



IN LOVING MEMORY OF

*Sister Anita Hirt*

6/11/1924 - 10/29/2024

Sister Anita Hirt from Roseville, Wisconsin, a Sister of Mercy of the Holy Cross, age 100, has died October 29, 2024, at Bell Tower Residence Assisted Living in Merrill, Wisconsin.

Anita Marie Hirt was born June 11, 1924, in Roseville, Wisconsin, to John and Margaret(Landau) Hirt. She entered Holy Cross Convent in Merrill, Wisconsin, on August 31, 1948, and professed her vows on August 24, 1950. Sister Anita was in her 74th year of ministry at the time of her death.

She attended Medford High School, Medford, Wisconsin, graduating in 1942. She received her Registered Nursing certificate in Bismarck, North Dakota in 1955 and her certificate as a Registered Nurse Anesthetist in 1956. Sister Anita served 8 years at St Joseph's Hospital, Dickinson, ND. She served in the Anesthesia and Post-Anesthesia Dept at Holy Cross Hospital and then Good Samaritan Hospital in Merrill, WI for 25 years. During her time working as an anesthetist, she shared her knowledge on IV's and blood draws with many nurses and doctors. She retired from anesthesia but continued to work part-time as an RN in the Post-Anesthesia Dept until 1992. When she retired from nursing, she continued her volunteer service to residents at Bell Tower Residence in Merrill, WI until 2014 when she retired.

Preceding her in death are her parents John and Margaret, sisters, Marie Fisher. Margery Hirt, Marcie Hirt, Evelyn Kaiser, Frances Haidler, baby sister Helen Eleanor, brothers, Joe Hirt, Don Hirt and her brothers-in-law.

# CHRISTMAS

## GAP-FILL TEXT

Read the email and fill in the blanks with the verbs from the list.

**EXCHANGE - EAT - PUT UP - RIDE - LIGHT - DECORATE - PLAY - GO -  
MAKE (X2) - SING - WRAP - CELEBRATE - STAY**

Hey there!

Christmas is awesome at my house! First, we \_\_\_\_\_ (1) the tree in our living room and \_\_\_\_\_ (2) the house. Then, we head outside and \_\_\_\_\_ (3) a snowman. It's so cool, and we give it a funny hat and carrot nose.

After that, it's time to \_\_\_\_\_ (4) gifts! I'm not very good at folding paper, but I love making ribbons. Sometimes, we even get to \_\_\_\_\_ (5) ice skating at the rink near our house. It's so much fun!

When Christmas Eve comes, we have a big family dinner to \_\_\_\_\_ (6). My mum is great at playing the piano, so we all join in and \_\_\_\_\_ (7) an instrument or sing along. We \_\_\_\_\_ (8) our favourite carols.

Then, it's time to \_\_\_\_\_ (9) gifts. The best part is seeing everyone's happy faces when they open what we got them.

Later, the grown-ups \_\_\_\_\_ (10) a toast, and we all drink something sparkly (mine is usually apple juice). We make sure to \_\_\_\_\_ (11) warm by the fireplace, and sometimes we even wear cosy Christmas sweaters.

Oh, and you can't forget about the yummy stuff! We \_\_\_\_\_ (12) candy canes, and I always try to see how long I can make one last. We also have a special treat - hot chocolate with marshmallows!

On Christmas morning, we wake up to find that Santa left us presents! It's my favourite moment! We also get to \_\_\_\_\_ (13) on a sleigh if it's snowy outside.

In the evening, we \_\_\_\_\_ (14) candles and sparklers outside. It's like our own little fireworks show!

Finally, we end the night with a lot of laughter! It's the best way to end such a special day! Hope your Christmas is just as fun!

Hugs,

Greta.



**Bell Tower Residence**  
**NEWSLETTER**

 [www.belltowerresidence.org](http://www.belltowerresidence.org)  
 715-536-5575  
 [info@belltowerresidence.com](mailto:info@belltowerresidence.com)  
 or Find us on Facebook



Set on 12 beautifully landscaped acres with over 68,000 square feet of living and common spaces, Bell Tower is a friendly assisted living community where residents feel at home and live life well with purpose and dignity. We offer private apartments, religious services, activities, outings, delicious home-cooked meals and our caring and compassionate staff are always nearby to help.

For more information or to schedule a tour, please reach out to our Admissions Coordinator, Mikaela Meier at [mmeier@carriagehealthcare.com](mailto:mmeier@carriagehealthcare.com)

**Bell Tower Recap!**



**Halloween Festivities 2024**



**Veterans Day—Washington Student Sing a Long**



**Thanksgiving Luncheon 2024**

A Newsletter for Residents and Friends, about *Life at Bell Tower*

- December 2024 -

**Bell Tower Residence**

**Celebrating December**

**1st– National Christmas Lights Day**

**3rd– Homemade gifts day**

**5th– International Volunteer Day**

**6th– St. Nicolas Day**

**11th– Winter Wonderland Day**

**14th– Gingerbread House making Day**

**15th– A Grinch Day**

**16th– Scrabble Day**

**18th– Cookie Baking Day**

**20th– Go Caroling Day**

**22nd– Deck the Halls Day**

**24th– Christmas Eve**

**25th– Christmas Day**

**26th– National Thank you Note Day**

**27th– Cut Snow Flakes Day**

**31st– New Years Eve**

**A Season of Joy**

**Joyful Living**

The holidays are upon us! When we put aside the hectic preparations, decorating and gift shopping—at the center of the holidays is a sense of joy and thankfulness. The journey of one year draws close to an end, and the journey of the next begins.

