



Fun Times in Assisted Living

August 27, 2021 Edition

COVID STATUS

We currently have 5 COVID positive employees. They are quarantined at their homes. All staff and residents were tested today and will be again Monday. Our residents continue to remain healthy and well. Unfortunately, our visitation restrictions must continue.

Please check our website for the most up-to-date information:

www.oddfellows.com/covid-19

“Life is one grand sweet song, so start the music.”

~Ronald Regan



SING IT!

I love to sing! Loudly and badly! But singing makes my heart so incredibly happy. I sing in the car, in the shower, and especially when my kids have friends over. It’s the best way ever to embarrass them. I mean, it’s bad!

I think I’ve mentioned our dog Zoey before. Zoey is a husky and lab mix. She has the energy and mischievousness of the husky mixed with the water loving, people pleasing of the lab. She is a mess of chaos the entire time she is awake. But she is a precious angel when she’s sleeping – LOL!

But here’s the thing . . . Zoey loves to sing. She doesn’t care if you’re on the phone, watching television, visiting with the kids or trying to concentrate on something. Little Miss Sassy Pants as we lovingly call her runs around the house singing “roo rrrroohhh” at the top of her lungs. It doesn’t make any difference if you scold her or try to redirect her, she will continue to sing until she is finished and you’ve heard the whole song.

What’s even better is when she and my daughter sing a duet. My daughter will “roo rrrroohhh” back to her until she starts laughing so hard, she can’t catch her breath anymore. It’s at that point that Zoey starts dancing and singing. Now that is quite a show.

Bottom line, Zoey is a goof who I think was brought into our lives to remind us to be silly. She is just happy. All the time. You can scold her and she’ll turn around and prance away. She literally smiles. I think that’s why she sings, the happiness in her soul spills out her mouth. She doesn’t care where she is or who is listening. She just sings her happy song. Couldn’t we all use some of that kind of happiness. It’s ugly in this world, so much hate and anger. It’s all we talk about, all we hear. But could we stop for a moment and make a joyful noise? Now I’m not suggesting you start howling, your neighbors might start to talk. But I am suggesting you take your moments of happiness and find a way to share them with others. Pass it on and make the next guys smile a little to. Channel your inner Zoey! Just don’t tip over the garbage can and spread out all the trash on the kitchen floor. Take Zoey’s advice, you get in trouble for that one. Even if you sing your story to Mom afterwards 😊

Blessings,
Kari

“WE’RE CLOSED”

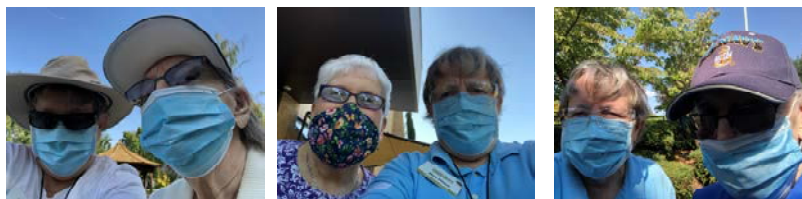
Mel Tillis said that line during one of the Smokey and the Bandit movies. It’s true, we are still closed to visitation. I know you are frustrated and that “frustrated” really probably isn’t a big enough word to describe how you really feel. As our inability to reopen for visitation drags on, I’ve started getting more questions about what kinds of things we are doing to help keep your loved one’s safe. Here’s some of what we are doing:

- All staff must check in and screen each day to ensure they are fit for work. If they have any symptoms, they go home.
- Staff wear masks and eye shields the entire time they are on campus
- Staff are separated by units. We don’t even take breaks with people outside of our departments so we can minimize the potential for spread. Every area has a designated space.
- We clean, then we sanitize, then we clean some more.
- We have taken extra precautions with our air handling systems
- We test ourselves, currently twice a week
- We monitor your loved ones for any fluctuations in temperature or oxygen levels twice a day
- We have no staff or group meetings, only one shift is allowed to meet together for a shift report.
- No new employees are allowed to start work until completing a COVID test with a negative result.

This list could get very long and fill up several pages telling you all of what we are doing. That is just a smattering of the preventative measures we’ve put in place, just a tiny glimpse into a few things. And not to jinx us, but we are fortunate. What we have been doing has worked. We’ve had no cases of COVID amongst our Assisted Living residents thus far and just a few cases in our Care Centers that were quickly isolated. I sat on a call today with a group of other long term care providers throughout the state and can tell you they have not been as fortunate. Some have had significant COVID spread throughout their staff and residents. It’s a bit like lighting a match in a dry field of grass. Once it’s introduced it spreads like mad. We will not stay closed to visitation one second longer than we are required to. But for now, we are required to stay closed.

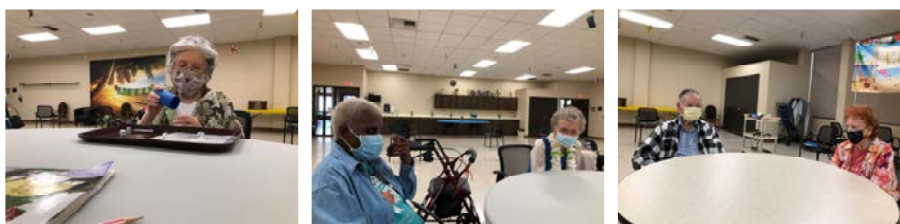
SELFIE SISTERS

Our Selfie Sisters are back in action! And they’ve added a new member. Can you spot her? Since we’ve named these ladies the selfie sisters, they have started trying extra hard to get pictures in new and different locations around campus. Can you tell where they are at this week?



AYE AYE CAPTAIN

The game Ship, Captain and Crew was a new game to me when I started here at The Home. To be honest, I still have no idea how to play it. But it is super popular! Kind of timeless in its popularity. It’s funny how games come and go, they’ll play rummikub for a while or maybe dominoes, but Ship, Captain and Crew always seems a constant. Guess one day I’ll have to have one of the residents teach me how to play. Until then, play on!!



LET ME INTRODUCE YOU

Have you met these ladies? These are your loved one's Fourth Floor caregivers. This is Coco and Breahna. Two bright and engaging young caregivers. Both started here as brand-new NAC's and it has been such a blessing watching them grow in their career. But what's been even better is watching them grow to you the people you love the most. And personally, I love that they matched when the picture was taken. We are incredibly fortunate to have these young ladies as part of our caregiving team!!



WE MADE SOME MEMORIES

We talked with some friends. We went for walks outside, it's so lovely now that the weather has cooled a bit. We played some bocce. We went to church. And so many other things. I know that you aren't able to be here, but I thank you from the bottom of my heart for trusting us to be. We are doing everything that we can to help keep your loved ones distracted and having fun until that moment when you come swooping in the door with hugs abounding. Until then . . .



GOODBYE

Pauline Lehmann let us share in her journey for five and a half years. A mere sprite of a woman, she had passion and fire in her soul. When her voice boomed, people paid attention. Her vocabulary was exemplary. I've not yet met another person who gave the most thought-provoking compliments. She was a wife, a mother, a sister, a daughter and so much more. She walked this earth for a century + with tenacity and grit. And she loved. And when she loved, she smiled. It was a smile that could outshine the sun. Goodbye Miss Pauline, may you rest easy!

