



Larry Caris

Adult Volunteer of the Year
Vineyard Hills Health Center, Templeton

During the three years his father was a resident at Vineyard Hills Health Center in Templeton, Larry Caris played the piano to entertain his dad and other residents. After his passing, Larry felt a calling to keep playing music at the facility. Ten years later, “Larry the Piano Man” is still entertaining residents every Wednesday afternoon. Larry is reliable, outgoing and inspires residents and staff to participate during his weekly piano sessions. Therapists assist with “wheelchair dancing” and everyone is encouraged to dance to the music. Larry says he looks forward to providing entertainment and adds he gets as much joy out of playing as the residents do from listening.



Danish Care Singers

Group Volunteers of the Year
Danish Care Center, Atascadero

Raymond “Sonny” Chang and Reynette “Leilani” Ferrer-Delaney use music to get residents to be more expressive and engaged and bring up memories from past experiences. The Christian singing group has recruited two additional volunteers and they perform and spend one-on-one time with residents each week for four hours. The Danish Care Singers bring compassion, empathy and encouragement to residents at the Atascadero facility. The residents look forward to talking and singing with members of the group and the songs bring smiles to their faces. Sonny and Leilani are generous with donations and participate in staff fundraisers, showing support not only for the residents, but for families and staff as well.