

Residents Recognize Importance of Community Service

Emerald Heights, Redmond, Wash.

Contact: Kay Wallin, vice president of marketing, kayw@emeraldheights.com or (425) 556-8165.

Serving Dixie Price has changed the residents of Emerald Heights. Dixie Price is a low-income, eight-unit housing community in Redmond, Wash., for single mothers, a community that Emerald Heights' residents have adopted for the past four years.

The community service program benefiting Dixie Price entails a coats, backpacks and sneakers drive for children and a holiday party for families. The programs are completely resident-run from start to finish. Emerald Heights residents organize the events, raise the money needed from other residents and shop for necessary items.

"Residents provide meaningful gifts that make a difference to the Dixie Price families," says Kay Wallin, Emerald Heights vice president of marketing, "and they [residents] know they are making a difference in the community."

Partnership Puts Resident Art Front and Center

Casa de Mañana, LaJolla, Calif.

Contact: Steve Nossan, Front Porch Gallery director, snossan@frontporch.net or (858) 362-5766.

Front Porch, operator of 11 retirement communities in California, puts a strong emphasis on bringing out residents' artistic expression. The "Front Porch Gallery" is a program that encourages resident artists by partnering with community arts organizations to bring residents' work to a wider audience. The Gallery was launched two years ago with a grant from California Lutheran Homes, and is supported by Front Porch.

The Gallery's latest effort was "See & Be Scene," an exhibit presented in October in collaboration with Lux

Art Institute, an organization that promotes creation of art inspired by Southern California's natural habitat. A traveling exhibit of at least 30 pieces of resident art, along with other works brought in by Lux, was on display at three Front Porch communities in Southern California: Casa de Mañana, Kingsley Manor and Vista del Monte.

The artworks were mostly paintings but included needlework, poetry, books and sculptures. Casa de Mañana hosted an opening reception, complete with live music, catered food and champagne, and more than 250 attendees, most from the outside community. Resident artists could offer their works for sale, though not all did.

"Our focus is to display resident art, but we also partner with outside organizations to give it more vitality," says Gallery director Steve Nossan. "Next year we hope to partner again with L.E.A.P.S. and BOUNDS, an organization that works with all our residents, including those in assisted living and care centers, who have never painted before."

Nossan says that the program aims to do even more toward the creation of art in the future, facilitated by establishing studio space at Casa de Mañana.

Lecture Series Uses Top Speakers, Public-Access Cable to Educate Nationwide

Boston Alzheimer's Resource Center at Rogerson House, Boston, Mass.

Contact: Mary Geary, director, geary@rogerson.org or (617) 983-2300, ext. 159.

The Boston Alzheimer's Resource Center, an affiliate of Rogerson Communities, takes its communication and education functions very seriously. Not only does the center sponsor lectures by top experts in Alzheimer's disease, dementia and related topics, it also videotapes the lectures and provides them to a growing network of public-access cable stations throughout the country.

To date, more than 150 such cable stations have broadcast installments of the Boston Alzheimer's lecture series, which runs from January through June each year.

"The series has skyrocketed," says Mary Geary, the center director at Boston Alzheimer's, "because we get high-quality speakers and people recognize that. And that [makes it easier] to get good speakers on board for the next series." The Boston area's high concentration of top educational, medical and research institutions also offers an impressive pool of expertise.

Geary says distribution of the series has grown largely through word of mouth over five years. "And once they [cable stations] show the lectures, they come back looking for more," she says.

The lecture series, highly regarded within the Alzheimer's community, features a variety of subjects related to Alzheimer's.

Front Porch



Casa de Mañana resident Marian Walter, a former professor of romance languages, literature and linguistics who became serious about painting after retirement, displays a pair of her floral paintings. With her daughter, Walter is working on a book of botanical illustrations.

Topics from the 2004 series included:

- “Living with Alzheimer’s Disease,” featuring the Noonan family, which appeared in the Emmy-winning PBS special, “The Forgetting.”
- “Alzheimer’s Disease: An Inevitable Condition in Down Syndrome.”
- “Compassion Fatigue.”

The 2004 lecture series is appearing on public-access cable stations in California, Connecticut, Florida, Hawaii, Iowa, Massachusetts, Maine, Michigan, New Hampshire, Ohio, Oklahoma and Vermont. Lectures have even been broadcast in Ethiopia.

For information on how to have the lecture series aired on a local station in your area, contact Geary at geary@rogerson.org or (617) 983-2300, ext. 159, or visit www.rogersonalz.org/resource.html.

Putting a Face on the People Who Live this Provider’s Mission

Presbyterian Manors of Mid-America, Wichita, Kan.

Contact: Leslie Chaffin, marketing director, lchaffin@pmma.org or (316) 685-1100.

Presbyterian Manors of Mid-America, a network of 17 retirement communities in Kansas and Missouri, knows that fulfillment of its mission depends on the engagement of its residents, volunteers and staff.

To recognize the centrality of people to its values—and to celebrate its 55 years of existence—the organization has named 55 individuals to be honored as “The 55 Faces of Presbyterian Manors.”

Residents, staff and volunteers were asked to nominate their peers, and to vote for one person in each of the three categories. Six hundred written nominations were collected. Winners were selected by the number of nominations they received.

“The main criterion was that the nominees be persons who have helped carry out the Manor mission and contribute to making their manor or village “The Way You Want to Live,” says William Ward, president and CEO. (“The Way You Want to Live” is the organization’s motto.)

Voters were asked to answer the question: “Whose names and faces come to mind when you think of your Manor or Village? Who best exemplifies the heartbeat of Presbyterian Manors and its enduring reputation for quality?”

Winners will be featured on the Web at www.presbyterianmanors.org,

along with photos and brief comments from those who nominated them, and will be honored locally within each of their communities.

Provider Collaborates with College, Union for Nursing Refresher Courses

St. Cabrini Nursing Home, Dobbs Ferry, N.Y.

Contact: Velma Haye, director of nursing, (914) 693-6800.

Leveraging the interests and skills of its own workforce with a labor union and medical educators, St. Cabrini is doing its part to increase the capabilities and the careers of direct caregivers.



St. Cabrini Nursing Home

As part of the “Clinical Enhancement in Geriatric Care,” St. Cabrini Nursing Home staff participate in a hands-on session on assessment skills. From left: Alicia Hinsch, RN; Namsook Cassetday, LPN; Nadia McFarquhar, CNA, and Anne Pira, RN, assistant director of nursing.

St. Cabrini is collaborating with the nearby Mercy College Center for Continuing Education and the 1199 SEIU/League Employment, Training and Job Security Fund to offer a comprehensive course designed to help RNs, LPNs, nursing managers and CNAs stay on top of the most recent advancements in geriatric nursing.

The program, “Clinical Enhancement in Geriatric Care,” covers physical assessment, technical skills, clinical and legal issues, and documentation requirements. The course—which qualifies for 36 contact hours by the New York State Nurses Association’s Council on Continuing Education—also delves into related topics such as ethics, leadership, team building and staff evaluation.

According to Velma Haye, St. Cabrini’s nursing director, the course is perfect for those CNAs who are attending nursing school, or plan to. The 70 staff members who are participating include some from St. Cabrini’s Msgr. Terence Attridge Adult Day Health Center and Long Term Home Health Care program. The classes are offered for groups of 10 students at a time.