

# THE NEBRASKA MASONIC HOME

*Sands through*

## *The Hour-Glass*

**Be the Reason Someone Smiles Today**

We all know what it is like to have our world turned upside down during this coronavirus pandemic . . . but the employees of The Nebraska Masonic Home know better than most. They have a second family here at The Home to protect and serve, and they do their jobs with joy, laughter, and commitment.

Teamwork is the name of the game these days . . . our loving and caring employees have not only reformed their departments to make the impossible possible, but they tirelessly work together to lend a helping hand wherever help is needed throughout The Home. All the departments are working together to “Be the reason someone smiles today!”

SO we say “THANK YOU and BLESS YOU” to those who have given a donation, delivered donuts, sent cards and packages, and conveyed encouragement to our residents and employees in so many ways during this difficult time. Family always helps family.



## Meet Dawn Peters, Director of Nursing

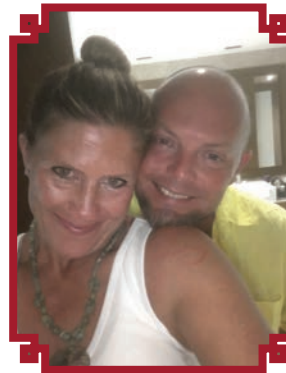
Seven years ago we were happy to add this cheerful lady to our nursing staff. Within a month of her joining The Nebraska Masonic Home team, the Risk Manager position which requires an R.N. or L.P.N. became available . . . and Dawn served The Home well in that capacity training new employees, keeping all employee inservices and training up-to-date, and performing a lengthy list of other duties that maintain a safe and healthy environment for the residents and staff.

Dawn now spreads happiness and cheer throughout The Home as our Director of Nursing. In August 2019 Dawn not only changed offices, but she changed the direction of what she accomplishes each day at The Nebraska Masonic Home. She is a firm believer in the mission of The Home and an advocate for all of our residents.

This special lady shares her positive attitude, warm smile, and generous hugs with everyone. If you need a bright spot in your day, take a stroll past Dawn's office or call and say "hi" . . . she is one of those people that is a pro at turning a frown upside down. She will definitely turn your day around and help you to find a happy path to follow.

Dawn has an immense amount of passion and appreciation for life and the people that surround her. To Dawn, nursing is not just a job. Being a nurse means making sure the residents in your care trust you and it means treating your residents and colleagues with respect, kindness, dignity, and compassion. Dawn Peters goes to work everyday wanting to make a positive difference and encourages those around her to do the same.

The Nebraska Masonic Home is fortunate to have Dawn as our Director of Nursing.



### About **THE NEBRASKA MASONIC HOME**

We are a continuing care retirement community located near historical downtown Plattsmouth. Our home has been successfully serving Masons and their wives, widows, mothers, sisters, daughters, grandmothers and granddaughters for 117 years.



*Independent Living • Assisted Living  
24-Hour Nursing Care • Alzheimer's/Dementia Care*

### Contact information



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Dear Friends,



**I want to thank all of you for your outstanding support of The Home!!!!** Your donations, acts of kindness, and prayers for our residents and staff have helped tremendously as we continue to cope with this pandemic. Unfortunately, the pandemic is still at the forefront of our lives. We find ourselves sequestered from one another unable to go about our daily lives. We now know how much we have taken for granted.

How I wish we could be making a holiday appeal for some fantastic project for The Home **to benefit the residents.** Alas, this is not the case. The use of PPE (personal protective equipment) here at The Home continues stronger than ever. We have gone from testing monthly to every two weeks, to every week, and now twice per week. Our true need lies in keeping up with the continually escalating cost associated with **COVID-19.**

At this point, we have all known someone who has had COVID-19 and many of us know people who have passed away from this horrible virus. For many of us this has become very personal. **At *The Home*, the protection of our residents and staff is paramount.** Your Family, Friends, Brothers and Sisters need your help to help ensure their safety and health during this pandemic.

Several of our staff have contracted the virus and all but one returned to work after being isolated at home. Unfortunately, we have had one nurse who was not as lucky as the others. **We grieve the loss of a kind and gentle soul.** The staff is diligent in the care they provide, but there are always risks. I implore you to think of the residents and staff during this Holiday Season. Please know we need your help and know how deeply it is appreciated.

For all of you that have given in the past we say, **“THANK YOU!!!”** For those of you who have not yet donated to The Home I hope you will find it in your heart to help, aid and assist your brothers, sisters, friends and loved ones at ***The Nebraska Masonic Home.*** Your donation will ensure that we will be here to help our current residents and those that need our services in the future.

We generally look forward to the Holiday Season and wish for fun, family, friends, and feasting. For many of us this will be a very different season. This season those wishes will be carried out in a different way because of the pandemic. Our most ardent wish for everyone, most especially our residents, is for a healthy holiday season. **Your donation can help us make this a reality.**

*I wish you all a fantastic Holiday Season. Stay safe and well.*

Steven R. Barchus (Santa)  
Foundation Director  
The Nebraska Masonic Home Foundation

### ***My Wish to You***

***2020 has been a year we will never forget. My wish for you and your family is Good Health, Reasonable Prosperity, and a Year filled with Love. I hope 2021 is the best year yet for all of us.***



**Year End Donations:  
Things To Consider 2020**

**Above-the-Line Cash Donations**

Generally, charitable deductions are claimed as itemized deductions on your tax return. However, the CARES Act authorizes an above-the-line deduction of up to \$300 of the monetary contributions made by an eligible individual in 2020. This deduction is allowed even if you don't itemize and, instead, claim the standard deduction.

**Consider Qualified Charitable Distributions**

If you're at least 70½ years old, you can transfer up to \$100,000 of funds directly from your IRA to a charitable organization. There's no tax on this qualified charitable distribution (QCD), but the contribution isn't deductible either. The maximum QCD is doubled to \$200,000 for joint filers if each spouse qualifies on his or her own.

Usually, retirees who must take required minimum distributions (RMDs) from their IRAs rely on this strategy to avoid the tax on their RMDs. But the CARES Act suspends the RMD rules for 2020. Nevertheless, you still might use a QCD for other tax purposes, such as avoiding or reducing the net investment income tax (NIIT).

**Make Eleventh-Hour Donations**

Online donations to a charity can be made with a credit card until 11:59 P.M. on December 31.

*Content from Darst, Brune & Associates, LLC Newsletter*

**Donor Spotlight**



What a joy it is to support such an important part of my membership in The Order of Eastern Star. My step-father served The Home for decades by being on the board. We can all be so very proud to have such an outstanding Home!

**Dona Hurst  
Lincoln, NE**

**Happenings at The Home**



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