



**Helping Seniors Live Fully  
Since 1904**

Ecumen Parmly LifePointes has been more than a century in the making.

The 60-acre campus offers innovative holistic wellness programs encouraging healthy, active aging.

The Parmly name reflects a history of compassionate care for seniors while “LifePointes” identifies the wellness concepts designed to enhance our “points of life” as we move through them.

Our evolution from the first “Old People’s Home” to an active, vibrant community for older adults was driven by the dedication of Swedish immigrants and their descendants who carried with them a heartfelt commitment to their community.

In escaping poverty and diminishing opportunity in Sweden, this community of visionary pioneers brought their deeply rooted cultural and religious values to Minnesota in the late 1800’s. Once established in the area, these hard working newcomers — through the leadership of the Chisago Lakes Lutheran Churches — saw a need for a home to care for the elderly in their community. In 1904, the purchase of a 23-acre site in Chisago City began the journey to today’s advanced senior community.

The original 18-room home was dependent on the generosity of the Chisago City community and area churches that created a bond that continues today. Even with the hardships, the home soon established a reputation as a caring, nurturing place. At the time, much of the original site was used for farming to support the nutritional needs of the residents. Through the years, expanding and improving services have been a constant.

Thanks to charitable benefactors, visionary leadership and the blessing of enormously dedicated and hard working employees and selfless volunteers, the campus has continued to grow and change with the times.

## More About Our History

In October, 1902 at the annual convention of the Minnesota Conference of the Augustana Lutheran Churches in New London, Minnesota, a committee was formed to investigate the possibility of an old peoples' home at the suggestion of Dr. Carl A. Hultkrans, Superintendent of Bethesda Hospital since:

“Many members of our churches were approaching the evening of their life after a long day of toil and labor and were longing for a peaceful close of their day.”

When it didn't work out to build at the chosen location on Como Avenue in St. Paul, Dr. Hultkrans met with the Chisago District pastors to ask for their support to build old peoples' home on a tract of land along the shores of Green Lake in Chisago City.

Our history officially began on May 1904 at the annual conference when it was announced that ten area churches of the Chisago District would purchase 23 acres of land at a price of \$2,500. This historic decision created the first home of its kind within the Minnesota Conference.

Dedication ceremonies were held on November 10, 1904. Coffee was served and the ladies of the local congregations were asked to bring food. They were also asked to leave the dishes behind for use by the Home. The establishment of our mission began our long-standing tradition of respectful, responsive service to seniors.



In November 1904, Martha Mattson accepted the position of the first matron of the Old Peoples' Home. Her only provision was that her children could also come with her as assistants.

On January 1, 1932 at the age of 70 and having served for 27 years, Martha became a resident of the Home herself and turned over the responsibilities of matron to Sister Eleanora Slattengren. She died at the Old Peoples' Home on August 7, 1932.

Sister Eleanora served as Matron for 28 years and retired in 1954.





Parmly was a working farm. On November 11, 1918, John Carlson was hired as the one and only farm manager until the farming operation ceased in

December, 1964. The farm with its animals and crops supplied the food needed for the residents including meat, eggs, vegetables and milk. Acreage was added over the years to increase the farm's food production to enable the home to be self-sufficient.



← Willing Worker Phyllis Lindquist Parmly also has a long-standing history of dedicated employees. The “Willing Workers” became the name of the faithful women who were employed at the Home and devoted their lives to caring for the elderly.



“The Girls” (pictured at right) as they were lovingly called lived in a house on the grounds, which was connected to the Home by a tunnel, and were on call 24 hours a day to assist with food preparation and serving, laundry and housekeeping. These early workers were:

Esther Reinholdt who began her employment in 1918; Elsie Christopherson in 1920; Isabelle Lindgren and Nina Reinholdt in 1921 and Phyllis Lindquist in 1926.

The hand of God stepped in again when Margaret S. Parmly included the Chisago Lutheran Home for the Aged in her estate. This decision was based on her desire to help the elderly in the Midwest because she valued their Scandinavian work ethic.



In early 1969, her daughter, Ruth, called a Lutheran friend at the Board of Social Ministry in New York to find out if he knew of a church owned home that was in great need. The first suggestion was that the money be given to the Queen Louise Home for Children on the Island of St. Croix in the Virgin Islands. Ruth rejected his suggestion in favor of the Chisago Lutheran Home.

In December 1970, Mrs. Evelyn Ofelt, Administrator, received the unexpected letter that the Home was the recipient of approximately \$1,000,000 from her estate. The gift was a tremendous blessing for the Home which at the request of the Department of Health had just completed a \$55,000 remodeling project to eliminate some of the fire hazards of the old two-story building.

With people living longer and requiring different levels of services to meet their needs as they age in addition to skilled nursing care, Parmly responded by adding:

November 1977 - South Chisago County Meals on Wheels

May 1, 1981 - Parmly Lakeview Apartments

October 1984 - Adult Day Care Services

July 26, 1985 - Point Pleasant Heights Apartments & Townhomes

January 24, 2000 - Margaret's House

August 1, 2002 - Vindauga View Assisted Living Apartments

October 14, 2007 - Vitalize! Wellness Center, Isabelle's House, Martha's House



Our partnership that began with 10 founding churches still extends to the broader community in the Chisago Lakes area with many individuals and organizations volunteering their time and talents to enrich the lives of the seniors we serve.

Today, over 100 years later, we continue the concern and commitment of caring for our elderly into our second century of service. As our name implies, Parmly is a campus of programs designed to provide and meet the ever-changing needs of seniors. By bringing people—needy elderly and workers—together, a community, essentially a family, is formed.



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