



CentraCare
Foundation

Investing
in Health

OCTOBER 2024

Hi y'all,

This video's original audience was our CentraCare employees, but I believe it is good information for all of our donors as I highlight the Willmar Gala, the 50 Years of Holly Ball exhibit, community partner events, APP recognition and a letter from a grateful family member.



Holly's 
Highlights



Patient's husband appreciates shower service at Gorecki Guest House

by Diane Hageman, Gorecki Guest House volunteer

Dave Thompson, Otsego, sat vigil at his wife's bedside at St. Cloud Hospital (SCH) for 21 days, barely taking a break. Terri, his wife, was very, very sick. "We almost lost her a few times, I didn't want to leave," he said.

Terri & Dave Thompson on their European cruise in April.

After a few days, a change of clothes and shower was sorely needed. Dave was trying to mail a letter and “by happenstance,” found out through the Gift Gallery staff that not only did the Gorecki Guest House offer a place for family members to stay overnight but

also the option of using the day service to take a shower and freshen up.

“It was really refreshing to see some smiling faces and to take a shower. I just felt better,” he shared.

Dave used this service numerous times as Terri spent most of her hospital stay in the ICU. She ended up at SCH after contracting Influenza A toward the end of their two-week European cruise in early April. This led to a myriad of respiratory complications. She was intubated on a ventilator for eight days at SCH.

A woman of deep faith, Terri feels she experienced a near-death experience with God who supported her desire to stay on earth with her family. After an additional stay in a swing bed at CentraCare - Monticello Hospital, she is now home and continues to receive therapy on an outpatient basis.

Both Terri and Dave are eternally grateful for the care and support from the staff at St. Cloud Hospital as well as the Gorecki Guest House. “I am on the road to recovery and am enjoying spending time with my family,” she said.

The [Gorecki Guest House](#), named after benefactors Benedict and Dorothy Gorecki, opened in 2009 and has 28 guest rooms to serve families of patients receiving care in the St. Cloud area.

The guest house relies on donations to offset operating costs and to keep room rates affordable. If you would like to join our family of support, [donate online](#) or call CentraCare Foundation at 320-240-2810. You also may support the guest house through a donation of gift cards or household goods, such as beverages, individual serving items, and paper and cleaning products.

Welcome to our new Foundation board members

CentraCare Foundation welcomes our new board members whose first term started during this fiscal year.

The CentraCare Foundation Board, in collaboration with the Foundation staff, is responsible for setting the strategic direction for the Foundation, as well as envisioning and formulating organizational outcomes.

Board members serve two, three-year terms and help to provide support and guidance to CentraCare Foundation’s philanthropic work in our communities.

We are grateful for all of our board members, whose diverse expertise and perspectives will help us continue to drive our mission forward.

If you are interested in learning more about our Foundation Board membership, please contact [Holly Gulden](#), Vice President, CentraCare Foundation.



Mark Nettesheim is the Chief Sales Officer at Falcon National Bank. Mark has been a Board Member for NeighborWorks Home Partners since 2020. He also has been a volunteer for Rebuilding Together Twin Cities for 10+ years. Mark lives in St. Joseph.



Jeff Pierce is a retired art dealer and the son of Harvey and Delores Pierce who established the Pierce Family Foundation in 2004. Jeff's primary residence is in Longboat Key, Florida, and he also has a residence in Spicer.



Darin Prescott is the Deputy Director, Division of Diabetes Treatment and Prevention (DDTP) at Indian Health Service. Darin is also the Chair of the Southwest Region Philanthropy Council. He lives in Morton.



Doug Schmidt is a retired insurance agency owner. Doug is the Chair of the Western Region Philanthropy Council and a former member of the CentraCare Foundation Board of Directors. He lives in Long Prairie.



Kanthi Yalamanchili is a Financial Representative for Northwestern Mutual, and founder and CEO of tech start-up, Rizlet. Kanthi lives in Long Lake with her spouse, Dr. Ravikanth Nathani, who is a CentraCare Hospitalist.



[Click here](#) to see all of the Foundation board members.



Willmar Gala raises \$315,000+ for Dental Clinic

There were many Sparkles & Smiles at the Sept. 13 Gala raising more than \$315,000 for the [CentraCare - Willmar Dental Clinic](#).

We extend special thanks to **Chappell Central, Inc.**, our Presenting Sponsor, and the **Pierce Family Foundation**, our Fund-A-Need sponsor, for their generous commitment to advancing local healthcare.

Thank you to all of our sponsors, auction donors, guests and volunteers, who contributed to the 26th Annual Gala's success. We could not have done it without you!

View the [event video](#) and view and download photos from the evening [here](#).

Holly Ball tickets on sale now!

Join us for Holly Ball Seasons of Love on Saturday, December 7, at the River's Edge Convention Center in St. Cloud!

We invite you to celebrate 50 years of Holly Ball and the impact we can make together by raising funds for [CentraCare Hospice](#), [Coborn Cancer Center](#) and the [Central Minnesota Child Advocacy Center's](#) Greatest Needs Funds.

