

Stronger Together



As Augustana Care and Elim Care plan to join together next year, we asked Augustana Care CEO Tim Tucker and Elim Care CEO Bob Dahl (pictured from left to right) to share thoughts on the affiliation.

Why is this affiliation happening?

Tim Tucker: Elim Care and Augustana Care are respected, long-standing leaders in the eldercare field. We are voluntarily, proactively coming together from a position of strength as our missions are so similar. A partnership makes us stronger together as a voice for older adults and employees and increases the impact we can have on those we serve. This is a particularly important step in today's ever-changing healthcare environment.

What will remain constant during this transition?

Bob Dahl: Our heritage of serving God by serving people of all faiths and belief systems will not change. Our main focus will remain on serving older adults by providing high quality services and recruiting the best possible employees.

What will change?

Tim: A new board of directors composed of an equal number of members from both organizations will help ensure our mission is carried out by leadership and staff.

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A new name, mission, vision and values for the combined organization will be selected with input from staff during a thoughtful rebranding process.

What does this affiliation mean to employees, residents and families?

Tim: We will continue our commitment to being an employer of choice where diversity is embraced and employees desire to work and grow. As both companies are non-profits and run quite lean, there's plenty of work for everyone. Expanded professional opportunities will be available due to the increased size and scope of the affiliation.

Bob: We'll continue to emphasize our Christian traditions, along with dignity, compassion and fullness of life for those we serve. More people will be able to choose from an enhanced network of service locations within the combined organization.

How will the new organization look a year from now?

Tim: Much of the first year will be focused on getting to know each other. Our commitment to mission-based, quality care will continue. While we may represent different brands, we share the same deep commitment to caring for the people and communities we serve.

The mission of Augustana Care is to serve God by fostering fullness of life for older adults and other people in need through the provision of health care, housing and other services in a Christian tradition.

If you have questions or feedback, please contact our communications office at jjzark@augustanacare.org or 612-238-8552.

Creative Director Jeffrey M. Placzek
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Plan Your Legacy to Make Life Better for Those We Serve

Is your will up to date? Tax law changes can affect a will created even a few years ago. Augustana Care works with planned giving experts like Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Foundation Gift Planner Becky Palmgren to help people plan their legacies and ensure their wills are current.



Updating your will can make it possible to leave a legacy that reflects your values and helps older generations thrive.

“It’s important to have a will so loved ones don’t have to go to court and incur unnecessary expenses,” says Palmgren. Planned giving allows you to decide how you want to be remembered, while addressing critical tax and inheritance issues. Planned gifts also help us serve residents by initiating new programs and providing funds when repairs or updates are needed.

To schedule a time to meet with Becky or to learn about planned giving options at Augustana Care, please contact Therese Cain at tcain@augustanacare.org or 612-238-5211.



Video doorbells are just one of the features visitors can learn about at Augustana Care's Learning Lab for Eldercare Technologies.

Learning Lab Can Help Older Adults Stay in Their Homes

Suppose your aging father lives with you and you need to make a quick trip to the store. During the few minutes you're away, your father falls and has to be hospitalized.

The good news is there's a resource in the Twin Cities where you can get information about technologies that can monitor a home setting from a remote location. For example, pressure sensors could indicate when someone gets out of bed or out of a chair. Door sensors track when someone exits a room or the home. You receive a voice or text message when any of these events occur.

Augustana Care created the Learning Lab for Eldercare Technologies to help older adults maintain independence and reduce care partner stress. A few examples of the technologies demonstrated in the Lab:

- Automatic medication reminders and dispensers
- Video doorbells, other security cameras and motion sensors
- Safety shut-off systems for stoves

The Learning Lab is supported by a Live Well at Home Grant from Minnesota Department of Human Services and other generous funders. For more information, call 612-843-6790.

When Wishes Come True: a Touch of Grace

Since Grace Hospice was founded in 2014, Executive Director Sarah Van Winkle has received special requests from patients. One patient wished he could enjoy a steak dinner downtown with his wife. “We wanted to make that happen,” Van Winkle recalls.

Staff members brought the patient and his wife to a downtown restaurant, using a town car to drive them around. This year, Grace Hospice instituted a program called Touch of Grace. The program uses donations from generous family members to make more wishes come true.

The program allowed one patient to host a pizza party for his family. Another patient was visited by sports celebrity Wally McNeil (also known as Wally the Beer Man), who knew the patient in previous years.

“Part of our mission is about celebrating the moments we have,” says Van Winkle. “Giving people the opportunity to enjoy those moments is the purpose of our Touch of Grace Program.” To learn more about the program and Grace Hospice, contact Sarah Van Winkle at sfvanwin@gracecaring.org or call 612-843-6804.



Grace Hospice social workers play an integral role in fulfilling patients' requests. Here, Madeline Gilmore, Linnea Borer and Caroline Wikman (left to right) plan a visit with Wally McNeil, known as Wally the Beer Man.

Abundant Aging at Brookside Senior Living

What does abundant aging mean to you? Lutheran Social Service (LSS) Associate Vice President for Older Adult Services Roxanne Jenkins says it involves a more robust approach to growing older. When Augustana Care approached LSS about connecting to older adults in rural areas, Jenkins asked Abundant Aging Manager of Older Adult Services Noreen Buhmann to help. Noreen worked with Brookside staff to create two resident planning teams.

Goals include securing local resources to transport residents to area events, resulting in increased connection to the community. Plans are also being made to create rain gardens, raised vegetable garden beds and species habitat around Brookside.

Residents want gardens to attract children with a fish pond, interpretive signs and sitting areas, and to offer shared space so community members and residents can experience nature. Partnerships with local high schools, Scouts, 4H, and other professionals are being considered.

In the future, LSS hopes to connect with other rural Augustana Care communities. When asked why LSS wanted to make this project happen, Buhmann explained, “Abundant aging is something we want to see for the older adults we serve.” To learn more about abundant aging, please contact noreen.buhmann@lssmn.org.



Resident planning teams at Brookside Senior Living want to incorporate the concept of abundant aging into the community. They plan to create a variety of programs that involve their neighbors, including children who live close by.

A NOTE OF THANKS

Augustana Care is very grateful to partners that allow us to further our mission daily, including Centrex Rehab, Grace Home Health and Grace Hospice.

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Festival of Trees

Start out your holidays at Augustana Regent of Burnsville's Festival of Trees and celebrate Christmas around the world. The event is

November 18 from 3 to 6 p.m. and will feature dishes from Mexico, Greece, India, Italy and many other countries. Funds will help support the community's peace garden.

Advance tickets are \$40 for adults and \$10 for children aged five to twelve; tickets are \$50 for adults and \$12 for children at the door. For information, contact vmtobroxen@augustanacare.org or call 952-898-1910.

Holiday
TREE
FESTIVAL

Life-changing gifts

What's the best way to leave a legacy conveying your values while helping others for generations to come? Gifts by bequest enable Augustana Care to improve the quality of life for those who give so much of themselves. Donations may be made using cash, securities, IRA and other retirement accounts, real estate or tangible personal property.

Gifts are deductible to the full extent of the law; consult an attorney to be sure. You'll also want your attorney to verify that the provision states our legal name: Augustana Care. Please inform us of your bequest so you may be acknowledged and Augustana Care may better plan for the future.