

**Oregon Department of Human Services
Seniors and People with Disabilities
2007 Innovative Practice Program winners**

Clatsop Care Center (Nursing Home)

Astoria

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Clatsop Care Center created a philosophy for their community which guides their practice: "That every resident have something to do, something to care for, something to care about, someone to love and something to hope for." A high level of participation by residents, their families and staff led to designing as well as evaluating the activity/life enrichment program. This team approach has included multiple methods for gathering input and for ongoing learning together. The mission is to focus on each resident and meet his or her needs and preferences. The historical approach in long term care of bringing large groups together where only a small percentage of individuals were actually participating has been replaced with smaller groups with greater variety and choice. Individual preference is primary on a daily basis. Routine twice-weekly outings to the community are an integral part of the program, e.g., fishing, kite flying on the beach, weekly dining out at local restaurants. All residents are included despite the challenges of transporting wheelchairs, or other supportive devices, managing behaviors, etc. The program has moved from one that "entertains" to one that "involves". A significant contribution to the program's success has been the addition of a volunteer coordinator position who recruits, trains and coordinates the many daily volunteers who participate in the program. In 1 ½ years the volunteer numbers grew from six hours/month to the current 492 hours/month.

Emerson House (Residential Care Facility)

Portland

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Emerson House has built their activity/life enrichment program around the values of resident individuality, choice, respect, and comfort. They capitalize on strengths to create a failure-free environment. Great emphasis is placed on obtaining past and present activity interest and a life history for each resident. The program addresses mind, body and spirit and includes "tried and true" activities known to be favorites as well as new games they have invented, e.g. a board game called "OHO", and available technology, e.g., Fishing on the Net. Paid professional entertainers are a part of regular offerings. Attention has also been given to including plants and pets as part of the natural environment.

Community integration with multigenerational inclusion is a focal part of the program. This includes both having community come in to Emerson House as well as residents going out to the community. They have partnered with community institutions such as the Alzheimer's Association for expanded community participation in the Family Forum and the Oregon Health and Science University in on-site communication study involving residents and the Red Cross to use their van for transportation. Volunteers contribute regularly 3-4 days of the week.

Mennonite Home (Nursing Home)

Albany

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Mennonite Home has used their covenant of staff responsibility to promote each resident's independence, freedom of choice and mental, physical, emotional and spiritual growth to design and build their activity/life enrichment program. The guiding staff values are team work having a positive attitude, respect for each other and those we serve, dependability, being Christ-Centered, and bringing a sense of humor to work. They believe that life enrichment is not just activities in the activity room but are any activity that makes a resident happy and that this is everyone's job. This philosophy and sense of responsibility for it is communicated throughout the nursing home via new employee orientation and ongoing staff training. Detailed information about resident routines, preferences, interests is collected prior to move-in and continued learning after they've moved in is made a priority. They have cross trained and combined job responsibilities of restorative staff to provide activities on weekends in order to provide a more comprehensive program over the entire week. Past practices have been examined and revamped to recognize individuality, e.g., once-a-month group birthday celebrations have been replaced by individual birthday parties on the day of the birthday. Family and community volunteers are a rich part of the program which includes individual-centered activities, e.g., gardening, as well as large groups and special themed events, e.g., spring dance, fall ho-down, Hawaiian luau.