

## ~ From the Director's Desk ~

### Honoring two great contributors as they retire to begin the next phase of their lives... from Paul Welch

Last year, our RN, Marsha, sat me down and told me that she would like to retire from her RN duties at Breath of Life by the end of this year. She is such an amazing, jubilant person, it will be hard to replace her. Marsha said she would stay on as a Board Member so she can continue to share her elder care experiences with our program.

In March 2018, Janet, our Lead Program Aide for the past 12+ years, decided it was time to retire from her duties at Breath of Life so she could help care for a brand new grandchild. Janet is a caring, loving and dedicated staff person. The participants and her co-workers absolutely love her!

I am now actively seeking RN candidates to meet with Marsha and learn about the position. If you are an RN or know of an RN that has a passion for the elderly and a strong desire to serve our participants, please contact me. The time commitment would be 3-4 hours per month once you become acquainted with the responsibilities and our participants.

I am also actively seeking Program Aide candidates who have a kind and loving heart with a passion to serve others. Please contact me if you are interested or know of someone who would be a great addition to our staff. Anyone interested is welcome to spend a day with us to see if the position ignites their passion. We have many participants who could steal your heart!



## ~ From Our Financial Corner ~

### Your financial support is a welcome gift...

The Board of Directors gave Paul, and Maxine, accolades at the last Board meeting for how well they have managed the income and expenses for Breath of Life through the end of 2017. The trend continues through the first quarter of 2018. Paul's experience and efforts work to keep a nice cushion in our operating budget.

We can respond to the needs of the business whether it is automotive repairs or a creative craft project. Paul credits Maxine with how well she manages matching the staff levels with the level of participants, day by day. Having a very flexible staff is also a major asset.

We are still seeking grants and donations to add to our sponsorship funds. These funds help those who want to attend additional days but don't have either the private funding or authorization from the VA or the State of Minnesota.

## ~ What's Happening? ~

- ◆ Because of the grant for training from LeadingAge Minnesota, we were again able to send several of our staff to a Saturday seminar in the Twin Cities. **A Meeting of the Minds**, addressed how to best provide the appropriate services at a care facility, including adult day centers.
- ◆ We are so blessed to receive so many wonderful comments from the families of our participants. We want to share a few quotes from some recent notes. "In appreciation for all your generous, loving care of Callie this past year. We hope this gift will help this wonderful organization and the people who work there." "Sounds like John is feeling well and enjoying Breath of Life these days! Thank you for keeping him engaged and alert." "Please use this where you see a need. It is Darlene's birthday and I feel this is the perfect way to bring honor to her. Thank you for the devotion you have for this ministry. You touch so many people." "Please accept the attached donation... from the family of Levert. Our father spent time at your facility for many years and we are grateful for the activities and companionship that he was provided. We will always think back with fond memories of the stories that both dad and mom came back to us with after spending time in your care." "I know he is so blessed by the care of your excellent staff. You all bring the Lord such glory. Thank you for all you do."
- ◆ On Thursday, April 19th, we had another exuberant Volunteer Appreciation Day. We are so very grateful for all the members of this community who step up to give of their time and talents to bring joy, energy and love to our participants. Music is still the favorite activity that is provided by several local musicians and musical groups. You can hear our participants sing, clap and laugh as they join in with familiar songs during one of our Sing-Alongs. They fill the hallways with beautiful, joyful sounds.



## ~ Our Prayer List ~

Thank you for joining us in praying as we...

- Give thanks for generous individuals who have a heart for our sponsorship needs...
- Give thanks that God answered prayers for the new participants who recently started here...
- Ask God to provide opportunities to spread the word about our services to those in need of them...
- Ask God to lead us to additional funding opportunities, especially for sponsorships...

Thank you for your prayers, your encouragement and your support.

