



Master Practices: Volunteerism/Civic Engagement

Holly Creek Boat Regatta

Holly Creek

Every year in August, Holly Creek has a boat regatta. Residents from all levels of living and Team Members band together to create a five to six person team. This team then designs, builds, and pilots (a person in the boat) a boat made out of cardboard, duct tape, and green trash bags. Once built, the entire community bets on what team they think will win the race. The money is then gathered and submitted to the Alzheimer's Association. We have held this event for the past eight years, and it is one of our favorite examples of an entire community coming together to support a worthy cause.

Arda's Closet

The Barrington

The Barrington residents created a shop and named it in honor of a past resident. Arda's Closet was created for team members to shop in for free. Residents donate clothes, accessories, furniture & other goods (like Christmas trees & TVs). This closet is 100% resident maintained and ran. Every 1-2 months the closet is open and all team members can shop for free items they need. This closet is so successful the residents have outgrown their space twice within a years time.

The T-shirt Project

Querencia at Barton Creek

Every year, the residents who choose to participate in the Alzheimer's Walk and the Senior Games acquire t-shirts for each event, each year. Over the years, these shirts have accumulated, and many residents asked how to get rid of these shirts (since they have the community name on them, they didn't want to just donate them). Many residents didn't want to get current shirts, as they said they had old ones. Thus, a problem was identified, and a solution created—the T-shirt Project! All clean, unwanted t-shirts were collected and upcycled. These were first offered to residents in the higher levels of living and to team members (who otherwise might not have had access to these shirts). Those not chosen were then turned into dog toys. We had an afternoon project open to residents of all levels of living and to team members during which they cut the shirts into strips and then braided them. These dog toys were donated to 4 local animal shelters. Any shirts that were left over (after creating 200 dog toys) were then donated to Threads of Hope, a sewing ministry through St. John Neumann's church. They make weighted blankets, beanies, canvas drawstring backpacks and more that are distributed to CASA, Upbring, Rainbow Room, The Refuge, and Mobile Loaves and Fishes.