



# RESIDENT OF THE MONTH

## *Maggie Pabst*

Maggie Pabst was born in North Dakota into a close-knit family that valued education, hard work, and strong relationships. She grew up with her brother and sister, enjoying a childhood shaped by the strong influence of her parents. Her mother was a dedicated schoolteacher, and her father worked in the meat-packing industry for an armor company. These early years were filled with deep family bonds, the kind that remained strong even as the siblings grew older and went their separate ways. Her brother now lives in Portland, Oregon, and her sister, who has since passed, stayed in North Dakota. Until just two years ago, Maggie would return home annually to visit her nieces and nephews, cherishing the memories they made together.

Eager to pursue higher education after high school, Maggie moved to St. Paul, Minnesota, to attend St. Catherine's College and join the convent. Her time there was a joyful and formative period, where she not only received a strong academic foundation and made lasting friendships that continue to this day, but also deepened her calling to help others; an impulse that would later shape her career in counseling. After completing her second year at St. Catherine's, Maggie made the pivotal decision to pursue her master's degree in counseling.

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This required leaving the convent; a difficult but ultimately right decision for her. She enrolled at Indiana State University (ISU) and moved to Indiana, living on campus while she completed her graduate studies. After earning her master's degree, Maggie returned to St. Catherine's College as a counselor, serving students with compassion for 13 years. Her passion later took her to Delaware, where she spent two years working in schools, broadening her experience and continuing her commitment to youth.

When Indiana State University launched a new doctorate program in Counseling Psychology, Maggie returned to pursue her Ph.D. She built lasting friendships there, including with a student from Bogotá, Colombia. A chance ride to the airport cemented a connection that led to a visit to Colombia, where Maggie received a traditional ruana as a gift. With her doctorate complete, Maggie continued her work as a counselor at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College for nine years and later spent a year teaching future counselors at the University of

Wisconsin. During her time at ISU, Maggie met Ken, a professor. They married and built a peaceful life near Brazil, Indiana, in a loving home with a large lake. After five happy years, Ken passed away from cancer as the area's first official Hospice patient. Maggie later spoke at the first Hospice banquet, where she met Bob Pabst, a widower. Their shared experiences brought them together, and their bond grew into a meaningful partnership. Bob had ten grown children, and Maggie became a beloved part of the family, always honoring the memory of their mother, Phyllis. She enjoyed visiting their homes and hosting family gatherings at the lake, where fishing and shared meals brought everyone together. Today, she's organizing her collection of family photos into keepsake packages for each of the children.

Maggie retired in 2018 after a fulfilling career in education and counseling. Two years ago, she moved to Westminster Village, where she was welcomed by familiar faces and longtime friends, making the transition feel like coming home.

Today, Maggie remains as active and engaged as ever. She participates in daily exercise classes, attends Taizé prayer services at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, enjoys season tickets to the Terre Haute Symphony Orchestra, and is a proud member of a local book group. She rarely misses an evening movie or special event at Westminster. Her warm spirit and positive outlook make her a beloved member of the community.

Reflecting on her life at Westminster, Maggie says, "Everyone is so helpful here. If they can't help you, they'll find someone who can." It's a sentiment that mirrors the way she's lived her own life, always ready to lend a hand, open her heart, and make the world a little brighter for those around her.