

GRACE HOME NEWS



SEPTEMBER 2023

Volunteer Program

We have had a very busy quarter! Our volunteer count climbed to 51 with an extra two waiting until I have a chance to orientate them. There is a list of them on the next page.

We had several sets of volunteers most days. Some of the things the Junior volunteers did: -help/participate in group activities. Just by them sitting in exercise, they were able to add cheer to Grace Home. -pass juices and snacks. -water plants. -clean vehicles. -wash windows. -clean ceiling fans. -read to residents. -take residents outside. -visit with residents. -cat chores. -weed in the old garden. -sing to residents...

The Teen Volunteers worked on projects. I gave them a paper to mark what they were interested in, then scheduled them accordingly. Each project has a certain amount of hours to complete before they earn a badge for it. The projects that were chosen were: ANIMALS, BEAUTICIAN, BINGO, PARTIES, BREAKFAST HOSTESS, CANDLELIGHT DINNER, CHRISTMAS PARTY, COFFEE SHOP, CNA, DIETARY, DESSERT SOCIAL, END OF MONTH, FAMILY & FRIENDS, GIFT DAY, INDEPEPENDENCE, LEADERSHIP, NEWSLETTER, OUTING, PERSONAL FRIENDSHIP, SECRETARY, SHOPPING, SUNDAY SUNSHINE, VEHICLE CLEANING, SHOE SHINE. I also had two of the teen volunteers help me start organizing the library. Now, I have a list of all the books we have. Next is to put them in alphabetical order somehow.

We have six volunteers who are not part of our school volunteer program. Three of them plus the two who are waiting are children of employees. They come with their moms to work. Their moms are then responsible for them and their behavior. The moms are very thankful to get them out of the house and away from screens to doing something useful and helping others. There is a mom and daughter who are volunteering. The mom previously worked as a CNA at Grace Home. When her daughter needed volunteer hours for school, she decided to try to get her in at Grace Home. They come together in the evenings. The last special volunteer is doing everything she can to get into nursing school. She still has another year of high school but with volunteer hours and extra classes, she is hoping to increase her chances to get into nursing school.

SPECIAL VOLUNTEERS:

JISELLE MENDOZA

ALEJANDRA AVALOS

ALICIA AVALOS

MARGARET ROJAS

DAISY ROJAS

NAYELLI MUNIZ

Junior Volunteers:

Amberly Jantz

Jayne Eck

Haily Romero

Kelsi Schmidt

Carli Jantz

Teghan Jantz

Lisa Koehn

Anjoli Koehn

Kylie Yost

Maggie Jantz

Madilyn Jantz

Whitney Loewen

Brynlee Toews

Makenzie Dyck

Taylor Loewen

Lexi Jantz

Jamison Deming

Tylon Duhm

Tyson Cook

Joash Dyck

Josiah Dyck

Kelson Schmidt

Jesse Friesen

Jamin Dyck

Roderick Unruh

Damien Koehn

Jarrett Koehn

Logan Koehn

Dennis Koetsier

Ladd Jantz

Silas Jantz

Todd Koehn

Teen Volunteers:

Esther Smith

Allison Dyck

Jenna Jantz

Maci Spence

Lasha Koehn

Mindy Loewen

Melanie Peaster

Raquel Koehn

Taleah Sommers

Celina Jantz

Jessie Warkentin


Javin Duhm

Andrew Koetsier

Volunteers in waiting:

Daniel Gaeta

Lisette Gaeta



Update on the garden: We have gotten enough money to cover the garden. It has been completed except for a few little things like a tree stump being turned into a table. There are flowers planted in two of the beds started from seed. Decorative gourds are planted in another one and most if not all of them have come up. Pumpkins were planted in another one. Three of them came up, but it is right by the walkway and someone thought it would be fun to knock over the mound that the seeds were planted in. By the time, I saw it they had been exposed for too long and didn't make it. I really doubt if they will produce in time for fall, but it is fun to watch them grow. The decomposed granite is still not hard enough to push wheelchair on decently, but I have been told that it will get harder. It is a beautiful place to visit after dark as well with lighting provided. We are planning a firepit social the end of September. Maybe we can get some people to join us and do some old time singing around the fire...



Appreciations this quarter:

