



# Countryside Support & Memory Center

415 S. Crow St., Pierre, South Dakota 57501

Phone: (605) 945-0827

March 2026

## Lucky or Blessed...We are Both

At Countryside Support, we are lucky to be surrounded by an amazing team of staff and volunteers who give their time, talent, and hearts so generously. Their compassion and dedication make it possible for us to serve individuals and families facing cancer, memory loss, and end of life right here in our community. Every smile at the Thrift Store, every program offered, and every quiet act of kindness reflects the spirit of service that lives within our team.

We are equally blessed to be part of such a caring community. Your donations, prayers, encouragement, and participation make this mission possible. As spring approaches, it brings with it a beautiful reminder that there is always hope — a chance to begin again, to grow, and to strengthen our faith. Together, we step into this new season grateful for the blessings around us and hopeful for all that is yet to bloom.



## 3rd Annual Virtual International OMA Art Show

We are proud to share that several local OMA artists were recognized in this year's show!

- Jerry – *Depth Award*
- Mary – *Nature Award*
- Catherine – *Creativity Award*
- Virginia – *Most Unique Process Award*

Congratulations to each of these talented artists for their outstanding work and well-deserved recognition!

## OMA – Opening Minds Through Art

Opening Minds Through Art (OMA) is an award-winning, evidence-based, intergenerational art-making program for people living with dementia. OMA builds bridges across age and cognitive barriers through art.

In the OMA program, individuals living with dementia are honored as artists and paired with trained volunteers. Together, they create artwork using imagination and a variety of mediums, focusing on strengths and creative expression each week.

OMA continues to demonstrate that creativity has no limits — and that art connects us all.



## MEMORY CENTER

In 2011 Countryside opened the Memory Center in Pierre with a simple goal: to provide a screening mechanism for memory loss. Memory loss may be related to illness, grief, depression, medications, trauma, stroke, stress, or sleep deprivation.

### Why Memory Loss Screening is Important

Memory loss is one of the most common symptoms of dementia. Dementia is not a disease, but rather a group of symptoms that accompany certain diseases or conditions which affect the brain. A person with dementia suffers from the loss of mental function (thinking, reasoning, and recollection), severe enough to disrupt their daily routine.

When people hear the word “dementia” they often think “Alzheimer’s.” Just Google® “dementia” and the search engine will pull up all things related to Alzheimer’s. Why? Because Alzheimer’s (a neurodegenerative disease), is the most prolific form of dementia claiming upwards of 70% of all cases. *Alzheimer’s is not, however, the only source of dementia.*

Loss of mental functions may be caused by strokes (Vascular Dementia), an inherited disorder (Huntington's), or by infection (Creutzfeldt-Jakob). In addition, dementia disorders and *dementia-like symptoms* may stem from medication side-effects, brain tumors, chronic alcohol/drug use, metabolic disorders (vitamin B12 deficiency), hypoglycemia, and depression.

### The Role of the Memory Center



Our memory team provides an initial assessment by collecting information, compiling a comprehensive report, and sending the report to Dr. Pinholt. Once Dr. Pinholt reviews the report and adds her comments, a final report is sent directly to the primary care physician. The process is professional, confidential, and provided at no cost to the patient or their family. In the past 12 months the Memory Center Team has performed over 179 screenings in our communities.

Dementia is of particular concern to individuals over 65 years of age, because one in three seniors will die of Alzheimer’s or some form of dementia. A decline in memory and cognitive functions results in a loss of independence. This loss has a wide-ranging impact on the individual, their families, and healthcare providers.

Whatever the cause of memory loss, it is in the best interest of the patient and the family to identify the reason as quickly as possible. Only then can positive steps be taken to ensure safety, quality of life and support for the patient and their caregiver.

No one should delay a memory screening because of financial concerns. That’s why Countryside Memory Center provides screenings at no cost to the patient or family. Behind every screening is an average expense of \$1,200. Monthly donations allow us to cover these costs and continue offering compassionate, accessible care to those facing memory challenges.

Countryside’s Memory Center is here to help. We do not diagnose, and we do not treat, but we provide a free assessment and offer resources and support to caregivers through our Memory Connect Support Group which meets monthly. For more information on the program and how you can **donate**, please call us at 605-945-0827.

