

THE ERNEST P. BARKA ASSISTED LIVING COMMUNITY

Nancy L. Lang, Director

I am proud to report that the reputation of the Ernest P. Barka Assisted Living Community continues to soar throughout the county and state. Our annual inspection by Health and Human Services for 2009 came after the start of the year and again we were deficiency free. The state inspectors were complimentary about our facility and the care that residents receive. Much of the glory goes to the caring staff and their interactions with each and every resident.

We were contacted early in the year to participate in the Exeter High School graduating class events for a week. We agreed to have several students come in and entertain the residents. They came through the door with their instruments and set up a complete four piece combo. While students began playing, several additional students proceeded to dance with our residents. The group stayed the entire morning. The students had as much fun as the residents and we definitely will be participating again in 2010.

In the continuation of residents' involvement in the community we became a sponsor of the Special Needs Program at Exeter High School. Three students come in weekly with their teacher and volunteer in a work program. The program is outstanding and the students bring love, appreciation, and excitement to what they call "their job". We are happy to be a part of this program and these great student's lives.

Residents enjoyed a formal dinner party and dancing with Manual's Black and White Band of Beverly, Massachusetts. Our Dietary Department provided us with an outstanding meal. Many thanks to the Dietary Department and their great staff for the exceptional meals and all the extras they provide to Assisted Living during the year.

The monthly garden group with the Rockingham County Cooperative Extension Services continued throughout the winter. The residents have worked with in-house plants and they also made lavender sachets. As spring approached they began planting seeds to get going for their flower gardens.

Many trips were taken out to breakfast and lunch at local restaurants. The favorite bus rides are to find new ice cream stands. The frequent trips to the Brentwood Library are high on the priority list.

We were all excited to celebrate one of our residents 100th birthday in April. We celebrated here at Assisted Living and also the resident's family held a great party and invited both staff and residents to their home. A great time was had by all!

The facility is now a proud owner of a Nintendo Wii system. The residents were not quite sure about it in the beginning. Slowly but surely a few residents are enjoying it, but if they have a choice they would rather be cheerleaders while someone else plays.

This report would not be complete with acknowledging and thanking our dedicated staff for the love and care they give to the residents. I would like to thank the Rockingham County Commissioners for their continued interest and support to the Assisted Living program. A heartfelt thanks to Steve Woods, Director of Long Term Care Services, Jude Gates, Director of Facilities, and the staff of Rockingham County Nursing Home for all the support and help they provided Assisted Living throughout 2009.

Daily Census Average for 2009: 42

Average Age of Resident: 86

Deaths in 2009: 6

Residents Admitted to Rockingham County Nursing Home: 12

Residents Transferred to Other Facility: 1