

Guardian Angels
SENIOR SERVICES

TRUMPETER

Serving Seniors of Elk River and Surrounding Communities

Fall/Winter 2026

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Wrapped in Blessings

Dear Friends,

As we look to welcoming the holidays, I find myself reflecting on the many blessings that surround us at Guardian Angels. Some are found in the simplest moments: a warm smile, a comforting hand, or a kind word. Others come from the extraordinary dedication of people who believe, as we do, that every older adult deserves care with dignity, compassion, and love.



One of our greatest blessings is the people who carry out our mission each day. Their hearts, hands, and commitment make Guardian Angels a place where residents feel valued, families find peace of mind, and meaningful connections flourish.

Our blessings extend well beyond our walls. They are found in the families who entrust us with their loved ones, the volunteers who generously share their time, and the donors and community partners whose kindness makes so much possible. Each plays a meaningful role in helping us live out our mission in the spirit of Christ's love.

As we look to the future, sustaining this level of care in today's workforce climate will require creativity and vision. That spirit led Guardian Angels to help establish **Global Care Recruiters**, an innovative partnership connecting qualified nurses from Kenya with senior care organizations in Minnesota. More than a response to workforce challenges, this initiative reflects our commitment to creating opportunities and ensuring compassionate care for generations to come.

For more than 60 years, Guardian Angels has embraced opportunities to grow and adapt while remaining grounded in our mission. Although the needs of those we serve may change, our commitment to exceptional care never will.

Thank you for being part of the Guardian Angels family. Through faith, compassion, and the generosity of others, we are truly **Wrapped in Blessings.**

Traci Larson
President/CEO

Directory of Services

guardianangelsmn.org

Corporate Office
508 Freeport Ave. NW, Ste. A, Elk River, MN 55330 • 763-241-4438

By The Lake
13439 185th Ln. NW, Elk River, MN 55330 • 763-241-7682
- ✓ Assisted Living
- ✓ Memory Care

Engel Haus
5101 Kassel Ave. NE, Albertville, MN 55301 • 763-498-4594
- ✓ Independent Living
- ✓ Assisted Living
- ✓ Memory Care

Riverview Landing
9200 Quantrelle Ave. NE, Otsego, MN 55330 • 763-746-3400
- ✓ Independent Living
- ✓ Assisted Living
- ✓ Memory Care

Care Center
400 Evans Ave. NW, Elk River, MN 55330 • 763-441-1213
- ✓ Short-Term/Transitional Care
- ✓ Long-Term Care
- ✓ Inpatient Rehabilitation Therapies

Senior Housing
Subsidized & Market Rate Apartments:
Elk River, Becker, Zimmerman
350 Evans Ave. NW, Elk River, MN 55330 • 763-241-4430

Senior Dining Site (Catholic Charities) & Meals on Wheels
Elk River: 763-441-6288

Pullman Place Cooperative
A 55+ Cooperative Community
17155 Quincy St. NW, Elk River, MN 55330 • 763-633-0999
pullmanplace.org

GA Wellness Health Clubs
Elk River
350 Evans Ave. NW, Elk River, MN 55330 • 763-241-4434

Otsego
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Warm-Water Therapy Pool, Pickleball Court

The Gym 365
520 Freeport Ave. NW, Elk River, MN 55330 • 763-441-4232

Triniti Home Health † Hospice
403 Main St., Elk River, MN 55330 • 763-241-0654
triniticaring.org
- ✓ Home Health Care & Hospice
- ✓ Therapy

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



Engel Haus Takes Shape as Spring 2027 Opening Approaches



Excitement continues to build in Albertville as construction of the new Engel Haus Independent Living community nears completion. With a Spring 2027 opening on the horizon, the 86-apartment expansion is quickly transforming from a construction site into a vibrant community designed for active seniors.

Over the past several months, significant progress has been made both inside and outside the building. Exterior siding, stonework, sidewalks, and roadways are taking shape, while interior construction has reached exciting milestones. The team is installing cabinets and flooring throughout the apartments, with appliances coming soon. Work is also progressing on the community's shared spaces, bringing the vision for Engel Haus closer to reality.

Interested in learning more or watching the construction progress?
Visit **albertvilleseniorliving.com** to explore the community, view apartment options, and watch the live construction camera.

Designed with independence, convenience, and connection in mind, the new community will offer residents a maintenance-free lifestyle with amenities that encourage them to stay active and engaged. From rooftop gatherings and pickleball courts to a welcoming Club Lounge, creative Maker's Room, and inviting outdoor patios, there will be plenty of opportunities to enjoy life and build friendships.

The Engel Haus expansion represents Guardian Angels Senior Services' continued commitment to providing exceptional senior living options in Albertville. By combining beautiful living spaces, engaging amenities, and opportunities for meaningful connections, the new community will offer seniors the freedom to enjoy retirement on their own terms.