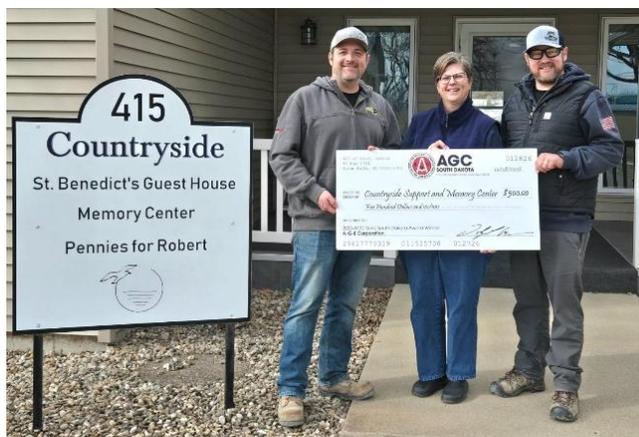


**Community programs | All groups will meet in the Countryside Community Room 415 S. Crow Street**

**Parkinson’s Support Group** – First Wednesday of each month, at noon. Visit with others who have a Parkinson’s diagnosis. Topics include medications, exercise, safety issues and day-to-day challenges. Family members are also welcome.

**Memory Connection** – Third Thursday of each month, at 6:00 p.m. Discussion group for family members and friends caring for a loved one with dementia. An opportunity to offer support and share information.

**OMA** – Thursdays 10:30 -11:30 – Opening Minds through Art (OMA) is a program that matches individuals who have memory loss with a volunteer, together they create art. For more information and/or to volunteer, call Cindy at 605-945-0827.



**A-G-E Corporation Donation**

Their team won the Category III Build South Dakota Award at the AGC Conference. They selected Countryside Support & Memory Center as their organization to donate their \$500 award. Thank you for choosing Countryside and supporting vital programs in our community.

*Countryside Volunteer*  
**SPRING POTLUCK**

We are celebrating our Volunteers, April 20th during National Volunteer Week at 12:00pm at First United Methodist Church.

All volunteers (board members, newsletter, thrift store, fundraisers, OMA, etc.) are invited to attend the spring potluck in celebration of YOU – our volunteers.



## PENNIES FOR ROBERT

Imagine hearing the words, “You have cancer.” The diagnosis itself is life-altering. Then come the emotional and financial pressures that quickly turn overwhelming into unimaginable. Income often decreases just as medical and travel expenses increase. Plans are postponed, family members feel the ripple effects, and the future suddenly feels uncertain and out of reach.

Now, imagine that there is a local resource where you can get some relief. Where people gladly assist you with funds for long trips to Sioux Falls, Rapid City, Mayo and further.

No need to imagine. Countryside is that place.

Pennies for Robert began in 2004 with a simple jar of pennies from the family of Robert Disburg, created to honor his courageous battle with cancer after his passing. They entrusted Countryside with the gift, asking that it be used to help other families facing cancer—especially with the burden of travel expenses during treatment.

For the past year, Countryside has provided **\$52,990** in direct assistance for **533 trips** for local cancer patients who had to travel out of our area for treatment. No red tape, no tedious paperwork, no income criteria – just a community pulling together to help lighten the load of their family member, friend, neighbor, and co-worker.

To find out more about our program or **how you can donate**, please call (605) 945-0827 or check out our website at [www.countrysidesupport.com](http://www.countrysidesupport.com) - Because every Penny Counts.

## ST. BENEDICT’S GUEST HOUSE

For those who travel to Pierre for cancer appointments and treatments, St. Benedict’s Guest House provides a home away from home. The house supports up to 6 patients and a caregiver with a private room and bath. The house layout allows guests to use the kitchen, laundry and living/dining room areas. When home is hours away and changing weather conditions affect travel, St. Benedict’s provides peace of safety and a place to rest for the night or extended stays. Your **donations** helped support **101 guests** this past year for a total of **197 nights**.



