

Letter from the Executive Director

As I write this message, I am sitting by the window and watching a surprise Nebraska Valentines' Day blizzard engulf my neighborhood. I enjoy snow and, to the angst of some, have welcomed our snowy winter this year. What I enjoy about Nebraska is that it has four seasons, each with its own thrill. I look out this window with delight and wonder at the swirling snow, appreciating where I am on this day and, at the same time, knowing that something new will be outside this window in a few months.

Under the ground near this window lie crocus bulbs. I know they are there, under this white blanket, and with great assurance I know they will rise to announce the next season. They will have likely done so by the time you read this message. I will herald their coming just as I celebrate the snow today. There is a difference, however, between snow and crocus blossoms. I never really know when or how much snow to expect but I always know that the crocus will bloom!

This is our donor "thank you" issue. Inside the pages of this newsletter are the names of the individuals who have generously given of their time, talent and treasure in assisting the Seniors Foundation. Their gifts

help us live our mission of enhancing the lives of older adults in Lincoln and Lancaster County through supporting the programs of Aging Partners.

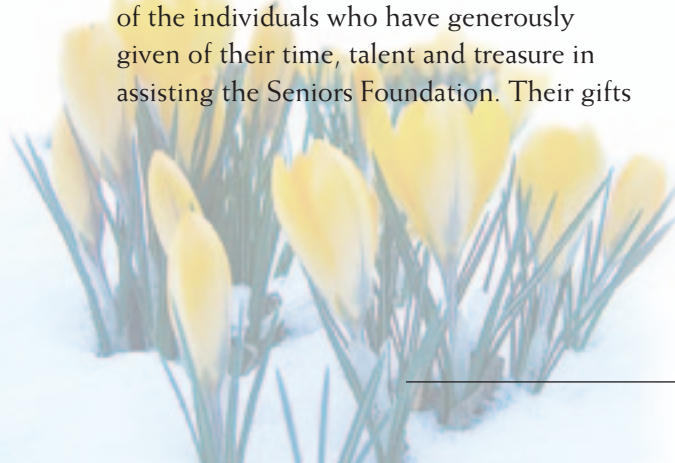
On this day, it seems to me, the Seniors Foundation donors are like the crocus bulbs beneath the ground outside my window. You see, only I and maybe a few of my neighbors know that the crocus bulbs are there. No one else can see them now and only a few will see them when they arrive. Yet those of us who will see the crocus blossoms realize what they mean to the appearance of this home and the neighborhood. We sing their praises and herald what they share with us. Later, the blossoms will not be visible but the work of the bulb in preparing for the next spring's blossom is persistent and guarantees the announcement of another spring!

This is our one opportunity each year to publish the support of our donors and lift up the importance of their gifts to older adults in this community. Without these supporters, we would not be able to assist Aging Partners in building a new future, we would not be able to help Harold on the journey he is traveling in these pages. In the quiet work of our donors, miracles happen. I want to give my sincere and personal thank you to all the individuals who have supported us in 2009.

Together with our donors and Aging Partners we are going to help write the next installment of Harold's story. Won't you join us?



*Diane Rolfsmeyer,
Executive Director,
Seniors Foundation*



Letter from the President

One of the greatest blessings I enjoy in life is to live very close to my parents and to be able to see them every day. Call me a "doting daughter"... that's one of my favorite titles. Among the things that bring peace to my life is knowing that I can be there to help my parents with everything from buying groceries to checking on their prescriptions. And while my parents are actively engaged in life and living each day in independence, and frankly, they don't need me to do these things for them, it brings me joy knowing that I can be there for them.

Unfortunately, not every child has the coveted privilege that I enjoy of being close to my parents. Many parents and children are separated by miles within Lancaster County and even more are separated by hundreds of miles, states and time zones within the country. For these children, the very next best thing to being there is the knowledge that there is someone close by to be able to help their folks in time of need.

There are also many seniors who do not have any children or relatives to help them

with the life challenges that aging brings. These seniors must rely on others in the community to be there for them.

