



C E N T E R

Nurturing abilities. Changing lives.

[www.annecenter.org](http://www.annecenter.org)

# Nurturing Mind, BODY and Spirit

## Anne Carlsen Center Chaplaincy Care Program



**J**oAnne Moeller plays a vital role at the Anne Carlsen Center. She's a singer, storyteller, Gospel Train conductor and resident "joyful-noise" maker. Her official title? "Rev." or "Pastor" as an ordained Lutheran clergy and Chaplain at the Anne Carlsen Center for the past three years. Her official role? Nurturing our extraordinary children, young adults, their families and ACC staff—mind, body and spirit.

We strongly believe *spiritual care* is just as vital as the first-rate education, therapy and physical care we provide at the Anne Carlsen Center. It's one of the many reasons why our Chaplaincy Care Program is a crucial component of life at ACC.

Under the Chaplaincy Care Program, we have also established a weekly chapel service—led by Pastor JoAnne—and filled with music and intriguing puppets or acted characters to share God's promises and love in fun, interactive ways. Through regular chapel services, pastoral visits, and a "ministry of presence," Pastor JoAnne helps nurture the seeds of faith, hope and love—as she reminds others of God's love and encourages them to "Grow in God."

In addition to a weekly chapel service, Pastor JoAnne has engaged our students

in worship as part of a chapel guild. ACC students and residents serve as greeters (and handing out bulletins), acolytes ("lighting" battery-operated altar candles), bell ringers (calling us to worship) and leading in prayers.

And the summer Vacation Bible School program is a highlight of the year for most of our children, offering them the memorable experiences and joy of participating in a traditional, fun-filled Bible School program. Whether her storytelling character is one who loves reading and the color red (Reada Reddy), one who loves letters (Reada's cousin Alphie-Betty Reddy) or toe-sock puppets—the Toe-Fu Twins—who celebrate "Feet of Faith", chapel services, and Vacation Bible School gatherings are full of surprises.

**S**ome days at the Anne Carlsen Center are filled with laughter amidst the learning. Other days see fragile medical conditions and death, which are difficult and draining for all. At ACC, Pastor JoAnne helps our young residents joyfully embrace living the life God has blessed them while also dealing with loss—a reality we are forced to face at the Center.

Pastor JoAnne fondly recalls spending four meaningful days with Hailey, one of our young residents, and her family prior to her death. Even though Hailey had a hearing impairment, Pastor JoAnne said she seemed comforted by songs. She commented, ***"Being there for Hailey and her family, is what this program is all about."***

After Hailey's death, her family expressed their gratitude to Pastor JoAnne for the compassion and peace she offered them, as well as their daughter.

In those difficult days of grief—as we mourn the loss of one of our children—Pastor JoAnne offers compassion and comfort to grieving residents, families and staff.

Pastor JoAnne is dreaming big on behalf of the children, staff and families in her care. Currently, she is working on the development of a palliative program that helps care for all children, at all stages of life.

She has also developed a staff training module on spirituality to incorporate into ACC's new employee orientation.

And she has dreams of creating much-needed chapel space or quiet prayer area at the Center.

At the Anne Carlsen Center, we offer the very best therapy and education to help our students grow strong and meet physical and mental challenges. And we

have a Chaplain to help meet the spiritual needs of the children we serve.

While our chaplain does not take the place of anyone's pastor or priest, we find having a chaplain on site to provide immediate ongoing care to be an immeasurable benefit.

Right now, Pastor JoAnne serves the Anne Carlsen Center on a part-time basis. But we have discovered 30 hours per week is not nearly enough time to meet the pastoral needs of our children, their families and the staff. The budget to support and expand this program includes salary, administrative help, benefits, musical instruments, miscellaneous materials and curriculum.

*"We place tremendous value on the spiritual care the Chaplaincy Care Program provides for the children, families and staff of the Anne Carlsen Center. We are confident that the faithful support of our donors will continue to help us grow, and expand, this spiritually-nurturing program."*

Dan Kunzman,  
ACC Foundation  
Executive Director

Today, we invite you to play a significant role in helping the Anne Carlsen Center continue to provide spiritual care to our students, residents, families and staff.

We need a few faithful friends who understand the important impact of our Chaplaincy Care Program and are willing to stand up with us to continue offering spiritual care to the lives of those we serve.

Our desire is to create a matching fund to help guarantee its continuance. This fund will help us increase the amount of time and money dedicated to the chaplaincy program, which is fully dependant on the financial support of friends like you as ACC does not receive state or federal funding. Your generosity will encourage others to give and will be doubled to have twice the impact.

Thank you for believing in the dedicated and compassionate work of the Anne Carlsen Center. Your gift today will help us continue and grow this much-needed chaplaincy program, which makes an incredible difference in the lives of the remarkable children we serve.



## Why It Matters ...

Christmas Eve, Pastor JoAnne Moeller held a service for children, their families and the Anne Carlsen Center staff. She shared the Christmas Story and led the children in singing carols. At the last second, Pastor JoAnne decided to go around and serenade each child with a verse of the Christmas Carol individually. The response from two of them, both of whom are non-verbal, helped affirm the benefits of her role at ACC.

***"I won't forget Jade's face when I sang to her. She just lit up. And Matt took my hand and wouldn't let go ... It's those moments that warm my heart and make my spirit dance."***

