

The Beacon

NEWS FROM THE DANISH HOME



The Power of Small

Thirty-five percent of certified nursing assistants in senior communities across the country care for as many as 20 residents each. What's more, over half of U.S. skilled nursing communities have lower nursing staff levels than experts recommend, and one quarter have dangerously low staffing.

Such poor staff-to-patient ratios negatively affect not only staff, resulting in burnout and high turnover, but also the residents in their care.

At The Danish Home of Chicago, however, "the power of small is huge," said Director of Nursing Michelle Castronova.

With a capacity of only 49 residents, a remarkably rare ratio of one staff member to eight residents, and most team members employed 10 years or longer, the boutique Danish Home is uniquely qualified to overcome the obstacles so many senior communities face.

Indeed, The Danish Home's winning combination of staff longevity and an unprecedented staff-to-resident ratio allows caregivers the time and attention needed to encourage residents to regularly engage in meals, activities, and community life.

While The Danish Home offers physical, occupational, and speech therapy three times per week, depending on residents' needs, "Staying active and being involved should be part of their therapy, too," said Castronova.

In our newly constructed Garden Suites, adjacent to the main mansion, nine entirely private healthcare rooms featuring over 300 square feet and huge en-suite bathrooms are available for residents to personalize with all the comforts and familiarity of home.

Hygge happens here, not only in a favorite recliner or keepsakes from the homeland, but in the loving, engaging way staff members interact with residents, their families, and the many visitors who come to The Danish Home for events and cultural connections.

By getting up and out each day, residents build strength as well as close bonds with staff and one another. In the spring, when the weather turns pleasant, they can spend rejuvenating time in The Danish Home's beautiful, expansive new gardens.

The Danish Home's new dining and activity space creates a warm, private setting where skilled nursing residents receive personalized care while sharing in the simple pleasures of a delicious meal among friends. Residents are treated to fresh, delicious dishes prepared by our chef, who has proudly served our boutique community for over two decades.

"With virtually no turnover across departments, our team remains a consistent, familiar presence in residents' lives," said The Danish Home Marketing Director Erin Bingley. "This allows us to form real relationships, understand each person's unique needs, and provide care that is both personal and exceptional."

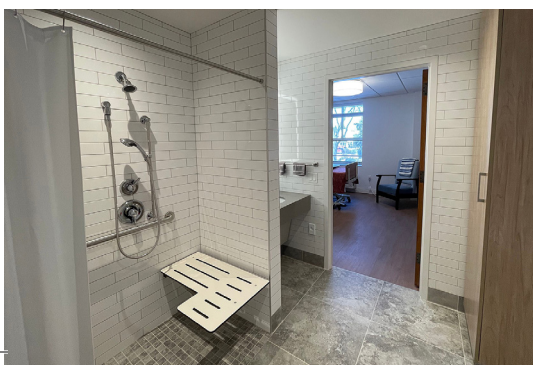
"Small is mighty," added Castronova. "The Danish Home is a wonderful place to age."

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The Danish Home of Chicago's new Garden Suites provide comfortable, attentive living.



Scan the QR code for more from Director of Nursing Michelle Castronova about The Danish Home of Chicago's extraordinary resident care.



SPRING 2026



DanishHomeofChicago.org

Fun, Food, Fastelavn!

Residents of The Danish Home had a barrel of fun celebrating Fastelavn, an ancient Nordic tradition still thriving in Chicago's Danish American community.

Hosted February 22 by the Danish American Athletic Club (DAAC) and the Danish Sisterhood Dagmar Lodge #4, the annual party is uniquely Danish and anticipated all year long.

"Thanks to our commitment to preserving culture, this event has been enjoyed by multiple generations over the years," said DAAC President Dan Kjeldbjerg.

With elements of Mardi Gras, Carnival and Halloween, Fastelavn is a lively time of food, costumes and a little mischief.

Hitting the cat out of the barrel (slå katten af tønden) was a highlight for all, a tradition rooted in a time when a real cat was caged in a barrel until it was beaten open and the cat ran away, carrying bad luck with it. Today, the wooden barrel is more like a piñata filled with candy and other goodies that children take turns whacking to spill its contents.

Reminiscent of Fastelavn in Denmark, where little ones go door to door singing for treats, children at the party paraded in

festive costumes to everyone's delight. Dress-up isn't just for kids, however, as residents also joined the fun, competing for best costume in their most imaginative ensembles.

Perhaps the most anticipated part of the festivities is the food, as Fastelavn is rooted in pre-Lent feasting. Celebrants enjoyed Danish-style hot dogs and Fastelavnsboller, delicious cream-filled buns beautifully prepared by the Danish Sisterhood.

"Fastelavn is one of my favorite holidays," said The Danish Home Foundation's Development Manager Linda Steffensen, also a longtime DAAC member. "It's nice to see all the creative costumes, and everyone enjoys spending time together."



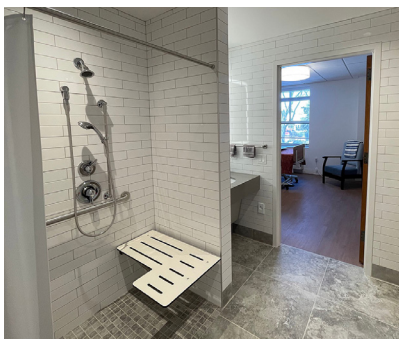
Seeing is believing!

Contact us today at **(773) 775-7383, ext. 1**, to request a tour of our beautiful new accommodations and learn more about The Danish Home of Chicago.



CHECK US OUT ON WGN 9.
Scan the Code.

SPACIOUS LIVING



The Danish Home of Chicago's new Skilled Nursing Garden Suites offer spacious en-suite bathrooms.



SOCIAL SPACES



BEAUTIFUL PATIO



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