

Sheboygan Senior Community

Short Term Rehab • Assisted Living
Skilled Nursing Care



December 5, 2016
3505 County Road Y
Sheboygan, WI 53083

Resident Birthdays



12/02 Toni Hawley
12/07 Geri Froh
12/14 Lorraine Warren
12/15 Julie Nelson
12/16 J.C. Horton
Pat Colombo
12/17 Tom Seymour
12/20 John Zelm

Staff Birthdays

12/01 Jeanette G.
12/03 Annie H.
12/08 Lindsey G.
12/12 Tara H.
12/14 Holly B.
12/15 Thomas L.
12/15 Lori N.
12/15 Lori P.
12/16 Bonita P.
12/19 Joshua G.
12/22 Cassandra N.
12/27 Susan B.
12/30 Kaylene M.
12/31 Dani W.
12/31 Song X.

♪♪♪ December Special Events ♪♪♪

Dec. 6th – Evening – Christmas Lights Bus Trip – Hickory, Maple & Oak
Dec. 10th – 1:30pm – Student Piano Recital – Training Room
Dec. 11th – 1:30pm – Christmas Piano Music with Daniel Walter – TOL
Dec. 12th – 2:30pm – Christmas Music with Steve & Kathleen – TOL
Dec. 13th – 6:30pm – Sargento SECAP singers – Training Room
Dec. 14th – 2:00pm – Friendly Voices Christmas Concert – TOL
Dec. 15th – 10:15am – Seton School visit – TR
Dec. 15th – 4:00pm – Xmas stories & songs w/ Girl Scouts – All Living Rooms
Dec. 17th – 11:15am – Richard’s School of Dance Performance – TR
Dec. 18th – 3:30 & 4:15pm – Joyful Music Studio Student Recital – TOL
Dec. 21st – 6:30pm – Bingo with Lincoln Erdman Girl Scout Troop – TR
Dec. 22nd – 10:30am – Christmas Cookie Decorating – Oak Dining Room
Dec. 22nd – 2:00pm – Christmas Cookie Decorating – Willow Dining Room
Dec. 22nd – 2:00pm – Christmas Movie – TOL
Dec. 24th – 2:00pm – Steve Hamer & Family Sing-a-long – TR
Dec. 30th – 2:00pm – New Year’s Eve Party – TR



Staff Anniversaries

Jason B. – 1 year	Charlotte K. – 2 years
Sandra K. – 1 year	Emma T. – 6 years
Allen K. – 1 year	Lori S. – 8 years

From the Desk of Paul Treffert

Hello... And a belated Happy Thanksgiving!!

I've mentioned before that I am not a big fan of fall, if only because the Daylight Savings Time change makes me want to hibernate like a bear all winter long. But I must say that this year felt different – November in particular. My Badgers continue to roll, the Packers finally showed some signs of life, and the Bucks are off to a surprisingly good start. A good time to be a Wisconsin sports fan.

Here at SSC, November started out with our Annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner, hosted by our Life Enrichment Director, Melissa Thiel, with an outstanding meal served by our Dining Services Department. We currently have 54 volunteers that contribute their time and gifts in a variety of ways such as playing music, leading worship services and Bible study, crafts and small group activities, pet visits, playing games, etc. Anyone who gives of their time knows that the secret about volunteering is that you get back far more than you give. And SSC volunteers give a lot, over 1,000 hours in the last year alone. The evening was capped off with Melissa showing a wonderful video that she and Randy Lawrence created, showcasing many of our volunteers doing what they do best. The volunteer video can be found on our YouTube channel and Facebook page. Thank You SSC Volunteers!!

In the middle of the month I celebrated my birthday here with a Barbeque for residents and staff. I don't usually make a big deal out of my birthday, but this one was a 'milestone' that seemed worth acknowledging. Despite what my driver's license and receding hairline may indicate, I feel like I am still in my 20s. I have always said that working with the elderly keeps you young at heart. Thank you to everyone who gave me cards, gifts, and kind words on what turned out to be a very fun day.

