

GRACE HOME NEWS

MAY 2022



Annual Grace Home Fundraiser

April 24 was the Grace Home Program at church. Quenton Unruh led opening song "For Christ and the Church". He pointed out the words of the third verse, "For Christ and the church willing offerings make, time and talent and gold for the dear Master's sake, We will render the best we can bring to Him, the heart's wealth of love that will never grow dim. Barry had introduction and used the verses about "inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

There were four songs sung by a ladies' group, followed by an update on the "club house" by Benny Friesen and an update on the Grace Home expansion by Arlan Koehn. The basket was passed for the collection for the Grace Home Expansion. A men's group sang five songs while the money was counted. \$70,000 was generously donated in that collection.

April 29 was the actual fundraiser with meals for sale with your choice of tri-tip or catfish. Quenton Unruh and Brandon Sommers made coffee drinks to sell. There was several hours of group singing over the speaker system. The ladies did a tremendous job with bringing in baked goods for the bake sale and the community did an even grander job of snatching them right up. We are still awaiting the grand total that will be added to the amount for the new expansion. -Laura Koehn

Dining Room Improvements

There are several things being worked on in the dining room. One of those is a sitting area with two nice comfortable chairs so there is an out of the way place for residents to go to get away from their roommates or others. We will most likely need to remove a plant to make this possible but this project seems more important than a plant.

Another project is a breakfast/snack bar. This is to address the residents who would like to sleep in later and make their own breakfast of toast. The plan is to have fresh fruit and a toaster along with a small fridge for yogurt and other breakfast items. The Keurig will be available for coffee or hot water. There will possibly be the option of instant oatmeal for those who wish to use the breakfast bar instead of getting a tray from the kitchen.

The basket of children's items has resumed its place in the dining room as well. We are hoping that it will get some use. The essential oil diffuser that was taken out during Covid when we weren't able to use the dining room has taken up its role again in adding a cheery smell to the dining room. I am working on getting a pretty bouquet of lavender for this table as well. -Laura Koehn

Club House

The Club House is almost finished. Exterior concrete is scheduled for next week. Details on scheduling and how we will use this building are still being worked on. So many needs, so little space.



Garden

Once we figured out that squirrels do not like the smell of coffee, we are able to get things to grow. They are not taking off like we would hope to see but they are growing. However, we did have to replant quite a few things. We have harvested cilantro at least five times already and other herbs once.

Fun fact: Cats also do not like the smell of coffee. They were using the flower box in the atrium as a litter box. We replanted the succulents from the wishing well that we had planted a year ago in memory of the thirteen residents we lost during the Covid outbreak. The cats didn't want to leave them alone even though there is a wire screen on top of the dirt. We sprinkled coffee out there and cats are leaving staying away.



Coffee shop on Mondays: beginning May 2 outside by service door at 10:00, weather permitting

State is still requiring masks and social distancing


We also will have a screening paper that will need to be filled out for each guest.

NEW HIRES

NONE!!!

Insert your name here for the next newsletter.

Lisa Romero changed jobs and is now working as DSD and CNA supervisor. We are needing nurses, CNAs, and kitchen help.



Maintenance Appreciation was March 4 - we invited Gary to a party and let him know many of the ways we appreciate him along with a gift

Social Services Appreciation– March 15– We went around to employees and residents and wrote down things that people appreciate about Karen along with a gift

Laundry Appreciation– April 15 –This will be addressed during Housekeeping Week later on in the year

Medical Records Appreciation– April 17 week– It is up to each of us individually to show Lena our appreciation. I know she got some items for her yard.

Administrative Professionals Appreciation– April 27 Homemade ice cream with strawberries, hot fudge and oreos for all residents and employees. Gifts for Barry and Audrey



IN LOVING MEMORY

DELBERT NIGHTENGALE

AUDREY KANE

There'll be no light in my office today...

On March 31, we were at Grace Home getting going on the day. Breakfast was nearly over. There was a huddle of CNAs and a nurse at the nurse's station with horrified looks on their faces and tears filling their eyes when I walked down the hall to hand out the daily schedule. I stopped to find out what had happened. That is when I received the news that Audrey had passed away. The first thought was of joy that she didn't have to suffer anymore. But right behind that came the realization that Audrey was gone. Gone! She would not be coming in those doors with her crazy socks and matching shoes and sweater (which she wore all but about two days of the year). She would not be there to listen to those struggles that could not fall upon the normal human's ears. She would not be there to ask about "bed, blue, sock" or to help us figure out how to word care plans. The loss is huge. It is like losing a sister, co-worker, resident and mom all at the same time. Her health had been declining and our hearts ached to see her continue to come to work only to go home soon because she did not feel well enough to stay.

