

The Informer

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Special Edition: Recap of August 10, 2020 Derecho Storm

Thank Your Derecho!

I love words and “Derecho” was a new vocabulary word for me. *Defined: /dā' rā, CHō/a line of intense, widespread, and fast-moving windstorms characterized by damaging winds.* Today, sitting in my air-conditioned office, all I can say is, thank you derecho of August 10, 2020. I am grateful to you for demonstrating creativity, showcasing resilience, and illustrating compassion shown by all of our staff and residents.

Today, if you look at the Mayflower campus, you would not believe that a derecho had blown across our community, torn trees from the ground, knocked out all our power for a week, and launched planters, furniture, and more as projectiles. And no one on the Mayflower campus was injured.

As you should expect, Mayflower has a disaster plan. It covers the tools, equipment, policies, procedures, etc. that are required for the safety and security of our residents and staff in natural and other disasters. Derecho was not in our book of scenarios!

What made the past week of recovery successful at Mayflower, was the people. Not chainsaws, tractors, generators, etc. but people who pulled together across the lines of departments, residents and staff; every boundary was stretched and broken. All for the good of our Mayflower.

To Mayflower staff, thank you for your tireless work. It was impressive to see you working together, seeing needs and filling needs, bringing order back to the Mayflower, feeding the hungry, sharing the stress. You were kind, compassionate, and present when things were hot, stressful, and inconvenient. You smiled, laughed, and transcended the moment for the good of each other and our residents.

To Mayflower residents, thank you for your kind physical, emotional, and financial support. You have been generous of spirit and practice. Disaster strains every part of our operation, which is a fact that you recognized. We thank you for filling the needs in our bodies, minds, and budget to address the trauma we experienced during the past week and moving forward.

Finally, Mayflower residents, thank you for the appreciation of employees you have shared with me. It means a lot. Remember, for most employees during the past week, coming to work at the Mayflower may be the easiest part of their day. When their

workday was done, they went home to no power, damaged homes and property, limited food and gas supplies, damaged schools, and more. The stress has been tremendous.

It is humbling to work among all of you, residents and staff. Thank you, derecho, for letting me experience the best of Mayflower.

Steve Langerud
Executive Director

Below, you will find a collection of photos taken around Mayflower Community and the larger Grinnell community, received from various individuals, showcasing the devastating aftermath of the 2020 Derecho Storm.



Over 10 million acres of crops- soybeans and corn- were destroyed across Iowa.



Mayflower crew was diligent and efficient in removing a fallen tree in less than an hour after the tree fell near the skywalk.



August 21, 2020



Some Grinnell residents were without power due to fallen power lines- for over a week and a half. Alliant Energy and other providers worked endlessly to restore power to



August 21, 2020



The next originally scheduled *Informer* will be published next Friday, August 28th.