

GRACE HOME NEWS



JUNE 2023

Junior/Teen Volunteer Program

Two separate days in May, I went to GMS and LMS to give a volunteer presentation. While it was terrifying, it was a very valuable experience. I sent a volunteer application home with each student from 4th –10th grades along with a volunteer program overview. I got 43 of them back. We are planning an orientation day on June 8. I will have to tell you about that in the next newsletter.

I will try to give you a quick overview of what those volunteers will be doing. Our program is set up for boys and girls. They can enter as soon as the summer after fourth grade. They start out with “Crafts with Kara” for the girls and “Boys and Toys” for the boys. These are group activities where the residents and volunteers do an activity together. The residents thoroughly enjoy the interaction and it gets the children comfortable interacting with the residents.

The summer after 5th grade, the volunteers are given a bit of responsibility. They come in the morning for two hours and pass juices, interact with the residents one to one, help with the animals and some weekly chores.

The summer after 6th grade, the girls switch to coming for 2 hours in the afternoon. They are given a bit more responsibility. They take turns each month helping with tea party, passing juices and snacks, helping with some housekeeping chores and helping with the afternoon activity. The boys come in the morning before it gets hot and help with outdoor work such as cleaning the Grace Home van and car. They also spend extra time interacting with residents.

The summer after 7th grade, boys and girls are trained to help with Coffee Shop. They also have the opportunity to sign up for other badges. As they complete the hours for each project, they receive a miniature badge designated to that particular project.

Each summer, there are several volunteer appreciations. For those who have come out of 7th grade on up, this appreciation involves going somewhere such as the beach. (Boys and girls separately) Those younger than 7th grade stay local and do something fun. These will not be happening until next year.

Some have exclaimed over having 43 volunteers at once. Before Covid hit, we had 44. The biggest difference is that of these 43, 39 have not volunteered before so they will be jumping into their spots without working up to it. I am sure that will have its challenges, but it can't be as hard to deal with as Covid was. We are really looking forward to this program starting.

April 3 was the wonderful day that we received the news that masks were no longer required by anyone in a healthcare setting. This may change at any time due to outbreaks or high community spread but at this point, we are very grateful to see faces and smiles.



We have raised \$12,000 for our garden project. We have \$6,000-8,000 left to raise. However, Dean Loewen has received the go ahead to proceed with the plan. The earliest he can fit it into his schedule is July.

Since it will be too late to try to do much as far as vegetables are concerned, I planted 3 cucumber plants, some tomato plants, zucchini and squash plants in the back garden. That way the residents can at least enjoy the taste of some home grown vegetables.



Appreciations this quarter:

Housekeeping /Laundry– April 15

Medical Records– April 18

Administration (front office) April 26

Nurses' Week– May 6-12

Each employee is receiving a gift as their department's appreciation comes up.



National Skilled Nursing Care Week

May 14– 20, 2023

Monday through Saturday, there were special events planned. We started off on Monday with tacos made by one of our CNAs parents. The employees and board were invited. Those were some fabulous tacos!!!

Tuesday, we had an Open House. All the stakeholders, employees and residents were invited. Quenton Unruh and Brandon Sommers made coffee drinks in the Community Center. The Livingston Youth sang for approximately 30 minutes in the dining room. We rented a water slide for the children. The residents who came out thoroughly enjoyed watching the children have fun. It was a fantastic evening!

Wednesday, Floyd Jantz grilled tri-tip for lunch. Rhoda, Misty and Sandra supplied the rest of the meal. Again, it was extremely tasty! This was for employees and board.

Thursday, the board and their wives did grilled hamburgers and the rest of lunch. It was great to interact with them on that level. This was for employees.

Friday evening, we as managers made crepes for residents, employees and families, and board and families. We served approximately 68 people. There were three types of crepes available. A sweet crepe had several different options with fruit, a spinach crepe had sautéed vegetables with spinach, kielbasa sausage and cheese, and the breakfast crepe had eggs, sausage and bacon, cilantro, green onion, cheese and fresh salsa. Most had to try more than one kind. It was another great evening! This was a trial run for another crepe breakfast fundraiser.

Saturday at shift change, we served homemade ice cream with fresh strawberries and chocolate sauce. It was Audrey's birthday so we asked everyone to wear crazy socks. Most everyone forgot, but we still remembered Audrey.

It was a very busy week, but well worth it. Usually, we celebrate CNA week and nurse's week with something special each day. Everyone else gets kinda left out. This year we used more of the approach that everyone is a priceless piece of the puzzle of Grace Home. It had much more of a team building effect. We can't do without the stakeholders, residents, laundry, maintenance, housekeeping, dietary, activities, CNAs, nurses, or Administration. We also can't do without the families that support the employees and residents.

Thanks for all the support!

NEW HIRES

Amanda Hanley– CNA

Ann Koehn– Dietary

Myra Koehn– Dietary

Egohsa Omokaro, CNA

Nicole Mesa– LVN

Kara French– LVN

Ashley Giesbrecht– Activities



IN LOVING MEMORY

BENJAMIN AGUILAR

SAMPURAN SINGH

ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS!

- Tea Parties
- Spring Party
- Easter Remembrance
- Beyond the Veil
- Sing– Along off the big screen
- Quilt Blocks– cutting and sewing
- Wood Working– Making an outdoor Domino set
 - School Children coming to sing
- Dessert Social– This was started when the mask mandate was dropped. It is the first Wednesday of the month in the Community Center at 7:00. Everyone brings a plate of goodies. This is open to anyone who would like to come spend the evening.
 - Nursing Home Week activities



Save the date: July 8, we plan to do a crepe breakfast again. We will be serving two or three kinds of crepes. This is a fundraiser to see if we can finish paying off the garden. More details later.

Heading to the Lake

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Sand Sunscreen Sun bathing Jet skiing Wading Water
Skiing Wake boarding Hiking Camping Picnic Row boat
Paddleboard Sailboat Fish Kayak Tubing Swim