How should we even continue with the day??? Stand-up meeting that morning was silent. How can one talk around the lump in the throat and the tears falling? One of the employees went around to tell all the residents because she was a big part of their lives as well. We went ahead with the day's activities resigned to the tears that would fall. One resident could not take the grief so we came up with a plan to help Audrey live on at Grace Home. Crazy sock day!!! When Audrey's sisters heard about it, they offered Audrey's crazy socks. Each resident and employee got to pick a pair of socks to wear. Her sisters and dad joined the party. We had popcorn and Crystal Light because everytime there was an activity with popcorn, there would be Audrey getting a bowl of popcorn. Every day she would go to the kitchen to get a glass of Peach Mango Crystal Light. Bonnie got a bouquet to hang on Audrey's office door and a lot of us made memory cards which were then put up in her office. We also got out a butterfly journal for whoever wanted to write their thoughts, feelings and memories down. That book is still getting new entries. The memory cards will be added to this book as well.

The family was so good to have Audrey's funeral at the Livingston church. We are extremely thankful for that. The funeral home brought her early so Grace Home residents could have an hour for a viewing. Many employees came for that time as well. Any residents and employees that wanted to went to the funeral. We, residents and current and past co-workers, took roses for the final viewing and filled a bouquet with roses. There were over forty roses when it was done. Not nearly all of her co-workers were there. She had worked at Grace Home for just over 34 years, starting March 8, 1988. Some of the managers were able to go to the graveside, but most employees had to go back to work. The kitchen had packed bag lunches for the residents so we took as many as wanted to outside to enjoy the beautiful day. One resident was too sad for this and declined. Knowing that would end badly, she was coaxed to go outside with just one employee to have lunch off by themselves. That is where the idea was born to plant a tree for a memorial of Audrey. After lunch, the residents and employees who wished to went back to church for memories.

We are planning to plant a Marina Strawberry Tree in the place of the wishing well from last year when we lost so many residents to Covid. We also are planning to let balloons off one of these days, maybe her birthday which is in May.

Her office was in the center of the building with a window looking into the fireside room. If the light was on, that usually meant Audrey was there. Now, there is someone else sitting in that spot. She can never fill Audrey's shoes and she doesn't even want to. (I'm sure she will do well.) One of Audrey's family members commented that they felt sorry for whoever was hired to take Audrey's place. This person has already commented about how bad she feels because she can see the sadness that Audrey's absence is causing.

To a lot of you, Audrey is just a name. To Grace Home, she was the heart. She was hired as a DSD and MDS coordinator but that was just what she did on the side. She is missed more than I ever thought possible.

-Laura Koehn

High School CTE Students



We have been able to allow CTE students again this year as long as they had a Covid vaccination and, if time for a booster, that was also required. We had a lot more students than normal this year due to the fact that few facilities allowed them in.

There was one group of three that came from Delhi starting in the building on March 10 and ending April 14. These students did lessons in the classroom with their teacher that I emailed to them while they were waiting for all of them to get up to date on their vaccination. They came three times a week.

Three groups came from Livingston twice a week.

Group #1 , 2 students, started on February 2 and stopped March 28. This group started back up again on April 25 and will continue once a week through May 18.

Group #2 started on February 3. Their last day was March 29. This included 4 students.

Group #3 started April 26 and will go through May 19. This group has three students.

Some of the lessons we covered were:

HIPAA & privacy– knock before entering, tour of facility, hand washing & infection control, what they would like to see in a nurse that was responsible for their care, dementia– how to approach/behaviors/sundowners, fire– emergency incident, residents rights, CNA skills, respecting the patient, interdisciplinary team– working together, hydration, shadowing CNA & RNA, memory stimulation and light therapy, charting– progress notes & behavioral charting as well as MDS and assessments, Making beds, following housekeeping/helping, care plans– trauma informed care/personalized, what will you bring to Grace Home tomorrow when you are admitted, feeding, shaving... Due to the short time that they all spent here, they were not able to get through the entire program.

It was very difficult at times to find time to prepare for these students and to teach them, but their willingness to learn made it worthwhile. Our residents got more attention, one of the students whose father is struggling with an illness learned a lot of things to help him care for his father, and we even got an application for employment out of the deal. They are all very well behaved, respectable students and it was enjoyable to have them here.