Join us at Engel Haus for our monthly information sessions and see what life at Guardian Angels Independent Living could look like! **Second Wednesday of every month at 10:00 am.** For more information, call 763-498-4594 or email cmarshall@ga-er.org.

A Legacy of Love, Laughter, and a Lot of Fudge

Friends of Guardian Angels Care Center Auxiliary Honored with the 2026 Life Enhancement Award

For more than 60 years, they have been the hands behind the celebrations, the hearts behind the thoughtful gifts, and the familiar faces bringing a little extra joy to everyday life at Guardian Angels Care Center.

This October, Guardian Angels proudly honored the Friends of Guardian Angels Care Center Auxiliary with its 2026 Life Enhancement Award, recognizing generations of dedicated volunteers whose kindness, creativity, and generosity have touched countless lives.

The Life Enhancement Award recognizes those whose dedication, vision, and advocacy advance the Guardian Angels mission of providing exceptional health care, housing, and supportive services to seniors and their families in the spirit of Christ's love.

The Auxiliary's story began when the Care Center first opened its doors in 1965. What followed was a remarkable tradition of service, friendship, and finding ways to brighten residents' lives.

If there was an occasion to celebrate, the Auxiliary was ready! From Valentine's Day and Mother's Day to Oktoberfest, Summer Sensation, elegant Silver Teas, and Christmas parties, Auxiliary members helped create cherished traditions that brought residents, families, and friends together.

Over the decades, members organized bazaars, rummage sales, bake sales, craft shows, fashion shows, T-shirt sales, and Easter Basket Auctions to fund their efforts. They sold everything from soup to nuts. And who could forget the fabulous fudge?

The countless hours of volunteer service added up to something extraordinary. The Auxiliary estimates that its fundraising efforts generated approximately $100,000 throughout its history, all dedicated to enhancing life for Care Center residents.

But the real measure of their generosity cannot be counted in dollars.

It shows in the joy of a resident listening to music, the comfort of a quiet moment in the Reflection Room, the delight of watching birds in the aviary, or the simple pleasure of gathering with friends to celebrate.

At the Family of Angels Dinner, current and former Auxiliary members were invited forward to receive recognition for their collective contributions. It was a fitting tribute to a group whose greatest accomplishments were always achieved together.

As the Auxiliary's years of organized service wind down, the friendships, traditions, and countless acts of kindness it inspired will remain woven into the fabric of Guardian Angels Care Center.



More Than $100,000 in Gifts of Joy!

A glimpse at the many ways the Auxiliary enriched life at Guardian Angels Care Center:

Music & Creativity
- Pianos and Reverie Harps
- Art and music therapy
- Computers and iPads
- Virtual reality goggles

Comfort & Spiritual Care
- Creation of the Reflection Room
- Bibles and crosses
- Birthday haircuts for residents
- Room calendars

Nature & Special Experiences
- Aquarium and bird aviary
- Bunny rabbit visits
- Holiday celebrations, music performances, and special events

And so much more!

Every gift, large or small, was an investment in the happiness, comfort, dignity, and well-being of the residents who call Guardian Angels home.

Honoring the Past, Celebrating the Present



This fall, the Guardian Angels Care Center celebrated America's 250th Anniversary with a patriotic choir performance honoring our troops and veterans, especially those who call the Care Center home.

The program included words from Pastor Paul Bravinder, Guardian Angels Chaplain; the military color guard's presentation and posting of the colors; and songs performed by residents of the Care Center's Golden Ages Choir. The program also included a tribute to Julian Melich, a World War II veteran who resides at the Care Center.

At just 17, Julian Clayton Melich felt a calling to serve his country during World War II. Although initially turned away from military service because of a medical condition, Julian was determined. Following surgery and recovery, he successfully enlisted in the United States Navy, officially entering service on February 12, 1945, just one day before his 18th birthday. Assigned to the USS Enterprise, Julian served as a Machinist's Mate Third Class, working below deck in the aircraft carrier's engine room. He served during a dangerous chapter of the war in the Pacific. On May 14, 1945, while Julian was still completing his training, the Enterprise was struck by a Japanese kamikaze aircraft, causing extensive damage to the ship. Julian later joined the crew as the carrier prepared to return to service. He continued serving after the war ended and received his honorable discharge in July 1946. He earned three medals for his participation in the American Campaign, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign, and World War II.

Throughout his life, Julian has remained a shining example of humility, responsibility, and quiet strength. Now 99 years young, he represents a remarkable generation of Americans who answered their nation's call with courage and sacrifice. We were honored to recognize Julian's service and the extraordinary legacy he continues to share with those around him.



Scan the QR code to enjoy a special video of the Golden Angels performing "Semper Paratus" (Always Ready), the official marching song of the United States Coast Guard.

