

## Hansen House



Bill McCarty and Richard Hansen from the Hansen House spoke at the Treynor Optimist Club on November 21. The Hansen House serves people with all types of Dementias, including Alzheimer, Lewy Bodies, Vascular, and Frontotemporal Dementia.

Alzheimer's patients forget what they just did. It is a progressive disease. People with Lewy Bodies have hallucinations and have trouble with fine motor skills. They have abnormal cells on the outside of their brain and have Parkinson's type of movements.

People with vascular dementia have had a stroke or mini-stroke. The symptoms can be sporadic, with emotional and energy shifts.

Frontotemporal dementia people are obsessive compulsive, and fluctuate between good and bad. Their memory is not affected, but they have no control over what they say.

Richard Hansen's father had a brain tumor. His choices were surgery or death. He lived two years. He started the Hansen House in 2012 as an alternative.

The Hansen House was built from scratch. It looks like a house and functions as much as a house as possible. There is no nurse's station and no dead end halls. There are also paths inside and outside the building.

In the house they leave out things they want people to use and lock up everything they shouldn't use. They have an induction stove that they can turn on and off, but will only heat with induction pans.

People with dementia require more staff than assisted living. The key is training the staff to properly help the people.

The Hansen House is on the North Side of Council Bluffs and they are building a second. The current house has 16 units and the new house will have 18 units and will open April 1. The Hansen House has all private rooms. They are also working with Harlan to open another facility.

If you need two people to move someone, they need to go to a Nursing Home. People with memory problems do not do well in hospitals.

Most staff at the Hansen house are CAN type people. They have 4 staff for 16 patients. Richard encourages everyone to get long term care insurance. The Hansen House cannot exist on Medicare.