



Chappy

Administrator:

Ms. Kim Russell

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On Oct 10, 2012, “Chappy”, a small, yorkie mix puppy, became the newest family member at our home. Here, we are all part of a large diverse family and we welcome anyone and everyone to join. From the moment Chappy ran through the halls of our home, he began to warm the hearts of the residents and staff alike. He has brought more joy and companionship to the lives of the residents and staff than we could have anticipated. Many of our residents grew up with pets and had them all throughout their adult lives. Our goal is to make our facility as homelike as possible and what is homier, than the love and loyalty of a dog.

We have several residents who had to leave their personal pets at home with family or friends when they arrived here. Here, we are providing another means of personal companionship given in a way that only a canine can. Chappy allows residents to break out of their shell and come to life. He brings joy and laughter to the halls all at the same time and most of the residents wouldn't have it any other way. He gives our residents a sort of purpose. They look forward to visiting with him and watching him run down the halls. Some residents do not like to interact with others, but we have observed them interacting with Chappy.

Chappy is open and available to any resident or staff in our home. Hilary Clinton once quoted that it takes a village to raise a child. Well, here, it takes a home full of caring, loving, residents and committed and dedicated staff to ensure that he is well fed, loved, and looked after. Several staff members have volunteered to help take him out to the courtyards outside several times throughout the day as well as see to it that he has food and water in his pen. We cannot put a number on how many have been helped or benefited because Chappy is available to all residents, their families and friends, staff, and volunteers. There have been times, when a resident has mentioned that their children or grandchildren enjoy coming up to the facility to see Chappy and play with him. The residents who use our dayroom enjoy watching the children play and interact with Chappy and that in turn brightens their day. Residents say that they enjoy watching him run around the halls and often talk about the dogs and other pets that they had growing up or prior to coming to their new home. Chappy allows people to open up and let loose. We continue to have other dogs visits weekly, but Chappy “belongs” to and with the residents.