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SpringhillErie.org

This message is going to associates, and to residents and family members on our community distribution list.

A Message from the Executive Director

November 25, 2020

Dear Residents, Family Members & Associates,

In most years, Thanksgiving marks an opportunity for all of us to gather with family and friends, while sharing food, stories and maybe playing a little backyard football. This year, the holiday will look different, but that doesn't mean it has to feel different.

In a year in which everything has been upended, we have all gotten creative to find new routines, become more comfortable with technology, and bond over our collective effort to address the pandemic. While not always obvious, there are positives that have come about over the past nine months. This Thanksgiving I hope you can take a minute to reflect and be thankful for what we do have, what we have learned and how we're stronger as a community.

Here's a quote about giving thanks from author Melody Beattie, and I think it's especially appropriate for this year:

"Gratitude turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos into order, confusion into clarity...it makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow."

As you create a new experience for this Thanksgiving, I hope you can find joy in being grateful for what we do have, what we've overcome, and what lies ahead.

As I spend a moment reflecting during the holiday, at the top of my list will be how grateful I am for your partnership during this trying year. Thank you.

Happy Thanksgiving.

Community Visitation & Operations Website

As you are likely aware, COVID-19 cases continue to rise around us and all across the country. As many experts have said, we are in the midst of a new surge of the pandemic, and we must respond accordingly.

Rising numbers bring, as we should expect, additional guidance around combating the pandemic. Therefore, we must remain fluid in our response to do all we can to protect those who live and work here. Our journey through this unprecedented challenge is continually evolving. The Asbury System Operations Team continues to work collaboratively with our community leadership team, including our highly experienced clinicians from acute, post-acute, and senior living backgrounds, and operational experts.

While we will continue to communicate timely and important changes to you via email, I want to remind you that our website remains the go-to source for our community operations, including visitation rules, who to contact, and more.

[Please visit our community page here.](#)

Updates and Reminders

Please note that these updates and reminders are also included on our community operations site, [Asbury.org/family-friends](https://www.asbury.org/family-friends):

- As you may be aware, the positivity rate of COVID-19 has risen steadily in recent days and weeks, and the key metrics that the state of Pennsylvania tracks have worsened considerably. For us here at Springhill, we are issuing a new directive in an effort to continue to be proactive in our responsibility to keep residents and associates as safe as possible. While our Garden Homes and Residential Living currently remain open, ForestView Healthcare Center and OakView Personal Care are currently scheduling window and virtual visits. Please see additional details about travel and visitation in the [original message I sent last Friday](#).
- **Testing is an important component of our COVID-19 prevention strategy.** We are pleased to share some outstanding results for Springhill and the Asbury system. As of November 1, Asbury has conducted just over 22,000 COVID-19 tests at our communities with a positivity rate of just .5 percent. This compares to a national positivity rate of 7 percent. At Springhill, we have conducted 674 tests with a positivity rate of just .2 percent.
- **As a reminder, all COVID-19 data is updated daily on the Asbury COVID-19 Response and Communication webpage at [Asbury.org/COVID19](https://www.asbury.org/COVID19).** You can find the daily status charts in the first blue button on the side bar.

Remembering Alex Trebek

Springhill associate recalls meeting Alex & shares her experience as a Jeopardy! contestant



*Alex Trebek, who hosted Jeopardy! for more than 35 years, passed away earlier this month. He is remembered by viewers across the country as one of the most iconic television hosts of all time. Springhill Director of Human Resources **Linda Vestrand** not only met Alex, but also was a contestant on Jeopardy!. She looks back on her time on the show and shares the lessons she learned from Alex. Linda writes:*

I was so saddened to hear that Alex Trebek had passed. I met him in 2013 when I appeared on Jeopardy! I used to watch the show with my grandmother, so it meant the world to me to be on the show. Alex was just as kind as you might imagine when you see him on TV, and it was reflected in his whole team.

[**Click/tap here to read more from Linda including what advice she and her fellow contestants were given to battle their nerves!**](#)

Intergenerational Friendships Thrive at Springhill: Area College Student Provides Technology Support for Residents



For Mercyhurst University freshman Matthew Johnson, meeting with Springhill residents gives him an opportunity to learn history while teaching residents how to use current technologies. In line with the community's focus on creating opportunities to establish intergenerational relationships, Matthew has been meeting virtually with Springhill residents this fall to provide technology support and education, as well as support for residents writing their biographies. [Click here to read more about Matthew and how this unique program came about!](#)