**Call 605-945-0827 or go on-line for more information about our support groups and program events.**

Website

[www.countrysidesupport.com](http://www.countrysidesupport.com)

Facebook

[Countryside Support – Pierre, SD](#)

Instagram

[countryside\\_support\\_pierre](#)

**IN MEMORY OF...**

Pearl Stone  
by  
Shirleen & Mike Fugitt  
Ruth Jones  
Kathi Mueller

Helen Stahl  
Karen Day  
Hazel Baumberger  
Joan Martell  
Floyd Eliason  
Ronald "Ron" Wilson  
by  
Nancy Bloom

Ralph Stephens  
Mildred "Milme" Jibben  
Noel Henriksen  
Charles Poches Jr.  
Pearl Stone  
by  
Pat & Holly Hoing

Larry Burtts  
Lynette James  
Mildred "Milme" Jibben  
Orville "Orv" Charlson  
Marval Fairbanks  
Sharon Ramse Askins  
by  
Roger & Marla Fuller

Colleen A. Weiss  
Ruth Karim  
Mary Greenfield  
Jean Rounds  
by  
Larry Weiss

Clinton Schimkat  
by  
Herb & Arlene Pitan  
Dave & Elaine Konechne

Betty Wortman  
by  
Anita Baker

Phyllis Ann Keith  
Mortenson  
by  
Dennis Keith

Ronald Knecht  
by  
Jerry & Paula Hunsley  
Marsha Kucker

Karen Day  
by  
Elaine & Bob Yackley

Lynette James  
Pat Harding  
Gaytha Ten Eyck  
Carmen Heyd  
Beverly "Bev" Mickelson  
Orville "Orv" Charlson  
by  
Cookie & Dean Hyde

Rosemary Geis  
Joan Hiles  
by  
Tam & Char Gatje

Carl Roach  
by  
Larry & Dolly  
Christenson

Geroge Breidenbach  
by  
Fee Jacobsen

Clinton Schimkat  
Ronald "Ron" Wilson  
Anna May Masteller  
by  
Dale & Donna Gohl

Dale D Hegg  
by  
Jennifer Hegg

Ronald Knecht  
Helen Stahl  
by  
Beverly Badger

Michael "Mike"  
McQuistion  
Joe Hockett  
Charles "Chuck"  
Hargens  
by  
Norm & Joann Weaver

Judy Chambers  
by  
Carl Chambers

Anna May Masteller  
Ronald Wilson  
by  
Gary & Grace Schmitgen

Allen "Al" Christie  
Karen Day  
Beverly "Bev" Mickelson

Aaron Swan  
Gary Hoscheid  
Noel Henriksen  
Pearl Stone  
Ronald Knecht  
Bill Gayton Jr.  
by  
Paul & Dawn Marso

Hazel Baumberger  
Clinton Schimkat  
Anna May Masteller  
by  
Dale & Joyce Tipton

Irene Gram  
by  
Buddy & Danette Cronin  
Janice Bergeson

Michael "Mike"  
McQuistion  
by  
Linda & Courtney Brown



In Memory of  
Our Nephew  
**Michael "Mike" McQuistion**  
With love,  
Patty & Lou Chamales  
Mary Fenger & Family

In Memory of  
**Ann Hasek**  
Mom, it will be 10 years on  
March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
That you were taken from us. It was a  
day that we will never forget. Your  
death has left a big void in our family.  
You are forever loved and will live in  
our hearts always.  
Love you, Mom!  
Karen Hasek  
Paula & David Smith



Countryside Support & Memory Center  
415 S. Crow St.  
Pierre, SD 57501

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**Donations:** We Care-Dakotamart, Charities Aid Foundation America C/O CyberGrants LLC, AGC OF SOUTH DAKOTA, AGE Corporation, The Corner Gas Station-Pierre

**Memberships:** Mary Jo Askew, Maxine Tessier, Sharon Reidinger Mitchell, Paul & DeeAnn Knofczynski, Dale & Donna Gohl

**St. Benedict's Guest House:** Donna Welch

**Memory Center:** David & Carrie Lolley

<b>THIS GIFT IS FROM:</b>	
Name	_____
Address	_____
<b>FOR:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> As needed <input type="checkbox"/> Avera @ Home Hospice <input type="checkbox"/> Memory Center <input type="checkbox"/> Pennies for Robert <input type="checkbox"/> St. Benedict's Guest House <input type="checkbox"/> Membership (Travel funds for cancer patients)                      (Lodging for cancer patients) <input type="checkbox"/> OMA (Opening Minds through Art) <input type="checkbox"/> Freda's Story (booklet)
In memory/honor of:	_____ Notify: _____
In memory/honor of:	_____ Notify: _____
In memory/honor of:	_____ Notify: _____
<i><b>This newsletter contains donations processed through March 1st. The approximate cutoff for the April newsletter will be April 1st.</b></i> Donations can also be made by credit card or Venmo on our website <a href="http://www.countrysidesupport.com">www.countrysidesupport.com</a> , or you may call the office with your credit card information 605-945-0827.	