



It's My Privilege – Resident Volunteers

Administrator:

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Our Best Practice “It’s My Privilege. Resident Volunteers” consists of residents helping residents with staff encouragement and praise. Groups often form inside groups. The welcoming committee has always been a part of Residents Council where residents visit new residents to the community. With staff encouragement and praise seven of our residents wanted to take it a step further and become resident volunteers. It was decided to not only just welcome new comers to the community but to take time out of their day and visit with others both old and new to the community. Finding that each of these residents often had prior histories of serving others ‘It’s My Privilege’ seemed like the most likely name for the group as each felt privileged to do what they could for others.

This Best Practice addresses resident depression, isolation and the psychosocial well-being of the residents. Everyone wants to feel loved, appreciated, needed and cared for. Not only the residents being visited benefit but the resident volunteers also feel needed and that they still have a purpose in life. Its primary purpose is to increase socialization and residents moods in the community.

Our best practice has improved residents mood and participation in community activities. It has developed lasting friendships and decreased depression, boredom and isolation. The number of residents receiving in room activities has decreased as more residents are out of their rooms and involved in group activities. It has decreased residents exhibiting behaviors. It gives residents a sense of self-worth and accomplishment.

The only obstacle or challenge in replicating part or all of this Best Practice is finding residents willing and able to give their time for the benefit of others.

There was no cost involved in implementing this Best Practice. All seven residents were honored at our communities annual ‘Dream Rally’. Family and community members attended the event. The local paper published an article on the event.

We feel it is excellent and innovative because the residents enjoy this so much. It encourages camaraderie and promotes community involvement. It has accomplished increased resident satisfaction and worth. Our community has several volunteers that visit on a regular basis but the residents benefit from talking and sharing with each other.

Who better understands your situation than those that are going through it as well?