

TRUMPETER

Serving Seniors of Elk River and Surrounding Communities

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 Summer Music Sensation

Grow. Bloom. Shine.



Traci Larson recognizes Lynn Gerard for her "20 Years of Service" award.

One short year ago, I joined Guardian Angels as the President/CEO. Since then, I have grown to truly appreciate Guardian Angels' mission, residents, families, staff, board members, and donors. I have also grown in my connections

with the local community that so fully supports Guardian Angels, and all that we do. Growth is a necessary part of life, and our mission must extend to all of those in need, as well as those who want to serve.

In the past year, we have bloomed in many ways! We have finally pushed past the COVID cloud to adjust our policies and remain steadfast in our safety measures, while once again connecting with our neighbors, families and friends. We received the Best Large Business in Elk River award this past fall. We continue to welcome new residents into our Guardian Angels communities. Our census and workforce are stabilizing. Our wellness program continues to grow and extend beyond our walls to the greater community.

Our generous donors celebrated the 2023 Spring Speakeasy Gala by exceeding our goal to raise funds for our employee Empower program. Our mission continues to bloom.

The work that our employees do to make our mission shine is humbling. I have experienced the authentic compassion and commitment of the Guardian Angels staff who, day after day, care for and support our seniors. Earlier this year, Guardian Angels gathered to thank and honor staff at our employee recognition banquet. Six employees received the Angel Among Us Award. Nominated by peers, these individuals in direct care and support services demonstrated excellence in enhancing the quality of life for Guardian Angels residents. Additionally, we recognized 67 employees for serving from three to 35 years. We are grateful for each of the nearly 500 individuals who carry out the mission of serving seniors and their families in the spirit of Christ's love.

I look forward to the next year as we continue to grow, bloom, and shine. - *Traci Larson*, *President & CEO*

Angel Among Us Recipients

Molly Kieliszewski, RN (Riverview Landing)
Brenda Lund, Housekeeping/Laundry (Care Center)
Amanda Johnson, Nursing Assistant (Care Center)
Chengsai Xiong, Resident Assistant (By the Lake)
Justin Petrich, Maintenance Technician (Engel Haus)
Pat Johnson, Wellness Assistant (Club GA)

Directory of Services

guardianangelsmn.org

Campus Information 763-241-4438

Corporate Office

508 Freeport Ave. NW, Ste. A, Elk River, MN 55330 • 763-241-4428

Engel Haus

5101 Kassel Ave. NE, Albertville, MN 55301 • 763-498-4594

✓ Independent Living

✓ Memory Care

✓ Assisted Living

Guardian Angels By The Lake

13439 185th Ln. NW, Elk River, MN 55330 • 763-241-7682

- ✓ Assisted Living
- ✓ Memory Care

Guardian Angels Care Center

400 Evans Ave. NW, Elk River, MN 55330 • 763-441-1213

✓ Short-Term/Transitional Care

✓ Integrated Memory Care

- ✓ Inpatient & Outpatient Rehabilitation Therapies
- ✓ Long-Term Care
- √ Chronic Disease Management

Guardian Angels Senior Housing

350 Evans Ave. NW, Elk River, MN 55330 • 763-241-4430

Subsidized & Market Rate Apartments:

Elk River, Becker, Zimmerman

Pullman Place Cooperative

A 55+ Cooperative Community

17155 Quincy St. NW, Elk River, MN 55330 • 763-633-0999 pullmanplace.org

Riverview Landing

9200 Quantrelle Ave. NE, Otsego, MN 55330 • 763-746-3400

✓ Independent Living

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Triniti Home Health † Hospice

403 Main St., Elk River, MN 55330 • 763-241-0654

gaehomecarehospice.org

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✓ Therapy

Senior Dining Sites (Catholic Charities) & Meals on Wheels

Elk River: 763-441-6288

Wellness Centers | Club GA

Elk River

350 Evans Ave. NW, Elk River, MN 55330 • 763-241-4434

Otsego

9200 Quantrelle Ave. NE, Otsego, MN 55330 • 763-635-5463 Warm-Water Therapy Pool, Pickleball Court

The Gym 365

520 Freeport Ave. NW, Elk River, MN 55330 • 763-441-4232

Our Mission

Guardian Angels provides exceptional health care, housing and supportive services to seniors and their families in the spirit of Christ's love.

