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SUNDAY STORIES

Preston Place Community and the Village at Allandale offering new services to caregivers

March 3rd, 2015 10:00 am by KATHERINE SCOGGINS



Pictured are (back, from left): Patti Ng, Jean Cubertson, Judy McNew, Ashley Stacy, Jennifer Ford, Anita Hall, Jennifer Barker, trainer Sharon Durmin; (front, from left) Patricia Bean, Shea Simmons, Connie Brickley, Jessi Holbert and Priscilla Feigus.

Every 67 seconds, someone is diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. It is the sixth leading cause of death in the U.S. There are currently over 5 million individuals living with Alzheimer's. If you are a family member, caregiver or friend of an individual suffering from this disease, there is some good news to share.

Preston Place Community and the Village at Allandale have provided training for 15 employees in this specialty field. The employees have completed a 12-hour training course provided by the National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners. Sharon Durmin, Administrator of Preston Place II and a certified trainer for Alzheimer's disease and Dementia care, conducted the training classes.

"The staff members are direct caregivers in our Memory Care facilities and, upon completion of this course, have received certification in Alzheimer's and Dementia Care," Durmin said.

Durmin is quick to point out that this training is no "magic bullet."

"This training gives caregivers a better understanding of the disease process and possible approaches to care, but it is important to know that what works one day with one person, may not work the next day with the same individual. The training helps you better understand what's going on, how small actions can lead to improvements and how best to live with and care for a person with Alzheimer's. It gives you knowledge to draw from each day. We can train anyone who works with someone living with Alzheimer's, including family members who are caring for loved ones at home," she said.

"Our goal is to one day see all healthcare providers, not only in our facilities, but throughout the area, trained in the specific care of those with Alzheimer's and dementia. It makes a tremendous difference in the daily lives of those with Alzheimer's and we are committed to offering training to all memory care workers for the benefit of their residents, their families and caregivers."

Preston Place Community has a new resource available to caregivers: the newly formed Preston Place Alzheimer's Resource Center, a non-profit center that houses numerous books, videos and many other resources. It is available to anyone in the community, not just those who have family members in Preston Place or the Village at Allandale.

"This new service was a natural progression of our Caregiver Support Group, which meets the first Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m.," Durmin explains. "There are so many people who have no idea where to go when they or a loved one receive a diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease and we want to be one of the first places to offer them information and help - but above all, HOPE."

"Establishing this resource center, coupled with our staff receiving this specialty training, enhances the caregiving skills that are needed to make a positive difference in the daily lives of those living with Alzheimer's Disease. We congratulate our employees!" Durmin said.

"Together, we DO make a difference!"

For more info, contact Sharon Durmin at 423-378-4673 or email her at sharon@prestonplacesuites.com.

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