

Avon Oaks

Porter Pavilion’s Dementia Management Program

Ardie Tragesser, Speech Therapist

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Porter Pavilion has a new Dementia Management Program. Team Leader/Administrator of Porter Pavilion and creator of the new Dementia Management Program, Mindi Husk, is excited about the new program: “The program is going to be a great way for residents’ family and staff members to work together to provide the best care and memory support possible.” Assisting in the implementation of the program is Speech Therapist, Ardie Tragesser.

The program consists of three phases. The first phase is the *Resident Life-*

style Biography Questionnaire. The questionnaire consists of questions about the resident including getting to know you questions such as, “What has been your main occupation?” and “What personal accomplishments are you most proud of?” The questionnaire also includes questions about the resident’s family and characteristics about the resident’s personality and special interests. This questionnaire is completed by the resident with the assistance from the resident’s family members.

The information ob-

tained from the questionnaire is then used to create the second phase of the program which is the *Resident Lifestyle Biography*. The biography is a collection of information about the resident presented in different mediums such as pictures and written accounts that represent specific times or milestones in the person’s life. “Images are very powerful,” states Husk, “particularly photographs of special events and celebrations. Our residents who suffer from dementia often can recall in detail times from very long ago as if it

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John Berezney - Employee of The Year 2009

We would like to Congratulate John Berezney on being selected as our 2009 Employee of the Year!

John has worked for Avon Oaks for 4yrs. He started off working as an STNA then decided he wanted to make a change and transferred to the Environmental Services department.

John’s coworkers and peers want to say thank you for always being super friendly towards everyone. No matter what John is doing he always makes a point to stop and say hello and chat with the residents. He never says no, no matter what the task may be. He always stops to answer call lights. No matter how challenging a project may be John does it with a smile and if there is a problem he is always willing to help come up with a solution. John really enjoys his job and where he works.



John Berezney Avon Oaks 2009 Employee of the year

Porter Pavilion's Dementia Management Program *Continued.....*

were yesterday." *The Resident Lifestyle Biography* is a great tool to stimulate cognitive-linguistic function as well," Tragesser states, "Once the resident is provided with a visual prompt without being urged to just 'remember', their recollection of a personal event can be quite detailed."

The third phase of the Dementia Management Program consists of a personalized room marker in the form of a *Shadow Box*. A *Shadow Box* is a small framed and enclosed box that displays mementos from a resident's past that is placed outside the resident's room. "The shadow boxes not only help residents identify their room, but also help

others learn key facts about the person to assist in their care," states Husk.

A devastating effect of communication problems with dementia is that it often leads to increased isolation from friends and family. This can cause increased anxiety, depression, or even behavioral problems. Sadly, family visits may become fewer and farther between. This sometimes happens because family and friends become frustrated with the lack of conversation with their loved one. The goal of the new Dementia Management Program is to create a lasting record of significant events in a person's life that has been contributed to by family and friends to foster a form

of increased independence in residents and keep them more engaged in their activities of daily living. The program is ideal for an individual who suffers from dementia because it does not put pressure on the individual to remember and allows them to celebrate special times at their own pace and with their loved ones.

Husk and Tragesser would like to thank friends, family and staff for supporting the residents and helping with this new program. If you have any suggestions or ideas, please let Mindi or Ardie know!

Resident Birthdays March.....



Cora Hosler	3/12
Beatrice Lambert	3/13
Julius Dawson	3/16
Marion Sidora	3/20
Goldie Moore	3/22
Betty Sarady	3/22
Paula Schneider	3/22
Vera Vucic	3/22
Hugh Davis	3/24
Robert Dechant	3/25

Staff Birthdays March.....



Amanda Solis	3/4
Chris Brown	3/6
Terri Fisk	3/9
Wanda Brooks	3/10
Joshua King	3/12
Christina Montanez	3/13
Mildred Perez	3/14
Melissa Eakins	3/18
Isabel Velez	3/19
Tracy Kingery	3/21
Mike Torres	3/22
Maria Espitia	3/26
Maria Cirilo	3/29
Jennifer Cook	3/29

Dirt From the Gardens.....