Women of Today Share Beauty in Bloom



The Women of Today's local chapter donates and delivers Trader Joe's flowers to the Riverview Landing residents each month. This ongoing gift is a true blessing to Guardian Angels. It allows residents to engage their senses and stimulate their cognitive and motor skills. Flowers have proven to boost moods and combat depression. Here, Memory Care residents spend an afternoon making beautiful arrangements and allow the floral scent to fill the entire floor.



Resident Karen and RN Molly Kieliszewski show off the beautiful bouquets of flowers they arranged.

Resident Lorraine likes the brilliant color the flowers provide.







Senior Housing was delighted for the opening of their new on-site Bistro this spring. The space, located at Guardian Oaks Apartments in Elk River, is comfortable and warm. The Bistro menu items include Tana's salads.

sandwiches, soups, wraps, and homemade breakfast and dessert items. There are also a limited number of grocery staples available for residents to purchase.



The Bistro was made possible with proceeds from the 2020 Guardian Angels Gala. Although the actual event was cancelled due to COVID, the financial

support received was a resounding achievement. The vision was to expand the availability of nutritious food to allow residents to age in place and delay the need for more assistance in their daily living. Lindsey Budahn, Housing Director, shared, "Although the wait for the Bistro opening was longer than anticipated due to the pandemic, residents are so grateful to purchase food items without having to leave their apartment buildings". Thank you to all of the donors who generously helped to make this vision a reality!



Volunteer Bistro cashier, Jeanne, helps Lois, a Guardian Angels housing resident, as the first customer on opening day! Lindsey Budahn, Housing Director looks on.

Cretex Brings Spring



small planters with spring flowers. They asked that we put them in the Senior Dining Room on the tables

for the tenants to enjoy in honor of the first day of spring. Even if it didn't look like spring outside at that time, it definitely felt like there was hope of spring with the beautiful blooms.

More Bloomin' Fun!



By The Lake residents Pat and Terry show off the flower arrangements they made to welcome spring.



Volunteers Find Purpose at Guardian Angels

Volunteers are as much a part of Guardian Angels communities as our residents, families, and employees. We rely on the support and dedication of our volunteers to fulfill our mission to provide exceptional health care, housing, and supportive services to seniors and their families in the spirit of Christ's love.

Guardian Angels offers a variety of volunteer opportunities for individuals and groups. Our staff will match your interests, skills, and availability with positions and locations that work best for you. We want to make sure that your experience is rewarding for both you and our residents.

New volunteers must complete an application, interview, background study and Volunteer Orientation. Orientation includes information about residents' rights, safety procedures, privacy practices, and volunteer conduct and commitment. We provide training to ensure each volunteer feels prepared and comfortable with their role.

Guardian Angels has a variety of volunteer opportunities available.

Care Center Coffee Shop/Gift Shop

Serve coffee and help residents, staff, and visitors make gift shop purchases.

Bistro at Guardian Oaks

Handle food and merchandise sales in our new Bistro located at Guardian Oaks Apartment.

Senior Dining Site

Assist in the kitchen with senior dining meal preparation and serving.

Photographer

Use your photography skills by taking photos in our Guardian Angels communities and at our internal and external events.

Activity Leader/Assistant

Share your skills, talents, or interests by leading (or helping with) an activity. Think arts, crafts, woodworking, book club, baking, music, fitness, BINGO, manicures, games, or almost anything!

Care Center Escort

Help residents get to and from activities, meals, and appointments by escorting them in their wheelchairs.

Companionship

Be a visitor or friend to someone who needs social connection. Pets are also welcome.

