



Network Practices: Resident Engagement

HumorCon

Kirkland Village

This community offered a variety of activities to promote laughter. Residents and team members brought jokes, they had a resident stand up comedy performance and were featured in the local news for the event.

Participation in local art display

Wesleyan Senior Living

Our Arts & Crafts studio participated in "The Artist as Quilt maker" with the Firelands Association for Visual Arts. Residents made small quilts to display outside the new Union Center for the Arts in Oberlin, Ohio. Residents also participated in hanging the quilts in front of the building. Everyone was very excited to know that their work was being displayed to help promote the new Arts building in the greater community. People from all levels of the community participated, and some learned a new art. Knowing that the project was to promote the arts to the greater community was exciting and rewarding. We also made additional quilts to hang in our courtyard and had individuals from Assisted Living and Memory Support help to hang up the displays for all to enjoy.

Hats by Warm Hands with Warm Hearts

Wesleyan Senior Living

Knitting hats for the local hospital to give to new babies can be very meaningful for residents, knowing they are able to help welcome a new baby by giving them a gift. We call this project Hats by Warm Hands with Warm Hearts. This project allows many individuals to be a part of community outreach. Residents share their skills and help teach others to knit.

Passion Presentation

Multiple Communities

Recruit residents and team members to do presentations about their experiences or passions in their lives. These presentations give team members and residents the opportunity to use and share their skills, abilities and experiences. This gives people the chance to connect through a meaningful intellectual opportunity.

Old Time Radio Reading Show

Multiple Communities

This program was designed to incorporate the passions of the leadership team and residents for old time radio shows. One resident, a former theater director, selects the script and casts the play. The cast and crew are made up of residents and team members.

Flash Mob

Multiple Residents

Invite residents and team members to participate in a flash mob. Hold practices for several weeks and then surprise and unsuspecting crowd. Dance, sing and show them what your community is made of: vibrant residents and team members that are full of life.

Sundays at 5:00

Multiple Communities

Select a time of day that there aren't many programs planned and tends to be some "waiting around." A specific community named this program "Sundays at 5:00," and asked residents to lead a program on something of interest to them on Sunday at 5:00. The programs have consisted of performances, speeches, and storytelling. Resident family members, friends and team members also lead programs.

Fundraising for Alzheimer's Association

Multiple Communities

Sponsor a local Alzheimer's Walk. Many residents and team members have personally been touched by this disease, and are very committed and very involved in fund raising. Events to support fundraising efforts include: Alzheimer's Pet Mascot contest, private wine-pairing dinner, Oktoberfest at a tree farm, raffles, bake sales & estate sales. It is a wonderful thing to watch the entire community come together to support this effort.

Resident Art Opening

ABHOW

ABHOW recognized the need for the residents to have their own space in the community, which led to the formation of the first resident art gallery and art committee. The committee hosted the community's first ever art gala, which featured art work from two of the residents. Musical entertainment was also provided by a resident, who played a few songs on the organ and her own ukulele. This resident-led event was further enriched by the attendance of several of the residents' friends and family. In order to build further interest in the arts, the art committee will host art classes in the new gallery.

Residents Attending In-Service Trainings

Llanfair Retirement Community

Invite residents to in-service trainings that previously only involved team members. The goal is for residents to be empowered to take more ownership of the community. This is also an effective approach to unifying the community and educating residents about regulations and procedures that must be followed by team members. Residents may also attend disaster and tornado in-service trainings where they learn leadership skills on how to manage these crisis situations. Additional in-service trainings may include inspection control, customer service, bullying, and fire lifts.

Successful Aging Art Contest

Querencia at Barton Creek

Host a successful aging-themed art contest. The only rule is that the Masterpiece Living logo had to appear in each of the pieces of art. This is a great way for residents to creatively express the value of Masterpiece Living at their community.

Application for Resident Champion Committee

Multiple Communities

An application process was created to maintain the integrity of the Resident Masterpiece Living Champion Team. Basic standards have to be met such as completing the MPL Reviews, volunteering at events and promoting MPL throughout the community. The application helps to keep the group focused on the overall mission of promoting success aging and enhancing the community culture.

Member Ambassadors

Four Pointes Center for Successful Aging

Our mission as an agency was to establish a volunteer core of members to serve as Member Ambassadors. These teams engage in welcoming guests and members into Four Pointes, act as a concierge at the front desk, promote special events and offer welcome tours of the Activity Center. Current Member Ambassadors are representatives of many activities included in the expansive programming opportunities Four Pointes offers. They are not only Four Pointes members they are official agency volunteers. They have joined together as a team to enhance and embrace the "Why Not?" culture of growth and potential.

Resident Teaching College Level Courses

Edgemere

A retired professor is teaching a continuing education literary course of Shakespeare's works. Outside students are invited into the community to participate alongside residents. The local University is working with the community to expand the curriculum. This provides challenging and engaging programs for residents and celebrates learning and teaching at any age.

First-Century Christian Churches

Edgemere

Residents recognized the need for a spiritual 'home' for many who no longer were near their home churches or were physically unable to attend some of the local churches nearby. One resident decided to reintroduce the concept of the First-Century Christian Churches, which met and grew in homes of the first believers. There are weekly Sunday morning Worship Services that are truly community-wide. Residents of different Christian affiliations gather together Sunday mornings in the theater for a 40-minute service. A panel of ecumenical clergy provides worship leadership. More than 29 volunteer clergy rotate through the year, Lifestyles provides administrative support, and any flowers or outside music is supplied by residents.

Piano Group

The Terraces at Los Altos

The Piano Group is resident-led and includes 6 resident performers. They practice weekly and perform three times a year: spring, summer and holiday programs including piano duets & solos and performances with a violinist.

