



## *Social Accountability Statement 2026*

At Aitkin Health Services, we strive to make the town of Aitkin a great place to live. With our relationships in the community, we encourage participation in the lives of our residents through volunteering, participating in social events and an active connection with those in our surrounding area.

Our Mission: *Expressing Christ's love by providing care that values every human life.*

St. Francis Health Services owns and operates Aitkin Health Services and is sponsored by the Catholic Diocese of St. Cloud. We are dedicated to promoting the Ethical and Religious Directive for Catholic Health Care services. These directives assist our care center in making decisions to provide the best care possible to each and every individual. We also live by the following core values and celebrate our employees for doing the same.

Core Values:	
Integrity	We faithfully adhere to high principles and professional standards.
Commitment	We dedicate ourselves to those we serve.
Respect	We value and treat each individual with compassion and dignity.
Excellence	We have the passion to do our best.
Service	We deliver what has not been done, before it is expected.
Stewardship	We wisely employ the talents, resources, and relationships entrusted to us.

### Providing Quality Care and Services for Older Adults

Aitkin Health Services has a capacity to serve 42 individuals, with about 85% from the Aitkin/Palisade/Crosby/McGregor/Tamarack/Deerwood areas. In a given year, over 105 individuals will benefit from our services. Many individuals use our services for recuperation from surgery and/or short-term rehab. Often, those individuals stay with us for 2-6 weeks.

Big Stone Therapy, our Contract Therapy Company, provides physical, occupational, and speech therapy for residents, along with outpatient services. These services aid in rehabilitation and provide opportunities to return to previous living environments or maintain previous functional status.

We are able to provide therapies for:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Orthopedic Injuries</li> <li>• Back and Neck Injuries</li> <li>• Amputations</li> <li>• Spinal Dysfunction</li> <li>• Chronic Pain</li> <li>• Hip Fractures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speech Disorders</li> <li>• Swallowing Disorders</li> <li>• Post-Surgical Conditions</li> <li>• Neurological Disorders</li> <li>• Stroke</li> <li>• Outpatient Therapies</li> </ul>
---	--

In addition to medical services, Aitkin Health Services offers a wide variety of opportunities for socialization within our community. Family and public participation is encouraged. Activities include:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Live Music 2 times monthly</li> <li>• Bingo</li> <li>• Word Puzzles</li> <li>• Bible Studies</li> <li>• Current Events</li> <li>• Veteran’s Day Service</li> <li>• Sensory Activities</li> <li>• Movie Matinees</li> <li>• Intergenerational Activities</li> <li>• Memory Games</li> <li>• Arts and Crafts</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Religious Services</li> <li>• Monthly Birthday party</li> <li>• Special Parties</li> <li>• Communion</li> <li>• AM Exercise</li> <li>• Special Meals</li> <li>• Physical Games</li> <li>• Resident Computer</li> <li>• Memorial Day Service</li> <li>• Cooking Activities</li> <li>• Resident Council</li> </ul> |
|--|---|

An example of this commitment to excellence is the implementation of “Nursing Facility Performance-Based Incentive Payment Program” (PIPP) grants awarded by the MN Department of Human Services (DHS).

**PIPP Grant for years 2025-2026  
Advance Technology and Robotics**

St. Francis Health Services is strengthening resident care and workforce stability by implementing technologies that support routine operational tasks and allow staff to focus more fully on meaningful, person-centered interactions with residents. Across our care centers, innovations such as interactive activity systems, virtual reality and learning programs, humanoid activity robots, service robots, autonomous floor-cleaning equipment, integrated vital-sign monitoring, and AI-supported care management tools are improving efficiency while enhancing resident engagement.

**Recognizing Spiritual Needs and Individuality**

Upon admission, residents are assessed for their spiritual needs. Many of our local parishes and churches offer services within our facility. We have an on-call volunteer chaplain who provides

visitation, memorial services and spiritual counseling. Area congregations that participate in our spiritual care include:

- Bethlehem Lutheran
- St. John's/Bethesda Lutheran
- St. John's Lutheran Cedarbrook
- First Lutheran Church
- Bethel Lutheran Church
- Aitkin Community Church
- New Life/Missionary Alliance

Some of our services include: Thursday Services, Mass, Bible Studies, Devotionals, Communion, Hymn Sing A-longs

### Providing Access to Educational Opportunities

Education is a high priority in health care and for Aitkin Health Services. Providing opportunities to further education and learn new information and skills is essential to providing quality, comprehensive, and holistic resident care.

