



Prairie Home Staff

If we can help you in any way, please contact us at: (920) 969-0526

John McCarthy—Owner
Mike McCarthy—Operations

DIRECTORS OF RESIDENT SERVICES

Julie Robles
Tanya Neubert

Upcoming Events and Activities

• Spring Ball—Saturday, April 25, 2009, 2-4 pm

Put on your dancing shoes and come join us! Families and friends encouraged to attend. Formal attire requested. (We're goin' all out!) Bars and cookies welcomed. Questions? Contact Deb Kesaw at Prairie Home.

• NEW! Friday Morning Bible Study

Bible study is now offered on the 2nd and 4th Friday of every month from 2-3 pm. The study is offered through Shepherd's Care Ministries. Family and friends are always welcome to join us.

• Join us for a Groundbreaking Celebration

Prairie Home breaks ground on its third facility Friday, May 1, 2009 at 10:30 AM. Please join us rain or shine on the Prairie Home grounds at 1463 Kenwood Drive, Menasha. A light lunch will follow.

Prairie Home Press Issue 01 APRIL, 2009



PRAIRIE HOME ASSISTED LIVING

1463 Kenwood Drive
Menasha, WI 54952
www.prairiehomeassistedliving.com

The Prairie Press

NEWS FOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF PRAIRIE HOME ASSISTED LIVING—APRIL, 2009



PRAIRIE HOME ASSISTED LIVING

this issue

Expansion Plans **P.1**

Changes and Opportunities **P.2**

Employee News **P.3**

Upcoming Events **P.4**



Welcome to Our First Edition!

We've launched *The Prairie Press* in an effort to keep our families, residents and friends in touch with all the exciting things taking place at Prairie Home Assisted Living. We hope you'll enjoy and contribute to our new publication! Ideas and suggestions can be directed to Nan Gutierrez (920) 722-5038 or via email: nan@prairiehomeassistedliving.com

You're Cordially Invited...

As a friend and supporter of Prairie Home, we'd like to thank you and invite you to celebrate our growth.

GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY

FRI. MAY 1 at 10:30AM
1463 Kenwood Drive
Menasha—Rain or Shine!

Please join Mayor Don Merkes, John McCarthy, Prairie Home staff, residents and other invited guests as we break ground for this new chapter of history together. A luncheon reception will follow.

Prairie Home Announces Plans for Fall Expansion

The site is being prepared, the groundbreaking ceremony scheduled and construction of a \$1.3 million expansion will soon be underway at Prairie Home Assisted Living in Menasha. The project will include the addition of a new, state-of-the-art facility that will house 20 new residents, a chapel and spiritual care center, Prairie Home offices and more. Plans call for the addition to be completed and ready for occupancy in Fall of 2009.

Hope in an Uncertain Economy

Prairie Home owner/administrator John McCarthy says Prairie Home will remain a family-owned, faith-based business. The expansion represents a 'divine confidence' in the One who ultimately holds the plan for Prairie Home's future. "Despite what's happening in our economy, we are strong. I believe this a God-given opportunity to be a blessing to more families looking for a safe, loving environment for their loved ones. If God is "for us" who or what can be "against us?" It's faith that leads us beyond ourselves into loving and serving as we do.

It becomes a part of who we are."

Founded on Faith

The Prairie Home story began more than a decade ago, when McCarthy began to explore the idea of senior care. Strangely drawn to the issue, he visited numerous assisted living facilities in the Central Wisconsin area. He was moved by what he saw. "There seemed to be a lack of emotional connection that simply broke my heart."

A fellow Christ-follower who had founded several facilities herself urged him to get involved to see if he could establish a different way of doing things. That, and her generous offer of mentorship launched McCarthy on the path he still travels today.

Initially, the road was not an easy one. Founding Prairie Home cost John and his wife, Fran, their savings, home equity and ultimately, John's surrendered desire to do things on his own. There were many days when failure seemed ready to overtake him. McCarthy clung to faith. (continued on page 3)



Changes and Opportunities

Growing means changes,
touching more families with
loving kindness

It was clear that the elderly woman was not going to live much longer. Still, she was afraid to come to the end of the journey. She spoke fearfully of the darkness surrounding her impending death. Quietly, the caregiver drew back the covers and asked to curl up next to her. For the next few hours she whispered words of love and encouragement to the frightened woman. Several days later, the resident passed away peacefully as her family prayed by her side.

