness."—I John 1:9.

Those are some of the differences between the coronavirus vaccine and the "sin disease vaccine." But there is one important thing that is the same for both of them...if you don't take it, it won't heal you. Take Jesus today, before it is too late.



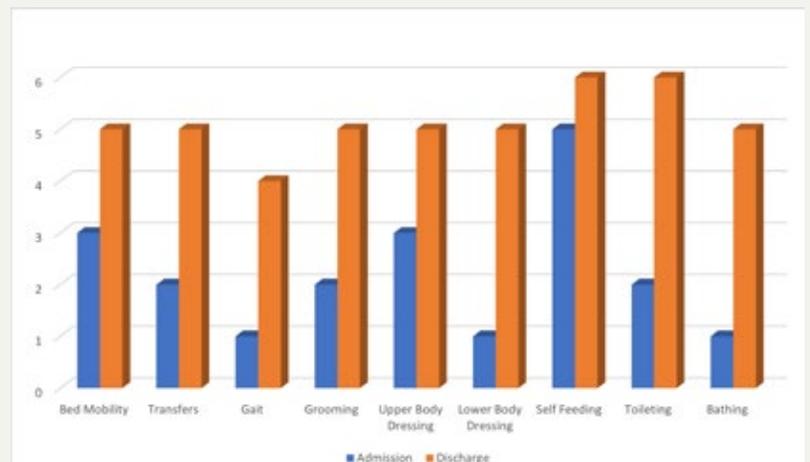
- DUANE KING

CELEBRATE REHAB SUCCESS

During Doris's stay here the staff has been very welcoming and have done a great job caring for her. The therapist have done a great job helping her get back on her feet as well. They always have a

positive attitude and make the sessions very fun. She has definitely enjoyed her time here but is so glad she is able to go back to her home!

Guest: Doris Wippering
Physician: Alan Kricsfield
Diagnosis: Left Femur FX



MEMORY CARE UNIT THE PERFECT CHOICE FOR NEW RESIDENTS

In December Risen Son welcomed Don and Joan Hoden to an apartment in our Memory Care Unit. The decision to transition from their family home to Risen Son was an easy one for their family after Don had some health problems that required an extended stay at a rehab facility.

“It became pretty clear when dad was in rehab that mom just wasn’t doing very well on her own,” said son Alan Hoden. Alan said that erratic behavior and forgetting how to do crucial basic home skills were the most concerning.

“When dad got home and had to help her with so many more things, he realized they needed something more.”

Alan said that after he and his wife looked around at local options, Risen Son was clearly the right choice for his parents.

“They had the memory care expertise my mom needed, they could stay together and eventually (after COVID) dad will be able to go all over the place and socialize,” Alan said. “He knows everyone everywhere

he goes!”

Alan said that the sense of relief was almost immediate for his dad and for him.

“I know they have people who care looking out for them every day, they are eating good meals and they don’t have to worry about anything around the house anymore,” he said. “Dad just felt so much better knowing that mom would be safe and healthy.”

While COVID restrictions have kept family from visiting as often as they would like, Alan has been able to safely visit his parents and their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren make regular phone calls. Alan said it is especially nice that they are in an apartment on the ground floor with a window, so family members can visit safely when the weather permits.

Alan also said he appreciated the consultation of the administrative staff at Risen Son. For most families, paying for long-term care is not simple. Alan said that Risen Son was thorough in walking them through the process and a plan for the future.

RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT: DON AND JOAN HODEN

Memory Care residents Don and Joan Hoden have been married for more than 50 years, all of which have been spent in Council Bluffs. They have both left a lasting mark on the community through years of work, volunteering and raising their family.

Anyone who was a regular golfer at Dodge Park likely knows Don, who worked there full-time for 40 years and part-time for another five in his retirement. A native of Aurora, NE, Joan went to nursing school in Omaha. She met Don while she was in Omaha and the two married in 1968. Joan worked as a nurse for several years until she decided to stay home with her young children. She also provided childcare for many years in their home.

The couple’s true passion was advocating for people with intellectual disabilities. Over the years, both of them served on boards of directors for nonprofits and volunteered in myriad ways to raise awareness and money.

Their passion was fueled by the experiences they had with their oldest child, who is autistic. In the 1970s and 1980s, education options and services were severely lacking for him. For a time, the only school he could attend was in Omaha. The couple led a successful effort to make the educational services he needed available in Council Bluffs.

Joan was especially proud of establishing a weekly church service geared specifically to people with intellectual disabilities. Don was well known as the organizer of a fundraising golf tournament to benefit the organizations they were so deeply committed to. In recent years, they have been especially happy to spend time with their two grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

WORK ANNIVERSARIES

Sally Baker	3 years
Hannah Langley	2 years
Abby Holdenried	1 year
Jeffrey Williams	1 year
Benane Akurkuch	1 year
Teala Bonaparte	1 year
Jamie Winchester	1 year

BIRTHDAYS

Benane Akurkuch	1/1
Cassandra DeLong	1/5
Jessica Wright	1/5
Stacey Hallberg	1/10
Jodi Roth	1/15
Kyler Winkler	1/31



