

Oak Leaves

A publication of
Oakhill Assisted Living
Corporation

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How our garden does grow. The new raised planters at Oakhill are being put to good use with flowers and fresh vegetables sprouting. It will be awhile before we're eating BLTs, but the tomato plants are also looking good. As we look out over the Big Sioux River Valley and watch the corn and beans grow in the farm fields below, it's nice to have a little crop of our own to tend and anticipate. Of course, we can't grow enough fresh vegetables to supply our appetite here at Oakhill, so if you have more tomatoes, sweet corn or other fresh vegetables in your garden than you can use, we would love to help you with the surplus.

Finally we have signs! If you've driven past Oakhill lately we hope you noticed our new signs near the road on the south and at the driveway entrance on the north. Frost last fall and lots of rain this spring prevented us from pouring footings until just this month, but they are now in place and they look great. They are the same type granite signs used to identify Hawarden city parks and offices. A very big thanks to the experienced city crew that helped us install them.



Meet Hellen. Hellen Harding is a nine-year veteran caregiver at Oakhill, and a great example of the very experienced staff we have at Oakhill. She previously worked at Burgess Hospital in Onawa and Hillcrest in Hawarden. She is married and has one son. The family has lived in Hawarden for 13 years. Hellen likes to play cards, do crafts, and cook, all talents that are put to good use in her work at Oakhill. Hellen loves to work with people and it shows.

Oakhill is online. Local computer guru Jaimie Strong has completed the new Oakhill web site. Check us out at www.oakhillassistedliving.com. Every resident now has an e-mail address and access to a computer in the great room. The entire facility offers wireless Internet access, so any resident who wants to install a personal computer can access the Internet and email at no charge. If you have a friend or relative living at Oakhill, ask for their email address and stay in touch. The age of technology is wonderful for all ages.

We're growing. Our Oakhill population continues to grow. In July we will welcome our sixth resident. It's never easy to move to a new environment, with new neighbors, but our staff and residents quickly incorporate the new folks into the group and make them part of the Oakhill family. It's easy to get comfortable when you have friends and neighbors to dine with every day, watch TV, play cards or just sit around and chat. And new folks always find it comforting to have trained caregivers nearby 24/7 to cook, do laundry, clean, and offer assistance when needed. It's not home, but we try very hard to make it the next best thing.

We get questions. People are curious about the assisted living concept. Here are some typical questions and our answers.

*****Does everyone qualify for assisted living?** You must be 55 or older to live in assisted living, but even then you may not qualify. Every prospective resident is evaluated by our Registered Nurse who looks at medical history and interviews the prospect to determine if assisted living is right for them. For example, we are not equipped to care for persons with advanced dementia. After the RN makes her recommendation, Oakhill management assesses how the prospect will fit in with our current residents. Our first responsibility is always to our residents, and we do not accept any new resident that might not be compatible or might cause disruptions.

*****Do you accept couples to live at Oakhill?** Yes we do, and we encourage it. In fact, we offer couples a discounted fee when they move in together. Couples will have adjacent rooms with a door between, and they can configure the rooms in any manner they wish, such as making one room their living area and the second room a bedroom.

*****Do residents have to bring their own furnishings?** We encourage residents to at least bring their favorite chair or room decorations, because it offers an air of familiarity. But many residents would rather we provide furnishings, which we do at no charge.

Know of someone who might be interested in what we have to offer at Oakhill? For more information, call Mary at 551-4284, or Jan at 551-2979. It costs nothing to take a tour of Oakhill, talk about our programs, services and funding, and explore all the ways we have to make a stay with us comfortable and affordable.

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