Also in November, I was proud to be able to approve significant wage and shift differential increases for our employees. Money is always tight in senior care, and especially in Wisconsin, where we are in the bottom five in the country for Medicaid reimbursement. (Over 40% of our residents receive Medical Assistance to pay for their care here at SSC.) But our management team has worked hard to find savings in other areas that we were able to distribute to our staff. I have mentioned before that our goal is to be the Provider of Choice, which requires us to be the Employer of Choice. Money isn't everything, but to have the best employees, wages must be competitive.

On a very related note, this month we were also able to roll out a new employee health insurance plan that offers expanded coverage options and much lower deductibles/co-pays. Our Human Resources Director, Brent Frederick, worked very hard on this project for months, and his hard work paid off in a spectacular fashion. While other company's health insurance costs keep going up as benefits go down, we were able to make huge improvements with very little additional cost to our employees. Great job, Brent!!

Rounding out the month we celebrated a wonderful Thanksgiving Day here at SSC. I was here that day as the Manager on Duty and was thrilled to see our Private Dining Rooms and Living Rooms filled with visitors spending time with those they are most thankful for. (Our department heads started a Manager on Duty program a few months ago so there is a member of the management team in the building every day of the year).

We ended November by celebrating Dana Elmzen's birthday. Dana's mother, Suzette, had covertly sent us baby pictures that Melissa and Brent posted across the building. Except for the curly hair, she hasn't changed a bit. (Well, maybe a little.) Dana's roll here at SSC is expanding to include Fundraising. As noted earlier, our state does not pay its fair share for senior care. So, in order to continue to providing the outstanding care and services that your loved ones deserve, and prepare for the future needs of area seniors, we are increasing our efforts to ask for support from our families, local businesses, foundations, etc. You will be receiving correspondence on this topic from Dana and I in the very near future. If everyone in the SSC family makes even a small contribution, it will make a big difference in our ability to care for Sheboygan seniors for days, months and years to come. Thank you in advance for your consideration in this important initiative. We look forward to your support.

Paul T.

One other "quick" note from Paul:

In our monthly newsletters, I frequently mention our efforts to hire and retain the best caregivers to serve our residents. But, as a part of that conversation, I think it is important to mention that over the last several months, we have lost very few employees. Some senior care organizations are plagued with a revolving door for employees, but except for our students returning to school, SSC's turnover rate ranks among the best in the State. I am ever grateful for those employees who have been part of our culture for many years, as well as for those employees who have recently joined our team. Consistently excellent care requires consistently excellent employees.

As someone who has been involved in personnel management for over two decades, I have never quite understood why companies often make a big deal throwing going away parties for employees leaving, but hardly acknowledge the new employees coming on board. So moving forward, we will be introducing and welcoming our new employees in our monthly newsletter.

But... occasionally we do lose an employee who is so special that we want to go out of our way to wish them goodbye and good luck. Bridget Hansen will be leaving SSC in the middle of December, so she can work closer to her new home she is sharing with her fiancé, Charles. Bridget is everything you want in a caregiver and coworker: knowledgeable, caring, hardworking, flexible, funny, always upbeat... I could go on and on. She will absolutely be missed here at SSC, but we wish her the very best of luck and a long, happy life with Charles. Please join me in wishing Bridget a very fond farewell.

Resident Spotlight - Harriet G. Jensen

Whose initials are H.G.J., loves life, plays a mean game of Scrabble, has fun playing solitaire on her colorful tablet and smiles from the inside out? It is our very own Harriet Jensen.

Who is Harriet? Formerly known as Harriet Sinn, she is the last living Sinn. She was married for 55 years and has six children – three daughters and three sons. She lights up as she tells the story of when her sixth child was being delivered. She had always dreamed of having three boys and three girls. And low and behold she got a little girl. She's been a resident of Sheboygan most of her life and is a woman of many lost-art skills. She could honestly put Martha Stewart to shame.



