

## The Remarkable Comeback of “Fancy Nancy”

“When I first arrived, I couldn’t speak. I couldn’t swallow. I couldn’t even hold my head up.”

That’s how Nancy describes the moment she entered Benedictine Living Community–Bismarck after a terrifying fall that led to a subdural hemorrhage and weeks in a coma. Her son found her unconscious and bleeding. The ER doctors saved her life. But the road ahead? It looked impossibly steep.

Nancy had spent 50 years as an accountant, raised five children, and loved volunteering. Suddenly, she was silent, immobile and dependent on a feeding tube. “She was in pretty rough shape,” recalls Chelsie, her occupational therapist. “Honestly, I didn’t know how far we could get.”

But then came the turning point.

One day, Chelsie noticed Nancy looking a bit down. She leaned in, and Nancy lifted her eyes and locked onto hers. That simple connection sparked something powerful. “It was like a light switched on,” Chelsie says. From that moment, Nancy fought back—hard.

Step by step, word by word, bite by bite, Nancy reclaimed her life.

She learned to squeeze a therapist’s hand to say “yes” or “no.” She practiced sitting at the edge of the bed, then standing with help from parallel bars. She worked tirelessly to regain her ability to chew and swallow. And when the feeding tube finally came out? “I was thrilled,” Nancy says with a grin.

Chelsie calls Nancy her “most remarkable success story in 14 years.” Around here, we call her Fancy Nancy—because she’s living proof of what happens when expert care meets unstoppable spirit.

Where’s Nancy now? Back in her home, where she can volunteer again, visit the senior center and maybe even hit the slot machines at the local casino. “Only time will tell,” she says. “But thanks to Benedictine, I have hope.”

*Graduation day triumph! Nancy celebrates her incredible recovery with her therapy team. From L-R Chelsie B, Kris C and and Katie H.*

*Because  
of You!*

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her fancy back**  
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legacy lives on**  
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with confidence**  
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a celebrity**  
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**Your Gift Changes Lives Like Nancy’s**

*Every day, someone like Nancy faces a life-altering challenge. Your generosity ensures they have the therapy, care and encouragement to reclaim their independence and joy.*



**A Word From Our Senior Vice President ...**

*Joslyn Biever*

**Carrying Forward a Sacred Legacy**

At Benedictine, we believe healing is more than physical, it's spiritual. This conviction is woven into our heritage and continues to guide our mission today.

From the earliest days of our ministry, the Benedictine Sisters of Duluth, MN taught us that caring for the soul is as vital as caring for the body. Sister Mary Christa Kroening, OSB embodied that holistic approach throughout her life and work.

Sister Mary Christa joined Benedictine in 1997 with a simple assignment: write prayers for meetings. What began as a few words of inspiration grew into decades of leadership in liturgical and ritual services. She authored prayer books, created resources for times of crisis and helped design 23 chapels across our Communities. Spaces where residents, families and staff could encounter peace, hope and God's presence.

Her legacy reminds us that *Faith in Action* is not just a phrase; it's a calling. It is the light streaming through stained glass, the quiet strength of prayer and the comfort of knowing you are never alone. Today, Spiritual Care continues that sacred work, offering daily worship, memorial services, blessings and pastoral support for those we serve.

Your support makes this possible. Every gift to Spiritual Care ensures that all faiths remain at the heart of our communities. Together, we carry forward Sister Mary Christa's vision: to heal body, mind and spirit.

Thank you.



## Your Generosity Keeps Spiritual Care at the Heart of Our Benedictine Mission

This year, residents and tenants saw a legacy come to life at Benedictine Living Community-Crookston, when a generous planned gift refreshed their beautiful chapel.

Residents asked for a spotlight on the tabernacle and crucifix, ensuring a constant and reverent focus on the Body and Blood of Christ within the chapel. That light now shines brightly, thanks to the kindness of donors who believe, as Sister Mary Christa did, that Spiritual Care is essential to holistic healing.



Built in 1993, the chapel is the spiritual heart of the Community, a place for weekly services, memorials, funerals, baptisms and even weddings. The updates have transformed the space. Gone is the dark, patterned carpet that challenged aging eyes. In its place lighter tones create a sense of warmth and welcome.

These improvements are more than aesthetic, they honor the sacred role this chapel plays in daily life. Thanks to donor generosity, Benedictine Crookston's chapel continues to be a place of prayer, celebration and peace for all who enter.



*Sister Mary Christa Kroening, 95, died peacefully at St. Scholastica Monastery, Duluth, on January 1, 2025, in her 70th year of monastic profession. She now rejoices with all the Saints and Angels in Heaven.*



### Your Gifts to Spiritual Care Keep Faith Alive

*Every day, our chapels host moments of grace through worship and memorial services, blessings and quiet prayer. You ensure these sacred spaces remain vibrant and welcoming for all who seek comfort and hope.*



## Making Our Communities Beautiful: Live Well at Home Grant Transforms Benedictine Living Community-Anoka

*"The new remodel is really nice. You have that beautiful walking path. You can look at the flowers. You can just sit there and think. I am very pleased with Benedictine Anoka and all the improvements they are making.*

*-Toni, Resident*

The first project created a scenic walking path through the wooded area behind our community. With multiple benches along the way, residents now have a peaceful space to enjoy nature, visit with friends, and simply relax outdoors.

Our second project focused on improving access to the front entrance. Previously, the steep grade and curb made it difficult for residents using walkers or wheelchairs. Crews regraded the area and smoothed the curb, creating a safer, more accessible entryway for everyone.