At Bell Tower Residence, we see the time of our residents here as a “Journey to Joyful Living.” Growing older comes with its own set of challenges, but if we can find joy in each day and along the way, our days and years will be much more meaningful.

Winter is a good time to think about the benefits of a senior-living community like Bell Tower Residence. The snow management is taken care of, the utilities are included, and there are 3 hot meals each day that you don’t need to prepare. Do you need more joy? Bell Tower Residence has regular musical entertainment, outings, games, crafts and exercise. Do you need assistance with your daily cares? Bell Tower Residence has a team of devoted staff to help you when you need it.

“Journey to Joyful Living.” Bell Tower Residence isn’t so much a facility as it is a home. We strive to make each day worthwhile and meaningful to our residents, helping them find joy in their journey. When we ask our staff why they work at Bell Tower Residence, almost unanimously they answer, “I’m here for the residents,” as they share in the journey of joyful living.

We invite you to join our Bell Tower Family as a resident, employee or volunteer—join us on the journey to joyful living. –Kris Mcgarigle

### Staff Birthdays

2nd– Destinee R  
12th– Ashley C  
15th– Mayleen D  
17th– Adeline H  
20th– Tina L  
30th– Amanda F  
30th– Melissa S

### Staff Anniversaries

1 year– Nora M  
1 year– Alison C  
2 years– Geralen F  
4 years– Eleanor H  
7 years– Morgan W  
7 years– Janie A  
7 years– John B  
8 years– Mikaela M  
12 years– Nelimi J  
15 years– Missy K

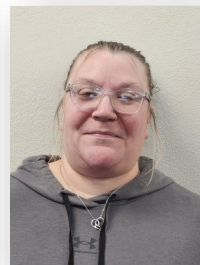
### Resident Birthdays

6th– Ron H  
7th– Bill L  
10th– Jim W  
13th– Donna S  
21st– Carol H  
30th– Pat B

### Resident Anniversaries

2 years– Joe B  
2 years– Romayne B  
2 years– John Marie  
3 years– Nancy C  
3 years– Arliss K  
4 years– Allen K  
8 years– John S

## Welcome to Bell Tower!

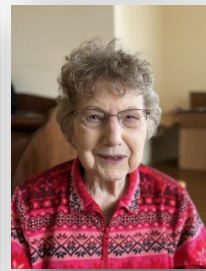


Pictured from the Left to the Right:

Tanisha Berendes PCW

Stephanie Endres CNA

Katie Holt PCW



Pictured from the Left to the Right:

Irma Stine

Dale Meyers

Donna Buss

### Staff Spotlight



Congratulations to **Sandy Reader** on being selected to be Bell Towers Employee of the Month for December. This was well deserved, and we are glad to have you apart of our team!

### Bell Tower Luminaria 2024

Are you looking for a place to bring your children to see Santa? Bell Tower Residence is hosting its annual Luminaria event on December 7th from 6:00-8:00 pm in the Assisi Hall. We will have cookies and hot beverages, pictures with Santa, hay rides, and a kids craft table. If you are interested in volunteering, please reach out to Allison Blaubach. We are looking forward to seeing you all here at Bell Tower Residence!

[Belltowerresidence.org](http://Belltowerresidence.org)

(715)-536-5575

Call today to schedule a tour with our Admissions Coordinator

### December Movie Matinees

#### Coffee Counter:

-December 2nd

"Hall out the Holly"

-December 16th

"Home Alone"

-December 24th

"The Grinch"

-December 30th

"The Noel Diary"

(Coffee Counter is always open for movies)

#### Third Floor:

-December 4th

"Home Alone"

-December 11th

"Christmas with the Kranks"

-December 18th

"The Grinch"



### A message from our Chaplains:

In December, we gather with friends and families to celebrate. We celebrate them, the holidays, and a gift of love from God above. We have opportunities and chances to plug our lives back in so that we can shine and make our world much brighter.

Wonderful people, we as a community, are just one giant strand of lights waiting for the source that gives us energy to shine, that gives us hope. We are also called to be there for the other lights of our lives in our families and community that do not feel so shiny. We are called to help them, nudge them in the direction to get to the source of energy.

For me, the energy is the Gospel, the good news, especially at Christmas time. The source of energy for my life, Jesus, is so important for me that I need to be plugged into this good news or else I don't have my energy, or my shine. Wonderful people, we are in luck.

I invite you to experience the glow of the Christmas season and find new life in yourself and with those you love. As the nights grow longer, may the light of the world shine upon you and give you peace. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays. -Chaplain Phyllis Smoot

### Donations for Giving Tree!



Bell Tower is hosting a "Secret Santa" for our residents this year with our Giving Tree located in the lobby. The object of this is to ensure each of our residents has something special to open up around Christmas time. The Giving Trees are filled with tags of individual residents wants and needs. If you are interested in donating a purchased gift, please return it to Allison Blaubach in a gift bag. Please write your name on the tag, and return it with your gift, so we know who to thank for these wonderful donations. The deadline to fill the tags and return the gifts will be December 18th. We THANK you all for your participation to make this year a special one for our residents at Bell Tower. If you have any questions, please reach out to Allison Blaubach.