

The Tides of Change



Nancy Starr, Executive Director

Indeed there is a big change coming for Avinity.

And for me. I will soon begin a new life chapter and realize a dream. My husband, Steve, retired last June and I plan to follow down that same path and will be leaving Avinity at the end of this coming June. Steve and I have built a home in the woods near Grand Marais, MN and we look forward to becoming permanent residents of that beautiful, quaint northern town. (No, we're not crazy and yes, we realize what winter is like up there!)

Of course, this is a time for reminiscing. I actually had to do the math...turns out I've been working with older adults for the past forty four years. And I've enjoyed every minute of it. Well ok, almost every minute!

In high school I was a nurse's aide in a nursing home and later worked in the office at Mounds-Midway School of Nursing. In college, I majored in social gerontology. In 1975, I got a job as a caretaker at a seniors-only hi-rise in St. Paul and this began a 27-year career with the Wilder Foundation in senior housing. In 2002, in the middle of grad school, I followed God's marching orders and landed at Twin City Christian Homes as executive director. At the time, TCCH consisted of independent and assisted living and one nursing home. It wasn't long before we got out of the nursing home business to focus on senior housing and supportive services and now we own and/or manage 6 senior communities in the Twin Cities and 1 in Hibbing. Two years ago we rebranded and changed our name to Avinity.

My 12 years with Avinity have truly been rich. Leading this organization through times of rebuilding, stabilizing and plenty of change, has been one of the most challenging and rewarding times of my career. I've come to know and have been blessed by countless residents, staff, partners, board members and other senior living professionals.

There is a flood of emotion for me as I approach this crossroads in life and take the road marked "new lifestyle". I will grieve the loss of coming to work every day at this most excellent organization that drives me with its mission. I will miss being around so many people I've come to know and love. But this is an amazing opportunity for me as it also is for Avinity. And God has this big change entered right into his GPS (God's Positioning System). So I know a new purpose awaits me while a new era for Avinity is right around the corner.

Here's where I express my deepest thanks to every one of you who have been a part of the Avinity family over the years. Many of you have been faithful in supporting us through donations, providing us with your products and services, partnering with us and living in our communities! I am very grateful for these many wonderful relationships.

I'll share my all-time favorite Bible verse with you, because goodness knows, we've all been right here so many times have we not?

Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls. Jeremiah 6:16

DO stay tuned in because there are plenty of remarkable things yet ahead for Avinity. And watch for a farewell open house to come in June...come and celebrate an ending and new beginnings!