The third project, now underway, is replacing 36 cutout tubs with custom shower stalls featuring built-in shelves. These updates make bathing safer and more convenient for residents, supporting independence and dignity.

We are deeply grateful to the Minnesota Department of Human Services for making these improvements possible. Already, residents are enjoying the new spaces and experiencing the benefits of greater accessibility and safety.

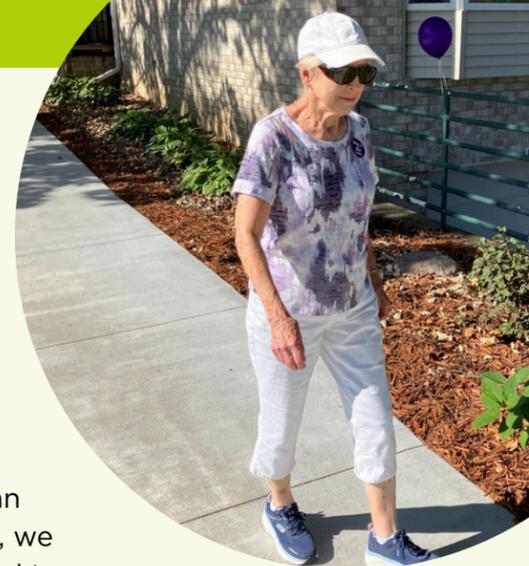
*Other Benedictine Living Communities with active Live Well At Home grants include Cold Spring and Osseo.*

## Join Our Legacy Society and Shape Our Future

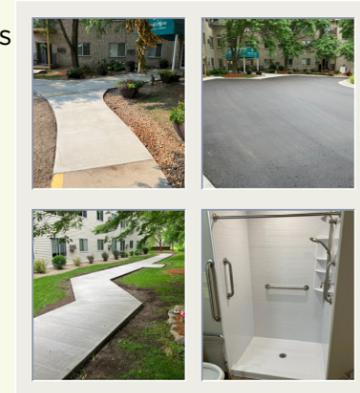
As we carry forward the Benedictine Sisters' legacy of faith and care, you have the opportunity to create your own lasting impact. By joining our Legacy Society, your planned gift ensures future generations will experience the same compassion and spiritual support that define Benedictine. Your legacy can keep faith alive—today, tomorrow, and always. Visit [www.legacy.benedictineliving.org](http://www.legacy.benedictineliving.org).

**Contact Us:**

**(763) 689-6138 | [BenedictineLiving.org/Donate](http://BenedictineLiving.org/Donate)**



*Because of you, Joan W. enjoys the beauty of nature on our new walking path—a gift of safety, accessibility and joy made possible by your support.*



Because of  
You, Dreams  
Come True

## What is a dream?

It's something a resident has always wanted to do. A long-unfulfilled desire or a beloved activity they had to give up. It's an experience beyond the ordinary, something that brings joy, meaning and a sense of possibility.

**And here's the truth: You make those dreams happen.**

Through your generosity and belief in our Mission, you give residents more than care, you give them moments they will never forget. That is what *Making Dreams Come True* is all about. Funded by gifts from people like you, this program turns wishes into reality for those entrusted to our care.



### Richie's Country Dream - Ada, MN

Because of you, Richie—who lives with cerebral palsy—didn't just listen to country music in his room. He saw Sawyer Brown live in concert! You gave him a night of laughter, music and joy. Complete with a new outfit, a limo ride and dinner with his some of his caregivers. For Richie, this wasn't just a night out. It was a dream fulfilled.



### Waylon's Powwow Honor - LaMoure, ND

You gave Waylon, a proud veteran and respected member of the Fort Totten community, a day he'll never forget. Surrounded by his family, Waylon was escorted into the center of the arena at the Fort Totten Powwow and honored for his military service. It was a full-circle tribute to a man who once advocated for other veterans, and you made it happen.



### Bob's Honor Flight Journey - Dickinson, ND

Bob served his country with pride. His dream? To take an Honor Flight and visit the memorials that honor his service. Because of you, Bob visited the Lincoln Memorial and watched the changing of the guard, The most memorable, according to Bob, was seeing the Vietnam Memorial. He shared these moments with his daughter and returned home to a hero's welcome. You helped Bob feel the gratitude of our nation.

Thank You Donors!



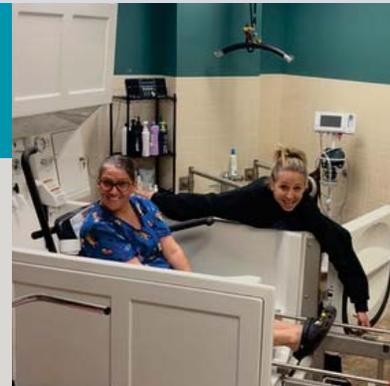
**You make joy possible. You make dignity possible. You make dreams come true.** *Every gift to Benedictine Foundation creates moments like these. Thank you for believing in the power of dreams.*

## You Turned a Simple Bath into a Spa Experience

At Benedictine Living Community-Duluth, your generosity gave residents a refreshed shower room and expanded space for a safer, more comfortable experience. And you made the next phase possible: installing a ceiling lift to ensure

smooth transfers and better safety for residents and staff.

At Benedictine Living Community-Ada, a whirlpool tub installation is underway! These enhancements bring dignity, comfort and joy to everyday life, and they happen because of you.



*Cheryl and Tawnie testing out the new whirlpool tub made possible by your kindness and generosity at Benedictine Ada.*



**Every gift matters.**

*Every improvement tells a story of generosity in action. Thank you for believing that the little things—like a soothing shower or a relaxing whirlpool—make a big difference.*