Aitkin Health Services awards scholarship monies to assist employees in furthering their education. In past years, scholarships have been given for those obtaining a Licensed Practical Nursing degree, Registered Nursing degree, Nursing Assistant and wound care certification.

Additionally, Aitkin Health Services provides training programs each year to cover topics in:

- Infection Control
- Emergency Preparedness
- Abuse and neglect Prevention
- Safe Care for Seniors
- Proper Lifting Procedures
- Fire Safety
- Wound Care Management
- Corporate Compliance/Code of Ethics

Aitkin Health Services encourages others to consider careers in aging services. Aitkin Health Services attends the Aitkin County Commerce and Industry Show, the Aitkin Fish House Parade, and the Aitkin County Fair, among other events.

### Helping Community Members in Need

In the past, Aitkin Health Services has given to the following community organizations:

- Alzheimer's Association
- Bi-Annually sponsoring the community meal in Aitkin, serving over 100 meals to community members in need
- HOPE

Aitkin Health Services provides Meals on Wheels to the senior population within the Aitkin area.

Aitkin Health Services has partnered with Kidz Zone Daycare to provide the employees and community with childcare services. Kidz Zone can accommodate 42 children, ages 6 weeks to 5 years old, and operates between the hours of 5:30am to 11:00pm.

### Serving as Active Community Members

Aitkin Health Services supports many organizations within the community and is a member of the Aitkin Chamber of Commerce. Aitkin Health Services employees and the advisory committee are active members of the community. They affiliate with several organizations including the following:

- Aitkin Lion's Club
- South Aitkin First Responders
- Aitkin Moose Lodge
- Aitkin County CARE
- VFW 1816 Garrison, MN

### Volunteerism

Aitkin Health Services welcomes individuals or groups to come in and volunteer upon a completion of a Criminal Background Check.

### Promoting Economic Development

Aitkin Health Services purchases products and services with many local businesses listed below.

- Aitkin County Fair Board
- Aitkin Area Chamber of commerce
- Aitkin Flowers & Gifts
- Aitkin Rental Center
- Aitkin Independent Age
- Boyd Electric
- Forty Club Inn
- Garrison Disposal
- Timber Lakes Septic
- Gravelle Plumbing and Heating
- Hyytinen Hardware Hank
- Jeff's Mobile Lock and Key
- Lammers Appliance Repair
- Neighborhood National Bank
- Paulbeck's County Market
- Ripple River Motel
- Ritter Sewer & Excavating, INC
- Riverwood Health Care Center
- Unclaimed Freight
- Village Laundromat and Car Wash, INC.
- The office Shop

There are approximately 60 employees working for Aitkin Health Services. Each year, Aitkin Health Services pays approximately \$1 million in wages and benefits to employees who work for our organization. Aitkin Health Services offers paid employer health insurance and HS. Aitkin Health Services also offers a pension at 5% of employees' wage with meeting requirements of being 21 years of age and have been employed for a minimum of 1 year and have worked 1,000 hours.

For More Information	
Facility Information	Aitkin Health Services 301 Minnesota Ave South Aitkin, MN 56431 Phone: (218) 927-5526 Fax: (218) 927-5564 Web Site: <a href="http://ahs.sfhs.org">http://ahs.sfhs.org</a>
Administrator	Christine Bakke, Acting Administrator Email: <a href="mailto:Christine.Bakke@sfhs.org">Christine.Bakke@sfhs.org</a> 218-927-5514
Director of Nursing Services	Jill Arnold <a href="mailto:Jill.Arnold@sfhs.org">Jill.Arnold@sfhs.org</a> 218-927-8211
Admissions Information	Mary Dionisopoulos Email: <a href="mailto:Mary.Dionisopoulos@sfhs.org">Mary.Dionisopoulos@sfhs.org</a> 218-927-8202