

Brewster Village

Outagamie County's
Short Term Rehabilitation and Long Term Care Facility
3300 W. Brewster Street - Appleton, WI 54914 (920) 832-5400

January, February, March 2016

Letter from the Administrator:

For many years now we have collaborated with the UW-Eau Claire Health Care Administration program and have been a preceptor site for their program. Our student this year is Katie Hughes, and as part of her curriculum she is to compose an article for a newsletter. Please enjoy what ensues, as authored by Katie, related to another wonderful partnership we have developed over the years with Fox Valley Technical College.



Have you ever noticed the beautiful grounds that surround Brewster Village? The flowers, the trees, the pergolas; we have Professor James Beard and his Horticulture Technician students to thank for the enhancement of Brewster Village's landscape. Brewster Village partnered with the horticulture program at Fox Valley Technical College to provide the villagers with a beautiful, restful place to retreat to in the great outdoors. The students, under Professor Beard's direction, planted flowers, trees, and shrubs, installed stone and brick pathways, and constructed arbors and pergolas. The team planted approximately 8,000 plants over the last two seasons.

The long standing partnership Brewster Village has had with Professor Beard's students has been one of great reward for all. You can read more about his experiences in the book he co-wrote, ***Growing People***. The book contains information about some of the other projects he and the students have worked on, as well!

Not only did the students enhance the scenery for the villagers, they interacted with them as well. As mentioned in Professor Beard's text, "One of the most memorable scenes from the project thus far was seeing an 83-year-old man in a motorized wheelchair take this effort under his wing, so to speak." The text further explains that one of the villagers who had spent 52 years in the construction industry grew close with Professor Beard and the students. The villager would visit with the students daily and observe their progress. The team even designated him as "Honorary Foreman." A small ceremony was held to celebrate the project's completion. The team invited the villager to be the first person to travel the new pathway on Brewster Village grounds. Another heartwarming quote from the text includes, "As he guided himself through the structures with a smile from ear-to-ear, a large applause ensued with tears."

Professor Beard will be retiring from FVTC in May, however, his presence and influence with Brewster Village will surely continue. We are grateful for all that FVTC Horticulture and Landscaping Program, and Professor Beard and his students have done for us and with us. We look forward to our future collaborations with Professor Beard!

From Food Service Worker to Homemaker:

This year, our dietary department was reorganized, and most dietary staff were reassigned to each of the households as *Homemakers*. The rationale for this was to bring more of the food preparation closer to our residents, and by doing so, control the quality and quantity of the foods being prepared. Furthermore, this would allow us to incorporate as much individual preference as possible, all in a more intimate, home-like setting. To accomplish this, we worked closely with a consultant from Action Pact; which is a firm that helps nursing homes in their "culture change" initiatives and used guidance from *The New Dining Practice Standards* which is becoming the recognized standard for food service and dietetic practices in the long-term care industry. Our

official roll-out date for the new positions was May 4th, 2015. Since then, the response from our villagers was overwhelmingly positive (not to mention the wonderful smells wafting in our halls from the freshly baked bread products and pastries to the sizzling bacon!) As we are realizing the benefits of the initiatives mentioned above, I would like to share a positive statistic with you. On March 31st, 2015 (prior to the roll out of the new positions) 9.8% of our residents experienced some form of 'unintended weight loss.' As of the most current available data (10/31/15) that percentage of our residents with that same 'unintended weight loss' has dropped to 4.4%, which is astounding in its own right, not to mention it falls well below the state average of 8.8%!

We do not always share and celebrate our successes, but I am very proud of all of the staff here at Brewster Village for their part in making this dream a success, and more importantly adding quality of life to those who live here every day.

May you and your loved ones have a joyous and prosperous 2016.

Tim Neuman
Dietary Services Director



Brewster Village has once again been voted *Best of the Valley for Senior Living Facility*. We have been honored with this award five years in a row. We are very proud of this! We feel we have earned a good reputation in the Fox Valley because of our dedicated staff, our commitment to personal choices during the course of a person's stay, and our respect for each individual. Thank you for your votes and this wonderful honor!

Goodwill Drop Box: Brewster Village has a Goodwill drop off donation box in our parking lot. It is located in the northwest corner of our staff parking lot. We hope it will be a convenient location for you to drop off your donations for Goodwill when you visit. Goodwill asks that donations be placed in the donation box, and not left out in the open. Should you have large items, please take them directly to the Goodwill store.

Concerns/Complaints: Please be aware that if you have questions, concerns, or complaints about your family member's rights and care, please discuss them with the neighborhood manager, social worker, or Complaints Investigator (Jeff Marks). You may also contact the Ombudsman at 1-800-815-0015.



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