



Sands through

# The Hour-Glass



1300 Avenue D • Plattsmouth, NE 68048 • (402) 296-7300

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[www.thenebraskamasonichome.org](http://www.thenebraskamasonichome.org)

## The Power of Your Gift . . .



A big **Thank You** to the 191 donors who graciously responded to our request for funds to replace our well-used Activity Bus. Together, your gifts made it possible for The Nebraska Masonic Home Foundation to purchase a new 15-passenger Activity Bus (*shown in the photo above*).

Though we were optimistic that sooner or later we would be able to raise enough money to buy a new bus, realistically we knew it might take a year or so as vehicles like this have a hefty price tag. You can imagine the elation we felt when we learned that The Foundation was receiving a bequest from the late Jack Schram. And that Jack's family was pleased for his legacy gift to be used to help pay for the bus.



Judy & the late Jack Schram

It was easy to sense the tremendous amount of gratitude and appreciation felt by the residents of The Home as they showed off their new bus to Jack's family. It was equally as impactful to sense the satisfaction of the family members as they greeted the residents. With each handshake and hug they were reminded that their dad and grandfather will still be helping members of The Nebraska Masonic Home Family for years to come because of his bequest to The Foundation.

A bequest gift made by you could have a lasting impact on the lives of Masonic Home residents for years following your passing. What's your legacy going to be . . .?

# Volunteers Help with Storm Clean Up



Thanks to the fast thinking of our staff, our residents were safe and The Home was without damage following the 80-100 m.p.h. straight line winds on Friday, June 16th. The community pulled together following the massive storm that left parts of our town in shambles. We were thrilled to see 50 plus students from Plattsmouth High School Athletic Teams and their coaches show up early Monday morning to volunteer their time to help clean up the tremendous amount of tree damage.

On Tuesday morning an ambitious team from The Masonic-Eastern Star Home for Children in Fremont arrived to help with the ongoing clean up.

The Home is extremely grateful for all of these volunteers and the kindness shown by helping our Maintenance Team tackle the storm clean-up.

**THANK YOU!!**



*Phil Lorenzen, Board President, thanks donor Martha Mc Quin for helping us acquire the new bus.*

The arrival of the new Activity Bus brought smiles to lots of folks including two of our residents who were among the first to take a ride with several board members who were on site for a meeting.

This bus can accommodate 4 wheelchairs at one time or 11 passengers. The windows are generously sized so each passenger has a great view of the scenery.

**Thank You**  
to all our donors for helping purchase the bus. Our residents are so appreciative!



*Donor Harold Pollard was the first to try out the new chair lift with Cassie Stearman, Activity Assistant.*

# Our Queen of Valor Quilts



Anyone who has met Adeline “Grace” Sullivan will quickly realize that her greatest passion in life is her quilt making!

Grace first learned to sew by taking Home Economics classes in high school. Later, while raising her family of five she had many opportunities to practice her sewing skills over the years making their clothing. Since then she has made each of the 7 grandkids and 6 great-grandkids a handcrafted quilt. She even has a supply on hand for those yet to be born. She has sewn so much that she has worn out at least 5 or 6 sewing machines.

In 2003 Grace got bit by the quilting bug after attending a quilting class at a local fabric store with her daughter Denise. On a trip to North Carolina to visit daughter Dawn, she attended a Quilt Guild meeting. They were making “Quilts of Valor” which were patriotic quilts that were being sent in care packages to military personnel serving in the Iraq War. This mission really struck Grace’s heartstrings. When she returned home to Cook, Nebraska she kept on quilting and has not stopped since.

Grace came to reside in an apartment at The Nebraska Masonic Home in July of 2016. She feels blessed that her late son David’s membership in Springfield Lodge No. 112 made her eligible for admission to The Home.

Grace enjoys her membership in the Order of Eastern Star and is a member of Home Chapter No. 189 of Plattsmouth, Nebraska and Eureka Chapter No. 44 of Elizabeth City, North Carolina.

