



The Rose

THE SAINT THERESE NEWSLETTER

2026



COMMUNITY

INSIDE: VOLUNTEERS | MUSIC & ART | PIONEERS

The Rose

SAINT THERESE
NEWSLETTER

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PIONEERS ON THE COVER

Front row from left:

Phyllis Sisinni, Virginia Donofri, Karen Ovadia*, Ellen Duntemann, Sally Nestor, Lillian Fadlovich, Maxine Werner, Minako Terahira

Second row from left

(staggered): Susan Worms, Joan Dolan, John Panian, Kathleen Condon, David Roseen, Lolita Johnson, Mary Brunkow, Roger Anderson, Bernice Gilbert, Margaret Anderson, Dorothy Silva, John Silva, Audrey Panian, Edward Gordon, Paul Wernimont, Beth Iris, Ursula Weaver, Randall Schilling, Jane Roberts, Roger Roberts, Sally Riepe

Not pictured: Jeanne Arth, Jan Biegert, Shirley Brown, Grace Bucher, Everette Condon, Kathy Devine, Vern Doblal, Delores Hansen, Linda Linnerooth, Nancy Orbell, Jan Paquette, Gary & Sharon Pecore, Patricia & Thomas St. Martin, Beryl Schoonover, Trudy Settano, Elaine Simone, Alix Thiessen, Judee Wernimont

*since deceased

Dear Friends,

Community is more than a place. It's a shared commitment to care for one another, to show up with compassion, and to create belonging together. At Saint Therese, community is at the heart of who we are and how we live our mission to *do ordinary things with extraordinary love* every day.



Our residents bring life, history, and wisdom to our communities. They shape traditions, welcome new neighbors, and remind us that home is built through relationships, not walls. Our volunteers extend that sense of belonging even further, generously offering their time and talents to create moments of connection, joy, and purpose. And our donors make it all possible. Investing in programs, spaces, and care that strengthen community and ensure Saint Therese continues to thrive for generations to come.

Together, these relationships form the foundation of Saint Therese. They are felt in shared meals and conversations, in quiet acts of kindness, in creative expression, and in the steady presence of people who care deeply about one another. They define our culture and guide us as an organization rooted in compassion, dignity, and service for ALL those we serve.

In this issue, we are proud to highlight the story of the Pioneers of Saint Therese of Woodbury. These residents helped transform a new campus into a true home. This year, we are honored to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Woodbury community. Their experiences remind us that a true sense of belonging doesn't happen overnight. It grows through trust, shared beginnings, and the willingness to build something meaningful together.

As we celebrate milestones and look ahead, we do so with deep gratitude. For every resident, volunteer, donor, and staff member who helps make Saint Therese a place where community is not just valued, but lived.

With appreciation,

Craig W. Abbott
President and CEO

Creating Connection

VOLUNTEERS AT SAINT THERESE

Volunteers are an essential part of life at Saint Therese. Each day, they share their time, talents, and compassion, creating meaningful moments that enrich the lives of residents and support the staff who care for them. Whether offering companionship, leading activities, or sharing a special skill, volunteers help transform ordinary days into experiences filled with connection, purpose, and joy.

For residents, volunteers foster creativity, social engagement, and a sense of belonging. For staff, they are valued partners who enhance programming, bring fresh energy, and help advance our mission.

One volunteer who beautifully exemplifies this impact is Karen Hobart at Saint Therese at St. Odilia.

Karen began volunteering to spend time with her mom, Fran, who was a resident at St. Odilia, bringing her background as a retired occupational therapist to create engaging, purposeful activities. What began as quality time together quickly grew into something much larger. Karen's crafts sparked joy not only for her mom, but for residents throughout the community.



Karen (top) and Fran

Seeing the positive response, Karen launched Karen's Craft Corner, now held every Saturday. It has become a favorite tradition among residents and families alike. Faces light up as projects take shape, and a strong sense of pride fills the room as each piece is completed and shared.

Karen's enthusiasm extends beyond the craft table. She invites other volunteers and staff to join in, creating a welcoming space where creativity and connection flourish. Her presence reminds us that one person's willingness to share their gifts can ignite joy and purpose in others.

Karen's story reflects the powerful role volunteers play in bringing the Saint Therese mission to life, one meaningful moment at a time.

To explore volunteer opportunities, visit:
SaintTherese.org/volunteer
or contact Volunteer Services at 763.493.7006.