Message from Pastor Mike



December draws near. The sights, smells, and tastes of Thanksgiving surround us, and many churches are preparing to begin Advent. Advent is the first season of the Christian Church year, beginning on the Sunday closest to November 30 and leading up to Christmas. This time of year also brings practical questions: Will my snowblower start when I need it? How icy will the roads become?

Winter's arrival awakens in me a desire to linger a little longer in the warmth of my bed and spend a few extra moments under a hot shower. Flannel shirts become my weekend uniform. I find myself wanting my whole being to be wrapped in comfort. Even more, I long for the assurance that God's blessings surround and cover me.

That is why I love hearing what is known as Aaron's Blessing. Aaron, Moses' brother, was instructed to speak these words over the people of Israel. This blessing wraps us completely in God's love, reminds us of His presence and grace, and offers us peace. These words may sound familiar, as many Christian churches and Jewish communities use them to conclude worship. This blessing surrounds us at the beginning and end of life and carries us into eternity.

As Advent begins and winter settles in around us, I invite you to pause, reflect, and be wrapped in the words of this blessing.

Be blessed!

Pr. Mike Mannisto

"The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace."

Numbers 6: 24-26 (NIV), also known as Aaron's Blessing

Blessings Come Full Circle

Sometimes the most meaningful gifts come full circle.

At our 2026 La Dolce Vita Gala, Guardian Angels aimed to raise funds to buy a new bus that would help residents stay connected to the people, places, and experiences they enjoy. Thanks to many supporters, the event succeeded, and Guardian Angels purchased a new bus.



Chuck Van Heel was one of those generous supporters. For Chuck, the gift was also personal. His wife, Marilyn, calls Memory Care at Riverview Landing home, making Guardian Angels an important part of their family's story.

Recently, we had the opportunity to say thank you in a special way. Chuck, Marilyn, and family members climbed aboard the new bus for an afternoon ride and an ice cream stop. It was a simple outing, but one that captured exactly what their generosity makes possible: time together, a change of scenery, a little fun, and the chance to make new memories.

The new bus will serve residents throughout Guardian Angels, providing transportation for outings and experiences beyond our communities. Because of donors like the Van Heel family, residents will have even more opportunities to get out, explore, and enjoy life.

We are deeply grateful to the Van Heel family and all the donors who helped bring this project to completion. Their generosity will bring blessings to our residents on many adventures in the years ahead.

Oh, the Places We've Been!

Thanks to our generous donors, Guardian Angels' new bus is on the road and taking residents out and about. Each outing offers opportunities to explore, enjoy time with friends, and stay connected to the community. Here's a look at where we've been

- MN Landscape Arboretum
- Fall Leaf Tours
- Original Pancake House
- Apple Jack Orchard
- Fort Snelling
- Target
- St. Croix Paddleboats
- Dollar Store
- Father Hennepin State Park
- Trader Joe's
- American Swedish Institute
- Plymouth Playhouse
- Walmart
- Red Lobster
- Fort Snelling
- Annie's Antique Attic
- Just to name a few!

A Gift Today. A Legacy for Tomorrow

As 2026 draws to a close, you still have time to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve at Guardian Angels.

Your year-end gift helps us continue providing compassionate care, meaningful experiences, and the little extras that bring comfort, dignity, and joy to our residents. Every gift, no matter the size, is a blessing and an investment in the people who call Guardian Angels home.

As you reflect on your year-end giving, we also invite you to think beyond today. What kind of legacy would you like to leave?

Including Guardian Angels in your will or estate plans is a beautiful way to extend your generosity to future generations. A legacy gift of any size can help ensure that our mission of caring for seniors in the spirit of Christ's love continues for years to come. The best thing about it is that you do not have to be wealthy to do this.

Make your 2026 gift by December 31, and consider making Guardian Angels part of your lasting legacy.

SCAN ME

Together, we can make a difference today and leave a blessing for tomorrow.

Interested in learning more about leaving a legacy of love? Contact Guardian Angels Fund Development for a confidential, no-obligation conversation.

A Special Delivery from Medtronic

A thoughtful surprise recently brought smiles to tenants at Guardian Angels Senior HUD Apartments in Elk River.

As part of Project 6, Medtronic's signature employee volunteer initiative, Medtronic employees created Senior Housing Activity Bags filled with hygiene essentials along with activities designed to provide enjoyment, encourage creativity, and keep minds active.

The bags were distributed to tenants at Guardian Angels, who were delighted by the unexpected gifts. The surprise brought plenty of smiles and appreciation, with one tenant summing up the experience perfectly: "This is the best thing that has happened to me all week!"

We are grateful to Medtronic and its employees for their thoughtfulness and generosity. Something as simple as a bag filled with useful items and engaging activities can brighten a day and remind those we serve that people in their community care about them.

