

The Branch



APPLE TREE DENTAL
Access • Compassion • Excellence

Staff News & Announcements



Leadership Message

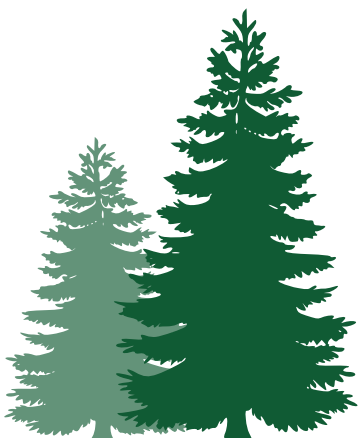
Michael Helgeson, DDS - Apple Tree CEO

An excerpt from the Year-End CEO Letter - see full letter at your holiday parties!

Dear Apple Tree family,

As we look back at 2022, I'm especially grateful to everyone who participated in the employee survey, and who is teaming up to improve work life at Apple Tree. We are working hard to create even more opportunities for employees to grow throughout their careers. And, speaking of careers, it's hard to believe that we are celebrating employees who have been part of our team for 5, 10, 25, and even more than 30 years!

As I look ahead to next year, I'm really excited that everyone at Apple Tree will be celebrating the Grand Opening of the beautiful new Little Falls Center in January. As members of Apple Tree's family who work at all our Centers, you provide access to care, serve our patients with compassion, and strive for excellence in everything you do. Many thousand thanks to you and your families!



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Year in Pictures



Heather Luebben, ADT, and Natalie Olson, LDA, accept the MouthWatch Teledentistry Award for Apple Tree.

The Fairmont staff enjoy a day at an apple orchard - later the same day, Dr. Helgeson helped cut the ribbon for the 150th anniversary of the Mayo Clinic in Fairmont.



One of the newly renovated operatories in Little Falls! The Grand Opening event is scheduled for January 26, 2023!

Emma Larson, working at the MN Renaissance Festival, poses with CSO Jessica Flotterud's three children.



Celebrating Employees

Fergus Falls Staff Celebrate Milestones

In November, Apple Tree's CEO, Dr. Helgeson, and COO, Karen Engstrom, visited the Fergus Falls Center and celebrated two major staff milestones: 20 years of service from **Neal Irion (ADT)**, and **25 years(!)** of service from **Suzanne Peterson (Center Director)**. Neal and Suzanne have helped the Fergus Falls Center thrive and we can't thank them enough for their years of dedication!



More Milestones

"**Deb Olson's** 20-year commitment to Apple Tree's mission and her compassion for geriatric and adult special needs patients is exceptional. She truly has the "special care gene" and we greatly appreciate her dedicated service to our organization. I am personally thankful for all of the exemplary care Deb has provided for our Coon Rapids and Mounds View Centers and especially at our mobile community sites. Congratulations, Deb, on achieving 20 years of exemplary work service!" - Karen Engstrom, COO

"It's hard to believe 20 years have gone by with **Andrea Hulegaard** on our team! She is essential in maintaining the surgery suites at Mounds View, with many duties as the Sedation LDA Supervisor in addition to being an excellent LDA for so many years, working with Dr. Mohebbi. Andrea has a wealth of knowledge and has experience working at the Coon Rapids Center in clinic and mobile for many years, too. We are so thankful to have Andrea at Apple Tree!" - Missy Herbst, Center Director for MV and LF



Professional Announcements

Promotions

Mary Larkin (Corp) - achieved the Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE) credential



Alexis Johnson (RO) - successfully finished the Radiology course at the U of M

Lisa Gamer (CR) - Community Care Supervisor

Milestone Anniversaries

5 Years

Annette Peterson
Kaitilin Siewert
Karen Menssen
Dr. Cheryl Romana
Timothy Erickson
Dr. Nathalie Astudillo
Dr. Patricia Ramirez
Alexis Johnson
Tanis Praske
Jozette Tiggelaar
Aimee Baumgartner
Dr. Tom Anderson

10 Years

Jenna Mans
Joanna Yanez
Susan Mathison
Kayla Hammond

15 Years

Connie Karjalahti
Nancy Schumacher

20 Years

Neal Irion
Ken Njos
Deb Olson
Andrea Hulegaard

25 Years

Suzanne Peterson



THANK YOU!

Employee Spotlight

Ken Njos, Transportation Supervisor

"As the Transportation Supervisor at the Coon Rapids Center, Ken's dedication and commitment to Apple Tree for over 20 years has been incredible. He's always there when you need him - he's kept our mobile dental offices, trucks, cars, buildings, etc., operational. Ken is also instrumental in coordinating new mobile dental office customization projects. We appreciate all the hard work he has done for us all these years!" - Cathy Spencer and Missy Herbst





Year-End Updates

Upcoming

Stay tuned to this space in 2023 for monthly staff work anniversaries!



Thank you all for another year of hard work! Before the end of the year, we will be distributing a presentation highlighting some of the big changes that have happened at Apple Tree in 2022. Watch for that!

We're also excited to say that more things are coming in 2023. Thanks for taking these strides ahead with us!

Would You Rather...?

1. Would you rather wear ice skates every moment you are..

- at home?
- at work?

[View the results!](#)

Upcoming Events

Apple Tree Holiday Parties (dates vary)
Winter Solstice - Dec 21
Hanukkah - Dec 18 - Dec 26
Christmas Day - Dec 25 (Holiday - Dec 26)
Kwanzaa - Dec 26 - Jan 1
New Year's Day - Jan 1 (Holiday - Jan 2)

Notable This Month

National Human Rights Month

International Sharps Injury Prevention Awareness Month



Thanks for reading! Please send us any news, kudos, suggestions, or updates that you would like to see in the Branch.

- The Branch Committee (Deb Jacobi, Chad Engstrom, Mary Larkin, Emma Larson)

