Making memories at Lakeview Senior Living



Above: Ladies have fun making holiday ornaments during the Memory Cafe at Lakeview Senior Living. Below: Jerry Ward, left, and Paul Beard create holiday music magic at the Memory Cafe. (Courtesy photos)

By: Residents receive holiday delights during Memory Cafe event - Updated: 2 weeks ago Posted Dec 26, 2019

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Holiday memories were made at The Gardens, the memory care unit at Lakeview Senior Living, during their Memory Cafe. Residents and their family members, together with Lakeview Senior Living staff, enjoyed festive music led by Jerry Ward and his trombone along with local musician Paul Beard on piano.

Lifestyle Directors set up activities for residents and their family members to do together: using Scrabble tiles to make ornaments, fresh-baked gingerbread men and sugar cookies were decorated with a variety of frostings and sprinkles, and Christmas

"It's so important for our folks in memory care to continue to make memories with their families," said Jennifer Whitmyer, Executive Director of Lakeview Senior Living. "Sometimes our residents may not remember the particular event, but they love seeing photos of (themselves) at the event with their loved ones, and family members have that holiday memory with their Mom or Dad for the rest of their lives."

Solos were sung. Hands were clapped. Smiles and hugs were shared.

"It's important that we create the opportunities for these special times to have the most positive impact," said Whitmyer. "As staff, we consider our residents to be our second family, so it's a real delight to be with them during the holidays."

Lakeview Senior Living encourages everyone to take a moment during the long dark winter to remember a loved one with dementia or Alzheimer's.

"The darkness of dementia overcomes so many people," said Whitmyer. "We're already working on our The Longest Day event for next year to help raise awareness and funds for the Alzheimer's Association. Our goal is to provide support and resources for people with dementia and their families."

Christy Turner, a Certified Dementia Practitioner and Cognitive Stimulation Instructor, will continue leading a monthly dementia support group. The group will meet the third Thursday of each month at 1:30 p.m. in the library at Lakeview. Everyone who has a loved one with dementia or Alzheimer's is invited to come. The Jan. 16 topic will be Creating Your Care Partnership Plan for 2020, helping attendees to feel more in control and how to blow past overwhelm.

For more information on how you or your organization can be involved in The Longest Day event or about the dementia support group, call Joy Wilson at 541-921-8923.

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