## ~ Recognizing Our Staff ~

**Want to meet another amazing Staff Member? Well, meet our Lana LeDoux...**

Lana was born and raised in Brainerd where she lived with her parents and older sister, Andrea. She attended Lowell Elementary School and was one of the first kids to graduate from the "new" Brainerd High School in 1969. She loved Home Economics, especially cooking and sewing. Her hobbies reflect that as she loves macramé, crochet, cross-stitch and doing crafts with nature's gifts - like pinecones. She loves the outdoors - camping and gardening - loves digging in the dirt... but doesn't like fishing! And, she loves ironing clothes! Her love and pride for her mother is very evident. She said her Mom worked very hard, doing laundry for other people, just so she could stay home with her two daughters... and Lana would help. She met husband, Corky, when she bumped into him at a social gathering. They dated two years and then were married in his grandfather's backyard amid family and flowers. They have three children, Joseph (48), Heather (46) and Holly (27), who keeps her young... along with their 6 grandkids. Lana has always worked. She loved the assembly line work at Tonka Toys in the Cities and then worked for Tanks Restaurant when it came to Brainerd. Then she made her move to Woodland where she worked for 35 years. She started as an aide, then moved to activities. She learned about Breath of Life and one of our employees encouraged her to apply. She said it was the best move she ever made. Besides loving the work, she had weekends and holidays off, which was very important to her family. As Activities Coordinator, she could put all her skills to work along with her love for the elderly. She loves listening and learning things about them. She says they have such great knowledge and we miss out if we don't learn from them. The hardest part for her is losing them. Some she has known since she was a little girl or even worked with them. She loves that both staff and participants are treated fairly and how both are included in discussions about change as decisions are made. And she loves that we can pray and read from the Bible.



*Breath of Life is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization serving the Brainerd Lakes area. Established and incorporated in 2001, our goal is to provide the highest quality care for dependent adults so their caregivers can also maintain their own physical and emotional well being.*

## ~ A View from Our Participants - Air Force Veteran Rockne Anderson ~

Rockne Anderson was born in Brainerd in 1939. His family lived in Brainerd until he was in 7th grade and they moved to Pillager. He had 4 brothers and one sister. He graduated from Pillager High School in 1957 and then joined the Air Force where he served for 27 years. His assignments were in Medical Supply and he served in Austin & San Antonio TX, Anchorage AK, Spokane WA, the Philippines and Korea, his last assignment. He said he really liked every place he was stationed and never had a bad assignment. His family always traveled with him and they enjoyed all the different parts of the world. He also made trips to other locations for assignments, again taking his family with him... to France, Italy, Turkey and Greece. He really liked the Parthenon and the Acropolis. He said his favorite memory of the Air Force was that if he didn't like where he was stationed, he knew it would change. He is very proud of his service to our country - as are we! Thank you for your service, Rockne. He was married for 25 years and had three children: one son and two daughters. His son died at a the young age of 48. His daughters live in Pillager and Missouri. He has one grandson, one granddaughter and two great grandchildren. After retiring from the Air Force, he became a Purchasing Supervisor at hospitals in Spokane. Then he became the Director of Material Management for hospitals in Bakersfield and Palm Springs CA. After retiring from that work, he came back to Minnesota in 2009, moving in with his daughter in Pillager until he moved to Woodland last August. He really loves his life at Woodland as the people are nice and they treat him well. (Rockne has a very positive attitude about life!) His hobby was bowling with a 211 average! He had a stroke 18 years ago and it took him a long time to recover. He says he still has some residual effects from that stroke, but those don't slow him down - his mind is sharp! Paul recruited Rockne to come to Breath of Life 5 years ago when he was in Pillager. Rockne likes Breath of Life. It gives him a chance to get out and be with people. He loves to play cards and does that here most Tuesdays and Thursdays. When asked what he likes best about Breath of Life, he said, "Just being here." Well, Rockne, we like having you here too!



Would you like our newsletter via email? If so, send your email address to [bolads@brainerd.net](mailto:bolads@brainerd.net). You can also send it through our website.