

2014 EXCELLENCE IN PROGRAMMING AWARDS

The Dream Team

UPLAND REHAB & CARE CENTER

Since 2011, the approximately 50 residents, family members, volunteers, staff and community members of the Dream Team have raised, packaged and sold organic fruit and vegetables from their own garden to fund ways of giving back to the community.



Through gardening and fundraising, the Dream Team has raised enough to have floors and windows added to an orphanage in Kenya, funded and helped build a small loft house for a family in Mexico and sponsored a battered women's shelter.

The result has been good health and emotional well-being for everyone involved, and Dream Team projects have earned community respect and publicity.

Spa Indulgence

WINDSOR GARDENS OF LOS ANGELES



For the last 18 months, massage therapy students have visited the facility quarterly to give free massages to about 60 residents, either in a massage chair or in bed, and the results are great.

The students work hard with the residents in order to customize the massages to their individual needs. With soft therapeutic music playing in the background, the residents enjoy the pampering and tranquility and come away with grins on their faces.

The massages improve quality of life, increase blood flow, decrease blood pressure and more – at no cost, thanks to the students who volunteer their time.



Veterans Pinning Ceremony

LINCOLN GLEN NURSING FACILITY, SAN JOSE

Facility staff checked with all the residents to determine who were military veterans then, with outside sponsorship, staged an award-presentation ceremony. For good measure, family members who were veterans were honored too.



Veterans were presented with framed certificates. There was a patriotic sing-along, snacks and stories from years ago. Residents were proud, and family members were touched by the special ceremony. About 35 residents, family members and staff attended.

A corporate sponsor provided the framed certificates, cookies, a guitar player for the sing-along, and leis or necklaces for residents to wear. Photos were displayed on an ongoing projector throughout the facility.