

GRACE HOME NEWS

DECEMBER 2017

THE PURPOSE OF A CHRISTIAN HOME



Grace Home: Mission Statement

"...By love serve one another." Galatians 5:13. That is the mission statement of Grace Home. That does not mean to only serve our elders with love, but each employee, family member, volunteer, board member, visitor, mail carrier, Sysco truck driver, and any other individual whom we may come in contact with in our day. It is difficult to even serve on some days, but then to serve with love? How is that even possible? It is much easier to serve and to love when the day starts with a conversation with God. Telling Him about each trial that you know that you will face during each day and asking for His direction through each trying moment will ensure His presence, especially when working with an elder. I wonder how God must feel as He watches one of His dear people pacing the halls, desperate to find a way out of their confusion, like a blind person in a pit full of bears. His love for those individuals is more than any family member or employee can even fathom and it breaks our hearts to see the panic as they search for something not quite knowing what they are searching for. But as we call on God for direction on how to help the suffering ones, He gives us little nudges in the right direction, sometimes revealing the whole picture of what they are searching for. As we follow this direction we are able to lovingly serve that individual.

OUR NEWEST BIG ADVENTURE...

Starting the last Wednesday in October and going through the first Wednesday in November, the flooring was replaced in the dining room at Grace Home. What a challenge! All measures were taken to ensure elder and employees safety during this time. All three meals were served to our elders in the break room for those who decided to come out for their meals. They were served food in Styrofoam trays so it would stay hot and covered during transportation outside and to the break room since we could not enter the dining room. Exercise was held outside or in the hallway. Singers sang in the fireside room in the evening. It was quite an experience and elders had big smiles on their faces when they learned they would be able to have the evening meal in the dining room with the beautiful new wood looking floor. We love it and are much more thankful for our dining room!



DO NOT ASK ME TO REMEMBER

Do not ask me to remember,

Do not try to make me
understand.

Let me rest and know you're with
me,

Kiss my cheek and hold my hand.

I'm confused beyond your
concept,

I am sad and sick and lost.

All I know is that I need you,

To be with me at all cost.

Do not lose your patience with
me,

Do not scold or curse my cry.

I can't help the way I'm acting,

Can't be different though I try.

Just remember that I need you,

That the best of me is gone.

Please don't fail to stand beside
me,

Love me till my life is done.

-Author Unknown



FROM THE DESK OF JOHN ENSZ, DON

Due to the 700 pages of new regulations that went into effect on November 28, our DON has been too busy to write an article for this newsletter.

INDIAN DAY

On November 10, 2017, the third and fourth graders from Grace Mennonite School dressed up as Indians. When we arrived at Grace Home, we had our faces painted.

Soon, we marched into Addeline's room. She was pleased to see our tribe and hear our Indian songs. Tanner beat on his drum for Addeline at her request.

Next, the twenty-two Indians went into the dayroom. Many residents and visitors had gathered. Singing our lively Indian songs brought joy to all. Really, we think our audience's main attraction was our young, happy faces and Indian clothes.

Our hungry stomachs led us to our Indian camps where Moms were making lunch. There were four little tepees set up behind Apartments 9 and 10. We ate our yummy Navajo tacos in and around our tepees. One resident who ate lunch with us, agreed that the fry bread and toppings were delicious.

After lunch, when Gary Wiggers and a couple 4th grade boys were setting up targets for shooting bows and arrows, a strange paleface showed up. The paleface cried out, "Indians! Indians!" He crouched under a redwood tree and tried to steal drums and bows.

We Indians hollered, "Paleface, Paleface," and ran after him. He ran and jumped into the back of a blue pick-up car. Brenley jumped in with him. The paleface fled for his life into a nearby apartment.

Then it was time to shoot arrows with our bows. We had a hard time hitting the target. Only three children hit it. Randy, a resident at Grace, used a student's bow to shoot at the target. Many residents came out and enjoyed watching the archery.

