

Spirit of Walker

Winter 2021



A newsletter for family and friends of Walker Methodist

MISSION STATEMENT

Life. And all the living that goes with it. Enhancing the lives of older adults through a culture of care, respect, and service.

VALUES

Respect.
Imagination.
Collaboration.

WHAT'S INSIDE

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Servant leaders of the year: Leading with love



We are honored to recognize 2021's servant leaders of the year. Nominated by their fellow team members, these outstanding individuals have gone above and beyond to demonstrate one of our core principles at Walker Methodist: servant leadership.

"It's hard to create a positive, healthy culture without caring. Servant leadership is about putting others first and leading with love," said Scott Riddle, President and CEO.

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Dear Walker Methodist family,

It's no secret our country is in the midst of significant staffing shortages, and Walker Methodist has not been immune. Our industry has been handed a long list of restrictions and changes to how we care for older adults. These changes have not been easy on our team members, but their perseverance has shown us just how much they love and care about those they serve. Our team members are critical in delivering on our organization's mission of enhancing the lives of older adults. I am so grateful for all those who have given selflessly as we go through this challenge.

In this issue, we're highlighting some of the great work our team members have been doing. In these stories, you'll see snippets of the wisdom and strength that our teams have gained as we've gone through tough challenges in the last year and a half. And you'll see a spirit that overcomes all obstacles to deliver life and all the living that goes with it to all those we serve.

Sincerely,



Scott Riddle, Walker Methodist President and CEO



Not just a job: Tarek's 32 years of integrity



More than three decades ago, Tarek walked into the Health Center's lobby and applied for a job. He started later that week, and since then his 32-year career has been marked by integrity.

Tarek's journey to Walker Methodist, though, started in Cairo, Egypt. Growing up, Tarek cared for his elderly uncle, helping him with everything from business to making coffee. Then, after finishing mechanical school, 19-year-old Tarek moved to the United States with his younger brother to join their mother. One year later, Tarek's uncle passed away, but the impact of that relationship has stayed with him.

"I remember how I served my uncle, and I knew I want to be involved to make residents feel happy. My job is not just a job. I want them to know I am here to help," he said. "They are beautiful human beings, and I am so proud and happy to help them."

Tarek began in the housekeeping department, but his supervisors quickly discovered he could fix just about anything. Now, Tarek is a floor care supervisor, leading a team of three others. You can't often find him in his office, though. Tarek would rather sweep and scrub floors, fix machines, and clean kitchens. Instead of telling his team what to do and watching from a distance, Tarek shows them.

"I love my job," he shared. "In my culture, when someone gives you a job that means they give you a life." Read more about Tarek at www.walkermethodist.org/tarek. ■

This year's awards were given to the following team members:

- Michael Douglas, lead resident assistant at Care Suites
- Rachael Presley, lead resident assistant at Eastwood Senior Living
- Kloee Richter, lead waitstaff at Havenwood of Buffalo
- Andrew Stefanich, lead concierge at Havenwood of Burnsville
- Leida Brodersen, concierge at Havenwood of Maple Grove
- Allison Musolf, lead waitstaff at Havenwood of Minnetonka
- Joan Smith, waitstaff at Havenwood of Onalaska
- Jackson Obiri, nursing assistant at the Health Center
- Tom Utecht, lead resident assistant at Highview Hills
- Kristi Pederson, sous chef at Levande
- Deidre Martin, staffing coordinator at Place
- Megan Lund, resident services manager at Plaza
- Isabel Medina, concierge at Rushseba
- Lisa Padgett, director of revenue cycle with shared services
- Danielle Cross, director of life enrichment at Westwood Ridge

Riddle summarized the appreciation we have for these hardworking and caring team members: "One person leading with care, love, and encouragement can cause a ripple effect reaching beyond what you imagined." ■



Recognizing team members who go above and beyond



Shared laughter. Great care delivered with a smile. Remembering details. These moments make a difference. That's why team members who put in extra effort to further our mission of *life, and all the living that goes with it*, receive Partners in Excellence awards. With a gift of at least \$25, anyone can nominate a team member. Here's why others have donated:



- "Bobbie's kindness and humor in difficult situations is amazing."
- "We want to thank the Plaza team who made mom's transition seamless. She is in the best place!"
- "This has been a difficult year, but we feel safe, cared for, and blessed by the team at Levande."

To learn more or nominate, visit www.walkermethodist.org/foundation or scan the QR code. You can also use the enclosed envelope.



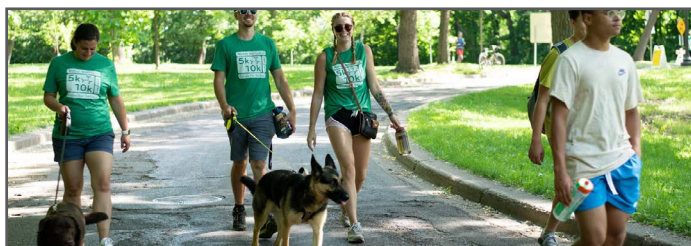
Consider including the Foundation in your year-end charitable giving...

To donate, please use the enclosed envelope and postmark on or before December 31, 2021. Or, scan the QR code or visit www.walkermethodist.org/give.



Contact Marilyn Nelson to learn how you can honor the memory of a loved one or include Walker Methodist in your estate plans: 612.827.8538 or mnelson@walkermethodist.org.

Save the date! 17th annual Stride for Seniors 5k/10k: June 4, 2022



Join us to support the more than 3,000 patients, residents, and clients we serve annually. In-person and virtual options available; dog- and stroller-friendly. Early registration incentives will be announced after January 1, 2022.

Learn more: www.walkermethodist.org/runwalk.



Thank you for supporting our dedicated, caring team members!

Though our team members have faced challenges, they continue to love and care for our communities. So, this year, we wanted to use donations from Give to the Max Day to show our team members just how much they matter.

Because of your generous giving, we raised more than \$67,500 to give back to them as they continue to serve the best people we know: our residents.



Thank you to our sponsors:

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