

GRACE HOME NEWS

FEBRUARY 2022



PROGRESS!!!

One day, the Grace Home garden disappeared. A few days later, those extremely tall Italian Cypress trees were toppled and removed. Soon the Hightower crew was there working. We hear there is actually going to be a new building going up. A club house for the apartment people. The cement was poured on January 26. Completion date is hopefully sometime in May.



Future Fundraiser

Since the raised garden had to be torn down for the building of the club house, what would we do for a garden this year? It is hardly an option to not have one as this provides much anticipation for months to the elders. Much thought went into possibilities. Should I get each resident a 5 gallon bucket and they could plant one plant of their choice? They wouldn't be very happy with that besides it is not very possible to get close enough to a 5 gallon bucket to safely plant something in it and care for it. Other ideas didn't seem very feasible either. One day, the idea came that we could plant a garden in the ground behind the apartments. The dirt is packed enough to roll even the wheelchair recliners on. Very few of the residents could actually work in the garden but the joy of watching things grow and sitting outside while we took care of the garden would be enough. Then, if we are going to plant a garden, why not plant it big enough to sell some of the produce. That way, the residents can hopefully interact with the community when we set up a miniature produce stand. The proceeds will go towards a new speaker system. Don't laugh! \$10 is closer to \$10,000 than \$0 and a lot closer to a meaningful existence. Marvin Neese is planning to bring in compost and till the ground. We will need to put in a bit of a fence to keep vehicles out. The water will have to come from an apartment that is being used for storage but ... what fun!!!!

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

January 23-29 is Activity Professionals Week.

Two activity employees were asked to fill out a survey for this newsletter.

FAITH KOETSIER

I started at Grace Home on October 11, 2020 as an activity assistant. I chose to work at Grace Home because it is a Christian based facility. There have been many new residents and workers since I started. I enjoy working with the residents and enjoy my job. I continue working at Grace Home because I believe Gad has called me to. I have gotten to know 48 different residents since I started working here.

KARA KOEHN

I volunteered from 2012 to February of 2018. My grandma lived at Grace Home. My mom and I came to see her every Sunday. I noticed how caring and kind the workers were. Also I love to help people in need and give everyone a smile or a laugh. I have had only one boss, Laura Koehn. I love activities because I enjoy giving people things to do so they don't sit alone. My favorite thing to do is sit and listen to an elder's life and wisdom. I also love making elders and workers smile. This is my greatest joy. I continue working at Grace Home because I feel loved by the elders and workers. I get compliments form worders which encourages me on. When elders tell me a joke or something funny, that also makes my day. I love everyone so much! Since I volunteered, I have helped 152 elders, 68 of those since the beginning of my employment.

Thanks to all my wonderful co-workers for all the encouraging words and all the love. I love everyone of you! And to the people who don't work at Grace Home, I have to tell you all that we except Crumble Cookies or monster cookies o anything. Just knock at the front door. Also, the elderly really appreciate a wave by their window or a card or anything! The mailbox is still located in the front of Grace Home. Fill it UP!

NEW HIRES

Yesenia Gonzalez– CNA

Dominica Mead– CNA

Catherine Nelson– CNA

Erin Koehn– Dietary

Kara R Koehn– Dietary

Lilia Macias– LVN

Reanna Morton– LVN

Uvalda Cruz– Housekeeping/Laundry

Lorena Guthrie– RN/Infection Prevention

Fabienne Ouapou-Lena– RN

Abigail Unruh– Dietary

Brenda Meza– CNA

Casandra Medina Calderon– CNA

Jasvir Sidhu– CNA



IN LOVING MEMORY

MILDRED

January 7, our DON, Lindsey Rees, left Grace Home for other places. Randy Koehn took over the job leaving a vacant spot for an Infection Prevention nurse. That spot was filled by Lorena Guthrie.



DECEMBER

Cecilia Hulse and her friend Kathy brought Christmas gifts for six residents. They asked to be directed to the six with the fewest visitors. They didn't get the best response but actions later told us how that those residents really enjoyed getting the gifts.

We took the residents that wanted to go to sing **Christmas Carols** at the apartments. Thanks to Irene Purganan for helping push wheelchairs and sing! There was only about one song that we could actually get through without forgetting the words. We hadn't brought song books because surely we could remember the songs. There was quite a bit of laughter as we messed up but most seemed to enjoy it anyway.

We played a new version of **Jingle Bell Toss** this year. I wrote different things they had to do if they got the bell in that cup. There were three cups that were free spaces. One cup said, "Everyone sing a Christmas Carol". Another was "Pick someone to sing a Christmas carol". Others were: Dramatically wave goodbye to Frosty the Snowman as he melts in front of you, When anyone speaks to you say "Do you hear what I hear?", Recite as much of the Christmas story as you can remember, Tell a childhood Christmas memory, Tell what you would give the person to your left if you had to give them a Christmas gift. Quite a few of the employees joined us for this game.

Christmas Caroling Bingo- the residents get Hersheys kisses to use instead of Bingo chips and instead of hearing B5, they heard a title of a Christmas carol. We had to make special cards for this game.