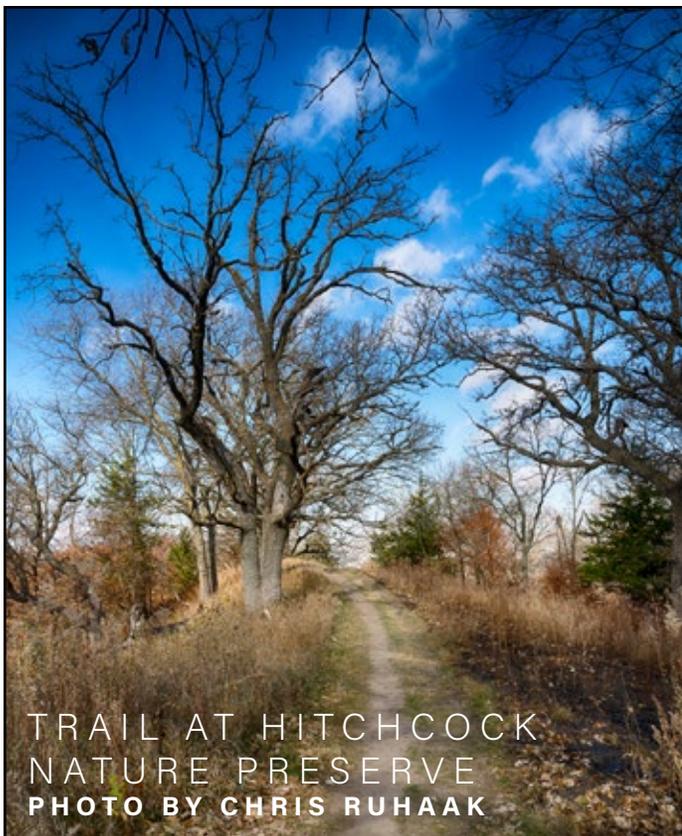
COVID-19 VACCINATIONS UNDERWAY AT RSCV

The majority of Risen Son's skilled nursing care residents and many associates have received the first wave of the COVID-19 vaccine. The second round of vaccines is scheduled for Jan 18. "It definitely gives us more peace of mind," Matthew Romshek, Executive Director said of the vaccine becoming readily available to residents. "We are still being vigilant on our infection control protocol, but it does provide a bit of light

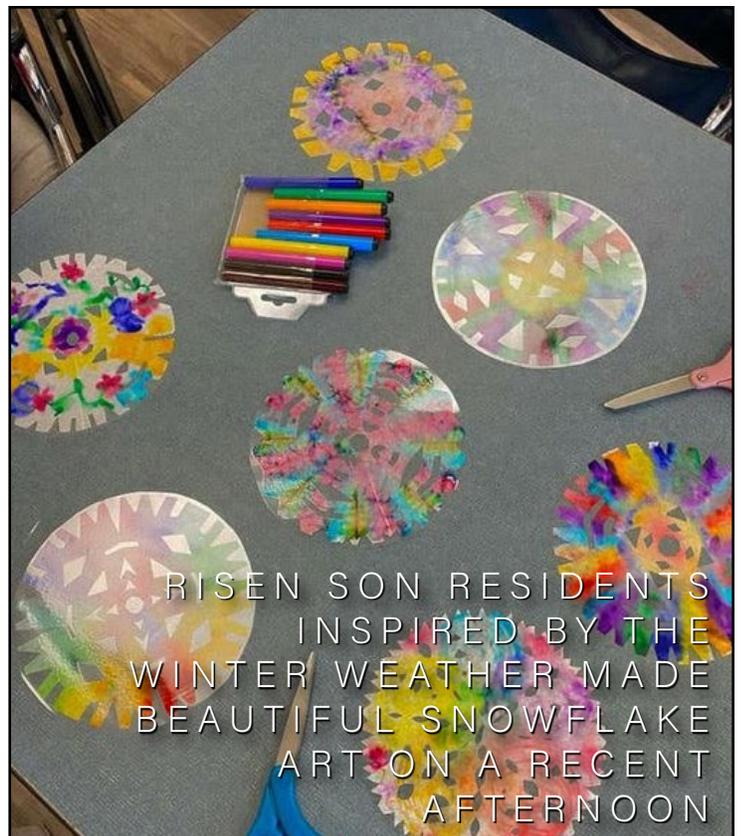


at the end of the proverbial tunnel, so to speak, and we are just thankful that

residents and staff members continue to choose to be vaccinated."



TRAIL AT HITCHCOCK
NATURE PRESERVE
PHOTO BY CHRIS RUHAAK



RISEN SON RESIDENTS
INSPIRED BY THE
WINTER WEATHER MADE
BEAUTIFUL SNOWFLAKE
ART ON A RECENT
AFTERNOON

“TO APPRECIATE THE BEAUTY OF A SNOWFLAKE IT IS NECESSARY TO STAND OUT IN THE COLD.” – ARISTOTLE



BARN AT SUNSET IN
HARRISON COUNTY
PHOTO BY CHRIS RUHAAK



COVER IMAGE, RIME FROST
COVERS TREES NEAR PIONEER
CEMETERY POTTAWATTAMIE
COUNTY
PHOTO BY CHRIS RUHAAK

Administrator: Ben Eddy
Business Office Manager: Marcy Lewis
Chaplain: Hannah Langley
Community Liaison: Brad Tompsett
Culinary Director: Michael Staton
Director of Lifestyle & Wellness:
Krystal Cary Executive Director:
Matt Romshek
Housekeeping Services Supervisor:
Melody Gregory Residential Services
Director: Brandy Jones Director of
Nursing: Stephany Bebout
Human Resources Director:
Benane Akurkuch
Clinical Liaison: Stacy Hallberg
Social Services Director: Sandy Leimer

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