[Click here](#) to purchase your tickets or to learn more about this year's event.



Paul Grassmann, J.D., LL.M., FCEP, Executive Vice President, Thompson & Associates

From Assets to Impact: Begin your values-based estate plan now

Before starting estate planning, it's important to reflect on your personal values and priorities to ensure your plan aligns with the legacy you want to leave. A values-driven approach focuses not just on distributing assets but also on passing along principles that matter most to you.

Here are key considerations:

- 1. Clarify Your Legacy:** Think beyond material wealth—consider the values, traditions, and lessons you want to pass down. What do you want your loved ones to remember and carry forward from you?
- 2. Prioritize Relationships Over Assets:** When deciding on beneficiaries, think about how your choices reflect your relationships. Estate planning can help strengthen family bonds, and leaving meaningful assets or heirlooms to specific individuals can express your emotional connections.
- 3. Support Causes You Believe In:** If giving back is important to you, consider charitable donations as part of your estate plan. This could include leaving a portion of your estate to a cause or organization that reflects your values, ensuring your legacy has a positive societal impact.

4. Incorporate Ethical Guidelines: For any assets you leave to family members, especially if they include businesses or trusts, think about including guidelines on how those resources should be managed. This could reflect your principles around stewardship, philanthropy, or responsibility.

5. Empower Future Generations: Think about how your estate plan can nurture and support the growth of younger generations, whether through educational funds, mentorship opportunities, or guidance on using resources in ways that align with your family's values.

By focusing on your values, estate planning becomes a reflection of the life you've lived and the legacy you hope to leave. If you'd like assistance in creating a values-driven estate plan, CentraCare Foundation works with Thompson & Associates to offer **complimentary and confidential** personalized services to help you align your plan with what matters most to you. You'll work directly with Paul Grassmann, an experienced advisor specializing in helping individuals and families craft estate plans that reflect their core values, ensuring your legacy extends beyond material wealth. Whether you're starting from scratch or revisiting an existing plan, Paul will guide you through the process to create a thoughtful, meaningful estate plan that honors your life's principles.

For more information about this complimentary [estate planning service](#), contact foundation@centracare.com or call 320-240-2810.

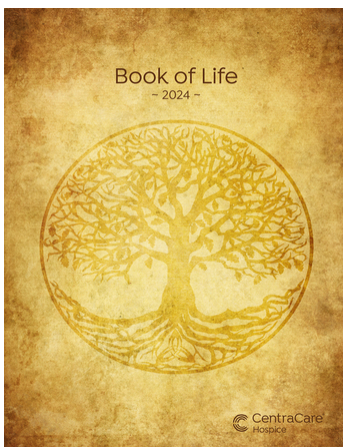
Girl Scout's award-winning project helps kids in hospital

Abrielle's passion to help children with cancer is the "why" behind her Silver Award winning project for Girl Scouts – the highest honor to achieve as a Cadette. Her project consisted of coordinating donations and collecting items to create 50 care bags for kids in the hospital! These bags will help children feel more comfortable and provide them with a little extra distraction to make their hospital stay more enjoyable.

Special thanks to Abrielle and to the community members who helped Abrielle with her project: Quanex, Nemeth Orthodontics, St. Cloud Family Dental, MN Authors Marion Dane Bauer and Lisa Bullard, MN Author & Illustrator Derek Anderson and Abrielle's family and friends.



Certified Child Life Specialist, Stephanie McNaughton, accepted the 50 care bags from Abrielle.



Book of Life honors lost loved ones

Losing someone who has left us with countless cherished memories is never easy. Their legacy lives on through the stories we share and the love we continue feeling. We invite you to honor your loved one by including their name in our 2024 Book of Life, which will be available online by early December. You can also view the 2023 Book of Life [here](#).

If you wish to add your loved one's name, please respond by **Nov. 1:**

- Email your loved one's name to Foundation@centracare.com (use Book of Life as the subject line)

- If you'd like to submit a name and make a gift to the Hospice program, [click here](#).

Welcome, Ashley Edwards!

We are excited to welcome **Ashley Edwards** as our new Administrative Assistant. With a strong background in office administration and extensive experience in various administrative roles, Ashley brings valuable skills in organization, quality management, and customer service.

Most recently, she served as the Continuous Improvement, Quality & Training Coordinator at Coldspring, where she led the development of quality management systems and maintained training records. Ashley's previous roles have equipped her with a diverse skill set, including report preparation, event planning, and front desk management. Her dedication to efficiency and teamwork is a great asset to our organization.

View the entire Foundation team [here](#).



Chris Backes to present at state-wide conference

Kudos to **Chris Backes**, Prospect & Portfolio Research Manager, who was selected to present a breakout session at the [APRA-MN](#) Conference this year in Plymouth. Apra-MN is the Minnesota chapter of Apra International, an international organization for professionals interested in prospect development.

Chris joined the Foundation in Dec. 2022 and in less than two years in this role has been recognized as an expert in his field. Congratulations, Chris!

Contact us at 320-240-2810 or Foundation@CentraCare.com

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