



December 2024

505 East 4th Street | Hills, MN 56138

Resident Birthdays

Jim M. Dec. 14th
Mary S. Dec. 17th

Staff Birthdays

Brooklynne H. Dec. 8th
Val L. Dec. 23rd
Adven A. Dec. 24th

Staff Anniversaries

Dennis B. 1 year
Madi H. 2 years
Tara W. 9 years

New Residents

Joyce H.
Judy R.

We Remember

Dorothy Wehrkamp

Mission Statement

The Tuff Memorial Home is a Christian home with a heart. In Christian love, we provide heartfelt quality care to people in a way that contributes to their sense of dignity and self-worth.

Family and friends of residents often ask, “What does Mom or Dad need?” or “What can I give to a resident in a nursing home this holiday season?” Here are some Christmas gift suggestions to make your Christmas shopping easier for your loved one.

Gift Idea No. 1: Clothes ~ Different seasonal clothes like a cozy sweater or new blouse can sure make someone feel more festive and boost their confidence.

*We please ask that any new clothing items should always go to the nurses desk or laundry department to ensure it is labeled properly.

Gift Idea No. 2: Beauty Salon Certificate ~ One of the highlights of the week for residents is their weekly visit to the beauty shop. The Tuff Home beautician Bobbi Kracht can be reached at 507-227-1115 to purchase your gift certificate. Giving a gift certificate is a simple but meaningful gift.

Gift Idea No. 3: Outing Funds ~ With the suggestion list for outings growing longer, giving the gift of funds for an outing is a special way of creating memory opportunities.

Gift Idea No. 4: Magazine subscriptions are another great idea ~ Favorites in the nursing home include County Woman, Farm and Ranch, Reader’s Digest, Reminisce, Good Old Days and Birds & Bloom.

Gift Idea No. 5: Seasonal decorations for the doors of the residents’ rooms ~ A beautiful wreath or welcoming door sign always makes the hallways and rooms warm and inviting. Other seasonal ideas include a window bird feeder, activity books, coloring books, and seasonal bouquets of fresh flowers.

TUFF COUNTRY STORE: Residents are given the opportunity to shop at the County Store after coffee times Monday-Friday with the help of Life Enrichment Staff. The store is running low on items and is in need of donations. Popular items include small cans of pop, seasonal door decorations, snacks, Little Debbie treats, chips, toothpaste, toothbrushes, body wash, perfume, cone air fresheners and Large Print Word Searches. Donations can be dropped off in the Life Enrichment Department.

Department Heads

Administrator- Katie Kendal
Executive Director- Jane Blank
Director of Nursing- Dana Huisman
Social Services Professional- Emily Baatz

Life Enrichment Director – Jocelyn Jacoby
Laundry & Housekeeping Supervisor – Judy DeNoble
Maintenance Supervisor – Ben Vander Poel
Dietary Manager – Kelli Hellerud

Highlighted Activities for December

12/6- Games with the HBC 1st Graders

- The First Grade Class will be joining residents for a fun game and getting to know each other better.

12/8- Music by the Gospel Gold Quartet

- Residents couldn't wait to have them back! Listening to them sing Christmas Carols will be a real treat!

12/12- Christmas Minute To Win It Games

- Time for some friendly competitive cheer with Christmas theme Minute To Win It Games.

12/19- Music by Bruce Dysthe

- Bruce will be performing some resident favorites at the monthly birthday party.

12/20 – Resident Christmas Party

- Residents were all on the nice list this year so Santa will be here delivering out their Christmas

Tuff Family Council

Meetings will be held on the first Thursday of every month at 5p.m. located in the Tuff Chapel.

Thursday, December 5th

These meetings are designed for families to gather amongst themselves to discuss topics related to their loved ones in a safe space. Stay tuned for meetings with educational guest speakers.



Congratulations, Judy D.



Judy recently celebrated her 35th work anniversary on November 6th. She first started in the Dietary Department for a couple years then worked in Laundry & Housekeeping where she currently holds the role as the Laundry & Housekeeping Supervisor.

She also holds the title as Manager of the Tuff Village Apartments. Judy goes above and beyond to help everyone out. Her department is constantly receiving praises on how well kept the Tuff Memorial Home is! Way to go Judy!



