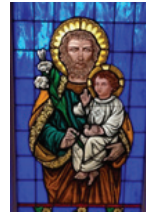




Retirement Community  
320 E. Decatur St.



St. Joseph's  
Elder Services



Hillside Villa  
540 E. Washington St.

# NEWSLETTER



## Greetings from the Administrator



### Celebrating Compassion, Community, and Care: National Nursing Home Week

Each May, we join facilities across the country in celebrating National Nursing Home Week, a time dedicated to honoring the residents, families, and staff who make nursing homes such special places of care and connection. This week is more than a celebration—it's a reminder of the dignity, purpose, and vibrant life that exists within our community every day.

At its heart, National Nursing Home Week recognizes the sacred calling of caregiving. Our nurses, nursing assistants, therapists, dietary staff, housekeeping, and administrative teams work tirelessly to ensure each resident receives not only excellent clinical care, but also kindness, respect, and companionship. Their commitment transforms our facility into a true home.

For our residents, this week is about celebrating life stories—the wisdom, faith, and experiences that shape who they are. Whether it's sharing memories, participating in activities, or simply enjoying time together, we are reminded that every resident is a valued member of our family.

Families also play a vital role in our community. Your trust, involvement, and support strengthen the bonds that make our home a place of comfort and belonging. We are grateful for the partnership we share in caring for your loved ones.

This year, we will mark the week with special events, themed activities, and opportunities for connection—bringing joy, laughter, and reflection to all who walk through our doors.

During this National Nursing Home Week, we invite everyone—residents, families, staff, and friends—to join us in celebrating the spirit that defines our home. Together, we continue to build a community where every person is valued, every life is honored, and every day is filled with purpose.

### Happy National Nursing Home Week!

Blessings,  
Sam Prokopec



# Focus on our New Human Resources Director



## MEET: JANET LARSEN

Our team is excited to welcome Janet Larsen as our new Human Resources Director—someone who brings not only professional experience, but a genuine passion for people and service.

Originally from Fremont, she has spent time living on both coasts and attended college in Northern Virginia before ultimately returning home to care for her aging parents. Fremont is where her roots are, and it's also where she and her husband—originally from O'Neill, Nebraska—have built their life and raised their family. Together, they have three children: their daughter Jenna, who is entering her final year at UNO studying elementary education, and twin sons, Jack and Ben, who are preparing to graduate with the Class of 2026. Rounding out the family is their beloved Yorkipoo, Latte Rose, a rescued pup who, by all accounts, enjoys being just a little spoiled.

Janet's path into Human Resources wasn't a straight line, but rather a natural evolution from a background in education and conflict mediation. That foundation has shaped her approach to HR, where she has found a true calling. She thrives on building relationships, supporting employees, and helping create a positive and encouraging workplace culture. For her, the heart of the role is simple: coaching, uplifting, and being a steady source of support for the team.

As she steps into her new role, Janet is most excited about the opportunity to be part of something bigger—the mission. She views her work not just as a job, but as an opportunity to serve others—a perspective that aligns closely with the values of our organization.

Her approach to working with employees reflects that same mindset. She describes herself as an “all in” team member, always leading with one simple but powerful question: “What can I do to help you?” It's a philosophy that speaks to her commitment to being present, approachable, and ready to support others in whatever way she can.

Outside of work, Janet enjoys the quieter moments of life—reading, spending time with family, and taking in musical theatre performances whenever possible. She's also always happy to meet a friend for a cup of coffee... and if you ask her, the more coffee, the better.

Please join us in welcoming her to the team—we're glad she's here!

## MAY EMPLOYEE WORK ANNIVERSARIES

Daisy Joy Scholl	6
Kristi Payton	6
Kelly Doescher	5
Tonia Emmons	4
Teresa Gomez De Villasenor	3
Erica Engelmeyer	3
Gena Mattison	2
Grace Hunzeker	1
Debra Obermeyer	1
Nicole Fisher	1