Resident Carol and daughter Paula

Art, Music, and Meaningful Connection

Over the past year, Saint Therese residents discovered that creativity doesn't slow down with age, it deepens. With grant support from the Minnesota State Arts Board, administered by the Saint Therese Foundation, residents across our Oxbow Lake, Woodbury and Corcoran communities participated in 167 sessions exploring music, movement, and visual art in meaningful and engaging ways.



What began as artist-led programming quickly grew into something more: new friendships, renewed confidence, and resident-led traditions that continue well beyond the classroom.

Music that Keeps Playing

Ukulele classes became an instant favorite, led by MacPhail Center for Music teaching artist Adam Marshall. With an encouraging and approachable teaching style, residents learned chords, rhythm, and ensemble

playing, many picking up an instrument for the very first time.

When the classes ended, the music didn't. Inspired residents at Corcoran purchased their own ukuleles and formed The Rockin' Roses, a resident-led group that continues to meet, practice, and perform together.

"We appreciated the use and technique. We were grateful for the opportunity to take ukulele lessons from MacPhail."
— Corcoran resident

These residents are eager to keep learning and because of donor support we are pleased to be offering additional ukulele classes at the Corcoran community.

Weaving Stories, Color, and Confidence

Through COMPAS, who offers art and music experiences, teaching artist Chiaki O'Brien introduced residents to SAORI weaving, a Japanese weaving art form rooted in self-expression. Residents explored color, texture, and movement at

the loom, creating one-of-a-kind pieces that reflected their personalities and experiences.

Inspired by the experience, residents have requested a weaving loom, ensuring the creative momentum could continue.

"Thanks for the SAORI weaving experience. I have never done anything like SAORI before. The machines are interesting — just learning how they work and using them, I got a nice colorful piece. I would do it again if they return."
— Resident participant

When Memories Take Shape

At Woodbury, residents recreated joyful memories through a collage-based art residency led by COMPAS artist, Theresa Cox. During this eight-week Artful Aging program, residents transformed meaningful life moments into beautiful, one-of-a-kind art pieces. Along the way, participants not only learned new artistic techniques, but also built new relationships with neighbors.

After weeks of creative exploration, they hosted a community showcase for neighbors, staff, and loved ones, an example of which is shown in the image in the upper left.

Where Music Met Stories

The Unwrapping Music classes, led by

MacPhail teaching artist Karl Wiederwohl, quickly became a favorite across all three Saint Therese communities. Karl explored music through the generations and highlighted musicians such as Jonny Cash, Willie Nelson and many more.

Residents consistently shared how much they enjoyed Karl's engaging storytelling, deep musical knowledge, and approachable teaching style. The enthusiasm was unanimous, every community requested his return. Because of donor support, the Saint Therese Foundation is pleased to continue offering the Unwrapping Music program in 2026.

Moving Together, Expressing Freely

Creative Movement for Seniors, led by choreographer and arts educator Karla Nweje, brought residents together through gentle, adaptable dance experiences. Designed for a wide range of physical and cognitive abilities, these sessions emphasized self-expression, rhythm, connection, and joyful movement.

Residents shared that they felt more energized, connected, and confident not just physically, but emotionally.

Across all of these experiences, one theme stood out: when residents are given meaningful opportunities to create, they rise to the occasion and often carry the work forward themselves, enriching daily life and strengthening community.

Give Through Your Donor Advised Fund

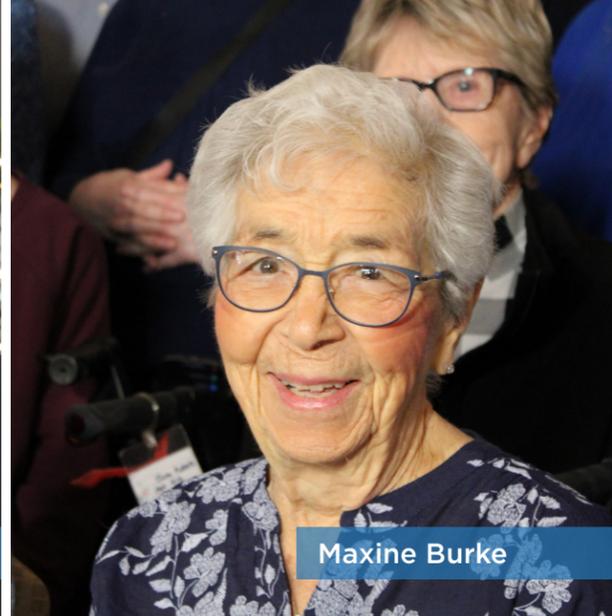
Support resident programs that bring creativity, connection and joy to daily life at Saint Therese.