Eight residents signed up to do a box for **Operation Christmas Child**. They picked boy or girl and the age. I gave them a list of things to circle what they would like for that box. Then, I went to town and bought stuff to fill them. The residents filled them and wrote a little letter to go along with them. We are looking forward to tracking them in January.

The Livingston Youth Group made it possible for the residents to spend time with their family members by making the **Christmas Party** happen. Several of the girls helped plan and put up decorations while others helped to make some. They all brought food and made tea. The residents seemed to have enjoyed and the families were glad to see their loved ones. It was not a party put on by Grace Home. Each resident left the facility with their family just like they were taking them out for a doctor's appointment or other situation. Then the family was entirely responsible for them until they brought them back to Grace Home. It appeared to do the residents much good to spend time in that setting. Thanks to the Livingston Youth and Advisors for taking time in the busy month of December to remember the elderly.

Gingerbread houses... well... chocolate houses. They were made ahead of time with the molds that Kevin Bronson donated last year and frozen until we were ready to do the decorating part. We finally found an icing recipe that works (thanks to another Activity Director) and we only had one roof slide down. The chocolate, instead of the gingerbread, was much sturdier and the houses look like they might last awhile if we can find a place to keep them. Five residents participated while others just wanted to watch. Each one did their own house. They all ended up cute.

Each resident was asked what kind of **Christmas candy** they would like to make. Sadly, this is the first year in quite awhile that nobody asked for glass candy. We lost the resident that asked for it every year, as well as the one who always asked for ribbon candy and sugar free fudge. There were only four candies asked for: peanut brittle, fudge, peanut clusters and church windows. We helped the ones who requested these to make them. We also helped some others make buckeyes. You never know what is going to happen when you get someone with dementia who has made certain things all their life and doesn't realize their memory isn't what it used to be and they are trying to make something sensitive. This year, we only had to throw out one thing. The stories we could tell...

Miss Schmidt's class from GMS asked for 24 names of residents. Then they each drew a name and made a fleece blanket for that resident along with a card. Each one was packaged beautifully. They arrived at Grace Home and I took the gift to the resident while the class came to the window. The one who made the blanket was pointed out to the resident and the resident then received a few carols. This act of kindness touched the residents deeply. Some openly cried when they saw what had been done for them. Some of them used their blankets right away and some used them later that night when we went out to sing Christmas Carols to the apartment people. These blankets are seen all the time being used by the residents.



OUTINGS!

October's outing was to a drive thru restaurant and then we would take the meal to the park or back to Grace Home. They got to choose the restaurant. Most chose Taco Bell or McDonalds.

November's outing was a drive through the Lake Yosemite parking lot.

December, we took the residents to see the Christmas lights at Christmas Tree Lane and Oxford Court.

January, the outing was to San Luis Wildlife Refuge to see the birds.

ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

H I W O V H F A L L D R E A M I N G S K A X W J
D L I H C S A M T S I R H C N O I T A R E P O L
K Y L J V R E L B J T E U L M N U F S M Z H B C
Z U O Q G I N G E R B R E A D H O U S E S N B H
D W R C H R I S T M A S G O O D I E S H W X J R
Z C A J C L M Y S Y O W N E Z L L G S L T P I I
D M C V X Y U C Q I Z T N U H R E G N E V A C S
R I T U C Y T R A P E L P P A C X S V H Y Q G T
A J A T B K G L S W D X N H O Q W M X X D C N M
B G H S E I K O O C S R A E Y W E N F L Q U I A
E N T N V T N U H E N A C Y D N A C X O S L L S
T I E J L E V A R T Y N A M R E G R S G E L O C
A T M L H Y T R A P R A B O H C A N B R K I R A
L U A Q S D W B A Y O T I E S T S X O J A C A R
O O N Z X H B E J M S Y K R C G M F U X L J C O
C Q N H Q L P H W I N T E R P A R T Y U F W S L
O K F O B U B S S O T N R O C Y D N A C W Q A B
H H P U M P K I N P A I N T I N G K W V O G M I
C R Z F S E Z I M G M M R O Q L C L R T N E T N
T X P R I C I N G R E M I N I S C E L H S X S G
O A W U L Z S T U N O D R E D I C E L P P A I O
H R I A M C Y T R A P N A I L A R T S U A L R O
P R A B E E F F O C B K E S T J U C U H V O H T
S U Y E M I R Q Z N A W M K J R F Y J K C L C X

APPLE PARTY

COFFEE BAR

SCAVENGER HUNT

CANDY CORN TOSS

PUMPKIN PAINTING

FALL DREAMING

PRICING REMINISCE

APPLE CIDER & DONUTS

GERMANY TRAVEL

SNOWFLAKES

NAME THAT CAROL

CHRISTMAS CAROL BINGO

HOT CHOCOLATE BAR

NEW YEARS COOKIES

CANDY CANE HUNT

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

GINGERBREAD HOUSES

CHRISTMAS GOODIES

OUTING

NACHO BAR PARTY

AUSTRALIAN PARTY

WINTER PARTY

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD