

Auburn to host premier holiday event — *Festival of Trees*

As the summer of 2012 rolls along, here at Auburn Homes & Services we're already beginning to see the twinkle of the upcoming Christmas season. We are pleased to announce that we will be hosting a marquee event called *The Festival of Trees* on Friday, November 16th.

The Festival of Trees will be held at Oak Ridge Conference Center in Chaska. This premier event to kick off the 2012 holiday season is something you will not want to miss. It promises to be a breathtaking display of elaborately decorated trees that capture all the magic of Christmas. Mix in some good friends, music and great food – and it's a party!

The chair of the event, Connie Kraus, has been involved in similar festivals and graciously offered her expertise and time with the goal of making the event one to remember.

"Auburn is such an important part of the community," Kraus stated. "I wanted to do something to help support their mission and the festival is the perfect fit. We get to raise some money for an organization with a big heart while having a great time getting geared up for Christmas."



Proceeds raised will support community engagement programming for Auburn residents.

"We are very grateful that Connie has agreed to volunteer her time and guide us to make the inaugural *Festival of Trees* event as successful and memorable as possible," Paul David, director of the Moravian Care Foundation, commented.

There are multiple ways for donors and volunteers to participate and details on how to get involved will be coming in the near future. For now, we are requesting that you mark your calendars for Friday, November 16th, 2012. It will be a night to celebrate, share and sparkle!

The gift that keeps on growing

According to Sharon Holasek of Earl Holasek Greenhouses of Chaska, “I’ll probably need Auburn at some point in my life so I want it to look really pretty.”

Whatever the motivation, Holasek Greenhouses made a very generous donation by providing all of the perennial plants for the renovation of *The Gardens* in Chaska.



“I’m not sure you have enough, get more,” Holasek said as she motored past on her scooter while Auburn volunteer and board member, Gina Rowe, selected plants. Rowe along with Auburn employee Kathy Fredrich were ‘all smiles’ as they decided which plants to choose.

“I can’t believe it,” Rowe said with excitement. “This is just so wonderful of Sharon to donate all these plants, it’s going to make the place look incredible.”

The Gardens is a community-wide effort and Holasek’s donation was a huge boost towards reaching the fundraising goal.



“This really is all about the community rallying to make this happen for our residents and their families,” Paul David, director of Moravian Care Foundation, said. “We have received gifts of all sizes, including a large donation from the Chaska Rotary, to bring this project to reality.”

Efforts are still underway to complete the campaign. If you would like to learn more about how you can get involved please contact Paul David at: (952) 361-0460 or pdavid@auburnhomes.org.



Auburn honors Caregivers of the Year

Auburn Homes & Services named Jennifer Lenzen and Annushka Dubay *Caregivers of the Year* on the Chaska campus. Lenzen is a nursing assistant registered (NAR) and a neighborhood coordinator at Auburn Manor skilled nursing. Annushka Dubay is a lead care attendant and staffing coordinator at Auburn Courts assisted living.



Jennifer Lenzen and Annushka Dubay



Tina Ketcher with Mary at Auburn Home in Waconia

Tina Ketcher, a licensed practical nurse (LPN), was named as *Caregiver of the Year* at Auburn Home in Waconia.

“The *Caregiver of the Year* award is a highly regarded honor here at Auburn,” Mike Senden, president and CEO, stated. “Recipients are chosen by their peers. Criteria mirrors our mission and vision as we are looking for those employees who take their job to heart and go far beyond their daily duties and responsibilities.”

According to Tina Ketcher, “My job isn’t about me at all. It’s all about the residents and what I can do to make their lives that much more comfortable and enjoyable.”

That positive attitude of selfless giving is among the reasons that all three were chosen by their peers to be honored.

“The *Caregiver of the Year* award really involves what we stand for,” Senden added. “We look for staff who truly look for ways to enhance the quality of life for residents. We are very proud of the commitment and dedication of Jennifer, Annushka, Tina and so many others like them who work at Auburn.”