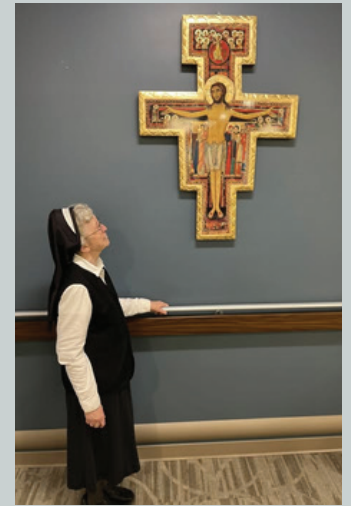
## Focus on Community

The residents of the Retirement Community enjoy visiting the Sunshine Center two to three times each month—on the first and third Mondays, and whenever there is a fifth Monday—for a fun afternoon of bingo. It's always a great time filled with laughter, friendly competition, and the chance to reconnect with old friends while making new ones. They usually spend about two hours there, enjoying several rounds of bingo for just 50 cents per card, with regular games paying 50 cents and special games offering \$1 prizes. After the games, everyone enjoys coffee and a snack together. The warm smiles and welcoming staff make each visit even more special, making the Sunshine Center a favorite place for fun and fellowship.



## Focus on the San Damiano Cross

We're honored to share a meaningful addition to our home! Pictured here is Sr. Louise, our Assistant Director of Mission, standing with the San Damiano Cross which was recently placed in our lobby. As a Franciscan Sister, this symbol holds special significance.



The San Damiano Cross is known as the cross that spoke to St. Francis of Assisi, calling him to "rebuild my Church." It has since become a powerful reminder of faith, renewal, and service—values that continue to guide the Franciscan tradition today.

We're grateful to have this beautiful symbol welcoming all who enter, and for the presence of the Franciscan Sisters who help bring its message to life each day.

## Focus on May, the Month of Mary

### Francis and Mary

Mary was very important in the life of St. Francis. He had a profound devotion to her because she was the Mother of Jesus. He honored her as Queen and protector of the Seraphic Order. Francis' love for Mary was so deeply a part of him that it is almost impossible to separate his Marian devotion from his daily life.



Francis sought to follow Christ as closely as possible by surrendering his life into the hands of his loving Father, and therefore could not help but love, in a special way, the pure and most holy Virgin who was chosen by the Father to be the Mother of His divine Son. Francis looked to Mary as the model of every Christian who responds to the presence of God in their lives. It is because of Mary that Jesus is our Brother, and that we are brothers and sisters to one another.

### **St. Francis of Assisi's prayer praising Mary the Mother of Jesus**

Hail, holy Lady, most holy Queen,  
Mary, Mother of God, ever Virgin.

You were chosen by the Most High Father in heaven,  
Consecrated by Him, with His most Holy Beloved Son  
and the Holy Spirit, the Comforter.

On you descended and still remains all the fullness of  
grace and every good. . . .



# St. Joseph's Elder Services

540 E. Washington Street  
West Point, NE 68788

## Opportunity for Learning



May 6th is National Nurses Day, and we have the chance to celebrate all the nurses around the world and recognize the difference they have made in so many lives. Hats off to you all!

Nursing began with Florence Nightingale and her work during the Crimean War. She led a team of nurses caring for wounded soldiers in poor hospital conditions. By improving hygiene practices—such as handwashing, sanitation, and ventilation—she dramatically reduced death rates. After the war, she founded the Nightingale Training School in 1860, which set the standard for professional nursing education.

She is often called “The Lady with the Lamp” because she made nighttime rounds to care for patients. Her legacy includes transforming nursing into a respected profession and establishing practices that still shape modern healthcare today.

Thank you to all the nurses out there who sacrifice weekends and holidays, and for all the little things you do to make a difference in the lives of our residents.

*Hillside Villa*  
**Family PICNIC**  
May 12<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm

2 guests per resident  
RSVP to Jackie 402.372.1118  
Before May 1st



### St. Joseph's Hillside Villa is now hiring:

Apply online at [www.sjeswp.org](http://www.sjeswp.org)  
Under the St. Joseph's Hillside Villa tab-  
Join Our Team  
Or pick up an application in the front lobby.  
EOE/Vet/Disabled

#### Competitive benefits package including:

- Affordable Health, Dental and Vision Insurance
- Life and Long Term Disability Insurance at No Cost
- Retirement Benefits with a Company Match
- Paid Time Off
- Complimentary Membership to Wellness Center

**HIRING BONUS! up to \$5,000**  
for RN/LPN

- **RN/LPN-**  
• Full or Part-time, All shifts
- **CNA-**  
• Full or Part-time, All Shifts
- **Dietary Aide-**  
• Full or Part-time
- **Cook-**  
• Full or Part-time
- **Housekeeper-**  
• Part-time