



Mission: To provide care and services responsive to the individual needs of those we serve with dignity and respect in a cost effective manner placing value on the recipient, his or her family, and our staff.

## Executive Director

### Greetings

#### Coronavirus Pandemic Service Appreciation

What a year the past twelve months have wrought! From the early beginnings of the pandemic with closed schools, lockdowns, essential worker determinations, times of stocking supplies at home, amassing PPE supplies at BSJ, adapting to daily changes in protocols and expectations...to having positive cases in the state, then the region, then our counties, then within our cities, and within BSJ Corporation. Temperature screenings, nose swabs, check lists, locked doors, no visitors, no dining, no activities, NO, NO, NO, NO. Hospitalizations, ventilator shortages, numerous nursing home deaths in the states of Washington and New York. Pushing back locally to ensure similar scenarios do not happen here.

Exposures, quarantines, isolation, no new admissions, COVID units, barriers in hallways, residents in their rooms, staff exposures, staff positive cases, staff quarantines, and staffing shortages. A resident's death, and then another...a former staff person's death...darkness.

New treatments, news of vaccines being developed. What is that? A light? A light the size of a single matchstick off in the distance? Testing. Efficacy. Results. Production. A glow of a single matchstick turns to a glimmer and a way out...just as the darkest days are descending on us. I hope the past twelve months have been the most difficult that any of us will ever endure in our careers!

Recognizing that the period from the end of November to when we would likely be fully vaccinated at our BSJ facilities was going to be the most difficult time for BSJ and staff, we implemented the COVID Pandemic Service Appreciation and Retention Bonus plan. The final bonus payments were paid out on March 19th.

**Thank you for all you have done to help your residents, tenants, participants, and your co-workers get through this most difficult time at all of our BSJ locations. We appreciate all of your efforts, sacrifices and contributions, and the bonus payment is in appreciation for that, and for your continued services to those entrusted to our care. Thank You!**

*Craig Ubbelohde, Executive Director*

## Corporate Information

### Tool For Healthy Communication: Active Listening

(Excerpts provided by your Employee Assistance Program, a free benefit offered to you at Gundersen Health at 608-775-4780.)

Communication with co-workers, spouses, family members or friends can be greatly enhanced if we learn to be active listeners. Active listening, also known as reflective listening, occurs when we combine careful listening with a desire to fully understand what the other person is saying. By rephrasing back what we think we have heard, it shows our interest in the other person and clarifies what they are thinking or feeling.

The Employee Assistance Program is a helpful resource to consider if you and another individual are struggling with communication. BSJ Corp offers EAP as a free, confidential employee benefit. An EAP appointment can be scheduled simply by calling 608-775-4780 or 800-327-9991. You may also check out the EAP website at [www.gundersenhealth.org/eap](http://www.gundersenhealth.org/eap).

## Human Resources

### Benefits Info Available By Mobile App

We are excited to announce a mobile app for general benefit information. In the app you will find benefit summaries, videos, and more to help you navigate your benefits — giving you access to important information regarding your benefit offerings. You will have the option of uploading a copy of your insurance cards so you always have them with you.

You can download the app, USIEB, for free, through the Apple App Store or Google Play Store. The six-digit code for the USIEB Mobile App is 376331.



*Jennie Sass, Human Resources Director*

## Corporate Fund Development News

### Education Scholarship Available

Bethany St. Joseph Corporation is excited to announce the 2nd annual \$1000 Adele M. Stolder Education Scholarship! This scholarship was established by Mary Ellen Stolder, PhD, RN, in memory of her mother. Adele was a nursing home resident at Bethany St. Joseph (BSJ) Care Center from June 2016 to February 2017. This scholarship is to provide funding for a BSJ Corporation employee enrolled in a program of study at an institution of higher education. The deadline to apply is May 31, 2021 by 8pm. Email the application to [aacklin@bsjcorp.com](mailto:aacklin@bsjcorp.com) or mail/drop off at BSJ Care Center, 2501 Shelby Rd, La Crosse WI 54601. The application is on the BSJ website or by contacting Amanda (608-519-9778). A short essay and proof of an educational program acceptance and GPA is required.

Eligibility: Employed at least one year, accepted into a program of higher education, grade point average of 3.0 or higher (most recent high school or college), and all materials received before the deadline. Award will be announced 6/15/21. Good luck, applicants!

*Amanda Acklin, Fund Development Director*

## BSJ Community Services – Housing & MERIT Centre

### Excellence Awards & Special Photo Placements

Community Services seeks to recognize staff who stand out among all the awesome staff and shine a light on their great work, customer service, team play, and all the other things that make them shine. Congratulations to Tenant Care Assistant Stacey Jacobson, 2020 4th Quarter Recipient of the *Community Services Celebrating Excellence Award*. Her nomination lauded her for her positive attitude, willingness to pitch in wherever she is needed, and commitment to doing whatever it takes to get the job done!

There was a lot of love on Valentine's Day when the Assisted Living Directors made placemats for the assisted living facilities' tenants using photos sent in by families.