Her apartment’s living room has space for a cozy sitting area and her beloved sewing/quilting niche. Every couple of days Grace turns out another quilt. She can often be found in one of the day rooms with a quilt spread out on the table top so she can tie it off.



Late this spring it came to Grace’s attention that we had 11 veterans residing at The Masonic Home. It wasn’t long before the “Queen of Valor Quilts” realized she had another mission to complete. Though they are no longer in active duty, she wanted to present each of our resident veterans and our staff who are veterans with a “Quilt of Valor”.

Grace decided that the 4th of July Picnic would be the perfect setting for those presentations. Needless to say, she had her work cut out for her—17 Veterans are on her list of soon-to-be recipients of her infamous “Quilts of Valor”.

No two quilts are alike. Many have been made from patriotic fabrics in her quilting stash and some have been made with donations from staff. But they all have one thing in common—they have **been made with love** by a lady who truly enjoys doing for others. 🧵

*“Being here pleases me—I’m in my own world, with my things around me. I adore it here!”*



# Meet Tawnya Mohler . . . Our Dietary Manager



It only stands to reason that a Certified Dietary Manager should have a rich background in cooking and food preparation. Well, our Dietary Manager, Tawnya Mohler, fits that bill and then some! Tawnya was a cook for some years before becoming our Certified Dietary Manager early this year. Food Service runs in the family as husband James has been a cook over 30 years . . . son Jimmy cooks in a local restaurant . . . and for a change of pace, daughter Lauren is on the food serving side as a waitress. Tawnya and Lauren are also both licensed cosmetologists.

Tawnya (who was named after her mother's best friend) was born in Omaha in 1969, and later they moved to Murray, Nebraska when she was in the second grade. She attended grade school in Murray and was one of the first classes (1988) to graduate from the new Conestoga High School, a consolidated school west of Murray.

She met her future husband, James, in Cedar Creek, and they were married in 1992. James, a graduate of Millard North, received on-the-job training as a cook in the Army. This was followed up with 20 years as a cook for Bellevue University's food service department. James' current job is now with Tregaren Golf Course in Bellevue.

Tawnya also worked at Bellevue University in food service for 10 years before deciding to join the Dietary Department team as a cook at The Nebraska Masonic Home in 2014.

She was familiar with The Home as her mother was a long-term employee and a good friend of Tawnya's also enjoyed her employment at The Home. Those two referrals were good enough for Tawnya.

She was hired at the time our new kitchen and dining room were ready for occupancy in the new Mary C. Stapp Wing, so the timing couldn't have been better from her standpoint. A little while after her cook's job started at The Home, Tawnya decided to go on line and take the Certified Dietary Manager's course from The University of North Dakota. Tawnya received her accreditation after 1 1/2 years of coursework. This helped prepare her for her current job as the Certified Dietary Manager at The Nebraska Masonic Home.

The Mohlers decided to move to Plattsmouth in 1993, a year before their first child was born. They live in a 115-year old home with their cats and one dog. They love to garden; James, who has a catering business in addition to his job at the golf course, also is the BBQ Master at home.

Tawnya and James love to travel and they have taken four trips to Jamaica. This year, though, they will probably go to Mexico to help celebrate a friend's 50th birthday. They have also begun planning a fall trip to Kentucky for a family reunion.

A busy year for the Mohlers. Have fun! 🍷



Summer 2017

Dear Friends,

Summer will be half over by the time you are reading this newsletter. Have you accomplished half of the items on your summer "to do list"? If not, you better get moving!



The top priority on my personal list was to make sure my husband and I got around to getting our end of life plans in place. I was fearful of the complications that might come with having blended two families. But I'm happy to report that the lawyers have seen it all, as we learned in the Estate Planning Seminar with M. W. Rick Myers. Our lawyer was able to help us make sure that we preserved the nuclear family assets for each set of children as well as make a plan for how our joint assets will be allocated when the time comes. At the same time, he made sure that we have all four of the essential documents including the *Durable Power of Attorney*, a *Health Care Directive (Living Will)*, a *Living Trust* and *Simple Wills*.

