



Compassionate Chatter

With our Compassionate Care Family & Friends
February 2018



Happy Valentines Day!



February is one time of the year when we show people a little extra love! My goal for all of 2018 is to be extra loving to those I know, meet and serve. God loves me, and I know I am asked to love others without expecting anything in return. How can I do that? Well, love is being courteous, forgiving, inviting, and encouraging. It is being a good listener and even accepting the love of others.

Courteous A smile, opening a door, saying hello is easy. Last week, I extended a little courtesy by offering an older gentleman to move ahead of me in the grocery line. He accepted, paid for his few items and began chatting as I bagged a full cart of groceries. He lived alone, his wife died of cancer, his daughter tries to help but lives far away. He wondered if moving to a place where other seniors lived would be wise. He said, "I suppose I would need to find a realtor to sell my house." And then he said, "I wasn't in a hurry while waiting in the grocery line. I like being around people. Thank you for talking with me." I do not know his name, but I loved listening and I gave him the number for the Senior LinkAge Line, so he could learn about options for congregate living. I enjoyed him, thought about him as I drove home, and I prayed for him all the way.

Forgiving When someone is difficult, it isn't so easy to share love. I have learned that I don't have to have a close relationship with everyone, but I can still show my respect and kindness. When I encounter difficult people, I "try hard" to say a prayer for them and to remind myself, "My hands might be tied, but God's are not." That thought has helped me forgive many times. Forgiveness is a gift.

Inviting A simple invite for a cup of coffee, a "store-bought cookie" and a welcoming atmosphere of companionship is all that is needed. No fancy dishes or clean house necessary. Just the gift of time.

Encouraging It takes only a couple of minutes to send an encouraging note. If someone is going through a difficult time, a handwritten note reminds them they are loved. I have received notes. I have sent notes. I never forget the people who took the time to think of me. Encouragement is a gift.

Listening Many people long to be heard. They have stories to tell, pictures to share, loved ones they miss and want to talk about. A willingness to sit and listen is an amazing gift. I try to listen more than I talk with everyone who wants to share. I have learned so much by listening and have received priceless advice. Listening is a gift.

Accepting The most difficult area for me has been accepting love. Often, I do not feel worthy of receiving God's love or the love of others. As I continue to learn of the truth that God loves me personally, knows my heart intimately and longs for a hand-holding relationship with me, it is easier to receive his and others' love. Accepting love is a gift.

During February and always, I pray you feel worthy of God's love. I pray that you feel the "compassionate care and love" that our office and caregivers extend to you.

With gratitude for the gift of serving you,

Bev



SAVE THE DATE!!!
2018 LIFE Connections

Willmar Civic Center

Thursday, April 19th 5:00pm–7:30pm

Featured Speaker Al Newman, former MN Twins baseball player

Friday, April 20th 8:30am-4pm

**Featured Speaker Don Shelby, TV journalist and avid outdoorsman
Entertainment, The Kingery Family**

Admission is FREE

Stop by and visit us at the Compassionate Care Booth

Some people come into our lives
and quickly go.

...Some stay for awhile
and leave footprints on our hearts,
and we are never the same.

—Unknown

We are like a
SNOWFLAKE

all different in our own
beautiful way



Avis' favorite Bible verse is:
*"For God so loved the world
that he gave his only begotten
Son, that whosoever believeth
in him should not perish, but
have everlasting life"*

John 3:16

Meet a Caregiver

I am happy to introduce to you one of our caregivers, **Avis Doering**, who started working for Compassionate Care in July of 2017. Avis, originally from South Dakota, lives in Willmar with her husband Don. They have one daughter who lives in Blaine with her husband, and have 3 grandchildren ages 20, 22, and 24, none of which are married.

In her spare time, Avis likes to read and sew. The sharp looking gray valances in our office were made for Bev by Avis.

When asked about what is her favorite thing about working for Compassionate Care, Avis said "getting to know my clients and their needs and likes."