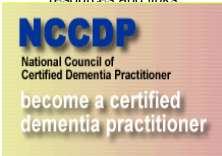


SANDRA STIMSON
 Executive Director
[Alternative Solutions in LTC](#)
 and
 National Council of Certified
 Dementia Practitioners
<http://www.nccdp.org>

ABOUT SANDRA

Sandra Stimson has experience as a corporate consultant, Corporate Trainer and National Speaker. Her experience is in long term care, as Activity Director, Director of Alzheimer's Units and Assistant Administrator of a 550 bed long term care county home. She is Co-founder of Pet Express Pet Therapy Club, is a Life Replay Specialist. Sandra implements dementia units nationwide. Sandra has written several books, Volunteer Management Essentials for Long Term Care and Pet Express Pet Therapy Program. Sandra has been a facilitator for Alzheimer's support groups and is the Awards Chair for the NJ Association of Activity Professionals. Sandra is the Executive Director of **National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners**
<http://www.nccdp.org>.

[Alternative Solutions in Long Term Care](#) offers resources for health care professionals in many areas of dementia care, care plans, Snoezelen products, dementia activity calendars, adult day care calendars, sensory calendars, reminisce videos for dementia, activity books, and dates to remember, party supplies, resources and links



Each Norman Rockwell print is paired with a national standards of Resident Rights and is illustrated by a picture depicting the "Resident Right."
[click here to purchase resident rights prints](#)

Pathways to the Past

by Sandra Stimson ADC, CALA, CDP
 Executive Director, [Alternative Solutions in Long Term Care](#)

75 Ways to honor your staff during Activity Professionals Week



1. Create a unique banner using a slogan your staff or residents recommends.
2. Pay for membership to NAAP National Association of Activity Professionals for all of your staff.
3. Send one of your staff to NAAP national convention.
4. Send your staff to state association conference.
5. Provide gift cards to movies, grocery store, restaurants and other stores.
6. Put up your agenda for the week that lists the special events you have planned for your department for residents and other staff to view.
7. Ask residents, volunteers to submit letters about how your department improves quality of life and share at a special planned event.
8. Make a donation on behalf of your department.
9. Create a Hall Of Fame. Have an Activity Professional of The Year. Put name on plaque. Provide a trophy or plaque to this individual; provide awards such as a day off for a 3 day weekend, certificate, and gift card. Ask vendors for award donations. Place article in town / city paper.
10. Host an empty bulletin board with the Theme " How Does Activities Improve Quality of Life?" or any idea you might have. Leave pre cut out paper and pens and ask people to post their ideas.
11. Take staff to a sporting event, play, etc.
12. Have a Hero Sandwich Party because your department are Hero's
13. Have a Lifesaver Award for that one person you really counted on through out the year. Provide a certificate that says "Thank you. You have been a life saver this whole year." Attach role of Lifesaver.
14. Order from Hershey candy bars with "Activity Profession Week". You can ask them to imprint anything you like.
15. Create a Activity Trivia Game. Involve your staff and create questions and answers about activities you provide, benefits, words associated with activities.
16. Create a scavenger hunt involving words associated with activities and each day have a winner.
17. Ask all the departments to participate in creating a display about the activity department.
18. Make a Video / DVD of all the activities for the year and play it in the lobby.
19. Make a 3 panel display board with pictures highlighting events held through out the entire year. To make it even more fun, you can purchase small buttons to records short messages about each event and will play when pressed.
20. Provide personalized mugs. You can purchase mugs with people's names on it or order the theme name for Activity Professionals Week promotions catalogues.
22. Send Fruit Baskets to each activity professional in your department. Edible Arrangements are now in most states are fun to receive.
23. Cover desks with balloons.
24. Have a Activity Olympics Games: Each day have a different fun program you will be doing.
25. Each day provide a different breakfast item from Bagels, Donuts, Fresh Fruit
26. Designate one specific day and take out to lunch and be sure the Administrator comes.
27. Provide a custom made banner that pays tribute to the Activity Department.
28. Purchase the promotional items and give to the staff.
29. Give an individual Thank You card to each activity professional.
30. Put up balloons that have a tribute to the professions all over the building.
31. Have a party with the residents and all staff one day during the week.
32. Provide Activity pins for Activity Professional Week.
33. Send an editorial to your local paper about what your Activity Department provides.
34. Put up a table in the lobby showcasing all the activities you do. Place pictures on 3 panel display boards.
35. Ask the residents to write poems about what Activities means to them.
36. Submit a tribute about the activity profession to www.activitytherapy.com
37. Pay for membership in your state association for your staff.
38. Allow paid time to attend the local state association meetings.
39. Allow (paid leave) staff to attend the state convention.
40. Pay for a seminar. Or reimburse once they attend.
41. Write about each person in your department and place in the facility newsletter.
42. Take a picture of each person and place in a frame and high light them during the week.
43. Create a word search for staff and residents using all the words that define the profession.
44. Give a corsage or flowers.
45. If approved, allow them to leave early on Friday.
46. Put up tributes written by other professionals. See www.activitytherapy.com