*Karen Sepich, Community Services Admin*

## BSJ Community Services – Housing & MERIT Centre

◆Laurel Manor ◆Mill St. Manor ◆OnaMain ◆OnaTerrace ◆Prairie Home  
◆Salem Terrace ◆Shelby Terrace ◆Welcome Home ◆Windsor Place

### New Director & Valentine's Day Gifts From Staff

Welcome to Lesa Wiersema, new Director for Shelby Terrace, Welcome Home and Windsor Place! Lesa brings a rich background in leadership and customer service in addition to having served as the Assistant to the Director at Salem Terrace and Mill St Manor in West Salem for the past three years.



The assisted living communities' directors created beautiful gifts for special Valentine's Day memories for the tenants. The placemats were a hit with the families and tenants.

*Karen Sepich, Community Services Administrator*

## Onalaska Care Center

### YOU Week Means Fun In March

Onalaska Care Center celebrated YOU WEEK in March. This week was one to recognize the incredible staff we have and all the hard work they put into our residents this past year. We had dress up days, organized potlucks each day, gift bags with donations from numerous local businesses, chair massages, a virtual yoga class, and four raffle baskets for staff to win! This was a really fun week for us and a way for us to simply say "Thank you" to our staff. We couldn't have survived this past year without each of them and their dedication.



I feel so lucky to be part of this team.

*Marissa Janke, Administrator*

## Norseland Nursing Home & Friendship House

### Scholarship Recipient, Milestones, & New Positions

BSJ Corporation proudly announces Lars Gretebeck as the Adele M. Stolder Scholarship January 2021 recipient. Gretebeck will receive \$1,000 for educational expenses in his upcoming undergraduate study at Viterbo University in La Crosse. He plans to pursue a nursing degree. Norseland is proud of you Lars! In February, we celebrated staff with milestone years of service: 5 Yrs-Angie Hagensick & Dave Weimar, 20 Yrs-Laurie Anderson, 30 Yrs-Kris Holen, and 35 Yrs-Wayne Peterson. We are hopeful that we will be able to have our anniversary luncheon this summer. Two staff members recently accepted new positions--Crystal Brown as Business Administrative Assistant and Ashley Herricks as Nursing Support Assistant. They are both doing great in their new positions and we are excited to promote from within and keep them on the Norseland team.



*Megan Feirtag, Administrator*

## Marinuka Manor & Eden House

### Start 2021 With Enthusiasm

The Marinuka Manor team has started off 2021 with enthusiasm, excitement, and determination to make it a great year! We welcomed Michaela Bach, Dietetics Intern from Viterbo University, who wrapped up her 6-week internship with us in March; she learned a lot and was a fun addition to the team! We have a few staff members who have made some recent accomplishments. Two of our CNAs, Kaylie Spittler and Morgan Docken, have completed their training and are officially Certified Medication Aides and one of our LPNs, Claire Burns, obtained her RN license in February. Congratulations to all three ladies on their hard work and determination to further their careers in long-term care.

We have been celebrating the arrival of the COVID-19 vaccine and our ability to offer it to all staff, residents, and the tenants at Eden House. We are very happy with the participation level and extend a thank you to Marinuka Manor staff for making it a smooth process. We are excited to see what changes are to come with 2021!

*Megan McLean, Administrator*

## BSJ Care Center

### Farewell To & Welcome Medical Directors

It is with mixed feelings that we say farewell to Dr. David Momont after 14 years as our Medical Director and 20+ years as an attending physician. We are happy for his accomplishments and the great mentorship he has provided for all of our staff. He is a great friend and colleague. His expertise and compassion with residents and families is unparalleled. We will miss him in too many ways to describe. Thank you, Dr. Momont, for everything you have done to make BSJCC a great place. Welcome to Dr. Thomas Loepfe, who will be our next Medical Director. We are very excited to have him join our team and already know what a great asset he will be to our staff and residents. His expertise in geriatrics is well known and he has already been a great resource. We are looking forward to having him join our team.



*Larry Pupp, Administrator*

## (Cont'd) BSJ Care Center

### Certifications & COVID Related Successes

BSJCC's Staff Accomplishments: Brooke Riffey, RN and Avalon Charge Nurse, and Tisha Bennett, RN, recently completed a Wound Care Certification course. This is a difficult course, made harder by the challenges of Covid-19. Congratulations to Brooke and Tisha on this huge accomplishment. Emily Clements, RN, and Nichole Weissenberger, RN, completed a CPR instructor course and will be providing CPR certification training for our staff. Thanks to Nicki and Emily for stepping up to keep current on certifications.

I'd like to recognize the efforts of three nurses during this entire Covid-19 pandemic for their guidance, foresight, and diligent attention to infection prevention, testing, and the vaccination process. Many of our staff have been involved in assisting in all these efforts, but Belinda Nickelatti, Nichole Weissenberger, and Josie Bauer were key in coordinating our responses. Their knowledge and attention to the needs of residents and staff were instrumental in the ability to prevent and contain Covid infections. Thank you for the talent, extra hours, and staff support YOU ALL provided during the past year.

*Larry Pupp, Administrator*