

# ACC's Pastor JoAnne nurtures the seeds of **FAITH** hope and *love*

Lives are changed each day at the Anne Carlsen Center (ACC), as individuals with a wide array of disabilities grow strong, make lasting friendships, and gain important life skills. One of the most vital components of this holistic care is in the form of spiritual nourishment, provided through the Chaplaincy Care Program.

For the past three years, Pastor JoAnne Moeller has brought a joyful presence to the Center, as she nurtures our extraordinary children, young adults, their families and ACC staff—mind, body and spirit.

It is a component of life at ACC that many people have come to appreciate, even depend upon.

Just ask Carol Zenk of Webster, N.D. Her son, Pascal, came to ACC in 2002 with a variety of medical issues, including lung disease and a dangerously fragile intestinal tract. Blind and non-verbal, the 18-year-old student immediately connected with Pastor JoAnne, drawn to her creative, sensory-filled way of interacting with students.

Each weekly chapel service, with its music and lively stories, is designed to reach students of all abilities.

"I've been to chapel with Pascal," says Carol. "He responds so well to Pastor JoAnne and what she has to say. Her tone of voice and how she presents things ... it's wonderful. She blends music into each chapel service, and Pascal loves music—he always has."

With the help of adaptive equipment and customized switches, Pascal is able to take his turn playing music and sharing recorded prayers during chapel services.

The fun, interactive chapel services are only one way Pastor JoAnne shares God's promises and love.

During her pastoral visits, she has helped families, like the Zenks, through some very uncertain times.

In 2006 and 2007, Pascal had three major surgeries to remove life-threatening intestinal blockages. Carol says Pastor JoAnne was a source of comfort and peace during those difficult days.

"She was marvelous," says Carol. "She came to spend time with me before the surgery began to assure me she was there. While Pascal was in surgery, we went to the hospital chapel and prayed out loud together. I'm confident that all of our prayers helped Pascal to survive."



Pastor JoAnne spends some time ministering to Pascal Zenk while visiting the River's Bend Home Area of the Center.

Right now, Pastor JoAnne serves the Anne Carlsen Center on a part-time basis. But we have discovered that 30 hours per week is not nearly enough time to meet the pastoral needs of our children, their families and the ACC staff. The budget to support this program includes salary, administrative help, benefits, musical instruments, miscellaneous materials and curriculum. Pastor JoAnne has dreams of someday creating a chapel space or quiet prayer area at the Center.

Our desire is to create a matching fund for the chaplaincy. That will help us increase the amount of time and money dedicated to the program, which—without state or federal funding—is fully dependent on the financial support of friends like you. Your gift will encourage others to give and will be doubled to have twice the impact.

Thank you for supporting this much-needed chaplaincy program. Your generosity has a lasting impact on the lives of the remarkable individuals in our care.



Pastor JoAnne and the toe-sock puppets—the Toe-Fu Twins—helped the students celebrate “Feet of Faith.”

## Feet of Faith

### VBS provides fun, creative ways to learn about the Bible

Anne Carlsen Center (ACC) students and residents got their summer off on the right foot during Vacation Bible School (VBS).

The theme of this year’s seven-week VBS was “Feet of Faith” and gave ACC Chaplain JoAnne Moeller a new avenue to relay stories of faith and hope.

“I had great fun with getting the creative juices flowing,” says Pastor JoAnne. “It was hard, it was challenging, but when those creative juices get flowing, it is fun and delightful.”

She used sock puppets, the Toe-fu Twins (Tiffany and Tony), to help capture the students’ imagination and serve as the conduit for stories from the Bible that were tied into a different theme each week. Pastor JoAnne also wrote songs for the summer session, including Amazing Feet, a song about feet sung to the melody of Amazing Grace.

The first week of VBS immediately brightened the halls of the Center, as many of the children decorated foot cutouts. The colorful artwork was then placed along walls, making for a decorative trail of prints.

The final week of VBS served as a celebration, as a “Feet Festival” was held. Games and contests were held for Center students, residents and staff. Participants created the best foot joke, sang songs, enjoyed a scavenger hunt, and competed in a Center-wide matching game with photos of feet.

“We learned how many feet it takes to hug the Anne Carlsen Center,” says Pastor JoAnne, referring to the perimeter of ACC. “It’s about 3,000 by the way.”

To learn how to donate to the Chaplaincy Care Program at ACC, contact Shelley Nannenga at 701-952-5109 or toll-free at 1-800-568-5175. She can be reached by e-mail at [shelley.nannenga@annecenter.org](mailto:shelley.nannenga@annecenter.org).

Thank you for believing in the dedicated and compassionate work of the Anne Carlsen Center.

