

# Meet our Residents Bill & Brenda Todd

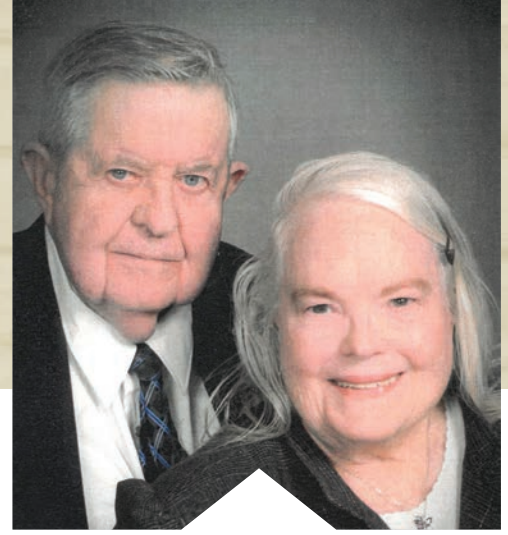
## RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT

This couple met when they were just infants as they were born only a few days apart at Methodist Hospital in Omaha. They grew up in Plattsmouth and graduated from the same high school. Each followed a separate path after graduation.

Bill went to college majoring in math and chemistry and then became a teacher at Plattsmouth Middle School. His love of education led him on to a Master's in School Administration, being a high school principal in Humboldt, and then on to receive his doctorate. Bill spent the next 32 years at UNL in the Institutional Research and Planning Department where he reported to the Chancellor for his work on budget justifications for the legislature and writing programs for the University. It doesn't seem possible, but Bill was the only one with a computer where he was able to track the teachers and the courses they were teaching to provide data for the University. During this time, Bill married his first wife Rosemary. They enjoyed their life together raising two boys. Rosemary passed after 43 years of marriage.

Following high school Brenda devoted herself to her first husband and four children. After the children were in school, Brenda received her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. She spent a few years at Catholic Schools in Omaha and then became a substitute teacher for the Omaha Public Schools.

Fifty years after high school graduation, Bill and Brenda connected once again at a Plattsmouth Alumni Banquet. Bill remembered being turned down by Brenda for a date in high school, but that didn't deter him this time. They hit it off and were married in 2008 complete with, as Brenda described it, an



amazing honeymoon in Hawaii . . . she felt like Cinderella. They spent much of their married life traveling all over the states in their 5th wheel during the summer months and taking some vacations by train in the winter months.

When it came time to consider giving up their home and traveling, Bill suggested the comforts of The Nebraska Masonic Home. He knew that apartment living at The Nebraska Masonic Home was the next step and the right step for them. As a member of Plattsmouth Lodge No. 6 and the son of a mother who had lived at The Masonic Home, he knew this was the right decision for them.

Come for a visit at The Nebraska Masonic Home . . . have a chat with this smiling, pleasant, friendly, and fun couple . . . Bill and Brenda have so many stories to tell and will show you that The Masonic Home is "A Place to Live".

## OUR VISION

The Nebraska Masonic Home is an innovative and growing community focused on creating and maintaining an atmosphere that reflects vitality, integrity and compassion for our residents and families.

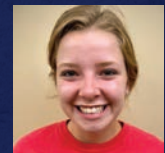
## EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH



Carol Davenport  
*April*



Tessa Miljanic  
*May*



Abby Koelzer  
*June*





# A Place to LIVE!

The transition to Memory Care can be a stressful process because it is often a dramatic, life changing experience for new residents who enter an unknown environment. They encounter unfamiliar faces and routines. The transition can be scary for the resident and family. Many do not know what to expect.

At The Nebraska Masonic Home there is a small community known as Memory Care. In Memory Care, you will find 14 spacious private rooms, beauty shop, kitchen, dining area, secured outdoor patio and walking path, and common areas for residents, families, and guests to visit.

From the moment you arrive, residents and families are encouraged to feel at home. Staff trained in dementia care greet you and learn about the resident to help make the transition into the Memory Care community as smooth as possible. You or your loved one will spend time with the other residents and begin to develop friendships. Our low resident-to-staff ratio shows our dedication to delivering high-quality care that is compassionate, safe, and resident-centered.

Our Memory Care services are designed to meet our resident's physical, emotional, and spiritual needs.

Call us today at 402-296-7302



Chris Abbott,  
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THE NEBRASKA  
MASONIC HOME

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[TheNebraskaMasonicHome.org](http://TheNebraskaMasonicHome.org)

YOU ARE AWESOME



April Johnston  
April



Marsha Scholl  
May



Dawn Alexen  
June





# Summer: The Season that reminds us to just be!



THE NEBRASKA  
MASONIC HOME

THE  
CORNERSTONE

VOL. 28 NO. 2 SUMMER 2023

## CALENDAR

JULY 31 PIRATE THEMED  
HAPPY HOUR

AUG. 9-12 CASS COUNTY FAIR

SEPT. 7-10 HARVEST FESTIVAL

SEPT. 10-16 NATIONAL ASSISTED  
LIVING WEEK

SEPT. 27 RED CROSS BLOOD  
DRIVE

OCT. 1 CARING CLUB EVENT

OCT. 27 PET PARADE

TheNebraskaMasonicHome.org



### LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Summer is a wonderfully kinetic time, a season of activity, celebration and a season to just . . . be. I think about how the first part of 2023 has been eventful and fast paced for The Nebraska Masonic Home. Census is increasing each month; our residents are engaged in activities, and we welcome new members to The Masonic Home team. Each week brings an outing, live entertainment, a party, and everything in-between. Our employees have been engaged with helping us celebrate National Days like Oreo cookie day, Coca-Cola day, pizza day and the list goes on. We started a family council, the Facebook page is hopping, we are going from analog to digital, the new marketing materials will be released soon and the new website will launch.

