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Victoria House to celebrate its 12th anniversary

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Victoria House Assisted Living in Austintown is celebrating its 12th year in operation.

In commemoration of their success, the staff and residents hosted the community with an evening of music, champagne and hors d'oeuvres.

Danielle Russo, the Executive Director of the facility has been leading Victoria House for the past 11 years.

"Victoria House has literally been my second home," she stated. "I have enjoyed every part of my job by getting to know and care for all of my residents and families over the past eleven years. In addition, I have been blessed by my amazing staff, many of whom have been with me numerous years supporting the day to day operations of our outstanding facility, and, thus, making my job much easier."

One of these staff members is Rosemary Yaworsky, a nurse who has been with Victoria House for the past 12 years.

"We have wonderful residents," Yaworsky stated. "They make me keep coming to work. Besides delivering their nursing care, they have allowed me to share in their day to day trials and tribulations. It is my goal to deliver the best nursing care I can and to make a difference in my residents' lives."

Victoria House opened in 2005 with a capacity to care for 84 residents. The facility is under the direction of Continuing Healthcare Solutions. In 2013, they added a secured dementia care unit which can accommodate 24 assisted living residents. The managers of the facility, all of whom have been certified dementia practitioners, host a quarterly support group for residents, families and community members dealing with loved ones who have dementia.

"I am very proud of our dementia support group," Russo stated. "Our facility is dedicated to serving our community with events such as these. We are happy to raise money for and participate in important causes such as the Relay for Life and the Walk to End Alzheimer's each year."

"Many of our residents, families, and staff get involved with fundraising for these events as they or someone they love have suffered from cancer or dementia," Resident Care Coordinator Amanda Gureczny who has been with Victoria House for 10 years explained. "As we continue to grow as a facility, this is our way of giving back to the community."

Victoria House's staff and residents describe the facility as a family environment. Its first resident, Margaret Ricker, moved into the facility with her sister, Mary, upon its opening in 2005. She and her sister were brought to the grounds by their doctor as Victoria House was being built to provide pointers to the builders according to Ricker. She moved in when the doors opened, and her sister followed a week later.

"I have never even considered moving from here since," Ricker stated. "They treat me like I am family. I feel at home here."

The employees agree with Ricker's sentiment. Nurse Tina Selner, who has worked at Victoria House for more than 10, talked about how proud she is to know her residents and remarked how she enjoys the family feeling.

"Victoria House offers exceptional care and a beautiful home for individuals seeking assistance on a variety of levels," stated Russo. "From our restaurant style dining to our twenty-four hour nursing care, Victoria House staff promotes individuality and independence and creates a fun, caring environment for residents and families. I look forward to continuing to be a leading assisted living facility in our area and working with my amazing team for many more years to come."

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