



## Providence Benedictine Nursing Center Foundation

Betzy Loza helps Sharon use a tablet to connect with her son.



# Tablets keep residents connected to loved ones

In March 2020, COVID-19 created chaos. State mandates allowed only essential caregivers to enter Providence Benedictine Nursing Center and Orchard House Assisted Living. Residents of both facilities were suddenly isolated from their families

and were asked to minimize contact with one another as well. This change was devastating to the well-being of our residents.

In addition to the sudden separation from families and friends, many medical appointments were cancelled.

Thanks to your generosity, the Providence Benedictine team purchased electronic tablets to connect patients and residents with their families and friends. The tablets allowed virtual medical appointments that otherwise would have been cancelled. Primary care physicians could visit patients without entering the building, and patients and residents had some contact with the outside world.

Examples of some ways the tablets have been used:

- A long-term resident whose husband visited regularly before the pandemic was able to connect with him weekly, as well as with her sister who lives in Germany.
- A long-term resident with cognitive impairment became isolated and disengaged. The tablet enabled her to have virtual visits with a brother in California. She was so excited about the first call that she introduced him to Providence caregivers during the visit.
- A mom at Orchard House was able to talk with her out-of-state daughter who took her mom on a virtual tour of her own garden.

"Families have engaged in a mix of window visits, outdoor visits and virtual visits to stay engaged," said Emily Dazey, Providence Benedictine Nursing Center director. "The tablets helped make this incredibly difficult year more bearable."

## 2020 Highlights

### Therapy garden offers safe place

The therapy garden at Providence Benedictine Nursing Center is a showpiece enjoyed by our patients, residents, visiting families and Providence caregivers. "During the pandemic, the gardens have been such a blessing. With all the budding and blooming plants, we are reminded of new life and hope," said David Horn, chaplain. "The gardens have also become safe places for families to visit with residents, giving them a chance to interact in a beautiful setting." Thank you for your support of the gardens and for providing this safe, peaceful place for everyone.



### Caring for all

Thanks to your generous support of our charity care fund, we can assist our community's elderly, including those who cannot afford to pay the full costs of their care when expenses are not covered by private insurance, Medicare or Medicaid. Each year, Providence Benedictine provides an average of \$400,000 in charity care. Your support covers more than a quarter of those costs and because of you, patients receive the best care and the therapies they need, regardless of ability to pay.

## 2020 total dollars raised by fund

- Area of Greatest Need | 41%
- Building and Equipment | 42%
- Home Health | 1%
- Hospice/Palliative Care | 5%
- Therapy Gardens | 8%
- Other Funds | 3%