This bittersweet story, repeated many times and many ways in the decade since the company's founding, captures the heart of Prairie Home. There's something exceptional at work here, as together, we build a place where staff and seniors love and grow together, spiritually, emotionally, and physically.

While work on the new facility gets underway outside, inside, the Prairie Home leadership team is at work on some construction plans of its own. They're working to help ensure these tender moments not only continue, but flourish in an atmosphere dedicated to demonstrating and providing loving kindness.

Our expansion represents an opportunity to rethink and reenergize what we're already doing and make improvements that will carry Prairie Home into the future. "We are taking a deliberate, prayerful look at how the goal of serving from a heart of loving kindness is being lived out at Prairie Home, from the way we recruit, hire, train and develop our staff to the attitudes and actions that drive daily care," explains Prairie Home owner/

administrator John McCarthy. "We also want to review how that value is being reflected in the way we support residents and their families and look at the practical, day-to-day ways we can serve them."

The team also will be reviewing and assessing current programs and services speaking with staff, residents and their families. Prairie Home will continue to offer Hospice, respite, rehabil-

"We're very open to new ideas. Do you have a suggestion? I invite you to contact us."

—John McCarthy

itative, Alzheimer and dementia care. We will also continue current exercise and social activities.

Do you have a comment, idea or suggestion you would like us to consider? We invite you to contact us. Call John at (920) 969-0526 or email Nan Gutierrez at:

nan@prairiehomeassistedliving.com

com



State of the Art Facility Supports Great Care

Current plans call for the new facility to be constructed to the east of the existing Prairie Home residences on Kenwood Drive in Menasha. Highlights now on the drawing board include:

- Private 1/2 baths
- Radiant floor heat (No cold feet!)
- Library
- Sunroom
- Aviary
- Beauty Parlor
- Expanded walking paths
- Spiritual Care Center
- Business offices
- Security system

The general contractor for the project will be ABJ Construction of Custer, WI. Owner David Karch has been in the industry for 35 years and has built his company on a reputation of quality and face to face service. The financier of the project is John Ford.

With the addition of the new facility, Prairie Home will have three residences in Menasha. We'd like to identify each home with a unique name. Feeling inspired? We'd like to hear your ideas! Email: nan@prairiehomeassistedliving.com

Expansion (cont'd from page 1)

"It was as if God was saying..."how far will you go on your own resources?" John says now.

Many times, in the eleventh hour of a crisis, God would intervene and demonstrate his power and faithfulness. "We've seen many impossible situations turned completely. "God has used Prairie Home to deepen my love, mature my faith and help me to serve Him well."

Senior Story

MEET RUTH ALCORN

Love, resolve and strong faith. These are the key ingredients in the life of Prairie Home resident Ruth Alcorn. When Ruth's husband was unexpectedly disabled by a stroke at age 39, Ruth didn't waiver. She quit her job as a cook in the Franklin area school system and cared for him until he passed away in 1971. "She was very frugal and very determined. She could always stretch a dollar for a mile," daughter Sandi remembers with a laugh. As the years went on, Ruth remained an active volunteer at her church, and cleaned



regularly for several elderly women. She lovingly invested in lives of her granddaughters, babysitting several times a week and readily available on "sick days" or when needed.

When Ruth suffered a stroke in May 2000, Sandi knew she needed extra help. Ruth settled in as one of the early Prairie Home residents and has been comfortable ever since. One of the highlights, according to Ruth, is the aviary near her room. "It's the best thing at Prairie Home," she says. "And I appreciate the sweet caregiver who treats Mom as she would her own grandma and gives her a kiss every night," says Sandi. For Ruth and Sandi, this is home.

CAREGIVER'S CORNER

Planned Staff Changes

Prairie Home will be hiring additional staff for the new facility. We are looking for experienced caregivers who have both the heart and passion to serve seniors. If you, or someone you know is interested in applying, send your resume to: julie@prairiehomeassistedliving.com

We are currently accepting resumes and will be conducting ongoing interviews in anticipation of a Fall, 2009 opening of our third home.

PRAYER POWER

Prairie Home staff meet each Monday at 11am to pray for Prairie Home operations, employees, residents and their families. Watch this space for a listing of current prayer requests and ongoing stories about the power of prayer.

THIS MONTH'S FOCUS:
Health and healing

Do you have a special need or prayer request? We would be honored to pray with you or for you! Email:

nan@prairiehomeassistedliving.com