Social Train/"Fast Friends"

Multiple Communities

Building on the speed-dating concept, residents sit across from each other at long tables and discuss answers to "getting to know you" questions. They discuss each question for two minutes with the person seated across from them. Then the residents switch seats and discuss another question. Note: have one side of the tables reserved for those who do not want to switch seats, and the other side for mobile residents.

Caring Circle

Multiple Communities

Form a committee of residents who visit those who are isolated in their apartments/homes. They can then provide special attention, extend personal invitations, etc. as needed.

"Make It Matter" Day

Grand Lake Gardens

Residents set up a booth that provides information about volunteer opportunities available both within the community and in the surrounding area. They ask for sign-ups and a greater commitment to making a difference.

Make a List and Check it Twice

San Joaquin Gardens

Create a comprehensive list of volunteer opportunities within the community, everything from folding napkins to leading a committee or program. This may bring greater awareness of ways to impact the community, even if it's a small task.

Clermont Park College

Clermont Park

Clermont College of Creative Life began as a way to present the Living It! campaign. We wanted to present opportunities for learning and teaching in a college format. We asked residents, family members and team members if any of them would like to lead/instruct a course for the summer college, and we had an overwhelming positive response from everyone. 37 new courses by 26 faculty members were introduced in our Summer College Trimester. No faculty members were paid to teach—it was 100% volunteer-led. More than 200 resident participants attended at least one or more courses. This means that 2/3 of the residents, from all levels of living, participated in the College.

We put out a College Brochure every month to introduce any new college courses, with a short description of the course, time, date, location, and the credit component that course addresses. When participants reach 3 or more credits in each of the 4 components (Social, Intellectual, Physical, Spiritual), they then earn the amount to graduate. To track each person's credits, we provide a sign-in sheet for each course, and individuals are responsible to sign in if they want to receive credit. The credits are tracked in an Excel spreadsheet.

This first semester was concluded with a Clermont College Graduation ceremony. Several residents shared their experience through reflective presentations that included a poetry reading and a skit! Dr. Roger Landry was the Salutatorian. He spoke and presented graduates with their diplomas, at which time a picture was taken of them together. As a surprise gift to the students and faculty, a swing band was hired and the ceremony concluded with a party in the courtyard.

Resident Committee Recognition

TSJG

Every month our community recognizes a different resident lead committee or club. The committee being recognized is honored at that month's Resident Council Meeting. Our communities Chaplain highlights the purpose and achievements of the committee, and additionally writes an original poem about the committee. That poem is shared during the presentation and copy is provided to the residents on the committee. We now keep a record of these poems in our communities library

Random Acts of Kindness

Querencia

Random Acts of Kindness week (RAK) is the week of Valentine's Day. Since the residents on the health care floor are the least mobile, we decided to make them the recipients of RAK. IL residents and team members signed up to participate. Each one was then paired with a Health Care resident, and told a little about the resident. They then visited that resident each day of the week, and performed an act of kindness--a card, a piece of candy, bringing them to the on-site store for an ice cream and spent time with them.

Country Fair

Acacia Creek

Host a Country Fair where the residents display items they have made. The items can be categorized, exhibited for a week and ribbons may be awarded at the end of the week. Invite people from outside of the community to act as judges. Residents may also be judges. Categories may include: Sewing/Quilting, Painting & Drawing, Knitting/Crocheting, Beading, Wood Working, Photography, Card Making and Ceramics. Conclude the week with a celebratory dinner, where the ribbons are awarded. Residents recognized that intimate opportunities such as this create a nonthreatening social environment where people with common interests can meet and get to know each other.

La Loma University

La Loma

La Loma University (LLU) is a lifelong learning program that La Loma Village adopted across all levels of living. Many residents are highly educated and had very successful careers and wanted to stay engaged and learn things in their retirement years they didn't have time for while working. We use a "Design Committee" made up of residents to implement LLU with support from team members. This committee is made up of community members that discuss the direction we want to go in. We meet regularly and plan the programs, brainstorm new ideas and discuss the different facets and courses for LLU. Each member of the committee serves in different ways including things such as making contact with possible presenters, assisting in communicating with other communities about partnering with us, putting together the course catalogue, writing course descriptions, planning LLU orientation and sign up for classes. We have a budget to pay for any fees associated with the different presenters/programs we bring to campus. Curriculum catalogues are available as a resource for those who want to sign up for the sessions and the biggest and most precious resource we have is the people who live and work at our community. We have a short survey that residents who participate in each course can fill out at the end of the course to give us feedback on our courses and their content. From these feedback surveys we learn what they liked, didn't like, and future courses they may like to participate in.

Website Blog

Christian Living Communities

Increase variety and personal connection with your community's website by including residents' stories and successes in their own words via your community blog.

Describing MPL

Multiple Communities

Encourage the resident voice by gathering descriptions of Masterpiece Living from residents. These descriptions could be in the form of a letter by a single resident, or compiled into FAQ sheets with multiple residents' viewpoints.

Community Partnership with DU School of Social Work

Clermont Park

Clermont Park partnered with the Graduate School of Social Work at the University of Denver in the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 academic years. Students in a "Perspectives & Trends in Health and Wellness" class interviewed residents about wellness and the aging process. Groups of residents participated in panels at several classes (including one caregiver panel). Over 40 students from an "Evolving Perspectives & Trends in Aging" course participated in or led a Clermont College class. With the support of a University sponsor, we conducted a research study to see how students' perceptions of aging changed before and after their experience in a Clermont College class. We found a statistically significant decrease on an ageism scale. Several Clermont Park Residents speak in the students classes about ageism as well.