After that, we marched around in a big circle singing, "Land of the Silver Birch" and "Hy-Ya-Ho". We all beat our drums after each song, entertaining the residents. Their clapping let us know that they liked our performance.

Finally, we children were divided into three groups for the treasure hunt. Each group had a different route to go.

One group first went to sing to Uncle Raymond and Aunt Arlene in Grace. Aunt Arlene said later, "I enjoyed the singing tremendously."

Another group went to Wanda's room for a clue. She teased them saying, "I don't want to give the yellow paper away. I kind of like it here." She did give it to them.

Our clues took us through the Nichols' orchard also. One clue told a group to dig for worms between certain trees. Noah started to dig and said, "I found worms, real worms." Really, the group was searching for gummy worms.

A lady in one of the apartments had an unexpected knock on her door. After the group sang Betty a song, she asked, "What do you want?"

"Do you have a yellow paper and a bag of candy?" Mason questioned.

Betty replied, "I do not have the yellow paper, but I do have candy." Then she pulled out a bag of little Hershey bars and handed some out.

This group went on to the door that had a welcome bear out front. They knocked and it was the right door.

As you can see by reading this article, we all had an awesome day! Miss Anna Jantz, Miss Frances Peaster and the third and fourth graders want to thank everyone at Grace Home who helped make our Indian Day a big success.

-Written by the fourth graders

WELCOME TO GRACE HOME



HARPREET KAUR- HIRED ON OCTOBER 6- RN

TARA KOEHN- HIRED ON OCTOBER 10- ACTIVITY ASSISTANT

SPENCER WARKENTIN- HIRED ON OCTOBER 10- ACTIVITY ASSISTANT

JUANITA LIMA- HIRED ON DECEMBER 4- CNA



ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS: OCTOBER THROUGH DECEMBER

OCTOBER

- BOB FOR APPLES- USING A PAIR OF TONGS WITH FALSE TEETH GLUED TO THE END
- ARMCHAIR TRAVEL TO LONDON- HAD SCONES AND WATCHED TRAVEL DOCUMENTARY

NOVEMBER

- PUMPKIN PAINTING- WITH FINGERPAINTS; USED FOR CENTERPIECES
- CIDER PRESS- JOHN AND EMILY BROUGHT THEIR CIDER PRESS AND MADE CIDER FOR THE ELDERS
 - FIRE PIT SOCIAL- THANKSGIVING EVENING HAD S'MORES AND SAT AROUND THE FIRE
- FEATHER ON THE TURKEY- INDIVIDUALS WERE BLINDFOLDED, SPUN AROUND IN WHEELCHAIR, AND GIVEN A FEATHER TO TAPE ON THE TURKEY
 - HOT DRINK SOCIAL- ELDERS ENJOYED CRANBERRY TEA
- CHRISTMAS DECORATING- ELDERS JOINED IN THE FUN OF DECORATING THE HOME

