



Compassionate Chatter

With our Compassionate Care Family & Friends

April-May 2017

Spring Blessings...

A week ago, I said, "Like the monkey said when he got his tail caught in the lawn mower," It won't be long now!" And it happened! Spring has arrived!! We can always trust God to bring spring showers, sunshine, blooming daffodils, tulips and the beauty and promise that Easter brings.

Some of our clients choose to remain safe and close to home over the winter to avoid the risk of falling on ice-covered areas. Now is the time they look forward to drives around the lake, trips to the local green house AND the Dairy Queen!

With fifteen years of serving our clients in their home, we have never experienced the high volume of requests for services as we have in the past four weeks. Typically, we are extra busy right after holidays when adult children come home recognizing the needs of their loved ones. We cannot contribute the high demand of calls to anything more than the great referrals from our clients, families, physicians and discharge planners. Thank you! It is a challenge to remain two steps ahead of the needs while maintaining the reputation that our Compassionate Care team has earned. As you hear from me often, if there is anything we can do to improve our service, please let us know.

We have added Sara Hankel as our Assistant Director, and she has been learning so much the past five weeks. She is a breath of fresh air, and I know many of you have had the opportunity to meet her and/or talk with her on the phone. We will miss Julie Taunton tremendously but she has spent countless hours working beside Sara so that we do not miss a beat in all that Julie brought to our team. When one works beside someone as genuinely nice as Julie, it is never a goodbye. I have no doubt that she will be a life-long friend.

As many of you know, our second community service is Compassionate Cottage, a 24-hour care assisted living. In 2007, we built Compassionate Cottage which now serves ten lovely people in a "home" setting. With an extensive waiting list, we took another leap of faith and built Compassionate Cottage II which opened on December 28th to serve ten more individuals. You MUST see Compassionate Cottage I and II to experience what our residents experience daily. We believe the home, staff, nursing service, and, last but not least, MEALS, are truly the best.

Although Cottage II is now full, we regularly give tours to help families prepare and plan before a crisis occurs. It is good to explore the abundance of options that our area has to offer. Make a checklist so that you truly compare apples to apples. Call Nancy Patock (320-905-3593) for a tour and plan to stay for coffee. In keeping with our mission, "We are the service that treats you like family" and we base our service on Eph. 4: 32; "Be Kind and Compassionate to One Another."

I wish you an abundance of blessings this Spring!

Beu

18th Annual

Life Connections Event

Thursday, April 20, 2017

5:00pm-7:30pm

Friday, April 21, 2017

8:30am-4:00pm

Willmar Civic Center

FREE Admission

This event is for active
people 50 and older

Be sure to stop by the
Compassionate Care
booth!

Patty Wetterling is the special
speaker, presenting on Friday at
12:15 with her story of the loss
of her son Jacob.

Thanks for A Sweet Note in turning FIFTEEN:

"Congratulations on 15 years! I am so proud of all you have achieved. I am grateful for all the seniors you have helped—you have filled in the gap for such important needs and have helped families in ways you don't even know." Jan N.

Thank You from Julie Taunton

Saying goodbye is always difficult.

My last official day at Compassionate Care was Thursday, March 23 - at which time I will begin a new chapter in my life to include extra grandma duties for our 2-month-old grandson.

Working with Compassionate Care's amazing clients and staff has been a blessing and a valuable experience - one I will never forget. Witnessing the dedicated Compassionate Care employees as well as the many loving family units we connect with has been humbling.

One day - while visiting with Bev - her eyes filled with tears as she shared how she became overwhelmed with emotion when preparing to say a few words at a friend's funeral who had also been a Compassionate Care client. "There are so many stories," she said. Stories that bring tears, laughter and lessons to how strong and important the gift of love is for all generations.

Instead of saying goodbye, I wish to say THANK YOU to all of you - clients and staff - for sharing your stories and numerous gifts - especially your wisdom, faith and time.

I look forward to seeing many of you in the community.

**Easter Blessings to all,
Julie**

Sour Cream Raisin Bars

Crust:

1 & 1/2 cup oatmeal

1 cup brown sugar

1 tsp baking soda

1 & 1/2 cup flour

1 cup soft butter or margarine

Mix until crumbly. Reserve 1 cup crumbs for topping. Press into greased 9x13 pan and bake for 10 minutes at 350 degrees.

Filling:

1 & 1/2 cup sour cream

2 & 1/4 cup raisins

2 & 1/4 TBS corn starch

1 & 1/3 cup white sugar

3 eggs beaten

Cook filling in double boiler until thickens (careful as filling can scorch easily). Pour over baked crust. Top with remaining crumbs.

Bake 10 minutes at 350 degrees.

Hope of Spring!

AFTER a cold & gray winter, Spring can bring a feeling of celebration each year! We anticipate new life, fresh colors, and welcome saying goodbye to cabin fever. Compassionate Care wants to make sure that you, our dear clients, have opportunity to fully enjoy this time of year. Following are ways that our caregivers can help you take advantage of this change of season:

Take a drive—look for nesting geese & ducks along the lakes; see if all the ice is off local lakes; feed the birds; enjoy watching children play at the park; check out the tractors in the fields or budding crops; or look for new construction (the new grade school is emerging quickly).

Enjoy your yard—take a walk; look for budding flowers & trees; fill the bird feeders and put out a bird bath; watch to see where the birds are nesting; relax on the patio, porch or deck.

Go for an outing—shop for spring craft supplies at the new Hobby Lobby in Willmar; get a cool treat at Dairy Queen or a coffee shop; people watch at the mall; try out a new restaurant and order something unusual; go to a movie or a Barn Theatre production; go fishing; shop a farmer's market; or visit a friend that you haven't seen in a while.

Call our office to schedule an extra shift with a caregiver to take advantage of all that SPRING has to offer!

Sara Hankel—the new gal in the office



For 13 years of friendship and dedicated service, Compassionate Care wishes **Barb Blomquist** the very best in her upcoming semi-retirement! Barb has truly been the glue that holds everything together. She is second-to-none in her ability to organize and pay attention to detail at Compassionate Care. To say that I will miss her is so inadequate. She has helped me grow step-by-step. We are blessed to have Barb here until June. She will guide our new staff so we can avoid missing a beat in meeting your needs. Her shoes are big to fill. I love her as a friend and sister-in-Christ.

Bev