If these terms are foreign to you—I urge you—**no, I beg you**—to call your family lawyer to get started planning for the future. Make the lives of the loved ones you might one day leave behind easier. Talking about your wishes for the future and having the *four essential documents* prepared makes it much more likely that your wishes will be carried out.

OK, now I'm stepping off my soapbox . . .

I have that personality quirk that drives me to have to plan ahead. I always want to know what is around the next corner, the next project or next event. Having been a multi-tasker meant that planning ahead was an essential skill that I had to have to survive. Some people would say I've got a knack for planning things. I like to think of it more as my way of pacing my workload. That being said, I have five months to finish everything I've ever wanted to accomplish in the fundraising world as I'm going to retire the end of November. **The number one thing on my work "to do list" is to find the funds to finish buying the last three EZ Lifts. But I need your help. As of this writing, I still need \$17,600 to complete that goal.**

As luck would have it, one of our Sit-to-Stands totally malfunctioned not long after our last newsletter. It was of great comfort to know that we had been gifted the funds to purchase two Sit-to-Stands and one EZ Lift.

The adjacent photo shows staff members assisting the late Lorvey Schwinck who was the first resident to try out the new EZ Lift. The gleam in his eye reflects how pleased he was to be chosen to be the first to use the new lift.

**Thank you to those of you who have already made a gift** to help with the EZ Lifts. And for those of you still thinking about it—there is still time to help us acquire the last 3 EZ Lifts!



*Your donations at work!*



*Jo Peters*

Foundation Director

**P.S. No matter how large or small your gift—we appreciate your donation. The lifts make it easier and safer for our less mobile residents during transfers!**

# Caring Club

## 2017 Caring Club Opportunity

Looking for a way to make a difference?  
Become a donor to the **Caring Club!**

**Caring Club** funds are used to help pay for the excellent care given to our residents. With your help we can make sure these residents and those who follow are well cared for.

Yearly **Caring Club** memberships are available at two levels of giving:

- 1) **Caring Club Gifts of \$250** or more will be acknowledged with a recognition plaque with a date plate for each consecutive year of membership.
- 2) **Caring Club Gifts of \$500** or more will be acknowledged with the above plaque and an invitation to the annual Donor Recognition Event which will be held on **Sunday, September 24th** this fall.

2017 Caring Club Recognition includes those gifts received from Sept. 1, 2016 thru Aug. 31, 2017.

**Hope you will join us this year!**

**Save the Date**

**Sunday, September 24th!**

The Nebraska Masonic Home supports the American Red Cross. June 8th we had 14 donors and collected 12 pints of blood.

**That will help save 36 lives!**



Next Blood Draw  
September, 27th!



### Address Corrections

Please contact Lisa Davis in  
The Foundation Office  
(402)296-7336 or  
ldavis@nemh.net  
**Thank You**

# Donor Spotlight



“I have been a Mason for 28 years and my wife well — she was kinda born into it. We live in Kimball, Nebraska where my wife runs an oil and gas well service company, and I am retired.

Why do we donate to the Masonic Home? What impressed us was the extremely high quality of care and the love the residents receive every day. Someday we want to receive the same quality of love and care we have seen given to them. We would like to encourage all our Masonic families to support The Home in some way or another.”

— John and Liz Ferguson  
Kimball, Nebraska



Mary Stockton  
Executive Director  
mstockton@nemh.net  
(402)296-7303



Chris Abbott  
Administrative Assistant  
Admissions Coordinator  
cabbott@nemh.net  
(402) 296-7302



Jo Peters  
Foundation Director  
jpeters@nemh.net  
(402) 296-7334



THE NEBRASKA MASONIC HOME

