



A Vibrant Memory Care & Assisted Living Community

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Our Care Friends



Dean Solden, *President and Founder*
(269) 372-6100 | dsolden@soldendevlopment.com

Dean Solden is the President and owner of Vibrant Life Communities a senior health care Management Company, and is very proud to be the Founder of New Friends, his tenth senior living community. He is known nationally for his work in the last twenty years as an innovator in the assisted living industry. His other passion is music and he has been a professional jazz musician since his teens. Come on over and you'll see him playing for the residents at New Friends.



Kathy Kearcher, *LPN, Community (Nurse) Manager*
(269) 372-6100, ext. 203 | kkearcher@newfriendsmemorycare.com

Kathy embodies what we refer to as "State-of-the-Heart Care" at New Friends. In addition to being a Licensed Practical Nurse, Kathy is a true coach in supervising our dynamic care team in our Vibrant Life/ person-centered care approaches. Kathy is passionate about senior care and brings a wide range of nursing and supervisory experiences to the running of day-to-day operations in our comfortable Lodges. Kathy is a former Director of Operations in senior day care and is a certified Dementia Practitioner and Trainer through the National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners.

Debra Murrey, *Executive Director*
(269) 372-6100, ext. 206 | dmurrey@newfriendsmemorycare.com

Even before joining New Friends, Debra lived the Vibrant Life philosophy. As her mother's primary caregiver for the last several years of her life, Debra made it her mission to ensure that her mother enjoyed a full, rich life as a woman living with Alzheimer's Disease rather than as an "Alzheimer's patient". Debra is passionate about sharing the Vibrant Life philosophy with other families who have loved ones with Alzheimer's or other conditions that affect memory. Debra's nursing experience taught her to care for patients; her management background made her a strong leader; but it is her compassion, her first-hand experience and her passion for helping people live life to its fullest potential that make Debra such an effective advocate for New Friends' Vibrant Life philosophy.



Cindy Cleveland, Assistant Administrator

(269) 372-6100, ext. 201 | ccleveland@newfriendsmemorycare.com

You just might talk with our warm and friendly Cindy when you first call us at New Friends. Cindy comes to our administrative team well versed in all aspects of office administration. We are also fortunate that Cindy has developed important skill sets in emergency preparedness for populations with functional needs, and trains all of our staff in First Aid and CPR, as she is a certified instructor. Cindy also carries an important role in quality assurance monitoring. Cindy will be waiting for your call!



Toni Hayward, Vibrant Life Coordinator

(269) 372-6100, ext. 204 | thayward@newfriendsmemorycare.com

Toni is full of life and loves creating stimulating activities! She knows that in great dementia care not everything is always planned and structured. Often the best activities are those that capture a great moment, like telling a funny joke or having an impromptu session in composing a group poem. Toni carries a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry. We like to say that we took Toni out of the biology department to bring a special chemistry to our Vibrant Life Activity program.



Paul Sayer, Chef and Kitchen Manager

(269) 372-6100 | psayer@newfriendsmemorycare.com

Paul Sayer is our new Chef and Kitchen Manager at New Friends! He is the youngest of nine children and is originally from Grand Rapids where he attended Grand Rapids Central High School. Paul began his culinary work with Bill Knapp's of Grand Rapids in the dish room, progressing his way to Kitchen Manager and eventually began opening restaurants for the organization throughout Michigan and Florida. Paul's professional kitchen experience also includes serving as Sous Chef at Pietro's of Grand Rapids, Crystal Mountain Resorts and Arcadia Bluffs where he was eventually promoted to Executive Chef. He was also the Executive Chef and Kitchen Manager at the Moors Golf Club. Paul currently resides in Portage, Michigan. His hobbies include hunting, fishing and entertaining with friends and family. He has a deep love for family traditions from which his passion for food and service had its start.



Steve Danyi, Facilities Manager

(269) 372-6100, ext. 205 | sdanyi@newfriendsmemorycare.com



Steve is our Facility Manager extraordinaire! He keeps New Friends humming! From keeping all of our three Lodges toasty in the winter and cool in the summer, to keeping the grounds beautiful in the fall and snow removed in the winter, Steve does it all – with a smile always on his face. If that isn't enough, Steve also runs our Internet, keeps our state-of-the-art on-line Care Management system up and running, and when he has a little time, will do some golf putting with our gentlemen residents. Steve is a real asset to New Friends and will be your friend as soon as you meet him.

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