



# WALKER METHODIST FOUNDATION COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT 2021



Walker Methodist experienced a year full of joy, new hobbies, and expressions of creativity. Together, we lived out our mission of life, and all the living that goes with it.

*Pictured: Residents at Walker Place learned new skills during a watercolor class.*

Dear Friends of Walker Methodist,

Our mission drives everything we do. It is why we know our residents personally and provide individualized care. It is the driving force behind why we create fun activities and opportunities for residents. It is the reason we all do what we do.

With a mission statement so keenly targeted at enhancing lives and helping older adults experience life to the fullest, the restrictions and rules handed down to us over the last two years have caused us to find new and innovative ways to live out our mission. While we were told to create distance and keep friends apart, we worked hard to shrink the feeling of distance and to find responsible ways to allow friendships to blossom.


We are delivering on our promise of life and all the living that goes with it. Enhancing the lives of older adults through a culture of care, respect, and service.

I look back at all that Walker Methodist has gone through, and I see newfound strength and renewed hope and joy throughout our communities. We continue to grow and move forward.

We are innovating. We are adapting. We are re-inventing. We are revitalizing.

I cannot overstate how grateful I am for all those who contribute to the mission of Walker Methodist. Those who work for Walker Methodist, those who contribute financially, and those who live with us or entrust their loved one to our care. I thank you all for being an essential part of our mission, and for helping us deliver on our promise of enhancing lives.

Thank you,



Scott Riddle  
CEO and President of Walker Methodist





# Connecting through creativity

Art is a powerful tool for expression, creativity, and connection. It's even more powerful when created with others. Just ask residents and team members at Walker Methodist Plaza in Anoka, where they recently completed a weaving class with teaching artist Chiaki O'Brien.

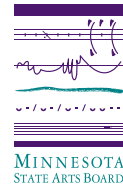
When residents came to class, Chiaki greeted them with a smile. She'd already set up their looms with a variety of colors. Because the looms were accessible, residents of all abilities participated. Bethany Swan, life enrichment assistant, said, "These classes were a highlight for residents. By the end of the class, many participants could weave alone, all because of Chiaki's instruction."

Weaving wasn't the only class offered at a Walker Methodist community in 2021. Thanks to funding from the East Central Regional Arts Council (ECRAC) and the Minnesota State Arts Board (MSAB), seven different communities enjoyed art programs. COMPAS' Artful Aging program provided expert teaching artists passionate about both their art forms and our residents. From watercolor, songwriting, and storytelling to creative movement and puppet making, residents experienced new, engaging ways to express themselves.

"Residents were so grateful for these classes and the opportunity to learn a new skill or keep up an old one," said Bethany. "It was extremely rewarding for them to make something they were proud of and to share it with others."

Thanks to more grants from Aroha Philanthropies, Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, and the Archie and Bertha Walker Foundation—2022 will be filled with art, creativity, and connection for more residents.

*This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.*



 **35** artists and  
**350** more than residents

 **7** Walker Methodist  
communities and  
**28** classes

**6** grants for  
a total of  
\$98,500  


A photograph showing a person's hands working on a wooden loom. The loom is set up with various colored threads (red, green, white) and the person is using a shuttle to weave. The background is a patterned carpet.

**"I like this class because it's challenging. I enjoy it more and more each time." — Paul**



*Photos: Team members at Walker Methodist Levande enjoyed a holiday party funded by donations.*

## Give to the Max Day Supported Walker Team Members

Day brighteners. Smile makers. Hand holders. These are the amazing people who make up Walker Methodist. They are dedicated to bringing smiles to the faces of our residents every day.

On Give to the Max Day 2021, donors showed their support of team members by contributing \$97,500—the most we have ever raised on this day. We were able to share our thanks by providing a whole turkey and pie to each team member for Thanksgiving. Additionally, money was used to host holiday parties, provide free meals, and give a little extra assistance for some team members' emergency situations.

Jaci Duren, executive director at Walker Methodist Levande in Cambridge, thanked donors for funding a holiday party for her team. Donations paid for tacos from Taco John's and fun gifts. Jaci said, "Our team had a blast eating, playing games, and enjoying each others' company! Thank you for the donations."

**"Our team had a blast eating, playing games, and enjoying each others' company! Thank you for the donations."**

— Jaci Duren, executive director at Walker Methodist Levande

A team member's mother passed away, and he wasn't able to afford the plane ticket home. Contributions from Give to the Max Day helped this team member pay for a ticket to make it home for the funeral.

