

APRIL 2021  
**THE VILLAGE NEWS**  
NEWSLETTER

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3000 Risen Son Blvd, Council Bluffs, IA 51503  
Office: 712.325.7040 [www.christianhorizons.org](http://www.christianhorizons.org)



LINCOLN MONUMENT  
COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA  
PHOTO BY CHRIS RUHAAK

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MESSAGE



MATT ROMSHEK

Greetings from one of the most beautiful Springtime locations in Council Bluffs! I love seeing pops of green poking out from the ground and residents out and about on the trails, benches and outdoor gathering spots around the campus. A little later in the newsletter you will read about Jodi Roth and some of the things she does to encourage health and wellness for every resident here. She is truly a remarkable person and professional.

You will also read a little bit more about the Pathway Memory Care program. I just can't say enough good things about the changes I've seen

in residents since our staff became intentional about using the Best Friends Method for Memory Care. Residents are very clearly feeling like they have a whole crew of best friends who engage them, challenge them and help them accomplish things every day.

With Easter upon us, we reflect on the gift of rebirth each spring, the sacrifice that Jesus Christ made for each of us and the eternal hope that brings. On behalf of all of the residents and staff at Risen Son, we wish you a joyous Easter celebration.

## CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

What a great time to live or work at a place called RISEN SON Christian Village! It's this time of year where we especially focus on not only the foundation of our community, but more importantly the foundation of our faith. 1 Peter 1:3 sums up why the Risen Son, Jesus, is so crucial to our faith. Because of the resurrection of Jesus, we are given a living hope! We were dead in our sins and the Risen Son gives us life. He is more than worth

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

worshiping, remembering, and ultimately devoting our lives to. With such an amazing gift, the ball is in our court. How have you reacted to God's gift of eternal life? He is always eager for all of us to draw

near to him, and what better time to do so than Easter?! Take time to thank God for the living hope we have through the resurrection of Jesus!



- HANNAH LANGLEY

## I'VE BEEN THINKING

Good bye March, hello April!  
For a year now, due to the COVID pandemic, we have all felt a sense of isolation. I was impressed, during the recent vaccine administrations here at Risen Son, how it was so evident how everyone was enjoying seeing and visiting with each other.....even with masks and social distancing. During the past year you may have felt that God was silent. I hope not.

I recently read this quote: "Don't say God has been silent if your Bible has been closed." It didn't tell who said or wrote it, but it is good advice. Many books can inform you, but there is only one that can transform you.

Whatever the cause of our loneliness, the best source for comfort is God's word. Here is a good passage for us "seniors" at Risen Son: "Even to your old age and gray hairs, I am he, I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you." - Isaiah 46:4. (NIV). The prophet is speaking here of God's keeping his covenant promises

to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob for Israel.

And the Apostle Paul, in his letter to the Christians in Rome tells of God's promise for his new covenant people: "The Root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations; in him the Gentiles will hope." 13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so th you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Romans 15:12-13 (J.B. Phillips Translation)

God is faithful and he is not silent. He has given every one of us abilities to serve him and bless others, no matter how old we are: "God in his kindness gave each of us different gifts. If your gift is speaking what God has revealed, make sure what you say agrees with the Christian faith. 7 If your gift is serving, then devote yourself to serving. If it is teaching, devote yourself to teaching. 8 If it is encouraging others, devote yourself to giving encouragement. If it is sharing, be generous. If it is leadership, lead enthusiastically. If it is

helping people in need, help them cheerfully." - Romans 12:6-8

(God's Word Translation)  
On April 4 we will proclaim

"Christ the Lord is risen today, Hallelujah!  
Sons of men and angels say, Hallelujah!  
Raise your joys and triumphs high;  
Sing, ye heavens and Earth reply, Hallelujah!"  
- Charles Wesley

and celebrate Jesus's triumph over death. The resurrection is at the core of our hope as Christians. Without it, our faith is meaningless. Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,  
-1 Peter 1:3. (NIV)



- LOWELL BURKUM

## ROTH EARNS LEADERSHIP CERTIFICATE

Risen Son is proud to announce that Wellness Coordinator Jodi Roth earned the ICAA's Leadership in Wellness Management Certificate. The certificate curriculum was both challenging and rigorous and included developing a portfolio and business case and taking an exam.

"You are one of the true pioneers and innovators in the professions of active aging and wellness! Bravo!" The ICAA said. "We hope

you are as proud of yourself as we are of you."

