Thicagort Tribune

PRIMETIME

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Feed bag Meal delivery is a popular trend





SENIOR HOUSING

Making the news

Presbyterian Homes' residents at Westminster Place in Evanston, The Moorings of Arlington Heights and Lake Forest Place received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine last month. A team of clinicians from Walgreens administered the vaccines to long-term care residents and the staff who serve them. Everyone who got the vaccine received a "I Got My COVID-19 Vaccine!" button. In addition, a TIME Magazine journalist, cameraman and photographer interviewed staff and residents at Westminster Place about their lives and work before and during the pandemic as well as their thoughts about the vaccine.

Hope returns Excitement spread through

the residents at Belmont Village's properties in Chicagoland last month as they began receiving COVID-19 vaccinations. The vaccination program kicked off at Belmont Village Lincoln Park in Chicago and continued to the suburban properties including Belmont Village Geneva Road in Carol Stream and Belmont Village Oak Park. "There is a great sense of hopefulness amongst our residents that life as they previously knew it is within reach — a life



A former math teacher enjoys participating in activities tailor-made to his profession as part of Terra Vista's social distancing programs.

which includes lots of visits and hugs from family members and friends," says Patricia Will, founder and CEO of Belmont Village.

Getting creative

Facing challenges due to the pandemic, the Life Enrichment Team at Terra Vista in Oakbrook Terrace created customized activities related to its memoracare residents'lifelong interhobbies or careers. Residenijoyed these specialized, one one activities, including a former math teacher who participated in activities related to his profession and a woman, who enjoyed

cooking and baking with her husband, who baked fresh bread twice a week. The Life Enrichment Team also brought customized physical exercise and therapies directly to residents in their rooms due to pandemic limitations on group events.

Top honors

Once again, Smith Crossing in Orland Park, a not-for-profit life plan community sponsored by Smith Senior Living, received the top-performance rating by U.S. News & World Report. The retirement community nationally places among the top 13 percent of more than 15,000 rehab centers and senior living communities with rehab and skilled nursing care programs. "Our person-centered care model and our commitment to continually improving our programs and services for older adults helps our residents and short-term stay rehab patients remain active. socially connected and supported," says Amanda Mauceri, Smith Crossing executive director.

Generations connect

Ten culinary students at Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences didn't let COVID stop them from organizing a popular annual Thanksgiving feast for 300 seniors who live in Chicago's Beverly, Morgan Park and Mount Greenwood neighborhoods. With guidance from Diego Burgos, executive chef at Smith Village in Chicago, the students carved 17 turkeys and assembled individually packed meals with all the trimmings. The students then delivered meals to the seniors' homes.

Supporting the troops

At holiday time, residents at Villa St. Benedict in Lisle organized two events to benefit Operation Support Our Troops-America. On Veterans Day, the retirement community raised almost \$2,000 with its "To-Go" lunch fundraiser. Residents and staff picked up their lunches of house smoked beef brisket and sides in the dining room while family, friends and outside community supporters received their meals via pick up from their cars. Residents and staff also held their 13th Annual Stuff the Stockings collection for Operation Support our Troops-America. This collection raised \$1,400 and 90 pounds of needed items to stuff Christmas stockings that are sent to troops all over the world. Staff and residents also volunteered their time by helping stuff stockinas.