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Featuring supplies for parties, holiday celebrations and special events
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RESIDENT SHOPPING & MORE
 At [Resident Shopping & More](#) you will find clothing and more for your residents. Also, you will find Activity Department supplies.

ACTIVITY DIRECTOR NOVELTIES
[Activity Director Novelties](#) features promotional materials and gifts for you, your residents, your facility and your Department.
 Be sure to visit.

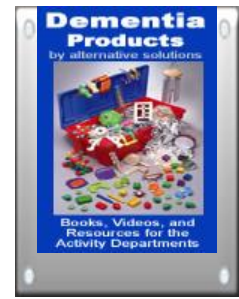
BOB'S CUSTOM DESIGNS
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[Contact Bob](#)



Adaptive Clothing,
Books, Videos, and
Resources for Long
Term Care Facilities



47. Ask Administrator and DON to make a speech about activities during your party.
48. Ask the Ombudsman to attend the party and make a speech about activities.
49. Ask the resident council president to make a speech about activities.
50. Ask the Volunteers to participate in the party as generally they support and work for your department.
51. If you are with a large corporation, ask the owners to acknowledge Activity Professionals during Activity Professional Week.
52. Gift certificates to stores or movies or restaurants.
53. Pay for your staff to attend the MEPAP courses to obtain their certification.
54. Recognize the CNA's who have supported your Activity Department.
55. Submit your staff for awards with your state activity association and national activity association for Outstanding Activity Professional of The Year.
56. Order new activity books for each of your staff.
57. Purchase new Activity Care Plan Books for each staff member.
58. Ask your staff to give you a wish list and meet with your administrator to see if any of these items can be purchased for your department. Surprise them during this special week.
59. Order new desk items and calendars.
60. Host an Open House in your department and serve refreshments and invite families, staff, residents and volunteers to come. Invite other activity staff and directors in the area.
61. Invite a guest speaker who has topics that are ceu approved to present to your staff.
62. Purchase subscriptions for each employee to receive online Activity newsletters.
63. Give a piece of paper pre printed with the numbers 1 through 200. Give the residents or staff in-service 20 minutes to write down as many types of activities and theme names you provide through out the year.
64. Toot Your Own Horn! During This Week, showcase your department by providing a facility wide in-service. Explain what your department provides and provide the calendars. If you have a video of your department would be great.
65. Create an Amazing Activity Race Game that will take all week to complete. Create clues that will take the person to a destination where another clue is planted. Clues could be: This is the place our residents go to smell the flowers. The answer could be the patio. Once they get to that location there could be easy challenges to complete, like unscrambling a word. Once they unscramble a word they could see the business manager for the next clue or the president of the resident council. There you would plant another clue, etc. Who ever gets to the finish line first wins a prize. But this could take a week, don't make it too easy.
66. Purchase a spices and attach a note "You're the Spice Of Our Resident's Life"
67. Purchase Bumper Stickers with your slogan for Activity Professionals Week
68. Ask Families To Share Success Stories About Their Loved One and The Role Your Department Played In Their Success.
69. Dedicate a flower bed in honor of the Activity Profession and Quality of Life.
70. Feature your staff pictures and present their bios, tenure, accomplishments and achievements in a slide show or put on a video.
71. Present candy canes at Christmas / Holidays with a note attached that says "You're worth stripes to our residents."
72. Invite the President of the state Activity Association to a luncheon with your staff.
73. Send peppermint candies with a note attached "You're worth a mint to the residents."
74. Provide a box of cookies in a pretty box with wrapping paper and bows for each staff member. Check with your local bakery.
75. Provide a candle for each activity professional with a note that says "You light up the residents life."



Honor your Activity Director with a card, flowers or just say Thank You.





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