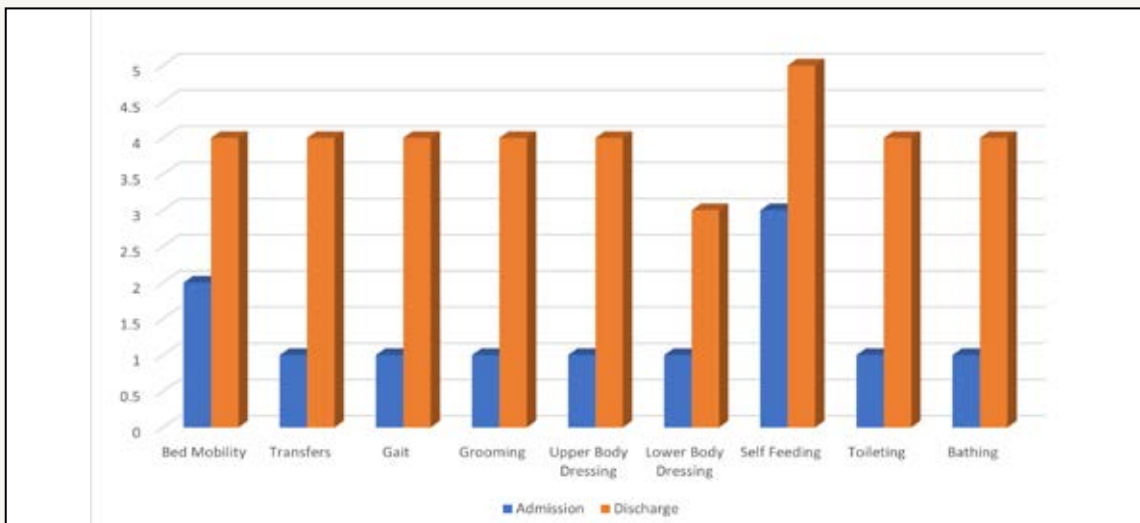
Executive Director Matthew Romshek said Roth's commitment to her profession is a great benefit to residents and her colleagues at Risen Son. "Jodi brings such energy to our residents," he said. "She gets them moving, thinking and smiling every day. Her leadership by example sets the bar high for every staff member here."



## CELEBRATE REHAB SUCCESS

Ethel has enjoyed her stay here at Risen Son Christian Village, but is ready to be home with her Husband. Ethel thanks the nursing staff and therapy for helping get her ready to go home. The staff have been very helping and polite during her time here and have helped her accomplish her goals.

Guest: Ethel St John  
Physician: David Sharp  
Diagnosis: COVID-19



## Join Our Team!

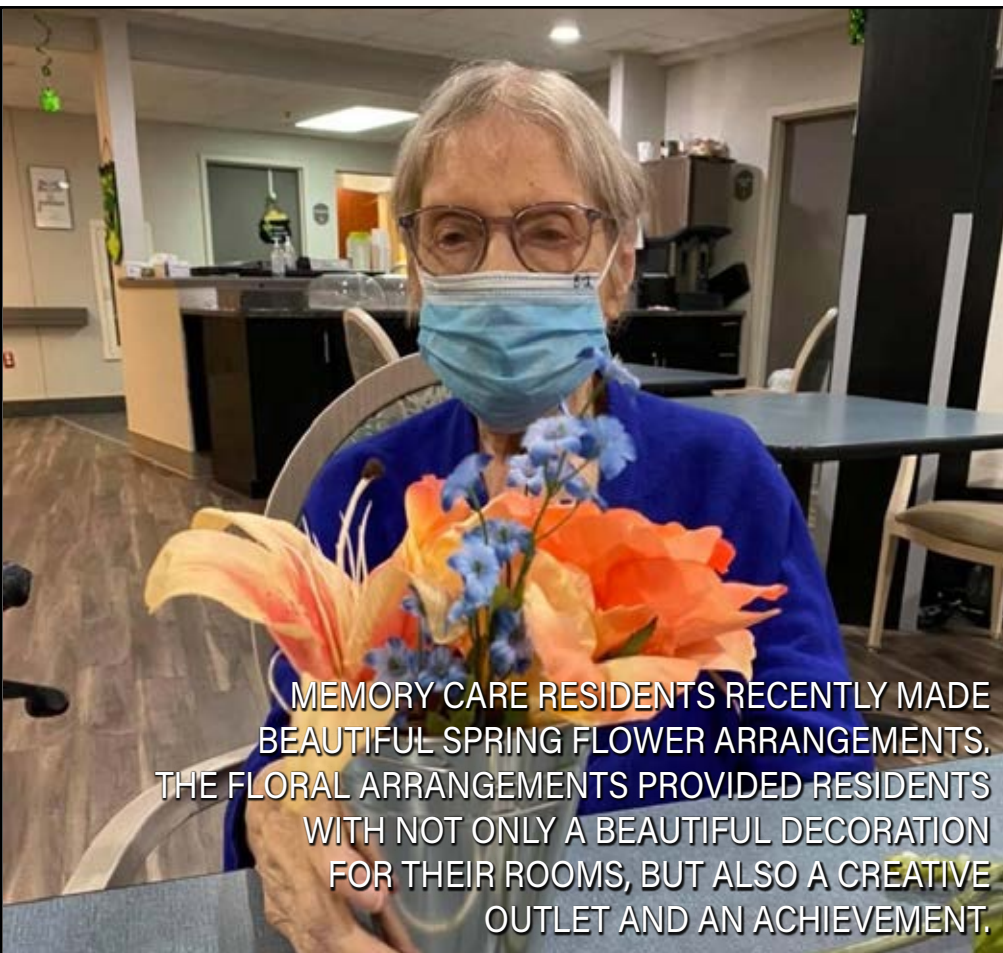
Risen Son is currently hiring for the following positions:

