

Director's Corner



As we come upon the six-year anniversary of Frederick Place opening its doors, it is still amazing to me the wonderful community support with which we continue to be blessed. It was more than evident during the holidays.

Life at Frederick Place is often busy, but the last month of the year is filled with Secret Santas dropping off a new Christmas tree for us to decorate, food to fill our stomachs, treats to sweeten us up, and gifts to put a smile on our faces.

As anyone who spends time at Frederick Place knows, the staff and residents work as a team. This happens from the moment a new resident arrives at Frederick Place. The staff may be the ones doing the paperwork, but the other residents show each other the “ropes.” The spirit of giving doesn’t always necessarily mean material items. Staff and residents share and give at an emotional level as well as material. From a resident asking me this week, “Are you alright?” to other residents trying to convince another resident to think about his actions as they would be affecting the rest of his life not just today.

At Frederick Place, team work also shows in the upkeep of the house. Residents are assigned chores that they must complete daily, as well as to work on their self-sufficiency goals. Sometimes one can get in the way of the other, and they must ask for help from another resident. At other times, we have residents who are handy with tools and will help us with fix up projects in the house so that we don’t have to pay for the task or find a volunteer to come in on their time to accomplish the task.

These examples of team work occurred this week. Also, the doorbell was “ringing off the hook” with Secret Santa gifts to allow the residents to have a merry Christmas. Our Secret Santas brought toys for the two boys in the house, clothing for all the residents, Walmart gift cards, and numerous other gifts. Every time a staff or volunteer would open the front door they were amazed at the generosity of the community. Christmas was truly “Merry” for all our residents.

This faith in the community was evident when one of the residents said, **“It is very humbling to see the amount of generosity and consideration that this community shows. It touches my heart in ways I can't even tell you.”** After Linda said this, the others sitting around the gathering table were all in agreement. They may not have been able to put their feelings into words, but they felt that the spirit of what Linda said matched what they were feeling. Her words also touched home and expressed what all the staff were feeling and continue to feel daily.

I would like to end by letting you know that words cannot express the gratitude that everyone associated with NATH and Frederick Place feels no matter what time of the year it is. We continue to be blessed by our partners and “friends of NATH.” From the bottom of my heart, and on behalf of all the residents and board members: THANK YOU!!