Interested in making a difference?
If your company, church, civic group, or organization would like to partner with Guardian Angels to provide meaningful experiences, activities, or special touches for our residents and tenants, we would love to hear from you. Together, we can create moments of joy and connection for the people we are privileged to serve.



Meet Lynn Thompson

"When there's a need, step in and help!" is the simple philosophy that guides our new Volunteer Coordinator, Lynn Thompson.

With more than 15 years of experience in Human Resources, Lynn knows a thing or two about people, relationships, and bringing out the best in a team. But it's her longtime passion for volunteering that makes her especially excited to take on this new role at Guardian Angels.



Over the years, Lynn has volunteered with schools, churches, hospitals, animal rescue, and programs supporting individuals with memory loss. She even began her Guardian Angels journey as a volunteer in Memory Care at By the Lake before joining our team.

Lynn sums up her approach to service with a story from volunteering alongside her sons. After a long day of hard work, they asked, "Why did we do that?"

Her answer? "Because someone asked."

That spirit of simply showing up and helping is exactly what Lynn hopes to encourage at Guardian Angels. Whether someone has an hour to give or wants to volunteer regularly, she believes every act of service matters.

Consider this your ask! **If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering with Guardian Angels,** complete a volunteer application at guardianangelsmn.org or contact Lynn at 763-241-4460. There are so many ways to share your time and talents and make a difference!

Family of Angels 2025-2026

The Family of Angels includes individuals who donated $500 or more and businesses that donated $1,000 or more during Guardian Angels' fiscal year, October 1, 2025 - September 30, 2026. We offer our deepest gratitude to the individuals and businesses that have led by example and made a profound statement about their commitment to health care and services for seniors in our community.

10K Construction
ACE Solid Waste
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Memorials and Honorariums 4/1/2026 - 9/30/2026

In Memory Of

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Nancy Gongoll
Florence Grams
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Anita Sibert
Judy McIntire
Debra Ost

Ronald F. Stricker
Adam & Kelli Horner
Gloria Stricker

In Honor Of

**Arlon Fuchs-
100th Birthday**
Pauline Kuhn

**Guardian Oaks
Housing Staff**
Robert & Darlene Psyk

Eileen Rouse
George & JoAnne Adamski

Lois Schaff
George & JoAnne Adamski

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 763-635-5476.
Thank you!

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.

The Gift of Presence

As the holidays approach, we start thinking about the gifts we will give the people we love. Some of the most meaningful gifts cannot be wrapped.

They are found in a prayer during uncertain times, communion brought to someone who can no longer attend worship, a favorite hymn shared with a resident whose memories are fading, a chaplain sitting quietly beside a family as they say goodbye.



With a gift to Guardian Angels Spiritual Care, donors help ensure compassionate spiritual support is available to all residents and families year-round.

Our chaplains walk alongside residents and families through many seasons of life. They celebrate joys, offer comfort through loss and change, lead worship and prayer, share communion, visit residents one-on-one, and reassure them they do not have to walk through life alone. This is the Gift of Presence.

As you consider your year-end giving, please give to Guardian Angels Spiritual Care. Your generosity helps ensure this ministry remains available to all residents and families when they need it most.

$25 helps extend moments of connection and encouragement.

$50 supports opportunities for worship, prayer, and spiritual fellowship.

$100 helps provide compassionate spiritual support to residents and families.

$250 strengthens the ministry of presence throughout the Guardian Angels community.

Making a gift is easy! Scan the QR code below, visit guardianangelsmn.org, or use the form to the right. You may also consider becoming a **monthly donor** to provide steady, year-round support for this meaningful ministry. No matter the amount or frequency, your generosity helps ensure the Gift of Presence continues to touch lives throughout Guardian Angels.

The Spiritual Care Ministry at Guardian Angels is made possible through the generosity of our donors.

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

Non-Profit Organization
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Yes, I want to support Spiritual Care at Guardian Angels!

Name _____

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I/we would like to make a gift of:

☐ $500 (Family of Angels' Member) ☐ $250 ☐ $100 ☐ $50

☐ Other _____

☐ Make this a Monthly Reoccurring Gift

☐ Enclosed is a check payable to **Guardian Angels**

☐ Charge this gift to: ☐ VISA ☐ Mastercard ☐ Discover

Credit Card Number _____

Expiration Date _____ Security Code _____

My gift is: ☐ In memory ☐ In honor of _____

Use my gift for:

☐ Guardian Angels Spiritual Care

☐ Other, please specify _____

Check if:

☐ You have included Guardian Angels in your will or estate plans

☐ You are interested in estate planning or the **Legacy Society**

Guardian Angels is an IRS 501(c)(3) organization. Your gift is tax-deductible as provided by law.

Please complete this form and send it to:
Fall/Winter 2026

Guardian Angels
508 Freeport Ave NW, Suite A
Elk River, MN 55330

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