CNA Week– June 15-21

Social Services Appreciation- August 2



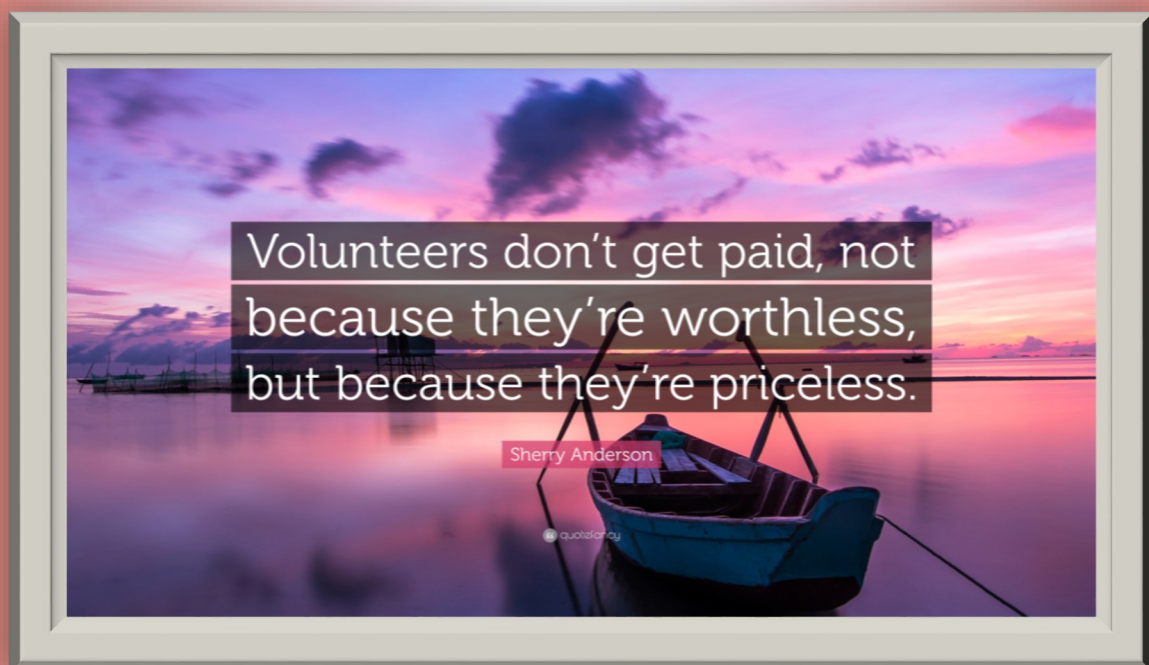
More on the volunteer program... It has been really neat to have all these younger people frequenting the halls of Grace Home again! I have heard a lot of positive comments from my co-workers and have noticed myself how much they cheer up the place. It does the elderly good to be chosen by young people to spend time with them. And it does us as employees good to see them interact. Esther Smith helped me with the newsletter this quarter. I had her go to the residents to hear what they had to say about the program after one resident commented in Resident Council that she loved it when volunteers came in and served drinks at meal time. She said it was like having her grandchildren there and serving her. One resident told Esther that it is interesting to see young teens interested in volunteering. It is good to see bright happy faces, too. Another one said she likes to see them pitch in even though they are timid and they catch on. She likes the bright happy faces and will miss the volunteers when school starts. Still another resident said she loves all the new things and she feels VERY loved. Another one liked how it helped the CNAs. Others commented on how they like to see them coming around.

Bingo is really neat to see residents that need help playing being able to play because of the volunteers. When there are no volunteers, only a few who need help can play.

The ladies who love to be pampered have gotten a few opportunities for that with the girls who signed up for the beautician project. It does my heart good to see them so overjoyed because they get to have their nails done or just a hand soak and massage. I wish there was more time to do things like that but since there's not, I am very thankful for the volunteers who are interested in it.

It has also been lovely to take a clean vehicle on outings.

Dessert Social and Coffee Shop are very hard to manage without volunteers!!!



Crepe Breakfast Fundraiser

We did a fundraiser on a Saturday morning in June and served crepes for breakfast. Seven of our volunteers came Friday and helped me prepare, cutting up fruit and vegetables, making filling and butter sauce, hanging signs...

Saturday morning, we started serving crepes about 7:30 and kept fairly steady until 10:30. There were five crepe makers run by Barry Yost, Randy and Loretta Koehn, Katrina Anderson, and Jonathon Koehn. Holly Koehn and several of the volunteers helped prepare the crepes. Several more volunteers kept juice and plastic ware available while several others took prepared crepes to the people who had ordered them. We made 150 crepes and several thousand dollars. I don't know if we ever got a final count on money because it kept coming in for so long afterwards. Somebody had done the math wrong. We won't mention any names but it was me. We had way too many groceries so we ended up selling them for cost and got rid of all but some spray whipped cream. The money went towards our new garden. With what we gathered from the fundraiser, it covered all but about \$1,000. It was a lot of work but well worth it!

NEW HIRES

Jennifer Oswald—RN

Andrea Koehn—Activities

Jocelyn Prieto—CNA

Lilliana Moreno—CNA

Alicia Millan de Pulido—housekeeping/laundry



IN LOVING MEMORY

We have not had to say “Good bye” to any of our residents in the last quarter.

ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS!

- Beyond the Veil
 - Quilt Blocks– cutting and sewing
 - Wood Working– Making an outdoor Domino set
 - School Children coming to sing
 - Dessert Social
 - Armchair Travel
- Outings to Dennys, Lavendar Farm, San Luis Wildlife Refuge
 - Boys N Toys
 - Crafts with Kara
 - Fourth of July Party– homemade ice cream
- Fathers' Day Party– grilled hamburgers for the men for lunch, homemade ice cream for everyone in the afternoon
- Take a Nap– For those who say there isn't time to take a nap
- Summer Party– strawberry milkshakes, water games with volunteers
- School party– this will be in the middle of September. Possible spelling bee, long simple combinations... still to be decided
 - Fire pit social with smores

Back to school

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r p f i a l d e x p x i p n s u g f v w m d h d

Bell Recess Reading Books Pens Learning History

Science Art Math Paper Language Basketball Football

Soccer Baseball Volleyball Students Teacher Eversharp

Notebook Lunchbox Eraser Pencil Ruler

Backpack