Happy Birthday

Anna Tramontana March 3rd

Thank You!

Thanks to Helen Szalay and family for the bingo prize donations.

St. Patrick's Day

St. Patrick's Day is March 17th, Corn Beef and Cabbage will be served for lunch if you would like to join us for lunch please RSVP by March 12th. Cost per meal is \$6.00.

Do You Know Your Rights?

1. To select a physician on the staff or a physician who is not on the staff of the home.
2. To give or withhold informed consent for treatment, and communicate with the physician and staff in planning treatment or care, obtain current medical information, and have access to medical records.
3. To withhold payment to the physician if the physician did not visit.

January Employee of the Month: Lekicia Dower

We would like to congratulate Lekicia Dower for being selected our January Employee of the Month. Lekicia was inspired to become an STNA in 1996 after taking care of her great grandmother whom she lost to cancer. She has always had a great amount of love and respect for her elders so taking care of them just comes naturally.

Lekicia is the oldest of the 44 grandchildren; she has two brothers and one sister. She has been blessed with a 14 year old daughter, two nieces, and one nephew. When she is not working, she enjoys spending quality time with her family.

Her coworkers say Lekicia has a great attitude and is a pleasure to work with. She is always smiling and quite the team player. The residents have said she is missed when she is off; it makes a difference when her smile is present.

Lekicia would like to tell all of the Avon Oaks Caring Community staff that she loves being part of the team and wants to send god's blessings to all.

Thank You Lekicia for being part of our team, keep up the good work!



Lekicia Dower Januarys
Employee of the Month

Volunteer Spotlight : The Avon Garden Club.

A brief history of how the Avon Garden Club came to volunteer at Avon Oaks...

In 2005 Joanne Easterday, an Avon city council member, was reading our monthly newsletter and found herself looking at pictures of her and her sister as children in the mid 1940's. She called Avon Oaks to ask how we obtained the photos. Joanne was told that they were found in the daycare by Mary our daycare's director and no one knew where they came from. Terri Smith, our Activities Director, put a couple of photos in the newsletter to see if someone would recognize the pictures.

Joanne Easterday explained that the photos must have been at Avon Oaks since the late 90's when she belonged to the Avon Women's Club and they held their meetings here. The pictures were part of a project the club members were working on. Then, in 2007, Joanne was paging through the newsletter and noticed that we were looking for volunteers to help with crafts. Joanne had since joined the Avon Garden Club which specialized in making crafts from nature. Joanne talked to the other members about volunteering once a month and they accepted and have been part of our activity program ever since.

The projects over the years have been fun, colorful, and very creative! The residents also enjoy the friendships they have made with The Garden Club, but unfortunately the number of club members has dwindled. Besides Joanne, **Rose Fife**, continues to come to brighten the residents' day. **If you would like to join The Garden Club or you enjoy doing crafts & would like to join in on the fun & help out, please call Terri Smith, Activities Coordinator!**



Rose Fife and Mary Flock



Joanne Easterday with Doris Burrows



March Happenings...

45 th Anniversary of the Sound of Music	2 nd	
Daylight Savings Time Begins	14 th	
Change Your Batteries Day	14 th	
Long Term Care Administrators' Week	15 th - 19 th	
St. Patrick's Day	17 th	
Spring Begins	20 th	
Palm Sunday	28 th	
Birthday of Coca-Cola	29 th	
Doctor's Day	30 th	



Acorn Child Care Center..

What a time the children and the elderly had on Valentine's Day!! The children passed out their cards and treats to the residents. Miss Dee Dee baked all kinds of treats for the party as well.

Bake Sale..... Bake Sale.....

The child care will be holding a bake sale on **Mach 12th** we plan to use the proceeds for our **Week of the Young Child** celebration in April. As always one of Miss Dee Dee's cakes will be raffled off.

Congratulations go out to **Miss Xandi** who is expecting the arrival of her third daughter. Her new arrival will be born March 22nd and she'll be enrolled in our infant group sometime near the end of April. We're so looking forward to that day! She will be the Center's youngest child ever!!