On May 11, 2023, the COVID public health emergency ended. The Nebraska Masonic Home spent 1,153 days in an environment where policies changed daily, employees faced challenges of fear of bringing COVID into the building, sadness and heartache as we watched family members visit our residents through a window, and despair of knowing that an illness could and did affect livelihoods.

*The Nebraska Masonic Home looks forward to our future in a post-pandemic world.*

Finally, a portico update. The project kicked off March 20, 2023, with July 19, 2023, being the goal date. The contractors were full steam ahead until a snafu occurred. Due to materials being delayed, we hope to celebrate the grand opening by Labor Day. In the meantime, just . . . be.



April Johnston  
APRIL JOHNSTON  
Executive Director

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# “The Dog Days of Summer”



## LETTER FROM OUR FOUNDATION DIRECTOR

Hard to believe the first days of Spring have already led into “The Dog Days of Summer”. I want to thank all of you who supported our last ask for the new Welcome Center. The Portico and Welcome Center projects are in progress. We hope to have them completed shortly after Labor Day.

How about the name change of the newsletter from The Hour Glass to The Cornerstone? We like this change and hope you do also. This is just another example of how The Nebraska Masonic Home is moving forward.

Thank you for your fantastic help with these projects. You are amazing and we genuinely appreciate your support.

I know Summer brings about time outside to enjoy all life and nature have to offer . . . time in the park, a ball game, a walk, a swim, a visit with family and friends. This is the summer atmosphere we want to make available to our residents at The Nebraska Masonic Home. We need your help to brighten our outdoor spaces.

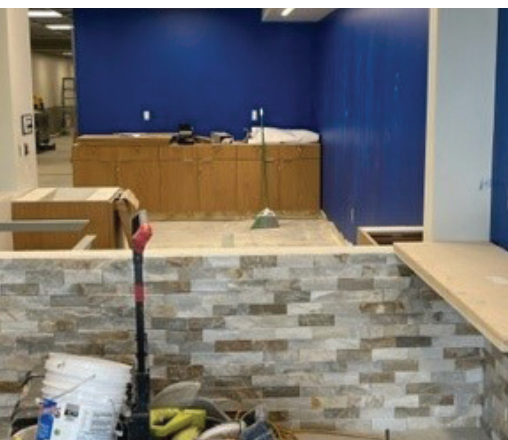
New patio furniture that is resident and visitor friendly is needed. Our current furniture needs to be upgraded being mindful of comfort and safety for the residents. Umbrellas are needed to provide shade from the summer sun. Also, the residents enjoy gardening, and we want to provide space for gardening in raised garden beds that are accessible to the residents with wheelchairs and walkers as well as those who walk independently. We have patios on every floor that need improvements . . . chairs that are elderly friendly, tables with umbrellas to encourage outdoor interaction, and gardening boxes to encourage nature (with a little dirt under the fingernails).

This is something many of our Brothers, Sisters, Family, and Friends have missed since coming to The Home. I believe upgrading our patios will help make The Home much more like the homes they left and the homes we all enjoy.

Thank you for all you continue to do for The Nebraska Masonic Home. Improvements like these are made possible because of your generosity and support. Please visit us soon we look forward to you passing through our new Welcome Center.

Have a fantastic summer and thanks again.

*Steven R. Barchus*  
Foundation Director



**COMING SOON!**

Portico  
Welcome Center  
Remodeled Hair Salon



# A PLACE TO LIVE.

Activity. Defined as the quality or state of being vigorous or energetic action; natural or normal function; an active force; a pursuit in which a person is active; a form of organized, supervised, often extracurricular recreation; an organizational unit for performing a specific function.

From Cultivating Kindness that brought flower beds to our long term care residents to three generations celebrating Mother's Day to fireworks lighting up the night sky; The Nebraska Masonic Home is an activity all in itself.

VIEW ACTIVITIES  
ON OUR WEBSITE:





# A PLACE TO GIVE.

## Who doesn't like to support their favorite charity?

Every year we have dedicated donors who support **The Nebraska Masonic Home** through the **Caring Club**. From September 1st to August 31st each year if you donate \$250 or more you receive a plaque in recognition of your support. If you donate \$500 or more during this time, you receive a plaque and an invitation to our **recognition event**. This year it will be **held at The Scottish Rite in Omaha on Sunday, October 1st**. For those of you who are members of this club, **Thank You!!!** If you are not, there is still time. **Become a member today!!!**

### DONOR SPOTLIGHT

The Widows Sons Masonic Riding Association  
Lincoln, NE

The Widows Sons Masonic Riding Association is made up of Freemasons all over the world, united through the Fraternity and a love of motorcycles, who strive to fulfill our obligation to provide relief to widows, orphans, and related Masonic organizations. As Freemasons, we all took an obligation to help, aid, and assist, as we all are traveling upon that level of time, from whose borne, no traveler returns. We support The Nebraska Masonic Home as a natural extension of the work we do as Masons in Lodge.



### Contacts:



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## THE NEBRASKA MASONIC HOME

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