

# Excellence in Programming Award

## 2011 WINNING PROGRAMS

### Seniors Saving Seniors

Bayside Care Center, Morro Bay

145-bed SNF

**Program type:** Community Involvement

**Frequency:** Ongoing

Dog biscuits are only the beginning as residents reach out to the animal shelter

This unique program gives senior residents an opportunity to save “senior” animals at the local animal shelter. The residents mix dough, cut out shapes and bake dog biscuits – nicknamed “grandpaws cookies” – that they then sell at a local farmers market to raise money for animal adoption fees.



Participating residents visit the humane society twice a month to drop off the funds they have raised and to visit the dogs and cats at the shelter. So far they have paid the adoption fee on 15 animals, and 13 of them have been adopted. In addition, staff from the humane society brings dogs to the facility once a month to visit the residents who are unable to travel to the humane society.

All the residents are invited to attend any of the activities associated with the program. Dozens of residents are involved at various stages – some baking the biscuits, others decorating bags. Two or more residents serve at the booth at the farmers market. Ten residents go on each trip to the animal shelter, and at least another 30 are visited by the humane society’s ambassador dogs when they come into the facility. The booth at the farmers market is a great way to meet the community. A local radio show also helped market the program, and the local newspaper ran the facility’s press release.

### Neighbor of the Month

Reutlinger Community for Jewish Living, Danville  
60-bed SNF

**Program type:** Culture Change, Family Involvement

**Frequency:** Monthly



Showcasing residents’ lives and promoting family involvement

The Neighbor of the Month Program was developed to celebrate residents’ lives and promote family involvement. Each month a resident is selected to be showcased. The family and resident meet with the activity director and draft a biography, which is included on a poster board along with photos of the resident from childhood through adult life. The poster asks “guess who” to challenge staff, other residents and families to identify the subject – it’s an enjoyable challenge.

At an afternoon social, family members come and share many details that otherwise would not be known. It is a heartwarming experience to be a part of the audience. The family feels a connection, and all residents share in each other’s lives, giving everyone a fuller sense of who each resident is. Featured residents enjoy the attention and the close family involvement in developing their stories and story boards. It promotes a sense of worth and pride as they are appreciated for their life’s work.

Since the program began in 2009, 26 residents have been featured. About 25 residents attend each social event. Featured residents are selected through discussions with the activity director.

### Backpack to School

Rheem Valley Convalescent Hospital & Rehabilitation, Moraga/  
Vital Life Foundation

49-bed SNF

**Program Type:** Staff development/Employee satisfaction

**Frequency:** Annually

Making sure every employee’s children are ready



Now entering its fifth year, the Backpack to School/Vital Life Foundation provides a backpack full of necessary K-6 school supplies to children of facility employees. Many staff working in long-term care are single parents, foster parents or part of extended families raising displaced children. Although earning too much to qualify for state assistance, they cannot necessarily afford back-to-school supplies costing \$100 or more per child.

Before spreading to other facilities in the Marquis company, Backpack to School was originated at Rheem Valley by a corporate officer who was eager both to give back to employees and to emphasize the importance of education. The Vital Life Foundation was established to ensure the Backpack to School Program not only continues but is available to all employees working in the long-term care environment.

In California this year 13 facilities participated in the program – which means 13 communities of staff, residents and families and 13 separate Backpack to School celebrations. This year, 546 children of LTC staff received backpacks. Over the past four years, the multi-facility program has provided more than 3,000 backpacks.

The program is funded through donations of money and supplies. Much credit goes to the countless vendors, providers and community partners that contribute to the program.

## **Freda's Corvette**

**Golden LivingCenter, Clovis**

*57-bed SNF*

**Program type:** Activity/Community Involvement

**Frequency:** Semi-annually

### **A prize ride gets real**

A resident named Freda “won” a Corvette while playing “The Price is Right” on the Nintendo Wii during a weekly activity. Each week Freda reminded the administrator that she was waiting for her car to be delivered. Because a partnership was already established with a local auto dealership, the administrator was able to turn this running joke into a truly magical moment.