Another team member experienced a tremendously difficult loss when her daughter passed away. "I feel so grateful that we were able to be a blessing to her during such a challenging time," said Megan Pingry, human resources specialist. Megan helps connect the Foundation with team members in need. "This team member was so appreciative for the peace of mind that we could help supply. What a joy for us that we could demonstrate servant leadership in this way."





1,250

turkeys and  
pies given  
to team  
members



more  
than 60 donors  
gave

\$97,500

to support our team members



**“There’s a wide  
variety of people  
here, but they all  
love music.”  
— Malcolm Anderson**

## Donors’ generosity helped residents’ spiritual lives during pandemic

Worship services. Bible studies. Concerts. Residents look forward to these programs to meet spiritual, emotional, and social needs. So, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the spiritual life team had to find innovative ways to continue meeting residents’ needs. Thanks to donors, new technology made connection a reality.

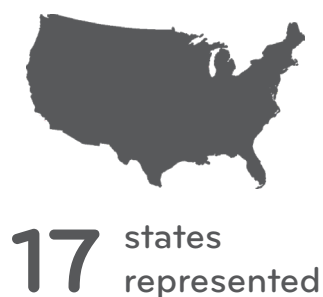
While we’ve shared a broadcast from the Health Center to other communities since 2005, equipment was limited. Using donations to the Foundation, the spiritual life team added to and upgraded the broadcast system. Now, residents are able to participate in our programming from their home. A new organ was purchased, and organist Malcolm Anderson has been providing beautiful music during services, special performances, and throughout the day. Music is bringing much-needed joy and peace to residents.

In late 2021, we began in-person Sunday services at the Chapel in Minneapolis again, using our new technology to broadcast programs to other communities. Our spiritual life team, using a new broadcast system and organ, continues to offer programs and activities to everyone who calls Walker Methodist home.

# Looking back at 2021's 16th Annual Stride for Seniors

Thank you to our donors, virtual and in-person participants, and volunteers who made our 16th annual Stride for Seniors a success with \$100,000 raised for our residents. See you on Saturday, June 4, 2022!

Register at [www.walkermethodist.org/runwalk](http://www.walkermethodist.org/runwalk).




Thank you to our 2021 sponsors!






# Celebrating 75 (+1) years of Walker Methodist

Walker Methodist celebrated its 75th anniversary one year late. Delayed due to COVID restrictions, the President's Dinner ushered in hope and joy as we shared stories of team members overcoming hurdles to serve residents. This year, 2021 Servant Leaders of the Year were special guests.



“Many times I wonder, ‘Where do we go from here?’ But Walker Methodist team members know exactly where we go. We continue to show up. We continue to serve, because that’s what we were created to do.” — Candace McCarty, float executive director

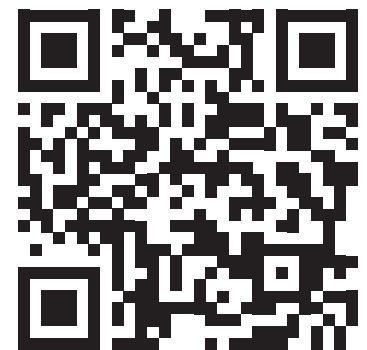


“Our team members sacrifice because they love our residents. They are the key in delivering on our mission. Without their dedication, we are not able to enhance lives. This is more than a job. It is a calling.” — Scott Riddle, President and CEO

## Thank you, donors!

We're so grateful for each and every donor who supported our mission, our residents, and our team members in 2021. We couldn't do this without you.

To steward our resources appropriately, we have shared a list of donors of \$100 or more on our website. View the list at [www.walkermethodist.org/foundation](http://www.walkermethodist.org/foundation) or by scanning the QR code.



## WALKER METHODIST EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP



Scott Riddle, president and chief executive officer; Russ Grundhauser, chief financial officer; Anneliese Peterson, chief operating officer; Sarah Wandschneider, chief human resources officer; Beverly Ransford, vice president of quality and clinical services.

### 2021 CORPORATE BOARD

Jon Tynjala, *chair*

Gaylen Harms, *immediate past chair*

Phil Hanson, *vice chair*

Lynn Swon, *treasurer*

Michael Finn, *secretary*

Lori Ackerson

Jim Ballentine

Sue Bergstrom

Bob Hakes

Carol Kraft

Scott Riddle, *president and CEO*

### EMERITUS DIRECTORS

Bruce Dreblow

Patricia Robertson

### 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

Questions or omissions?

Please contact Marilyn Peller Nelson, executive director, Walker Methodist Foundation, at 612.827.8538 or [mnelson@walkermethodist.org](mailto:mnelson@walkermethodist.org).



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