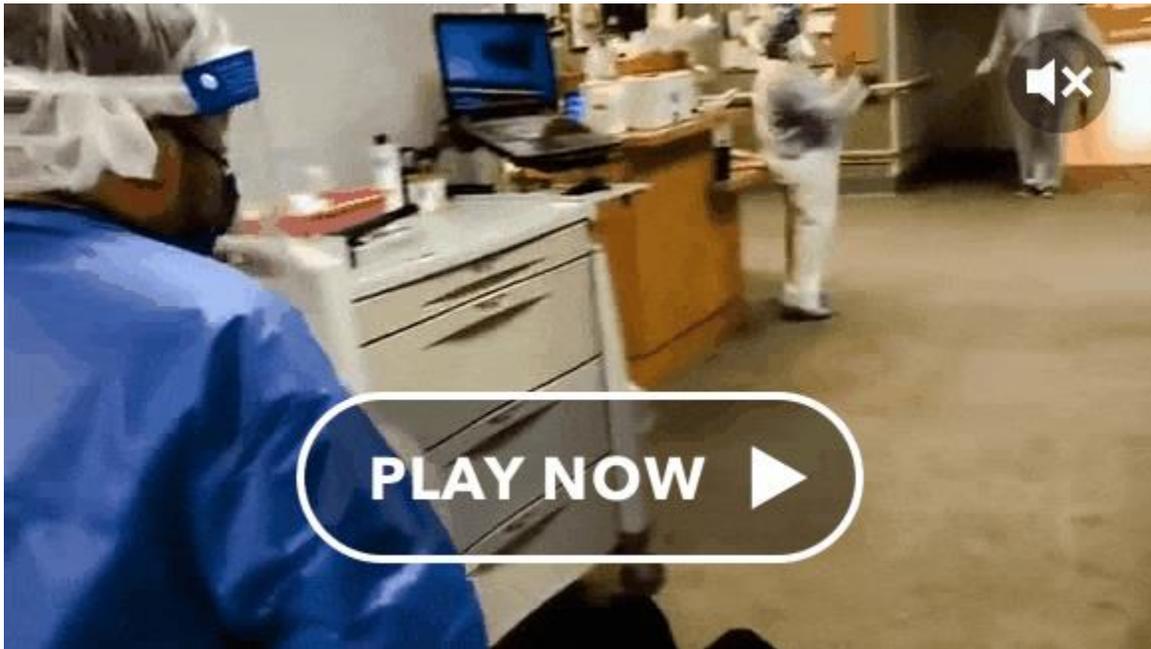
Donation to Further Dementia Education

We are pleased to share that we received a generous donation from a Springhill resident to provide additional dementia education opportunities for associates. This donation enabled 12 Springhill associates to attend a 2 1/2 day Dementia Care virtual training session recently with an organization called Positive Approach to Care (www.TeepaSnow.com). Six associates were trained as trainers and six were trained as coaches. We are so fortunate to have this opportunity to further our education, and are very appreciative of this generous donation that has allowed us to do so!

LeadingAge Names Recipients of its Annual Award of Honor

Every year, LeadingAge, a national organization of more than 5,000 aging-focused non-profit organizations, bestows the Award of Honor to one member who has provided nationally significant, transformative leadership in aging services. This year, the organization is not naming one award winner. Rather, LeadingAge has named all LeadingAge members, which includes Asbury associates, as recipients of this year's Award of Honor. In making the announcement, LeadingAge said: *"This year, in the face of great adversity and overwhelming tragedy, you have all risen to the occasion and demonstrated remarkable leadership and unbelievable courage in what will likely be remembered as the hardest year of your life."*

Thank you to Asbury associates for their commitment to our mission to do "all the good we can" for those we serve! Please enjoy this video produced by LeadingAge.



Here's a GEM!



All across the Asbury system, we lift up associates with GEMs, which stands for associates who Go the Extra Mile! GEMs are given for a job well done from associate-to-associate. So far this year we have had more than dozens and dozens of GEMs given at our community and today we want to feature one for **Carla Reiter, CNA/GNA:**

"Carla took extra time out of her shift when she was incredibly busy to teach another associate. She took responsibility to control a situation, used it as a teaching moment, and was caring toward an individual in need at that moment. All in all, it was great teamwork and I'm very proud of her!" - Brie Rekitt

Messages of Appreciation

I'm happy to share this note of appreciation we recently received from a resident:

"I just wanted to say how wonderful all of the (associates) are with all the extra time put into keeping the residents safe -- above and beyond the normal amount. So many sacrifices for everyone. I appreciate all of your efforts!"

If you'd like to share a note of thanks, [please click here to launch a form](#) where

you can type in your note of appreciation. We will take your submissions and find creative ways to share with associates. Thank you!

We are all in this together. Thank you for your continued understanding and cooperation. We are #AsburyStrong!

Sincerely,

Jane Gibson
Executive Director



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