



NEWSLETTER



Adult Day Services Shine at Evenglow Inn

Did you know Evenglow Inn, our memory care center, offers adult day services? Unlike many other day services providers – even those in larger cities – Evenglow Inn offers adult day services 7 days per week. And the best part?

You helped make this possible! Many of you receiving this newsletter heard the need for quality memory care in Pontiac and surrounding Livingston County. About 20 years ago, you joined us to keep the promise to the elders in your lives and community that you love, but who may be challenged by memory issues. You made gifts that – literally – built the Evenglow Inn. Thank you, once again, from the bottom of our hearts. We couldn't do what we do today without *you!* You made quality day services possible. Read on for more about this hidden gem.

Adult Day Services serve a variety of adults. Day services support adults who may not be able to stay at home by themselves or manage daily living independently. They may be cognitively challenged which makes them unable to cook. Or, they might stay home alone and need some social time. Or, they may be in the early stages of Alzheimer's disease. No matter the reason, we are here for those seniors and their loved ones.



What do Day Services offer those who join our “family of friends” for one or more days per week? Day Services offer a homelike atmosphere and socialization. Day visitors participate fully in activities like baking cookies, trivia, arts and crafts, music therapy, bingo, and a weekly chapel service. For those who appreciate four-legged companionship, another bonus is regular visits from our resident comfort dog, Teddy. Delicious meals are included, too!

Day Services are also for caregivers. They don’t call a lot of the children of seniors over 65 the “sandwich generation” for nothing! Caregivers hold many responsibilities beyond caring for a loved one. *We are here for you, too.* Day Services provide a bridge for care, often allowing your loved one to live at home for longer. You may be surprised to learn we’re often a more cost-effective option than home care. And, Day Services provide flexibility. Once your loved one is part of our program, you can let us know the day before, or sometimes even that same day, if they need to spend the day with us. Pickup service is available most days. We aim to provide you with the flexibility to know your loved one is welcome as part of our “family of friends,” while also giving you the chance to take care of other things you need to do.

If you would like more information about Adult Day Services at Evenglow Inn, please contact Erin Jensen at 815-842-9040.

Meals on Wheels Delivers More Than Just a Hot Meal

On January 30th, the coldest day on record in over 20 years, Shelly A. Lewis (*pictured below on the left*) loaded a cooler full of hot meals into the car to deliver all around Pontiac. At each home on the list, she braved the cold to hop out of the car and carry a hot meal and dessert up to the door, sticking around long enough for the recipient to answer and say a brief hello as she handed them their meal. But that record cold day was not unique. Evenglow has delivered Meals on Wheels 7 days a week, 365 days per year, since at least the mid-1980s. Delivery happens no matter what the weather is, whether that is record cold, heat, sleet, snow, pouring rain, or...you get the idea.

Other communities can have a waitlist for Meals on Wheels that is years long due to a lack of drivers to deliver meals. But this service is affordable and readily available in Pontiac – all through Evenglow’s community outreach. And signing up for Meals on Wheels delivers more than a hot meal. It often allows people to stay in their homes longer because they don’t have to worry about shopping for or cooking their main meal each day. It can give caregivers a break, too...relieving the pressure of preparing a meal while taking care of their spouse or other family member. Finally, Meals on Wheels delivery also serves as a daily wellness check. If someone doesn’t answer the door to pick up their meal, we reach out to their emergency contact to let them know.

Most importantly, Meals on Wheels contributes to peace of mind. Just ask Doug Bertsche, whose late parents Marjorie and Dick received Meals on Wheels at their home before spending time at Evenglow. Doug says, “As my mother’s ability to prepare food in the kitchen declined, I was relieved to know they both would get at least one good meal a day. My folks looked forward to brief visits from the drivers each day...I always felt like I had an extra pair of eyes looking after them.”



Menu

Meatloaf

Mixed vegetables

Roasted Potatoes



If you are interested in receiving Meals on Wheels, or helping us in our mission to deliver them across our community, contact Evenglow’s Director of Dietary Services, Shelly Lewis, at (815) 844-6131 ext. 227.

2nd Annual Nursing

Earlier this year, Evenglow awarded our second annual Virgil S. and Irma Jean Sancken nursing scholarships. The scholarships are awarded to Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs) employed at Evenglow and currently studying to become nurses. The Sancken scholarship offers flexibility because it can be used to pay not only for tuition but also for books and other costs associated with attending nursing school – necessary costs which other funding sources might not cover.