Gardener

Put your green thumb to work at one of our community flower or vegetable gardens. Work alone or alongside residents.

Spiritual Care

Read the Bible to a resident or small group, do a study, pray, or just "be still and know".

For more information on volunteering, contact Lynn Owens, Volunteer Coordinator at 763-241-4460 or lowens@ga-er.org.



Donita Grell, Deb Weispfening and Jerri Volk are part of the volunteer group, Friends of Guardian Angels Care Center.



Volunteer Terri Newstrom shares her time as a Beauty Shop Transporter.

Top Ten Reasons to Volunteer

Volunteering may help you live longer.

A Longitudinal Study of Aging found that people who volunteer frequently tend to live longer than those who don't.

Volunteering could decrease your risk of dementia.

According to a University of Calgary Study, retirees who volunteer at least one hour a week are 2.44 times less likely to develop dementia than those who have never volunteered.

Olunteering can make you happier.

The Journal of Personality and Social Psychology found that for older Americans, participating in community service and social events was a strong predictor of life satisfaction.

Volunteering can lower your risk of high blood pressure.

A study in the journal Psychology and Aging found that regular volunteers are less likely to develop hypertension than non-volunteers. Decrease your stress and benefit from volunteering at the same time.

6 Volunteering can positively impact your mental health.

Contributing to organizations that mean something to you feels good and helps boost optimism, joy, and overall mental health.

Volunteering brings fun into your life.

Many people volunteer as a way to pursue and share their hobbies. Think gardening, playing an instrument, singing, crafting, woodworking, baking, and the list goes on and on.

Volunteering gives you a chance to give back.

Volunteering is an investment in the community and the people who live in it.

Olunteering provides a sense of purpose.

Volunteering just one day a month can provide a greater sense of purpose and help you feel more connected to others.

Volunteering helps you meet new friends.

It is an opportunity to talk with new people, sharpen your social skills and gain lasting friendships.

(1) Volunteering makes a difference!

Every person and every action counts and makes life better for someone else.

"God's love and presence continue to shine in our lives."

Psalm 23 Reflections-by Myron Grams, Riverview Landing resident and retired pastor.

For many people, Psalm 23 is a favorite Bible verse.

King David, author of this psalm, was a shepherd boy before he became king. In this verse, David expresses from a sheep's perspective how they trust and rely upon their shepherd to keep them fed, safe and moving in the right direction.

Most of us have little or no contact with sheep or shepherds. However, we know from Bible passages that shepherds do not chase or drive their flocks. They humbly lead their flocks with much mindfulness of responsibility, safety and care.

God does the same for each of His followers. God guides us, blesses us, and watches over us. His goodness means that we have nothing to fear. Whatever happens to us, and whatever we might endure in life, God is with us.

Could the Ten Commandments be our "path of righteousness"? Could the "dark valleys" represent struggling with our own sin and weakness?

Ultimately, we are "anointed", we belong to Him, we are God's children. He leads us away from the angry, roaring river and "leads us beside still waters". He lets us know: "I am your shepherd, you shall not want."

Myron adds, "The other morning, I looked out my window and saw the swans on the river. I wondered, 'where did the sun go?' I realized that it did not go anywhere, but the clouds simply covered it. My focus was not on the majestic swans, but on the gray clouds. How many times have I missed seeing God because I only look for the obvious? Whether you see it or not, God's love and presence continue to shine in our lives."

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me;

your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Friends Reunite After 27 Years!





Twenty-seven years ago, Guardian Angels Care Center resident Betty Johnson and country music entertainer, Roy Holdren, met at a local Spring Lake Park, MN hangout called Povlitzki's.

The now closed Povlitzki's was known as a safe and friendly place to enjoy a game of Texas Hold'em and quality country music and dancing on Friday and Saturday nights. Betty worked as a waitress at the popular hangout and Roy and his band, "Sweetwater," were regular preformers. It didn't take long for Betty and the band to become the best of friends, and in later years, led to the marriage of Betty and band member, George Johnson.