For years Aging Partners has been a trusted source of help for seniors in our community. Aging Partners has provided great peace of mind for children and relatives, both near and far away, who need guidance and assurance in making sure their loved ones have the assistance they need to help them stay active and enjoy independent living. For this very reason, supporting Aging Partners is the priority of the Seniors Foundation. We at the Seniors Foundation can't think of a more important place to offer our resources of time, energy and finances than to Aging Partners.

Thank you for your support of the Seniors Foundation in the past. You have had a crucial part in helping to "bridge the gap" between seniors and their needs.

Perhaps you are new to the Seniors Foundation. Why not join with us today as we continue to "partner" together and make each day a better day for all seniors?

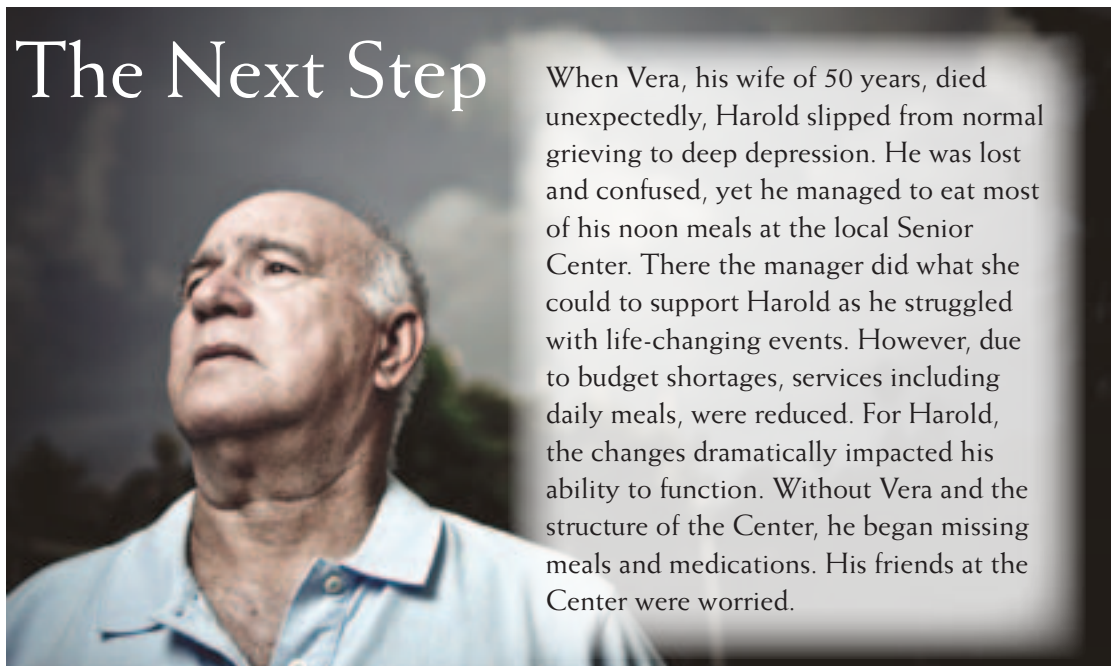


Mary Jane Nielsen,
Seniors Foundation
Board President

Harold*: The Next Step

Next installment:
Family involvement.

**Harold is a fictional name.
His story is drawn from the
real-life experiences of
individuals served by
Aging Partners.*



When Vera, his wife of 50 years, died unexpectedly, Harold slipped from normal grieving to deep depression. He was lost and confused, yet he managed to eat most of his noon meals at the local Senior Center. There the manager did what she could to support Harold as he struggled with life-changing events. However, due to budget shortages, services including daily meals, were reduced. For Harold, the changes dramatically impacted his ability to function. Without Vera and the structure of the Center, he began missing meals and medications. His friends at the Center were worried.

Many thanks to our 2009 Seniors Foundation Contributors

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Coming Soon...



Signed, Sealed and Delivered!

Don't you just love it when you find the perfect greeting card, buy your stamp, get the card off into the mail, and know that the recipient will be overjoyed when they open it?

Wouldn't it be great if you could do that from the comfort of your home? And to make it even better, wouldn't it be great if you could give a gift to that person who "has everything they need?"

Well, soon you can do that and more at the new, improved Seniors Foundation website now under construction. Stay tuned to seniorsfoundation.org for details.



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*Seniors,
the foundation
of our community*



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