March Birthdays	Keira Knuth	3/9	1 Yr.
	Kirsten Killen	3/17	4 Yrs
	Miss Isabelle Velez	3/19	??????

Many Thanks to the following families and friends for their donations.....



George & Wendy Zambo	Millie Garcia	The Family of George Silac
Vera Vucic	Sandie Clair	
American Heritage Apparel	Tom Ferchau	Millie Garcia
The family of Rosie Stuebner	Kathleen O'Malley	

March 2010 Activity Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Storytime w/the kids 10:30 Christian Fellowship 2:30 Choir Practice 3:30 Movie & Fresh Popcorn 7:00	2 Craft w/Holy Trinity 4th Graders 10:00 Classic Movie Anniversary: The Sound of Music 2:30	3 Movin' to Music 10:00 Intergenerational Color Day Parade (wear green) 10:30 Bingo 2:15	4 Pinochle Club 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:30 The Price is Right 2:30 Evening Bingo 7:00	5 Movin' to Music 10:00 Intergenerational Bowling on the Wii 10:30 Catholic Mass 2:30	6 Sweet Treat Room to Room 10:15 "Shake Up The Relatives" Game 2:30
7 Church Service 10:00 Afternoon Trivia 2:30	8 Movin' to Music 10:00 Golfing w/the kids 10:30 Christian Fellowship 2:30 Choir Practice 3:30 Evening Bingo 7:00	9 Craft with the Avon Garden Club 10:00 Kazoo Parade w/kids 10:45 Music Therapy Group: All Things Irish 2:30	10 Movin' to Music 10:00 Intergenerational Carnival Games on the Wii 10:30 The Price is Right 2:30	11 Pinochle Club 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:30 Bingo 2:15 Bible Study 7:00	12 Bake Sale Movin' to Music 10:00 Happy Hour & Irish Sing-a-long 2:30	13 Sweet Treat Room to Room 10:15 Piano Concert by Jerry Simmerer 2:30
14 Church Service 10:00 St. Patrick's Day Trivia 2:30	15 Movin' to Music 10:00 Boardgame w/the Kids 10:30 Christian Fellowship 2:30 Choir Practice 3:30 Robin Roof Performs 7:00	16 Craft w/Holy Trinity 4th Graders 10:00 Green, White and Orange Price is Right 2:30	17 Intergenerational St. Patrick's Day Party 10:15 Resident Council 2:30	18 Pinochle Club 9:30 Catholic Mass 11:00 "Leprechauns" Wordsearch Game 2:30 Evening Bingo 7:00	19 Movin' to Music 10:00 Intergenerational Horseshoes Game 10:30 "Help Others Today" 2:30	20 Sweet Treat Room to Room 10:15 The Price is Right DVD Game 2:30
21 Church Service 10:00 Classic Movie & Fresh Popcorn 2:30	22 Movin' to Music 10:00 Painting with the kids in the Day Care 10:30 Christian Fellowship 2:30 Choir Practice 3:30	23 Movin' to Music 10:00 Spring Sentimental Reflections Video 2:30 Music Therapy Group: All Things Irish 2:30 Men's Club Dinner 5:30	24 Intergenerational Easter Craft 10:30 Baking Buddies 2:30	25 Pinochle Club 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:30 Bingo 2:15 Bible Study 7:00	26 Intergenerational Easter Movie & Fresh Popcorn 10:15 Happy Hour & Spelling Bee 2:30	27 Sweet Treat Room to Room 10:15 The Price is Right 2:30
28 Church Service 10:00 New Haven Baptist Church Service 2:00	29 Movin' to Music 10:00 Basketball w/the kids 10:30 Christian Fellowship 2:30 Choir Practice 3:30 Evening Bingo 7:00	30 Movin' to Music 10:00 Rosary on TV 11:30 Coca-Cola Float Social 2:30	31 Movin' to Music 10:00 Wii Baseball w/the kids 10:30 March Birthdays Party & "Rainbows" Wordsearch Game 2:30			