**Assisted Living/Residential Care CNA, FT/PT  
CNA, FT/PT**

**Helping Hands Aide, PT**

**Dining Services Aide, PT**

**RN/LPN Staff Nurse, FT/PT**



MEMORY CARE RESIDENTS RECENTLY MADE BEAUTIFUL SPRING FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS. THE FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS PROVIDED RESIDENTS WITH NOT ONLY A BEAUTIFUL DECORATION FOR THEIR ROOMS, BUT ALSO A CREATIVE OUTLET AND AN ACHIEVEMENT.

## MEMORY CARE: DEMENTIA CARE AT A DISTANCE

If you have a loved one with dementia, you know well the challenge of finding activities and conversations that stimulate and invigorate them. At Risen Son Christian Village every single staff member is being trained on the Pathway Memory Care Program. The program teaches them to turn any ordinary interaction with a resident into an opportunity to interact meaningfully and accomplish something.

For example, a maintenance staff member may enter a resident's room for a quick repair. All of our staff are friendly and enjoy the residents, so the staff member would have certainly made conversation with the resident while they were working. With

ongoing Pathway training, the staff member may now ask about a specific photo in the room or ask the resident to help sort or arrange something in the room while they work. These small changes can add up to a very big quality of life boost for the resident.

Based on David Troxel's groundbreaking Best Friends Approach to Dementia Care, the Best Friends approach stresses that what people with dementia need most is a friend. This can be a family member, friend or staff member who empathizes with their situation, remains loving and positive, and is dedicated to helping the person feel safe, secure and valued.

## WORK ANNIVERSARIES

Pamela Mathison	12 years
Jennifer DeVault	4 years
Dusti Chavez	4 years
Amanda Edie	3 years
Diane Marino	2 years
Mary Harding-Otten	1 year
Michael Bonner	1 year
Braden Mohr	1 year

## BIRTHDAYS

Cheryl Gough	April 6
Shannon Whittington-Alstrom	April 6
Mary Harding-Otten	April 7
Gina Grimes	April 10
Amanda Gibbons	April 14
Kaylie Foreman	April 15
Kasee Kalkas	April 16
Kiera Wegner	April 16
Kailey Houston	April 17
Daniel Carson	April 20
Jill Boeck	April 22
Stephany Bebout	April 24
Michelle Bucholz	April 27
Kimberly Steppuhn	April 28
Cindy Pike	April 30

## Risen Son Welcomed the Following New Staff Members in March:

Cindy Deierling,	AL CAN
Breanna Martinez,	CNA



SPRING TULIPS, PELLA, IA  
PHOTO BY CHRIS RUHAAK



COVER IMAGE, VINCENT BLUFF,  
COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA  
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**  
**Environmental Services Director:**  
**Melody Gregory**  
**Executive Director: Matt Romshek**  
**Residential Services Director:**  
**Heather Stearman**  
**Director of Nursing: Stephany Bebout**  
**Human Resources Director:**  
**Benane Akurkuch**  
**Clinical Liaison: Stacy Hallberg**  
**Social Services Director: Sandy Leimer**

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