Family Christmas Caroling & Cookie Social

Join your loved one for some Christmas Caroling and cookies on Wednesday, December 18th from 2-3p.m. located in the Tuff Dining Room.

There is a limit of 3 guests/resident.

Please RSVP with the Life Enrichment Department by December 16th

~MEMORIES FROM 2024~



Employee of the Month is: *Emma D.*

Employee of the month is Emma D. She has worked at the Tuff Memorial Home since 2022 working in the Life Enrichment Department and now as a CNA. Her family consists of her mom (Joni), siblings (Oliver, Layla, and Oliva), sister-in-law (Hannah) and niece (Maelyn). Hobbies include playing basketball, running, art, and horseback riding. She enjoys working with the residents and getting to know them. Fun fact: her mom, sister and grandma also work here so being able to share their love for the residents is very important to her.



“What To Do With Good News”

What do you do with good news? Strange question, right? But, it is a question worth asking. We are in the midst of the holiday season. We have just celebrated Thanksgiving, and we are beginning the observance of Advent in preparation of the celebration of Christmas. Christmas is the celebration of the coming of Jesus, the Savior – God coming to earth in human form to save humanity from sin. Now is the season of celebration. It is the celebration of good news; it is the recognition of the good news (the gospel) of Jesus Christ!

A familiar feature of the Christmas story is the part about the shepherds. It is an important part that they play, too; and it is the shepherds who help us know what to do with good news. You probably remember how the story goes: the shepherds were minding their own business when – WOW! – a flash mob of angels suddenly appeared and told them that the Savior had come. The shepherds then dropped what they were doing and rushed to see for themselves. There are three things that we can learn from the shepherds’ example:

The first thing is that they listened. The angels told the shepherds really good news. Good news: it was incredible, amazing, awesome news, news like they had never heard before in their entire lives! The shepherds listened to the news that they were told. One of the major problems we have when we try to celebrate Christmas today is that we get so busy with all sorts of distractions that we forget what the whole thing is about. We forget to listen to what God is saying to us. God is always speaking to us in a variety of ways, are we stopping in our busyness to hear what God is saying to us? The message of Christmas is that God came to earth to show God’s great and incredible love for us! The Christmas story is that God came to forgive us and to save us

The second thing the shepherds can teach us is that they looked. They went to see what the angels told them about. After the shepherds heard the angels’ news, they hurried to go see, urging each other, ‘Come on! Let’s go to Bethlehem to see this great sight. Let’s go and see the Savior.’ What is our reaction to what God is saying to us? When we hear news from God, do we check our calendar, to see if we have a convenient time to do something about it? Or instead, do we respond right away to the message that God has given us? When God speaks to us, we need to do something about it right away!

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The third thing the shepherds can teach us is that they left. The shepherds heard the news of the Christ child, and they rushed into town to find the Christ child. When they got to where Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus were, they celebrated with great joy. But that is not the end of the story with the shepherds. The story in Luke 2 tells us that they went away “glorifying and praising God.” The shepherds didn’t stay in the happy feel-good fix of being with the holy family. The shepherds also didn’t return to the same old grind, or re-established the status quo of their former lives after having a nice religious experience. No. They returned as changed people. Meeting the Savior had a profound impact on their lives and from then on, life for them would never be the same. Have our lives been changed by our encounter with the Savior, or is it the same-old-same-old? Like the shepherds, we need to go away from our meeting of Christ and tell everybody how God has touched us and let the world know that through Jesus, God is powerful to save.

What do we do with good news? The true message of Christmas can get blurry in many people’s minds because of all the secular distractions, but as followers of Christ, we know better. If the meaning of Christmas escapes you, or confuses you, call out to God and ask God to show you what Christmas is all about. How should we celebrate God’s great love poured out on us? We need to do what the shepherds did: we need to listen to what God is saying to us, we need to look and see what God’s grace is all about, and we need to leave the place where we met God and tell others all about it. That’s what you do with good news: you tell it, you share it, you broadcast it, and you let the whole world know about it! As people who have encountered God and been changed by God’s grace, we have the best news ever told, so let’s tell others this Christmas season (as well as throughout the year) the awesome things God has done.

Celebrate in the Good News,

Pastor David

Read: Luke 2:8-20