Contact your Donor Advised Fund provider and recommend a gift to:
Saint Therese Foundation
Federal ID #: 41-1704381

Questions? Contact the Saint Therese Foundation at 952.283.2212



Dorothy and John Silva



Maxine Burke

THE PIONEERS OF WOODBURY

The People Who Made a New Community Feel Like Home

When Saint Therese opened its doors in Woodbury in 2016, it marked the start of something brand new. Not long before that, the land where Saint Therese now stands was farmland, open fields that have since grown into a place shaped by the people who were here from the beginning. The campus was built on land owned by the Schilling family, a well-known Woodbury farming family. One of the Schilling family members was among the first residents, known as the “Pioneers,” to move in and still lives here.

Currently, more than 50 Pioneers still reside at Woodbury, and each has a plaque outside their front door marking that distinction. It’s an everyday reminder that they were here at the start, helping shape the traditions, the tone, and the neighborly culture that define Woodbury today.

As we celebrate the 10-year anniversary—with the Main Campus opening in 2016 and the Redwoods following in 2017—we’re celebrating this milestone together. While the buildings opened a year apart, the spirit of Woodbury has always been one community, built year by year and relationship by relationship.

“We were all new... and it felt like home.”

For many Pioneers, the early days were a blend of excitement and adjustment, moving into a new place, meeting new neighbors, and settling into a new rhythm.

Dorothy and John Silva, who moved in March 2016, remember those first weeks with joy. “We had so much fun meeting all the new people who were moving in along with us. Everyone was so excited and friendly.”

Sally Riepe, also a March 2016 move-in, echoed that sense of newness turning into belonging. “At first it was difficult to adjust... we didn’t know anyone,” she said. But as more residents arrived and daily life began to take shape, “we soon felt at home and relaxed.”

Joan Dolan, who moved in November 2017, described the early days in a way many Pioneers will recognize: “As we were all new—it was fun, like going away to school.”

Those shared beginnings created bonds that still matter today, connections formed when everyone was learning together and building something new.

The heart of the community: staff and neighbors

Ask a Pioneer what has mattered most over the past decade, and you’ll hear a common theme: people.

“The staff especially,” Sally shared. “What I like best is we are all like family here. We really look out for each other.”

The Silvas point to that same steady kindness. “We love the attitude of staff and how they have treated us with kindness and care.”

Dave Rosen also spoke to the impact of compassionate care, especially during more challenging seasons of life and called out “the loving, compassionate care we experienced in long term care.”

The everyday traditions that turn neighbors into friends

If you want to see “community” in action at Woodbury, you’ll find it in the places Pioneers mention most: the Bistro, the chapel, the library, the patios, the walking paths, and the simple routines that bring people together.

Maxine Burke shared how much those shared spaces mean. “Bistro gatherings and theater bring everyone closer.”

Sally described her favorite moments with gratitude: enjoying coffee with friends in the Bistro, attending services in the chapel, and volunteering, small but meaningful routines that give shape to daily life.

Sometimes, the things that build community are the personal gestures that quietly become part of Woodbury’s story. When Dave moved in, he decided to contribute in his own way, making chocolate chip cookies for the coffee area, a small act that reflects the Pioneer spirit of showing up for one another.

Joan’s list of meaningful places reads like a love letter to the campus itself. She

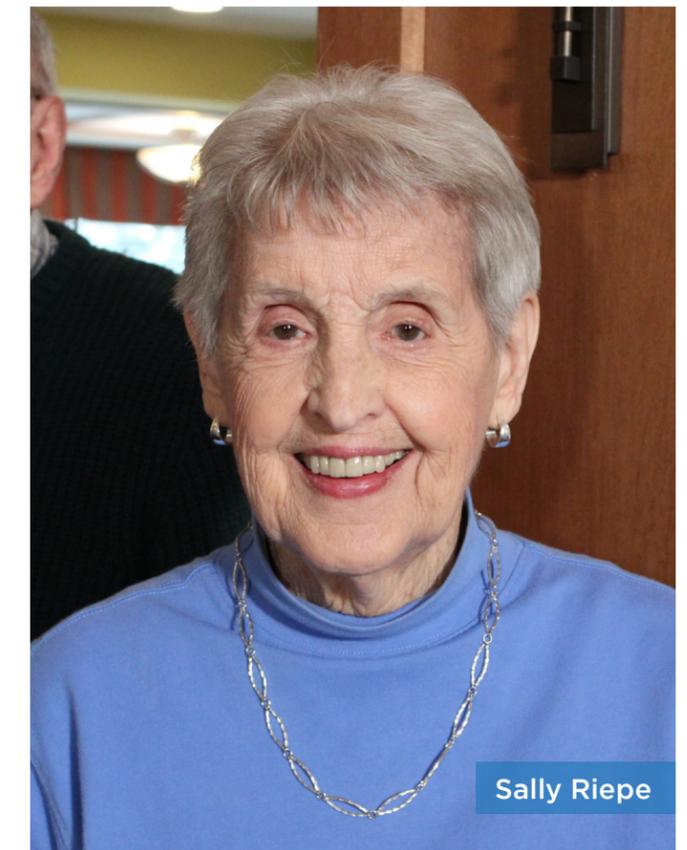
highlighted the library, puzzles, walkways, trees, gardens, and especially the outdoor spaces she treasures most: “the pond and the fountain.”