Over the years, Roy was one of the couple's closest friends and sang at their wedding in 1994. Sadly,

after many years of battling with congestive heart failure, George passed in 1995, but the couple's ever constant friend, Roy was there and served as a pallbearer at George's funeral.

Years passed, and eventually Betty and Roy lost contact with each other. A few months ago, Betty shared the memory of her dear friend with Care Center Recreation Leader, Ruth Watts. Ruth decided to see if she could locate Roy, and was indeed

able to find him. Roy is currently living in the Twin Cities area and preforming throughout the community and at local senior facilities. One thing led to another, and friends Betty and Roy were reunited in February, when he preformed for the residents at the Guardian Angels Care Center.

After twenty-seven years of contact, Betty and Roy share many memories and an undeniable love for the music that founded their friendship. They are a true testament that friendship isn't about who you've known the longest but rather about who makes you smile brighter, sing louder, dance better, and who remains your friend in all stages of life.

Please join us for our Angels & Birdies Golf Tournament on **Wednesday**, **June 7**, **2023**.

This charity scramble tournament is open to the entire community. Proceeds will be applied to the project that started in 2021 of creating putting greens at each of the Guardian Angels Assisted Living communities.

For those who are not golfers, but don't want to miss out on the fun, consider registering for our classic summer BBQ dinner held at the end of the golf day. For more information or to register please visit **guardianangelsmn.org**.



Growing our Future

Guardian Angels Senior Services, ISD 728, Anoka Technical College, and Anoka-Ramsey Community College have collaborated to offer area high school students Nursing Assistant Certification at no cost. This course is designed to prepare students for entry-level jobs in nursing homes, home healthcare, and other healthcare facilities. The course includes instruction and practice of basic nursing skills, communication skills, infection control techniques, mental health, and social service needs. After completing the course, student will be eligible for the Minnesota Nursing Assistant/Home Health Care Certification Competency Examination.

Recently, ISD 728 was awarded a State of Minnesota grant for nearly \$5000 meant for equipment and supplies to support this well-established partnership. These funds purchased a training manikin, several wheelchairs, blood pressure cuffs, stethoscopes, scales, gloves, gowns, and other items students use for skill training. "We just started another course with 20 students who will benefit from this equipment through hands-on learning in our labs," said Jennifer Schreifels, Guardian Angels Nurse Educator.

Since 2016, over 250 high school students have graduated from this program and have gone on to provide resident care and support nursing services.

New classes start in the fall and spring of the year. If you know of a high school student who may be interested in Nursing Assistant Certification, have them contact their high school counselor.



Nicole Novotny (GA), Laura Cleveland (Anoka-Ramsey), Ann Frazier-Hansen (Instructor Anoka-Ramsey), Amy Lord, (ISD 728), Jennifer Schreifels (GA), along with the training manikin in the bed.

What is Watered, Will Grow



Guardian Angels Elim Home Care & Hospice Rebrands to Triniti Home Health & Hospice

Over the last year, Triniti Home Health & Hospice, formerly known as Guardian Angels Elim Home Care & Hospice, has been busy rebranding its agency. Not

only has the name and tagline been updated, but new scrubs were ordered, a brand-new website is now live, and print materials now proudly match the new color scheme. Continue reading to learn more about the full transformation that has taken place at Triniti Home Health & Hospice and how they continue to grow, bloom, and shine!

Caring is Our Calling

As the team contemplated a rebrand suitable to their compassionate care and synergistic team, they pondered the word, Trinity. The leadership team felt strongly that this represents the ongoing relationship between Triniti and both parent companies: Guardian Angels Senior Services of Elk River and Cassia an Augustana/Elim affiliation. The name, Triniti Home Health & Hospice, now represents the special bond between the agency and its parent companies over the last 30 years.

