

## ***Born in Great Bend Kansas in 1928, Reuben Bareis has spent a lifetime centered in compassion.***

Influenced by his grandparents, Reuben developed a love for the elderly and their care, leading to his work as a physician and involvement with nursing homes. After college, and the marriage to his wife Marloe Polson, Reuben moved to South Dakota and joined Dawley-Kegaries Clinic in Rapid City. Dr. Donald Kegaries suggested joining the local Rotary Club as a way of getting involved in the community.

Since 1958, Reuben has been actively involved with the Rapid City Rotary Club and its outreach, including Storybook Island, and international visitation. Exchange programs with other Rotarians enriched the lives of all of the Bareis family, and many of those travelers are still in contact with Reuben today.

After ten years with the Clinic, he, with Drs. Robert Johnson and Streeter Shining formed the Internal Medicine Group which attracted much-needed sub-specialists to Rapid City. This clinic endured almost 30 years, surviving the flood of 1972. It later joined the University Physicians in 1995.

Reuben's interest in nursing homes was piqued while visiting patients in Marie Sheldon's Home-the only privately-operated nursing home in Rapid City in the 1950s. Over the next 25 years, he encouraged six more facilities to be opened, plus, after a prolonged struggle, Westhills Village, a continuing care facility, developed by a group of First Presbyterian Church members. He became the Medical Director of three of these facilities, and as a Clinical Professor of Medicine, he joined Dr. David Sandvik's team to teach personnel working in the geriatric field. Reuben was also president of the SD Society of Internal Medicine and the BH Medical Society, and Governor of the SD Chapter of the American College of Physicians.

He and Marloe were frequent supporters of the BH Playhouse, local theater, music, and other artistic endeavors. Reuben sang in the Shrine of Democracy Chorus and was a member of the Catalyst Club and Chamber of Commerce. He received the Good Neighbor Award in 1985. When retired, and while caring for his wife, Marloe, he has written or edited several books, including "Compassionate Caregivers," a history of the local nursing home industry, which honors the caregivers working in the trenches.

