

Showcase Awards

Senior K9 Adoption



Residents at the Rehabilitation Center of Bakersfield are taking on the dual challenge of providing foster care to a senior dog and locating a loving home for their temporary canine companion. Foster dogs like 10-year-old Bootsy enjoy cage-free care, tons of attention and delicious treats at the skilled nursing center. Residents are empowered to feed, train and walk Bootsy daily and take charge of scheduling adoption appointments. The partnership with the local animal shelter is a win for everyone, and gives residents a chance to help senior canines find a permanent home.

Third graders are building relationships across generations by reading passages from their favorite books to nursing home residents at Fortuna Rehabilitation and Wellness Center. The once-a-month activity called “Read to Me” involves higher functioning residents who encourage and help students sound out words. Even residents with dementia and other cognitive disorders stay engaged and listen to the readings for the entire hour. About two dozen students from South Fortuna Elementary School plan to stay in the program and get to know their older reading companions as they transition into fourth grade.



Storytime



First Friday Art Hop



Artwork created by residents at Vienna Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation was highlighted at the City of Lodi’s First Friday Art Hop, attracting community interest and challenging preconceived notions about life in a skilled nursing center. The First Friday event, sponsored by the city art commission, attracted 50 attendees who learned how art inspires elderly residents to remain creative and maintain their sense of pride and accomplishment. The gallery is open to the general public throughout the month.