A decade of growth—and a founding spirit that remains

As we celebrate 10 years in Woodbury, we’re also celebrating what the Pioneers have given this community: the courage to be first, the openness to welcome others, and the steady presence that helped transform new buildings into a true home.

Sally captured that sentiment beautifully when she reflected on the past decade. “I’m glad to be a Pioneer because it has been wonderful seeing the changes and growth over these 10 years.”

That growth tells a story—not just of expansion, but of connection. Of neighbors becoming friends. Of traditions taking root. Of a community shaped by the people who were willing to take that first step.



Sally Riepe

ENDOWMENTS: *A Lasting Legacy*

“Someone is sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago.” — Warren Buffett

At Saint Therese, endowments are those trees. For fiscal year 2025, **\$31,115** in distributions provided vital comfort and connection across our communities.

HOW IT WORKS

A permanent endowment is a gift held in perpetuity. The principal remains intact while a portion of annual earnings fund specific donor intentions, ensuring our mission thrives for the long term.

2025 IMPACT

Endowment earnings directly supported:

- Enriching Community Life programming.
- Spiritual support and compassionate presence through Pastoral Care.
- Residents who have outlived their financial resources through the Caring Fund.
- Innovative technology that enhanced memory care programming.
- Outdoor spaces with refreshed and updated landscaping.

A VISION THAT LIVES ON

Over the years, generous families have established endowments in honor of loved ones or in support of programs close to their hearts. These funds reflect gratitude, faith and a deep belief in the future of Saint Therese.

We are profoundly grateful for our endowment donors whose foresight provides stability, strength, and hope for the future.

View our full endowment list at SaintTherese.org/annual-report.



Thank You, Annual Fund Donors!

We are deeply grateful to all who supported our Annual Fund in 2025. Your generosity sustains our mission and strengthens our communities every day.

We extend special recognition to our Heart, Guardian and Champion donors for their exceptional generosity and leadership support.

DID YOU KNOW?

In calendar year 2025, our volunteers contributed **23,069.95 hours of service**, representing an estimated economic value of **\$802,603.56*** to Saint Therese.

*Calculated using the 2025 national average of \$34.79 per volunteer hour, per Independent Sector and the Do Good Institute.



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Community Comes Together

Bringing Cycling Without Age to IHM Senior Living

When a community rallies around a shared purpose, something truly meaningful can take shape. That spirit of collaboration is what made Cycling Without Age possible at Saint Therese at IHM Senior Living.

This program came to life through a partnership between the Saint Therese Foundation, the Community Foundation of Monroe County, and our generous friends at The Cornerstone 100 Lake Erie Bicycle Tour. Together, they shared a simple but powerful vision: giving older adults the joy, freedom, and connection that comes from cycling once again.

As part of the Philanthropy Playoffs, a community-wide giving challenge hosted by the Community Foundation of Monroe County last fall, Saint Therese and Cornerstone 100 joined forces to rally support for this vision. What followed was an inspiring display of teamwork, pep rallies, fundraising efforts, and a shared determination to make a difference. Entering Game Day ranked sixth, the team carried the community's energy forward, winning every round of head-to-head competitions and finishing second overall.

Through this collective effort, more

than \$21,000 was raised to purchase a specialized trishaw bicycle and support the pilot training and program's ongoing maintenance. This achievement was made possible by many hands working together.

“This project shows what’s possible when a community comes together with a shared goal,” said Jen Bettencourt, Saint Therese Vice President of Philanthropy. **“Every gift, every cheer, and every act of support helped turn an idea into an experience that will bring joy and connection to seniors for years to come.”**

Because of this generosity, residents will soon enjoy peaceful rides with trained volunteer pilots, sharing conversation, fresh air, laughter, and the simple pleasure of feeling the wind in their hair.