DECEMBER

- MAKE CHRISTMAS CANDY- PEANUT CLUSTERS, BUCKEYES, FUDGE, CARAMELS, CHURCH WINDOWS, TURTLES, HARD CANDY
 - CHRISTMAS CAROL BINGO- A BINGO GAME THAT USES CAROLS INSTEAD OF NUMBERS AND HERSHEY KISSES INSTEAD OF CHIPS
 - PEPPERNUTS- THAT'S RIGHT! ALL AFTERNOON
 - HOT CHOCOLATE SOCIAL- HOT CHOCOLATE WITH SOME ADD-INS
 - CANDY CANE HUNT- ELDERS WILL FIND THE CANDY CANES HID ON THE WALLS AND WINDOWSILLS AROUND THE FACILITY
 - PET SHOW- KAREN JANTZ IS PLANNING TO PROVIDE US WITH ONE/SOME PETS
 - CHRISTMAS PAPER CHAIN- REMEMBER MAKING PAPER CHAINS AT CHRISTMAS TIME IN SCHOOL? WE SHOULD DO THAT AGAIN WITH CHRISTMAS COLORED PAPER... SO WE WILL
 - DECORATE SUGAR COOKIES- TARA WILL BE DOING THIS ACTIVITY
 - CHRISTMAS CAROLING- BUNDLING UP IN THE EVENING, WE WILL GO CAROL IN THE PARKING LOT TO APARTMENT PEOPLE
 - GINGERBREAD HOUSES- EVA WILL DO THIS ACTIVITY
 - CHRISTMAS STORIES-SHORT STORIES OUT LOUD
 - GIFT EXCHANGE- EACH ELDERS NAME WAS DRAWN BY AN EMPLOYEE AND THEY WILL RECEIVE THEM ON CHRISTMAS DAY
 - NAME THAT CAROL- HUM A CAROL AND THE REST WILL GUESS WHICH ONE. WHICH TEAM WILL GUESS THE MOST?
 - CANDY BALL RACE- TWO TEAMS, TWO BALLS OF SARAN WRAP WITH CANDY THROUGHOUT, 30 SECONDS PER ELDER, WHICH TEAM WILL GET THEIRS UNWRAPPED FIRST
 - WHEELCHAIR RACES- SOUTH HALL, THE RACE IS ON. MY DAD BETTER BE PREPARED BECAUSE I PROMISED THE ELDERS HE WOULD JOIN THEM. I DIDN'T TELL HIM THO!
 - MAD LIBS- USUALLY ENDS UP BEING HUMOROUS
- LAURA KOEHN

SUNSET SPA

DUE TO A RISE IN SUNDOWNING, WE HAVE STARTED A NEW EVENING ACTIVITY FOR THOSE PEOPLE. THIS INCLUDES THE SOUND OF OCEAN WAVES, DIM LIGHTING WITH STARS PROJECTED TO THE CEILING, CALMING ESSENTIAL OILS, FOOT SPAS, AND FOOT MASSAGES. A RESEARCH THAT WE DID PROVED THIS ALSO HELPS THE ELDERS INVOLVED TO SLEEP BETTER. .



“TAKE CARE OF” OR “CARE FOR”?

To take care of an elder you do not have to love them. You can quickly give them a bath, comb their hair the fastest way possible, pick the clothes that they will wear, plop them in a wheelchair, and set them in the hallway to then look at the blank wall for the next three hours. But to care for an elder is to sit beside them in their last hours, to cry with them or for them, to comb their hair the way they want it combed, to walk their pace. It is to take the time to learn what they have been through in their life and to make sure that they have the resources they need to be all they can still be. It is to experiment until you find the key to their peace of mind if it can be found instead of just medicating, to make their special meal and ask the elder's opinion on how lunch should be cooked. It is to take ten minutes out of your day to drive to Grace Home and share an inspiration about the God they love and worship, to go sit in a chair and sing along during the church service to show them that their Christian life is important to you even if the elder listens from their room. It is to sit in front of an elder for an hour to massage their feet so they can relax and forget their search for a husband who has passed away several years ago or for family members who they think have come to visit them. It is to have their favorite clock that they got for their 25th wedding anniversary on the wall in their room to show them that they are home. It is to hold their hand as they face tormenting paralyzing fear from their past as it looms up in their muddled minds, to read chapter after chapter from the Bible to the elder who that is the only comfort left in the world. It is to sit and talk to an elder who has been in the Navy and allow him to share his stories. It is to take an interest in your horoscope or a certain team for the sole purpose of giving an elder the feeling of connection. It is to walk away from the mountain of work piled on your desk and take the time to find a private spot with an elder and find out what happened to their smile, to go to their bedside and learn the reason why they would not like to get up and then to fix the problem. It is to pray with them just because you know how much God means to them. It is to ensure their dignity is intact when you are finished with your time spent with them and to leave them feeling better about themselves from the love you shared with them. That is what Grace Home stands for and that is why we put our heart into these dear ones who God has told us to honor.