Wishful Thinking

We are very grateful for the support we receive from friends of Auburn and we appreciate each and every gift. The following is a wish list of items that would be great to have but they are currently not in the budget. If you would like to sponsor one of these items, please contact Paul David in the Moravian Care Foundation at: (952) 361-0460 or pdavid@auburnhomes.org.

Lawn Furniture	\$200 /chair	Popcorn Machine	\$400
Grills – Smoker and/or Propane	\$500 each	Large Print Bibles	\$500
Outdoor Tables	\$800 each	Electronic Keyboard	\$1,000
Chapel Laptop	\$1,000	Portable Flower Beds	\$2,000 each

Time to reserve your room at Auburn Meadows Assisted Living in Waconia

We are only a few short months away from the highly anticipated opening of Auburn Meadows Assisted Living in Waconia.

“It’s kind of amazing that we are right on schedule considering the amount of rain that we had in June,” Mike Senden, president and CEO of Auburn Homes & Services, said. “But now that we have the parking lot in place, the roof shingled and the siding is being installed, crews are starting to concentrate on finishing the inside of Meadows.”



Meadows will set the pace for assisted living environments in Carver County. There will be more than 60 units, offering various levels of assisted living, enhanced assisted living and memory care services.

We aren’t just putting up a building and hoping that people will move in,” Senden added. “People have come to expect a certain level of quality from us, both in staffing and facilities. We know that we have a mission to uphold and we are committed to getting it right and meet the expectations of residents and families.”

“It’s all in the details,” Sheila Nieland-Snyder, Housing Administrator, remarked. “We are looking at every possible scenario regarding the potential needs of our residents. For instance, each neighborhood will have a dining room, television area and fireplace sitting area. Other amenities include the Petal Café to get your morning cup of coffee or grab a quick lunch. There will also be a movie theater, club room, the Harmony Salon and Spa and a wellness center.”

Residents will also have access to on-site medical and dental appointments. The reservation list for Auburn Meadows is continuing to grow – there are multiple layouts of studio, 1 and 2-bedroom apartments available.

“The views of the countryside from some of the rooms are really spectacular,” Senden concluded. “Our goal is to make everyone feel right at home from the moment they enter Meadows and we are getting very excited to open our doors to the community.”

If you would like more information about Auburn Meadows or how to reserve an apartment, please contact Judy Gustafson at: (952) 227-0494 or jgustafson@auburnhomes.org.

Auburn Meadows is scheduled to open in the fall of 2012.

A slice of life at Auburn Home in Waconia

It really doesn't get much better than this – homemade rhubarb and strawberry jam. A handful of residents at Auburn Home in Waconia spent a recent afternoon making refrigerator jam.

All of them were commenting on how this recipe is much easier, but just as tasty, as compared to canning it like they did in previous years.

“They just love it when we do activities like this,” Kay Soupir, volunteer coordinator, said. “It always gets them talking about their memories and sharing their personal recipes that were perfected over time.”

If you want to make refrigerator jam here is the recipe:.

On medium heat bring 5 cups chopped rhubarb and ¼ cup water to a boil. Remove from heat and mash it well then add 2 ½ cups of sugar and bring it back to a boil. Remove from heat and add 1 small package of strawberry Jell-O®. Place in containers and refrigerate or freeze. Makes about 4 cups of jam.



L-R: Leona, Betty, Mary, Agnes with their jars of freshly made refrigerator jam.



Several residents from Auburn Home in Waconia went fishing to Lake Minnetonka. As you can see by the photos, it was a great day to be by the water!



Old time Father's Day

In celebration of Father's Day, Auburn Manor and Auburn Courts in Chaska hosted a car show for residents to talk about horsepower, pistons and just simply reminisce. Among the vehicles brought to the show by volunteers: antique fire engine; old tractor; vintage military vehicles; muscle cars; modern sports cars.



16th Annual Call to Care Golf Classic a success!



Thanks to everyone who participated on Monday, July 9th at Deer Run Golf course. We raised \$12,000 for the *Gardens* project in Chaska!