–Laura Koehn

Person Centered Care

When John Ensz was Director of Nursing, he and Melissa Brannan (Activity Director) began a program called Culture Change. As many of you remember, this was to change Grace Home from being institutionalized to a home-like environment. Some of the points that were addressed was being given choices in their meals, getting up on their own time, going to bed on their own time, quietness in the hallways during the night until 8:30 am, having washcloths to wash their hands before meals, aromatherapy...

Due to a lack of continuing education and someone driving this program along with the changes that Covid brought, a lot of it has been neglected. Over the past two months, we have made a committee of some from



each department along with a few CNAs to address this problem and get the program back on the road. We chose a different title because in the passing years, Person Centered Care has become a regulation and it sounds more doable than Culture Change. On April 18, we had our first meeting. We picked two points to focus on for the month of April: If a resident wants to stay in their room, we will find a way to let them to stay in his or her room safely and quiet time from 8:30 pm to 8:30 am.

We really do not have many ideas how to make the first point possible. Of course, if the timing is right and there is someone who can sit with the resident in his or her room, then we have our answer. How can we keep them from falling when they are in their room and not strong enough to walk safely? We are still looking for answers.

The second point: Quiet time. This is something that we have been working with off and on all along. Quiet time includes keeping the lights off in the halls and rooms as much as possible between the appointed times, keeping as much traffic out of the rooms as possible during this time, whispering to co-workers and speaking as quietly as possible to residents, anything that promotes quietness. This creates problems in other areas such as housekeeping are not able to clean rooms as early, residents are sleeping later so breakfast is running later and running into lunch prep time for the kitchen, water pitchers need to be picked up and passed out at a different time, daily activity schedules need to be handed out later... The dining room improvement will take care of some of these points.

We are working on swapping some responsibilities between activities and CNAs that will have a small impact on residents being able to stay in their rooms safely. It will also address water pitchers being picked up and passed out at 6:45 in the morning.

Every employee is asked to give feedback and suggestions to make this work. So far, we have come to the conclusion that 8:30 is too late and we need to end quiet time at 8:00. This has caused some really big issues for housekeeping but they are doing super well at finding ways to work around it. CNAs are doing very well, too. There are parts of this that haven't even been addressed yet. We are not looking for an overnight change but it seems like that is what we got with these first two points. I am so proud of my co-workers for pulling that off!!!

-Laura Koehn

ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS!

- ◇ Building a model of the USS KittyHawk
 - ◇ Valentine's Day Party
- ◇ Cocoa Party: Tried different kinds of chocolate and learned how it grows and is processed
 - ◇ Outing to San Luis Reservoir and another to get ice cream
 - ◇ Watching the garden grow
 - ◇ Spring Party– dirt dessert
 - ◇ Green Party– everything was green
- ◇ Maintenance Appreciation: made a poster of things that we are thankful that Gary does for us
- ◇ April Fools Party– eggs made out of white chocolate and yellow skittle, hot dogs made out of twinkies and brownies, orange juice made out of lemonade
- ◇ Good Friday: Made resurrection cookies, and dyed eggs. Easter egg hunt with the children outside along with the Easter story
 - ◇ Cheese Fondue Party
 - ◇ Crazy Socks in honor of Audrey



LONG TERM EMPLOYEES

June 1 will be Lena Moody's 40th work anniversary!!! Audrey Kane had just passed her 34th work anniversary. Yolanda Parra has worked here 28 years, Shawna Koehn started in 2002, Dana Flores, Beth Mazelin, and Jaswinder Kaur have worked here since 2004, Gary Wiggers and Rita Wellard– 2005, Jaskiranjit Kaur, Brenda Parra, Amanda Walker, and Sarbjit Gill– 2007, Barry Yost and Yolanda Morales– 2009, Kimberly Ruiz– 2010, Leticia Zurita– 2011. Everyone else has worked here less than ten years.

NURSES WEEK

MAY 6—12

May 6-Audrey's crazy socks day

May 7- Donuts & Coffee

May 8- Pizza Party at noon

**May 9- Coffee Shop Recognition
and La Morenita Lunch**

May 10- Nacho Bar Party

May 11- Coffee Bar Party

May 12- Potluck Dinner

THANKS FOR ALL YOUR

Garden

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

Flowers

Lettuce

Tomatoes

Hose

Plants

Onions

Cabbage

Cantaloupe

Fertilizer

Shovel

Bell peppers

Green beans

Egg plant

Hoe

Jalapenos

Potatoes

Asparagus

Rabbits

Cilantro

Dill

Cucumbers

Squirrels

Corn

Squash

Sun

Birds

Radishes

Zucchini

Water

Scarecrow