Each year, the number of scholarships awarded has grown. Originally, Evenglow planned to award just 3 scholarships per year. Yet we awarded 4 the first year, and this year our board elected to award a total of 5 scholarships. Sylvia Hardin, Evenglow's Director of Human Resources, says, "the growth in the number of scholarships awarded truly is a reflection of the board's commitment and employees' talent. The quality of all the candidates is so high that it's both easy and difficult for the board to decide—so they have consistently chosen to increase the number of awards."

This year's recipients include staff from both the Tjardes Health Center and Evenglow Inn. Growth in the scholarship program benefits these 5 CNAs with a range of ages, situations and long-term career visions, but who all share the goal of graduating from college and becoming registered nurses.



Molly Snyder



Cortney Schilling



Kelsey Grieff

Scholarships Awarded

Please join us in congratulating: Cortney Schilling, Bailee Osborn, Molly Snyder, Jennifer Wilfong and Kelsey Grieff.

Bailee Osborn said the scholarship makes a positive difference in pursuing her studies now: “The Evenglow scholarship is important to me because it will help greatly with paying for the tuition and nursing fees at Aurora University. I am very grateful because without the assistance of scholarships like this one, I wouldn’t be able to be a part of the school and program I love so much.”

The scholarships also make a long-lasting difference for those who receive them. Another scholarship recipient, Jennifer Wilfong, shares that, “I am very grateful that Evenglow always supports me, and investing in my education through the nursing scholarship is something I will always cherish.” We join our scholarship recipients in thanking our donors and board for their commitment to the success of this program.

“AN INVESTMENT IN KNOWLEDGE PAYS THE BEST INTEREST.”

– BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

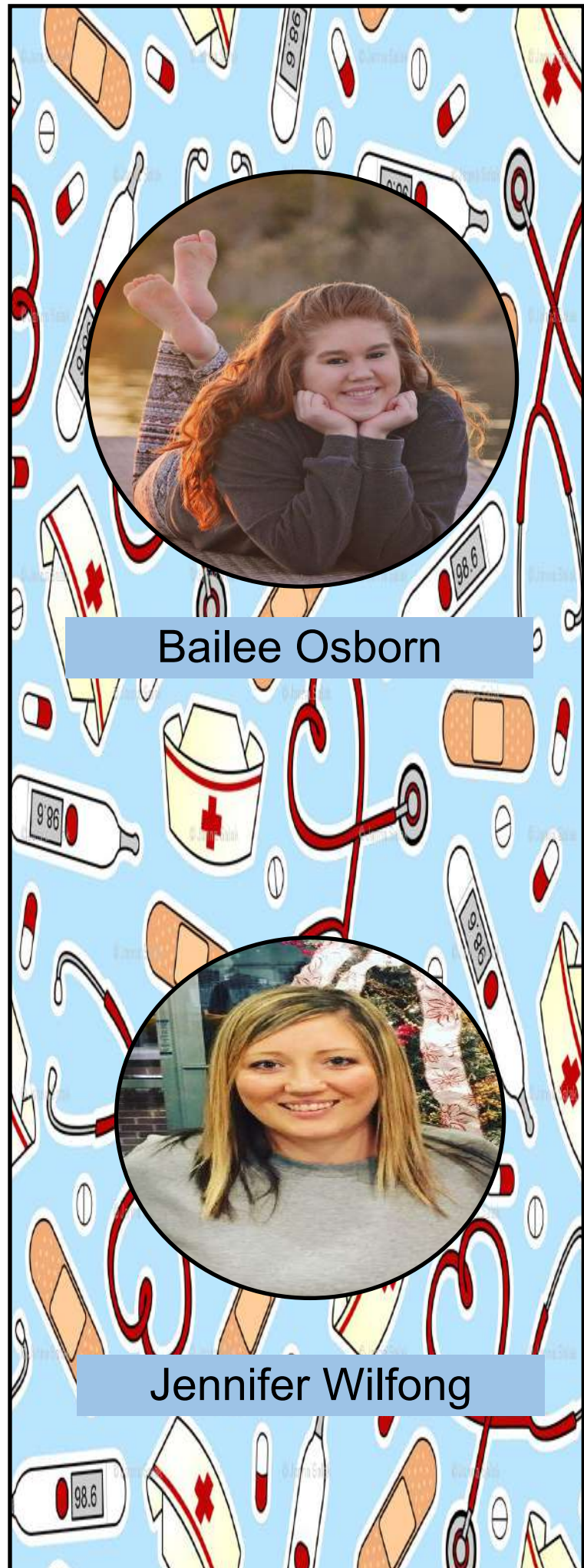
If you’d like to make a contribution to our nursing scholarships, simply write “nursing scholarships” in the memo line of your check.



