

THE ERNEST P. BARKA ASSISTED LIVING COMMUNITY

Nancy L. Lang, Director

Here we are 2008 and five years have passed since the Ernest P. Barka Assisted Living Community's first resident walked through our door. We continue to hold and maintain a long waiting list of Rockingham County Residents that are interested in coming to Assisted Living. People are now putting their names on the list long before they are ready to be assured of a place in this very active community.

We have tried a new venture in 2008, by utilizing the double rooms for two ladies that are not related or even know each other until the time they are introduced here. This program has been quite successful to date and has increased our census numbers.

As the winter snow storms subsided we began plans for our fifth anniversary, which was an Open House on April 13, 2008. The attendance was overwhelming with families and friends that we have made since 2003. Guests enjoyed great food, live music and an atmosphere that rekindled old friendships.

The enthusiasm and interest for the Ernest P. Barka Assisted Living Community is mind boggling as everywhere you go people talk about this facility and the quality of care and happiness of all who live here. Praise and gratitude to the Rockingham County Commissioners for their interest and dedication to the elderly of the Rockingham County.

2008 special events included: pool tournament, cowboy barbecue, cocktail party, dinner dance with a live band, pajama breakfast, mystery ride, and several breakfast and lunch trips to local restaurants are only a few of the activities that our residents enjoy. We presently are fortunate to have with us two ordained ministers, two published authors, three nurses, two former employees of Rockingham County Nursing Home, and many other professional career folks.

Our big purchase for the year was a popcorn machine as seen at fairs. The residents, with the help of a volunteer, make and sell bags of popcorn to help purchase activities supplies.

As the year comes to end, we are looking forward to celebrating a 100th birthday party with one of our residents and the donation of a refurbished player piano with over 300 rolls of music.

Once again I could not conclude this report without acknowledging the outstanding, dedication of the staff of the Ernest P. Barka Assisted Living. Our staff continues to maintain a loving, caring and supportive home while providing excellent care. Our staff also interacts with families and friends of all our residents and appreciates their support and generosity.

I would like to thank the Board of Rockingham County Commissioners for their support and continued interest in the assisted living community. A heartfelt thanks to Steven Woods, Director of Long Term Care Services, Jude Gates Director of Maintenance and the staff of Rockingham County Nursing Home, especially the Dietary and Environmental Services Departments for all the support and help they have provided Assisted Living throughout 2008.

Daily Census Average for 2008: 40

Average Age of Resident: 83

Deaths in 2008: 4

Residents Admitted to Rockingham County Nursing Home: 7

Residents Transferred to Other Facility: 1