

Home Care Link - - -

WHEN YOU NEED US - WE ARE HERE



Nurses have been visiting Americans in their homes for more than a century. At the end of the 19th century most nurses worked in the home, not facilities. Their duties were mainly to help new mothers and treat people with infectious diseases. The demand for these visiting nurses grew, and in 1965 Medicare legislation was enacted to provide benefits to home care patients. Today, Minnesota Home Care Association is celebrating its 40th year of providing quality home care and is the industry's voice for quality care and change. About 80 percent of medical schools now offer training in home care.

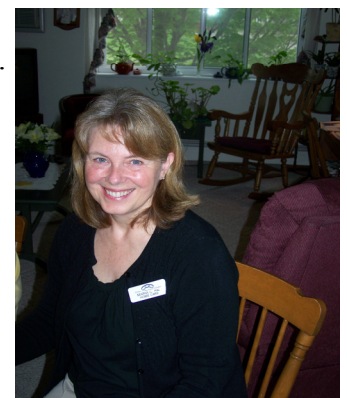
HOME CARE LINK, a Medicare certified agency, is a home care agency Three Links is proud of. This service has been in operation since 1993 visiting people in their homes. Clients in Northfield, Cannon Falls, Lonsdale and Montgomery agree we offer quality services. Over the years, the services have expanded to include Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy and Speech Therapy. You will see some familiar faces as the same therapists in the Care Center also go into the community. If an adult needs assistance because they are disabled or recuperating from a hospital stay call **HOME CARE LINK**. We are able to provide medicine management, pain management, as well as assisting with everyday tasks such as bathing, light housekeeping and meal preparation. The aim of **HOME CARE LINK** is to enable the patient to live as self-sufficiently as possible in a secure home environment. The friendly faces of Maria, Amy, Marcy, Betty and Deb will be comforting to you as you build a relationship of trust during their care of your unique need.

Experts say that home care will expand further in the years to come. Because of medical advances, surgery that used to involve a week long stay in the hospital now requires a much shorter stay, and home care may likely be the most appropriate way to follow up. As well, the coming generation of baby boomers will want to be as independent as possible and reside in their own homes with home care.

Call the **HOME CARE LINK** nurse at 507-301 9717 to tell us how we can help you. We are here to answer your questions on how we can meet **YOUR** unique need.

Upcoming Events for our Residents in May:

- 2 Piano Recital 1:30 pm
- 5 Cinco de Mayo Lunch
- 9 Mother's Day Social 2:00pm
- 10 Music with Lonesome Ron 4:00 pm
- 11 St. Olaf Bell Choir 4pm
- 12 Grilled Hamburger Lunch
- 15 Piano Recital 2:00 pm
- 18 Seasoned Singers 4:15 pm



Maria Cashman

Caring Family - A bridge between residents and families

Three Links has been a participant in the *Communication in the Nursing Home Study*, conducted by Dr. Joseph E. Gaugler of the University of Minnesota in coordination with *Caring Family, LLC*. The objective of this study was to pilot a new communications system that aimed to enable contact between nursing home residents, their family members and friends. This new technology, *Caring Family*, allows our residents to create messages which are electronically converted into emails and sent to family and friends as well as the ability for residents to receive messages. This program was set in place at Three Links in February of 2009. Sixty people, representing eight residents' family and friends signed up to participate in the study and use the *Caring Family* system. A year later the following findings from the study were reported based on information collected from the participating residents, family members /friends and the Activity staff at Three Links.

- In total, family/friends sent residents 469 messages while residents at Three Links sent 182 messages to family and friends.
- Family and friends who participated lived all across the United States, even grandchildren enrolled in study programs abroad sent messages to residents.
- *Caring Family* positively influenced the relationships between residents and their families and friends in terms of increasing the frequency of contact, diversifying the type of contact, expanding people with whom residents have regular contact with and facilitating staff awareness of resident's families.

The many positive comments from families have echoed the success of incorporating the *Caring Family* system into the culture change at Three Links.

"My family was so ready to use it – they think it is great – I hear a lot more than I would otherwise"

"Very easy to upload pictures and send them – Grandma really appreciates seeing pictures of the family, and it's so nice and easy to send them electronically rather than having to get them printed and mail them to her".

Our families continue to enjoy using *Caring Family*. To have your resident and family connected, contact Karen George, Activities Director at 507.664.8839.