She began her working career as a telephone switchboard operator. The telephone company was then located above the old Woolworth's store in downtown Sheboygan. On her bus drive home one day, a bank officer happened to sit next to her and stirred up a conversation. He asked if she knew short hand and if she could type. She said, "Most certainly," and he granted her a job at the Bank of Sheboygan as a switch board operator and secretary right there on bus #11. No resume, no employment application, no interview. She was so proud to work at such a grand and prestigious place. Some of Sheboygan's early settlers had murals that were featured on the bank walls, which are now showcased at the Mead Public Library. After she started raising her six children, she took a position as the head seamstress for the J.C. Penney's store downtown. That store later moved into what is now the Memorial Mall.

Harriet met her husband Arthur, through her brother-in-law. It wasn't love at first sight, but eventually their relationship grew into something BIG. Arthur worked as a carpenter and spent a good part of his life working for the Reiss Coal Company. He would spend weeks, even months, at sea. When the news broke that a ship had sunk at sea, their family feared for his life. However, it turned out it was actually the sinking of the Edmund Fitzgerald.

Harriet loves to travel. She has taken cruises to the Caribbean, and has traveled to Germany, Texas, California, Florida, Seattle and Pennsylvania. Harriet always enjoyed volunteering at St. Luke's Methodist Church – especially helping with their annual bazaars. She played a little flute and now has two sons who have gone into the music business quite successfully. She looks forward to playing Scrabble with volunteers every Sunday, and we're sure she could make Vanna White's head spin some days.





Staff Spotlight - Lisa Jawort

Wouldn't it be great if we all wore the "Lisa" smile every day? There isn't a day that goes by that Lisa does not start your day with a smile. The residents love to see Lisa enter their home because they too want a piece of her joy. Lisa works as a laundry - housekeeping technician with SSC. She learned her skills as a young girl while cleaning the homes of both her mom and dad. She became very familiar with the healthcare industry while visiting her great aunt and a friend in nursing homes in early childhood. Her mother and her sister were CNA's and they encouraged her to think about a career in the same field. She loves to clean and the quality of her work will reflect that same passion.

Lisa has 1 sister, a half-sister and 2 step brothers. The outdoors is where she escapes to on her time off. Biking, traveling, reading and music are some of her favorite hobbies. She has traveled to Kentucky, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming so far. The family trip to Mt. Rushmore was by far the best of the best for Lisa.

Many people don't realize just what a jokester Lisa can be. She was known as the class clown in high school and has a way of tripping you up in a very subtle manner.

She has a desire to learn more about interior design, photography and attempting more Pinterest projects. She has a natural flair for the arts. She recently got a new puppy "Star," a 10 week old Chihuahua - a little dog with a large in charge attitude.

Thank you, Lisa, for all the love you put into your job here. This place sparkles just like your smile! (And that's no joke!)

To: All the residents and staff of Hickory Hills and Willow Lane

My heartfelt "Thank You" for making my 90th birthday a very special and happy time that will linger in my memory!



*Dankeschön (Gratefully Yours),
Ilse Muehleis*



Please join us in welcoming our newest team members:

Sarah G. – CNA

Lilly K. – Dining Services

Shannon S. – Dining Services

Fannie Mae D. – CNA

Jessica L. – Dining Services

Dorothy W. – Residential Aide

Margaret V. – Residential Aide

Dori H. – Residential Aide

Mandy H. – Residential Aide

Deb K. – LPN

Alexis H. – Dining Services

Wanda W. – Environmental Services Attendant

Mary H. – RN

Ashley P. – LPN

Antoinette S. – LPN

Joe W. – Residential Aide

Stellar Staff – Jason B.

We would like to highlight Jason Braun, one of our Maintenance team members. He has a friend who works where Kleenex Brand tissues are made. Earlier this spring, there was a packaging issue, which made a bunch of tissues unfit to be sold to the public. There wasn't anything wrong with the tissues themselves, just a minor defect in packaging. Jason asked if we would be interested in these tissues, to which we said yes! There were 72 cases with 27 boxes in each case. That is 1,944 boxes of tissues that Jason facilitated us in receiving. The tissue donation saved SSC approximately \$1,000. We applaud and appreciate Jason's forward thinking. He continues to be a vital asset to our team here at SSC and this was the cherry on top. Thank you, Jason!