Bailee Osborn



Jennifer Wilfong



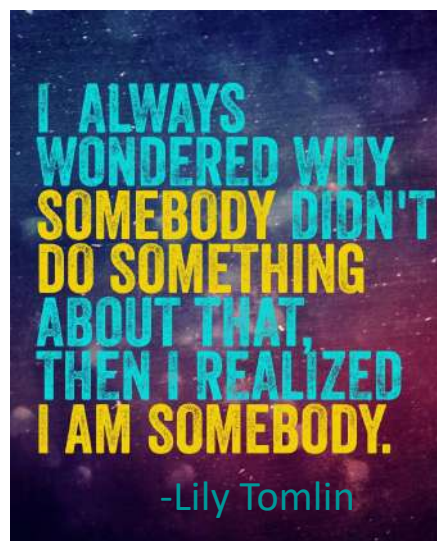
Evenglow's Director of Social Services Now a Licensed Clinical Social Worker

We join in congratulating Allison Mann, Evenglow's Director of Social Services, who received her license as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) in fall 2018. This adds to her Masters in Social Work. Here she explains in her own words what this means for Evenglow and our residents.

How is an LCSW different from a Masters in Social Work? One big difference is the greater level of experience. To obtain an LCSW, someone must have at least 3,000 hours of experience in the field *after* obtaining their Master's degree. And, this license allows someone to provide counseling and mental health services.

What does this mean for Evenglow and our residents? Evenglow is small enough that we are not required to have someone with this level of licensure at our size, but we are proud to go above and beyond basic requirements. Ultimately, it means more experience and a broader foundation of services available for our residents, combined with the personalized, compassionate care that residents and families have trusted us with for years.

What do you like most about your job as Director of Social Services? I have the opportunity to get to know residents and their families. When you get to know people over a long time, you're there for them not just in the midst of a crisis but also through their good and bad times. I get to encourage them along the way and celebrate with them. Knowing residents this well means we can serve them better. People also get to know me. Residents' families will stop by and genuinely ask me how I'm doing, and that means a lot. All this fits well with Evenglow's values at a larger scale, like being person-centered and creating a family of friends.



Evenglow Guild Funds New TVs for Tjardes Health Center



The Evenglow Guild represents all our volunteers who contribute thousands of hours each year which add to quality of life for residents at Evenglow. Together, the Guild also funds special, concrete projects which add that “something extra” to life at Evenglow. In December of last year, the Evenglow Guild board voted to fund a project to provide televisions in Tjardes Health Center rooms which did not yet have one, and to replace some older models in other rooms. We often may take television for granted, but for residents, they provide an important source of entertainment and – for those residents in a short-term rehab stay – respite between hours of physical and occupational therapy. We at Evenglow are grateful to be able to provide this enhancement for our residents.

Board of Trustees:

We wish to thank the following people for generously giving their time and talents to Evenglow:

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Love What’s Happening at Evenglow?

We welcome your gifts, whether they are gifts of your financial resources or your time and talents. Here are some ways you can make your gift:

- To make your gift online, please visit evenglowlodge.org/donate.
- Or, mail your gift to: Evenglow Lodge, 215 E. Washington St. Pontiac, IL 61764.
- To volunteer, call (815) 844-6131 ext. 248



215 E. Washington St.
Pontiac, IL 61764
815-844-6131

www.evenglowlodge.org

Evenglow's Tjardes Health Center is a fully certified Medicare Skilled Care Facility offering rehabilitation services after hospitalization for a wide range of illnesses and accidental injuries.



The United Methodist Church Illinois Great Rivers Conference Advance Special status allows ministries to contact local congregations for financial support. Methodist churches may send financial support through the conference treasurer's office and thereby participate in the IGRC 5-star Giving Challenge. 100% of Advance donations are sent to your church's designated ministries. Evenglow's Advance Special number is: **0044**.

Mark's Remarks We'd love to say thank you!

Often, we find out years after the fact just how much someone appreciates quality care received at Evenglow. That our welcome, compassion, family of friends, and aim to provide all the comforts of home have deeply touched a resident or their loved ones. Sometimes, this comes through a kind note from a family member thanking us and enclosing memorial gifts for their parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle or friend. At other times, we discover only after a person passes away that Evenglow is so dear in their heart that they quietly remembered us in their will or estate plan.

We recognize leaving a legacy like this represents a very personal decision. One that is often made in private, with the people, charities and causes closest to people's hearts remembered through someone's will, but not necessarily notified at that time.

If you have already remembered Evenglow in your will or estate plan, I hope you might consider letting us know. Here's why. First, we would be honored to hear your story of why Evenglow is so special to you. Second, we'd love to recognize you as one of our Legacy Partners (you can still choose to remain anonymous). Third, we'd love to be able to share with you the good things your gift will make possible. And the biggest reason? ***We'd love to say thank you!***

