

"For the Lord is good and His love endures forever;
His faithfulness continues through all generations."
Psalm 100:5



Orphan Adventures: Voices through Time

An excerpt from a booklet detailing the early history of Bethesda Homes

Jesus has commanded His Church to feed His lamb - to care for and nurture the children. Obedient to His command the Church is interested in the welfare of children, especially orphans and children who, because of unfortunate home conditions, do not receive proper physical and spiritual care. To this end children's homes have been established.

Bethesda Homes was the outgrowth of the compassion of Pastor N. S. Haggerness of Mankato, Minnesota, when he opened his home for three children of a broken home. An organizational meeting was held in Lamberton, Minnesota on September 29, 1897, and the Lutheran Orphan Asylum of Lamberton was founded.

After eight years, the Lamberton home had overgrown its purpose and a new home was built near Eagle Lake in Willmar and dedicated on Sunday, November 12, 1905. This new home was built on 163 acres and had room for a farm where they would grow crops and raise animals to help with the growing cost to feed everyone that was served there.

Applications for seniors were soon received and an addition was built to accommodate the growing need for care in the community.

So much of Bethesda's history and future can be credited to the outpouring support of the community. At one point the homes were hit with a bout of misfortune and they had considered closing them, however God and the community saw differently. At that moment in time, deliveries from the community were made and the trucks were filled with food and clothing for those served at the Bethesda Homes.

For more information on Bethesda's history: <https://bethesdawillmar.com/about-bethesda/history/>

Together Our Impact

In the caring tradition of Bethesda, we blend our knowledge of healthcare with our desire to embrace the needs of older adults and people with a disability in a safe, engaging and nurturing environment.

DayBreak, our adult day-services program, offers a daily alternative for people who require extra support during the day, and provides a respite for caregivers. Adult day services include everything from social and recreational activities, to health monitoring and education, as well as nutritionally balanced meal, and transportation.

As our program continues to grow, our need for additional transportation increases. Please consider donating to help us transport clients to and from their homes, to therapy appointments, as well as group activities.

To learn more about how you can help us provide transportation for seniors in our community, visit: <https://BethesdaFoundationMN.org>

Praise Report

We are so blessed by the community's response to our Giving Tuesday request to help raise funding for a piano for the Bethesda North Pointe Chapel in honor of Pastor Bill Miller. With great joy we announce that we are only \$6,000 away from reaching our goal!

Make an Impact

Help us put a smile on the faces of our residents by joining in our Adopt-a-Door program.

As the seasons change, join together and help update the door decorations for our residence.

For more information go to:
<https://tinyurl.com/adopt-a-door>

Prayer Request

We ask for your prayer and support for our mission and ministry. Bethesda is in need of hearts and hands to live out God's love for older adults in our communities each day.

Bethesda offers careers that have a purpose, that embody a shared faith, and proudly embrace it through each action of grace, kindness, and love for others every day.

As we begin a new year, we ask for your prayers, support and that you share our need with someone you know this month.

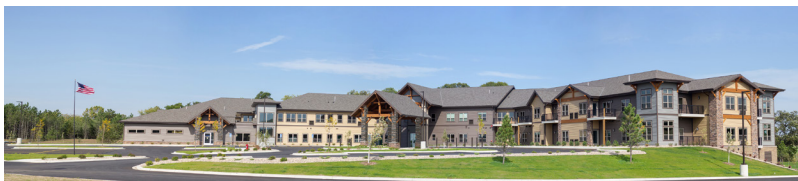
<https://bethesdawillmar.com/join-our-team/>

Partners In-The-Know

On September 29, 2021, Bethesda North Pointe in New London hosted a Grand Opening and welcomed more than 600 members of the community to tour the new facility.

Now, just over four months later, we are delighted that the Waters Neighborhood (Independent to Assisted Living) remains fully reserved. Our Oak Woods (Assisted Living) and Gardenia Neighborhood (Memory Care) have enhanced care openings available to serve our neighbors with higher care needs.

For more information contact our Welcome Center at: (320) 214-5643 or by email: info@bethesdawillmar.com



Throughout 2022 we will be reflecting on our 125 years of serving the community. Each month our focus on a different stage in our history. Follow our Facebook or watch our website to learn more about the history of Bethesda Homes.

Bethesda Fun Fact

In 1905, 163 acres of land were purchased five miles north of Willmar. A new Home was erected that would accommodate 50 children. The name was changed to Bethesda Home and it was dedicated at the Eagle Lake Church on Sunday, November 12, 1905.

Bethesda also welcomed two senior men as residents. During the annual meeting in 1906 it was decided to build a home to serve the senior community, due to considerable debt on the Children's Home building the building was delayed.

At the 1909 annual meeting the matter was revisited and approved with the stipulation that the cost not exceed \$6,000. The new building was ready for occupancy in 1910.

After a few more years more room was needed to accommodate the many applicants. The Board of Directors decided on March 25th of 1915 to build an addition. The new addition was completed in 1916 at a total cost of \$8,230.

During the difficult years of the Great Depression and the drought that accompanied it, Bethesda had a heavy debt of \$23,000. By 1949 the debt had been paid off, and a surplus of approximately \$90,000 had been accumulated. Many improvements had been made on the institution's buildings and on the farm. The favorable turn in finances had partly come about by the sale of farms and other property held by the Homes.

A committee was elected to consider whether it would be advantageous to move Bethesda Home to Willmar, and the committee decided to buy a site in Willmar.



Share Your Voice

Over the 125 years that Bethesda has existed, we've compiled quite a bit of history and many stories. As we've been reflecting on our past, how many people resonate with the stories told has become apparent.

We would love to hear your stories! Have you or a family member resided in one of our homes, used our therapy services, been a member of Club Bethesda, used our Home Health services, or maybe you even served others by working at Bethesda?

Share your story by filling out the form at the link below:
<https://bethesdawillmar.com/share-your-voice>

Bethesda | **125 YEARS**

901 Willmar Ave SE Willmar, MN 56201

Welcome Center: (320) 214-5643

Bethesda Foundation: (320) 214-5600

For more information contact: Info@BethesdaWillmar.org

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Listen live on the 1st and 3rd
Mondays of the month
on KWLM for Bethesda's Corner