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## Homestead House wellness director receives dementia certification

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September 20, 2013 2:30 pm • By Scott Koperski/Daily Sun staff writer (0) Comments

The wellness director at Homestead House has received national certification to better treat residents with dementia.

Cristine Andrews recently completed the required course to obtain the National Certification of Dementia Practitioner credential.

She said the certification allows her to better evaluate patients with dementia, translating to better care for the residents of Homestead House.

“We have a better background of the dementia disease itself and now we have a better understanding of how this affects the person who has dementia and Alzheimer’s,” Andrews said. “On a daily basis, I’m able to problem shoot changes in the way a person behaves, how they act and their quality of life. I can bring my knowledge to the doctor and say, ‘This is what we’re seeing, can we put this into practice to give them a better quality of life?’

“In essence, that’s really what we’re here for, to gives these folks a better quality of life and take that stress away from their families, knowing they’re in a safe place at the Homestead House.”

The internationally-recognized certification course is designed to strengthen the supervisory skills of wellness directors at senior living communities.

The participants learn recognized practices in the field and in research, professional ethics, enhanced customer service through understanding the disease and the helping the families of those suffering with dementia, who often need the support.

“People feel that they’re alone in their struggles with this disease, and they’re not,” Andrews said. “I think that’s the biggest thing we want to make families understand is that we’re not judging them and we’re here for them. We can be that rock that they hold themselves to.

“This might be a speed bump for some families that aren’t sure where to take their loved ones that do have this disease. Now we’re opening more doors for not only our residents here, but people in the community that need that safe place to go.”

Located at 2300 Lincoln St., Homestead House promotes independence and individuality, while offering seniors an opportunity to receive extra assistance in their daily routine.

Reach Scott Koperski at [scott.koperski@beatricedailysun.com](mailto:scott.koperski@beatricedailysun.com). Follow him on Twitter @ScottKoperski.

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