

Milwaukee Catholic Home Basking in Recent Accomplishments

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"A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; Your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father."

After two difficult years of the pandemic, David Fulcher, CEO of the Milwaukee Catholic Home, explained that the passage from the Gospel of Matthew applies to the Milwaukee Catholic Home more than ever. While they are not ones to shine a light on their accomplishments, he admitted they are doing great work to benefit older adults.

Their goal is to bring the extraordinary things they're doing to more people and find new ways to reach out to the community and impact more lives. Milwaukee Catholic Home is doing great work on their East Side Campus, and in their relationships with faith-based partners, such as Mount Mary University, the School Sisters of Notre Dame and the Catholic Ecology Center. Some of their current accomplishments include:

- Trinity Woods welcomed its first residents in December;
- Kindness Matters, the new Supportive Living company, now provides care partners who offer companionship services and assistance with daily living tasks for independent living residents in their communities;
- A five-star rating from Medicare; and
- Clare Gardens is thriving at its new location at the Catholic Ecology Center in Neosho. Wisconsin visitors will have the opportunity to see the great work being done there in September at their annual partnership event.

Trinity Woods provides an active



▲ Milwaukee Catholic Home CEO David Fulcher. (Submitted photo)

intergenerational living environment for the School Sisters of Notre Dame Central Pacific Province and an educational and supportive housing option for single mothers who are students at Mount Mary University. According to Fulcher, it's been a gift to watch Trinity Woods flourish since opening in December.

"The spirit of the community is very much alive in the amazing programming, spontaneous happy hours and simple conversations amongst new friends," Fulcher said. "Mount Mary University has been a terrific partner and has brought to life a truly intergenerational experience not only for the residents of Trinity Woods but the single mothers and their children living in the community at Trinity Woods. This upcoming fall semester, all residents of Trinity Woods will be able to audit up to 35 different course offerings. I would certainly enjoy taking a class without the stress of a grade."

Kindness Matters, a supportive living company launched in the spring,

provides care partners who offer companionship services and assist with daily tasks for independent living residents at Milwaukee Catholic Home, Trinity Woods and Clement Manor.

"This new program has been able to offer individualized care, partnering with not only our residents but with the larger community," Fulcher said. "This ministry of service for others is a fundamental need in our community. What makes this program unique is our belief that individuals, no matter where they are in their life's journey, can continue to grow, participate and belong to something bigger than self. This is our philosophy: 'A Life Engaged.'"

Clare Gardens is a sustainable farm-to-table program now located on 18 acres in Neosho. In addition to gardening, they are expanding their offerings to include an orchard, beehives and compost of food waste generated by the Clare Gardens share partners.

The collaboration between the Catholic Ecology Center and Clare Gardens will

help foster stewardship of sustainability through hands-on encounters with nature, Fulcher said.

"With a shared love of the Catholic faith and mission affinity, Milwaukee Catholic Home's Clare Gardens was a natural fit to partner with the Catholic Ecology Center. The growing of healthy food is an integral part of understanding humanity's role in the environment," he said. "The key to this collaboration is working with one another's strengths. The staff of Clare Gardens is able to produce amazingly nutritious food with regenerative farming practices, and the Catholic Ecology Center staff and facilities allow for educational and hands-on learning opportunities for thousands of visitors of all ages."

Recently, Milwaukee Catholic Home Management Services, LLC, was approved by the Department of Health Services and the Department of Quality Assurance to have a Certified Nurse Aide Training Program.

The new program is one of only five new sites in the state to offer Certified Nursing Assistance training certification. The 75-hour course consists of blended learning through both online and in-person instruction. The goal of the program, which is being conducted not only at Milwaukee Catholic Home but also at Mount Mary University and Clement Manor, is to train new CNAs, who will then continue to work at one of the Milwaukee Catholic Home facilities.

"CNAs are our eyes and ears in nursing," said Vice President of Clinical Integration Katie Grant. "We depend on them for so much. This new program will help us train and mentor new staff to provide the quality of care that our residents deserve."