At an arranged time, an employee of the dealership arrived with a red, convertible Corvette. The resident was surprised beyond imagining. Then to everyone’s enjoyment, several residents were able to take individual rides in the Corvette around town with the sun shining on them and the wind in their hair.

The participating residents each got a framed photo of their “joy ride,” and a poster-size photo with Freda in “her” Corvette is displayed in the entry and a duplicate was presented to the owners of the dealership which was displayed in the dealership lobby.

Freda was kind enough to let the dealership house her car through the winter.

Since November 2010, this has become a semiannual event, and, when the activity was arranged again, the local newspaper came, spoke with the residents and ran a half-page story with photos.



## **Under 70 Club**

**Hi Desert Continuing Care Center, Joshua Tree**

*120-bed SNF, Sub-Acute/Ventilator Care Unit*

**Program type:** Activity

**Frequency:** Monthly

### **Fun fit for younger residents**

In answer to the increase in the number of younger people in the facility who were dissatisfied at their ability to have appropriate fun – something to look forward to – a club was created as a social forum.

The club meets monthly for a formal dinner with fine dinnerware, wine, a four-star type menu and place cards. There are rules and a signed pledge to speak only of positive aspects of life at the facility. The participants even have laminated membership cards for their wallets.

One member said, “We want to be positive and set the right tone about life here, and that includes upholding the employees who work here.” To that end a “Residents’ Choice Employee of the Month” is selected and receives a week of free meals and a parking spot and is invited to have dinner the following month with the club members.

The club has been extremely well received, and residents who participated in very few group activities have found the club a welcome social event similar to something they would have chosen to belong to when they resided in the community. Guests are by invitation only with only the past employee of the month and dining room staff in the room. Facility staff is not permitted to “pop in.”

Most of the younger residents do not have the financial means to enjoy out of facility activities. Hi Desert Continuing Care Center is a rural facility with limited community resources.



## **Deck the Halls: Holiday House Decorating Contest**

**Stonebrook Healthcare Center, Concord**

*120-bed SNF*

**Program Type:** Community Involvement

**Frequency:** Annually

### **Residents and staff team up with community members**

The Deck the Halls House Decorating Contest was made up of 10 teams, each comprising at least one resident, one staff member and a community member (the teams averaged about 15 participants each.) In November each team was given a 4-ft. cardboard house to decorate in holiday style. The teams were responsible for providing all decorating supplies. In December the completed houses were displayed throughout the facility and pictures of the houses were posted on the facility website and Facebook page.

Everyone was encouraged to tour the facility to see the houses and vote for their favorite. Those who couldn’t make it to the facility could vote via Facebook or the website. Each team played for a charity of its choice. First prize received \$500, second \$300 and third \$200. For families, the decorated houses turned our facility into a “must see” destination during the holidays.

The 10 team leaders volunteered and then recruited other employees, residents and community members to join. Participation was open to everyone. About 150 people worked on decorating the houses, more than 500 people toured the facility and an additional 230 people “liked” the display on Facebook so that they could vote for their favorite house.

The program was featured twice – with color pictures – in the *Contra Costa Times*, as well as being publicized on the facility webpage and Facebook page.



# Excellence in Programming Nominees

## **Art without Boundaries**

*Singing, movement, painting and storytelling to stimulate dramatic changes in the brain*