A champion in the fight against Cerebral Palsy



“I was as long as an ordinary table knife; my crib was a shoebox; and my dad said if they had put me in an ordinary crib, they would have never found me.” Thus was the description by Gail Johnson, Auburn Courts resident, of her extremely diminutive dimensions as a newborn. Gail was born a twin, and the birth did not go smoothly. “The doctor advised my father after the birth to buy three grave plots – two for me and my sister and one for my mom.” Gail’s twin did die shortly after birth, and it was discovered Gail was afflicted with cerebral palsy.

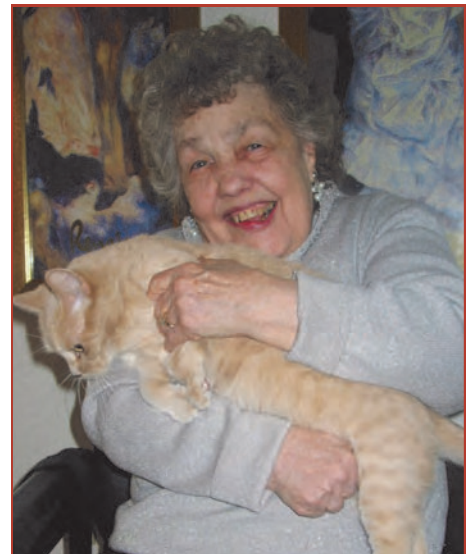
The year was 1932. At that time, newborns with cerebral palsy did not have a bright future. “People like me grew up to be institutionalized,” said Johnson. Cerebral Palsy partially paralyzes muscle motor functions and is caused by a lack of oxygen to the brain at birth. At age 5, Gail was unable to walk, talk, or use her hands. “My aunt wanted me to be institutionalized, but my mom and dad had a belief in me. They knew I had intelligence. My mom would say God had a plan.”

By God’s grace, as Johnson put it, her father discovered Dr. Martin F. Palmer, a professor at the University of Wichita, who wanted to work directly with handicapped children to find therapies that would improve their futures. “Through Dr. Palmer’s program I trained my tongue and my lips for speech.” Johnson’s participation in Palmer’s groundbreaking program was not covered by insurance as there was no such thing at the time. “A banker from Wichita took a shine to me because I reminded him of his daughter who had cerebral palsy and died at a young age,” said Johnson. “He helped finance my therapies along with my family”

A documentary film of Dr. Palmer’s program was made featuring Gail. The film was shown to President Franklin Roosevelt to attract funding. Johnson eventually became a spokeswoman and advocate for those afflicted with cerebral palsy. Along the way, during telethons and other events, Johnson encountered many celebrities. “Bing Crosby and Bob Hope shook my hand and asked me how I was. Amanda Blake of Gunsmoke auctioned off some earrings I had made. She got \$100 for them. The earrings only cost 10¢ to make.”

Johnson eventually entered college and joined a sorority. “At a USO party during college, I was playing ping pong and Arnold noticed me. He told me that he didn’t notice my disability until our third date, that God blinded his eyes just long enough.” Gail and Arnold were married in 1954. They had two daughters and adopted a third. Gail continued her work as a spokeswoman and volunteered at a day-care for handicapped children. “Mothers would say I gave so much hope to the kids just by being there.”

“I had wonderful, wonderful parents. I was so blessed to be born to them when most children like me weren’t given a chance.” Gail lives at Auburn in Chaska, where she’s resided since 1997 “I have my apartment just the way I want it, and the caregivers have befriended my cat. My cat’s happy so I’m happy.”





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Coming Events

Unity in the Community will be held on Sunday, September 16, 2012 beginning at 11:15 a.m. with a worship service in the Marvel Heath Chapel, Chaska campus.

October/November, 2012—Watch for details of our grand opening of Auburn Meadows

Festival of Trees, Friday, November 16, 2012 –
Oak Ridge Conference Center, Chaska

www.auburnhomes.org

Auburn Homes and Services
 Visit us on our website
www.auburnhomes.org

Foundation Office952-361-0320

Auburn Manor/Auburn Courts/The Courtyard at Auburn.....952- 448-9303

Auburn Home in Waconia952-442-2546

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