With the rebranding and continuous growth of the company, Triniti saw that with a new name, there was also the opportunity to use the term *Home Health* instead of *Home Care*. In this industry, "home health" represents companies that provide skilled services and "home care" often refers to companies that provide cleaning or non-skilled services.

As this spring season brings forth new life, we are proud to share the growth that has taken place at Triniti. Guardian Angels now feels that the amount of care, support, and passion poured into its home health and hospice work is truly represented through its new name, tagline, website, and marketing materials.

A Roaring Good Time



More than 300 guests came dolled up and dapper in their flapper dresses, headbands, hats and gangster wear to enjoy a festive gathering complete with lively conversation, laughter, delicious food, Guests took a step back in time to the Roaring 20's at the Guardian Angels '2023 Speakeasy Gala' held on March 11 at Bunker Hills Event Center. To get past the bouncers at the sold-out event, attendees needed to say the password, "I'm an Angel - Let Me In".



games & raffles, silent and live auctions, and most importantly, opportunities to support the mission and work of Guardian Angels.

This year's proceeds will help launch a new employee enrichment program called Empower. This program will go beyond traditional workplace training and benefits

to support one of Guardian Angels' most valuable resources: those who work to carry out the mission each and every day.

The '2023 Speakeasy Gala' was the Bee's Knees and the Cat's Meow for all



who attended, volunteered, and generously gave. The event was a smashing success netting \$130,000.



Thank You 2023 Speakeasy Gala Auction Donors

Center Cut Meats

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Lillian Stevens Sheryl Stevens We are extremely grateful for your thoughtful gifts to

Guardian Angels. Every effort

has been made to ensure the accuracy of this list. If you are aware of a correction or omission, please contact the Guardian Angels Fund Development Office at

Note: "In Memory Of" and "In Honor Of' names in bold and underlined reflect loved ones who are being remembered by the donors listed below them.

763-635-5476. Thank you!

Music to our Ears

Music has often been referred to as the soundtrack to our lives. A simple song can take you back years to a specific memory or feeling. Music is deeply linked to our personal history.



When you hear the song "You Are My Sunshine", what do you think of? How about when you hear "Sweet Caroline," or "Amazing Grace"? Did you recall a specific time in your life or a feeling that instantly brought you back somewhere?

Sometimes music is the only medicine the heart and soul need.

Research studies confirm that music is extremely beneficial to individuals facing a wide range of ailments including Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, dementia, depression, anxiety, and even terminal illness. Music has been shown to regulate blood pressure and heart rates, bring comfort to loneliness, grief and loss, and even improve overall quality of life.

This summer Guardian Angels has big plans to bring residents, families, staff, and supporters together by hosting a Summer Music Sensation at each of our senior living communities. There will be live outdoor nostalgic music that encourages socialization, brings back memories from long ago as well as creating new ones. Dates are forthcoming, so be sure to take a look at our Facebook and website postings.

We need your help to make these events and ongoing music programming a reality. We are asking you to consider a gift to support music activities and the Music Therapy Program at Guardian Angels. This is truly a gift that will bless each and every one of our residents.



Music Therapist Kari sings to a Guardian Angels resident.

With Mother's Day and Father's Day fast approaching, you may want to consider giving a gift in their honor or memory. You can also make a contribution for a loved one's birthday, anniversary, or any occasion that is special to you.

A simple and safe way to support Guardian Angels is to

become a monthly donor by checking the Make this a Monthly Reoccurring Gift box. This allows you to set up a gift once with the donation to reoccur monthly without any extra work from you!

Your gift will put a smile on a resident's face - and a song in their heart!

Guardian Angels 508 Freeport Ave NW STE A Elk River, MN 55330 guardianangelsmn.org

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Check if: ☐ You have included Guardian Angels in your will or estate plans
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If you no longer wish to receive this publication or would prefer to receive it electronically instead, please contact us at fundinfo@ga-er.org or call 763-635-5476.

Guardian Angels

Elk River, MN 55330

508 Freeport Ave NW, STE A

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Spring/Summer 2023