Bayside Care Center in Morro Bay

## **Traditional Thanksgiving Dinner**

*Centerpieces and invitations by residents*

California Special Care Center, La Mesa

## **Cinco de Mayo**

*Fifth-grade dancers in full attire*

California Special Care Center, La Mesa

## **Recycling Win-Win-Win**

*A very active resident council shows how*

Carlmont Gardens Nursing Facility, Belmont

## **La Jolla High School and Jeopardy**

*A famous TV show brought to life by the students next door*

The Cloisters of La Jolla

## **Bead Monsters**

*The administrator's hobby spreads to the residents*

The Cloisters of La Jolla

## **Interviews with LJRADIO**

*Students interview residents for the school station*

The Cloisters of La Jolla

59-bed SNF

Activity, Community Involvement, Family Involvement

## **Tsunami Fundraising**

*Caring residents find a way to help*

Cloisters of Mission Hills, San Diego

75-bed SNF

Activity

## **New York New Years**

*All the flair of holiday time in the Big Apple*

Cloisters of Mission Hills, San Diego

75-bed SNF

Activity

## **Calendar Committee and Dining Committee**

*Empowering resident choice and resident voice*

Danish Care Center, Atascadero

## **Safety First**

*A yearlong program of tips and reminders*

Danish Care Center, Atascadero

## **Chimes for Charity**

*Seashell wind chimes hand-painted by residents*

Danish Care Center, Atascadero

## **No-Calorie Flavored Water for Hydration and Med Pass**

*Cutting down on sugar and easing storage issues*

Edgemoor Hospital/DPSNF, Santee

## **The Goldenberg Gardens**

*Meaningful moments and fresh produce on the table*

The Los Angeles Jewish Home, Reseda

## **The Wellness Group**

*Sharing experiences on a daily basis*

Gilroy Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center

## **Music Therapy Program**

*Group and one-on-one sessions with a certified therapist*

Gilroy Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center

## **Mother's Day Tea 'Hat Frenzy'**

*A high-fashion high-tea celebration*

Golden LivingCenter-Fresno

## **Holiday Boutique & Santa Claus**

*A head start on shopping, thanks to community vendors*

Golden LivingCenter-Fresno

## **Loving Hands Community Project**

*Residents have plenty to give*

GoldenLiving Hy-Lond, Fresno

## **National Nursing Home Week 2011**

*Special activities in every department*

Lincoln Glen Nursing Facility, San Jose

## **Classic Car Show**

*Shiny displays from a local club and family members*

Lincoln Glen Nursing Facility, San Jose

## **Creative Drama with Ginger D.**

*An instructor brings out resident talent*

Lincoln Glen Nursing Facility, San Jose

## **Grow with Us**

*Fresh air and good company in a thriving garden*

Lincoln Glen Nursing Facility, San Jose

## **Ambassador Program**

*Customer-oriented staff exceeding expectations*

Los Altos Subacute & Rehab

## **Community Circle**

*Reaching out to every neighbor*

Los Altos Subacute & Rehab

## **Getting To Know You!**

*Building relationships through a discussion facilitator*

Magnolia Special Care Center, El Cajon

**Recreation Clubhouse**

*Getting together to share interests*

Magnolia Special Care Center, El Cajon

**Spirit Week 2011**

*Making the most of National Nursing Home Week*

Meadowood Nursing Center, Clearlake

**Mission Possible: For Stow**

*Supporting a colleague injured by violence*

Mission Skilled Nursing and Sub Acute Center, Santa Clara

**Mission Possible: Help Japan**

*Coming together to respond to disaster*

Mission Skilled Nursing and Sub Acute Center, Santa Clara

**Individualized Resident Birthday Celebrations**

*Banners, balloons and more*

Parkside Special Care Center, El Cajon

**Lunch Bunch**

*Regular attendees at Music in the Park*

Somerset Special Care Center, El Cajon

**Sparkle and Glam Beauty Shop**

*One-stop pampering*

St. John Kronstadt Health Care Center, Castro Valley

**New Year's Eve Reflection**

*PowerPoint slide show of pictures from throughout the year*

Valley Pointe Nursing & Rehab, Castro Valley

**Traveling Spa**

*Comfort and relaxation delivered by cart*

Victoria Special Care Center, El Cajon

**10-Color Nutrition Education**

*Helping everyone understand dietary needs*

Victoria Special Care Center, El Cajon

**The Brain Gang**

*Enhancing emotional well-being and cognitive functioning*

Villa Siena, Mountain View

**Facials & Makeup Class**

*Special treatment with photos to show the results*

Vista Cove Care Center at Santa Paula

**Outing to the County Fair**

*Taking advantage of free-admission senior day*

Vista Cove Care Center at Santa Paula

**Wake Up**

*Build-your-own meals from a cooked-to-order menu*

Whittier Hills Health Care Center

**Discovery Program/Sensory Stimulation**

*Meditation, aroma therapy and more in a relaxed format*

Windsor Gardens of Los Angeles

**Cooking with Faye**

*An interactive show for residents*

Windsor Gardens Convalescent Center of San Diego