Thank you to everyone who believed in this vision. Together, you made Cycling Without Age at IHM Senior Living possible, one partnership, one gift, and one ride at a time.

Interested in becoming a volunteer pilot and help bring these rides to life? Please contact Volunteer Services at 734.240.9681 to learn more.



Gratitude Report

January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025

With your support, Saint Therese continues to do ordinary things with extraordinary love for all those we serve. We are so grateful for the many ways our community has supported us and are pleased to share information on our work with you.

Total funds raised: **\$757,701.11**

3,611
gifts by
903 donors

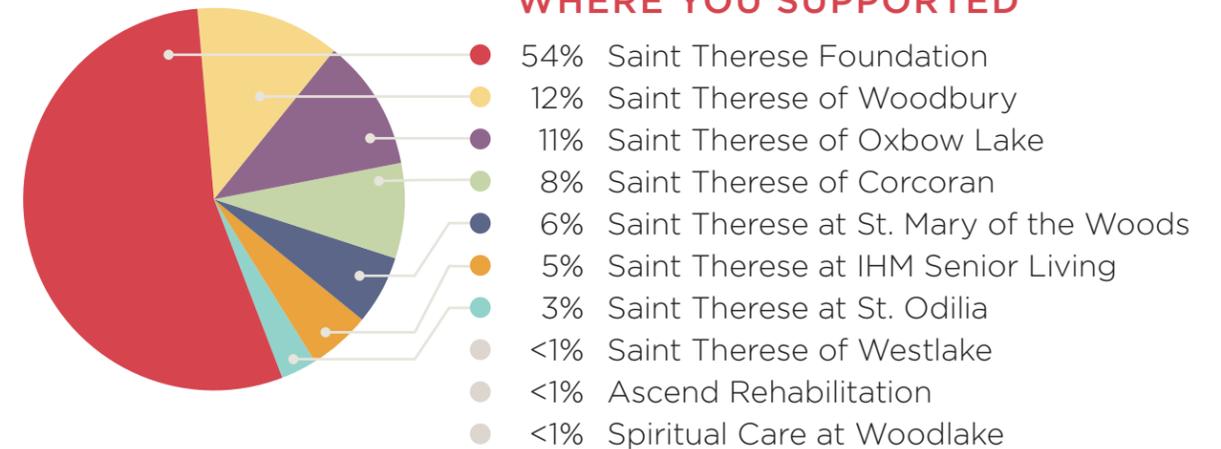
Employees
donated
\$21,904.56

476 tribute
gifts totaling
\$56,711.50

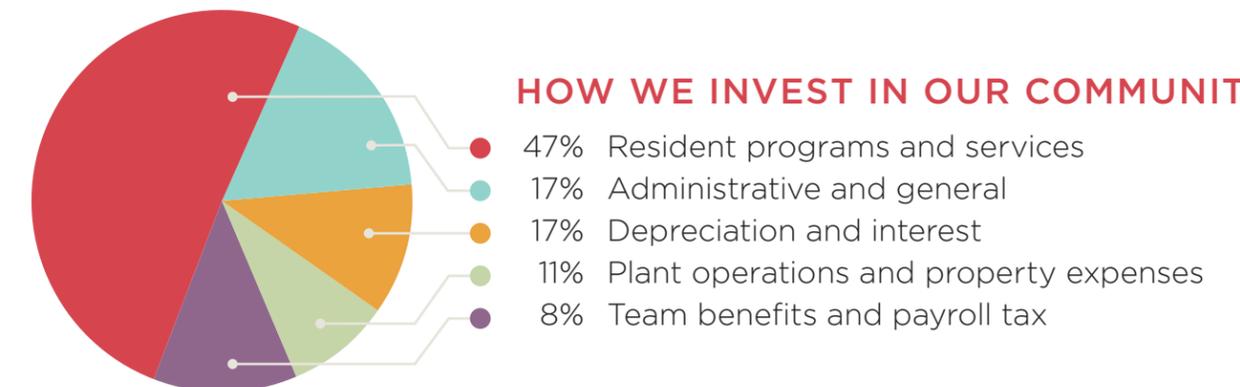
1,232 pastoral
care gifts totaling
\$93,416.31

87 in-kind gifts with
a fair market value
of **\$29,676.59**

WHERE YOU SUPPORTED



HOW WE INVEST IN OUR COMMUNITIES



Our donor list is available online at SaintTherese.org/annual-report. For a printed copy, please call our staff at 952.283.2219.



Saint Therese

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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2026
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