
Excellence in Programming Awards 2013



It's Not Too Late Activity Program – Vista Pacifica, Jurupa Valley
Making a Difference – Vista Cove Center at Santa Paula
Post Acute Network – Torrance Memorial Medical Center, Transitional Care Unit
Teens Closet - Arroyo Grande Care Center
Women's Group - Bayside Care Center, Morro Bay

IT'S NOT TOO LATE ACTIVITY PROGRAM – Vista Pacifica Center, Jurupa Valley
Known as "IN2L," the program at this 108-bed IMD is a daily special treatment event designed to utilize new technology to provide psychiatric education, rehabilitation – and fun – while improving quality of life for residents in the facility's gero-psychiatric unit.

State-of-the-art tablets are downloaded with appropriate applications that can be used during activities and group sessions for reminiscence therapy, word games, trivia, relaxation techniques, memory games and music therapy. The IN2L Activity program also utilizes the Internet and other applications like YouTube to provide up to date educational material on topics such as anger management, mental health awareness and group therapy.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE – Vista Cove Care Center at Santa Paula



July is “National Make a Difference in Children’s Lives” Month. One of the residents’ family members is on the Make-a-Wish board, and she is always sharing with staff and residents stories of wishes granted to local youths.

During a resident council meeting at this 99-bed SNF, the residents and staff decided to participate

in a fundraiser for the Make-a-Wish foundation.

Staff participated by buying lunch and residents took the money from staff and helped choose a menu, prepare and pass out the food. The purpose of the program is to show the residents that even those living in nursing facility can still make a positive difference in the lives of others in the community.

POST ACUTE NETWORK (PAN) – Torrance Memorial Medical Center, Transitional-Care Unit

While it is not traditional for competing SNFs to partner, the Post Acute Network, or PAN, program consists of eight SNFs with six different owners which work together to streamline coordinated care efforts to better guarantee quality patient care and prevent unnecessary hospital readmissions.



Torrance Memorial Medical Center originally developed the program for its 40-bed SNF distinct-part transitional-care unit, but quickly extended it to the community as the program’s positive impact became apparent. Meeting monthly to discuss and improve best practices, the participating PAN SNFs align common goals, establish effective communication and create a user-friendly health-information exchange.

TEENS CLOSET – Arroyo Grande Care Center



Developed in partnership with the Children’s Resource Network, a local non-profit organization that provides supplies for children in need, the Teens Closet is a free clothing store located on the facility property.

There are a fitting room and sections for displaying clothes, shoes, toiletries, blankets, towels and school supplies. Residents at the 99-bed SNF operate the Teens Closet and take great pride in helping families that otherwise may not be able to afford these basic necessities. In addition, twice a week, the residents organize kids’ clothing for other clothing programs in the Children’s Resource Network. To date the residents have helped more than 900 children.

WOMEN’S GROUP – Bayside Care Center, Morro Bay

Initiated for and by the female residents at this 145-bed SNF, the Women’s Group was intended to be a place where women can gather and just be women – not residents, not invalids, not anything but women being women and supporting each other.

Staff put a “Resident Meeting” sign on the door to ensure privacy, provide tea and coffee and then take a back seat to the women and let them run their time, which they spend sharing experiences, supporting each other and occasionally working through problems together. The women have become friends and have created a little community all their own.

