

The Pillars Press

August 2025



LEADERSHIP TEAM

Executive Director
STACY WIIHLM

Outreach and Sales Director
LISA SANDMANN

Director of Health Services
GERRI DEWITTE

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF HEALTH
SERVICES
TAYLOR KOTTKE

Culinary Director
JESSICA GREENWOOD

DIMENSIONS MANAGER
ERIN JOHNSON

Environmental Services
Director
JEFF SKLUZACEK

Life Enrichment Director
HEATHER BALLMAN

Resident Services Coordinator
ANN ARNDT
HAILEY KUHN

The Pillars of Mankato
3125 Prairie Rose Drive
Mankato, MN 56001

(507) 344-6777

PILLARSOFMANKATO.COM

August Resident Spotlight: Lavonne Schneider

Lavonne Schneider was born at home on her family farm near Sterling, Minnesota, located between Amboy and Good Thunder. She attended grades 1 through 12 in Good Thunder. After graduation, she took a job as a receptionist for a chiropractor in Mankato. Lavonne met her husband, Donald, while he was working as a journeyman electrician in Good Thunder, having moved to Minnesota from Wisconsin after his time in the service. From the moment they met, Lavonne knew this was what love was! Donald earned his master's degree and started his own electrician business. They moved to Lake Crystal and purchased the home where they would live for the next 50 years. Together, Lavonne and Donald have two children, Bruce and Lori, who have been the joy of their lives, along with two grandchildren, Rachel and Kyle. Lavonne stayed home to raise their children and help with the business until the kids were out of school. She then went to work for Northwest Fabrics, driven by her love of sewing, but after four years she decided the job was too hard on her body. Travel was a shared passion for Donald and Lavonne. They enjoyed many trips across the United States and a bit of Canada, with the West — especially New Mexico — among their favorite destinations. Lavonne's greatest love, besides her husband and children, has always been sewing. She bought her first sewing machine in 1950 after learning to sew in Home Economics class, and she has been making clothes for herself, her children, and grandchildren ever since. She also makes hats and dolls and especially enjoyed creating cowboy shirts with button snaps for her husband and son, and full outfits including matching hats for her daughter and granddaughter. Lavonne fondly remembers the excitement of using empty seed sacks her dad brought home to make everything from pillow shams and curtains to dresses and shirts! Lavonne moved to The Pillars in July 2023. Her favorite thing about living here is how wonderful and friendly the staff and residents are.





Bushel of Fun Fall Festival

GATHER, GIVE & GREET FALL TOGETHER!

Join us at The Pillars of Mankato for a celebration of the season, community, and compassion. Enjoy the crisp autumn air with live music, delicious fall-themed food, and family-friendly festivities.

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

We'll also be hosting a Silent Auction benefiting the Walk to End Alzheimer's—a cause close to our hearts.

This event is open to residents, families, neighbors, and the general public. Whether you're a long-time friend of The Pillars or just discovering us, come celebrate the season with us.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

Celebration: 4:30–6:30 PM

Silent Auction: 4:30–6:00 PM

The Pillars of Mankato Parking Lot

Parker Update

We're thrilled to share some heartening news about our beloved community dog, Parker. After a challenging period away due to illness, Parker is now on the mend and making a steady recovery. His absence was due to surgery for an intestinal obstruction—a serious condition that required prompt medical attention. Thanks to the swift action of his caregivers and the skilled veterinary team, Parker is back and on the path to full health.

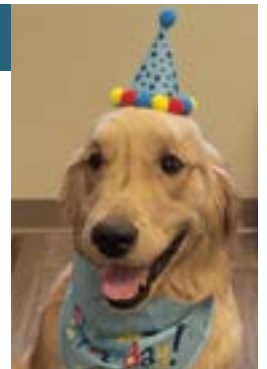
Keeping Parker Healthy: A Community Effort

To ensure Parker's continued well-being, we kindly remind everyone not to feed him any human food. While it might seem like a harmless treat, many human foods are unsuitable for dogs and can lead to serious health issues. For instance, foods high in fat and sodium can cause digestive problems and even pancreatitis in dogs. Additionally, certain foods like chocolate, grapes, and onions are toxic to dogs and should always be avoided. ~ The Spruce Pets

To support this, all garbage cans in the building will now have secure lids to prevent Parker from accessing discarded food. We ask everyone to be vigilant and ensure that trash is properly disposed of and that no food is left within Parker's reach.

Let's Work Together

Parker is more than just a pet; he's a cherished member of our community. His health and happiness depend on all of us working together to provide a safe and nurturing environment. By refraining from feeding him human food and ensuring our trash is securely contained, we can help Parker stay healthy and enjoy many more years as our faithful companion. Thank you for your cooperation and for being part of Parker's supportive community.





Join our
Dimensions'
Ambassadors
for a panel
discussion on

LIVING THE DEMENTIA JOURNEY AT THE PILLARS

Wednesday, August 20th,
3:00 pm
in 2nd floor Community Room

Connect with Dimensions
caregivers about their journey with
their loved ones and what moving
into our Dimensions neighborhood
is like; each one has a unique
experience and can offer advice
or words of wisdom!



EMPLOYEE Spotlight



Josie Hanson, RESIDENT
ASSISTANT

Our Employee Spotlight this month is Josie. Josie has been a Resident Assistant here at The Pillars for 2 years.

Some Fun Facts about Josie:

Favorite Food: Spaghetti

Favorite Drink: Dr. Pepper

Favorite Color: Red

Favorite Hobbies: Walks with her dog and spending time with her boys

Favorite Movie: Queen of the Damned

Favorite Thing about The Pillars: The stories that the residents tell us!

IN REMEMBRANCE

**WANDA MOORE
JOE HOLLAND
BARB GITS**

We remember and honor those who have passed.

PILLARS ALZHEIMER'S WALK

Saturday, August 23, 2024
@ 10:00 am
Front of Building

To Donate or Register for our
Team, scan this QR code



Join us in honoring those who live with dementia and/or Alzheimer's and their caregivers. Wear purple or your 'Find the Good' clothing and join us for a walk around the Pillars of Mankato neighborhood or parking lot! Anyone is welcome to join! Registration for participants is \$5. You may also join us for a treat if unable to participate!



WELCOME
to our community

Rick Auger



**Hair Salon
Closed
August 9 - 16**

Happy Birthday

Residents

August 3 - Gwynne Anderson
August 7 - Vern Berglin
August 7 - Dwain Petersen
August 10 - Hub Sandmann
August 14 - Michael Godfrey
August 15 - Gerry Cain
August 17 - Chuck Bisel
August 17 - Nada Foede
August 20 - Donna Chalhoub
August 21 - Elaine Beutler
August 24 - Mary Holland
August 27 - Kären Warmack

Staff

August 2 - Alex R.
August 14 - Abby K.
August - 15 - Violette L.
August 28 - Emma B.