

# Volunteer Newsletter

## August 2022

### Enrichment Packs: An Overview

Many of our patients suffer from different forms of dementia. An important aspect of caring for those with dementia is keeping the mind active. Staying active with dementia has been proven to slow the rate of decline, improve quality of life, as well as reduce negative behaviors in patients. One way to keep the mind active is using enrichment packs!

We have a wide variety of enrichment activities available in the Volunteer Coordinator office within OAH headquarters. Activities range from sorting, reading, watching movies and sensory stimulation to memory games, puzzles, and common household tasks.

We have a total of 10 enrichment packs stored on a shelving unit in the coordinator office. Review your patient assignments and see what packs both the Director of Nursing and I have recommended for each patient.

If planning an enrichment activity, come to the office and select which pack you'd like to take. One per patient please. Be sure to use the sign in/sign out sheet. When returning the packs to the office follow the disinfection instructions provided on the side of the shelves.

*Contact me with any questions or new ideas you may have for enrichment!*

### July's Memorable Moments

*A look back on some of the meaningful visits created by our volunteers.*



Big smiles from Miss Susan W during a volunteer visit! Susan absolutely loved "reading" through the newspaper and discussing "the kids" with volunteer [Elizabeth](#).

A real connection was made between new volunteer [Lily](#) and Suzanne L. It can be a challenge to get a reaction out of Suzy, but she was all smiles while reading and holding hands during her visit!



Happy 91<sup>st</sup> Birthday to James C! OAH celebrated early on 7/29 with cake and balloons in the Novi Lakes common area. James was so grateful for the party and felt blessed to be in such great company, which included our volunteer, [Kate](#)!

## MEET THE STAFF: Lisa Briggs, Social Work



Introducing Lisa Briggs, LMSW for Open Arms Hospice. Lisa has always been drawn to working with older adults. As a child, Lisa and her dog would call Bingo at a local nursing home. She has a bachelor's and master's degree in social work from Michigan State University, Go Green! Lisa's Master's program specifically focused on geriatric needs. Lisa has worked in hospice now for over a decade and it continues to be her calling and love. Lisa brings her dog Sonny to visit patients, as well. Lisa has been married over 10 years and has 3 daughters. Her other passions include baking and her Peloton.

Favorite color: Purple

Favorite food: Tacos

Favorite music: Air Supply

Favorite candy: York peppermint patty

Favorite sport: Volleyball

Favorite holiday: Christmas

## Upcoming Opportunities

### Patient Companionship

- Fox Run, Novi
- Ashley Court, Brighton
- Arden Courts, Bingham Farms
- The Fairmont, Farmington Hills

### Weekend Respite

- Neighborhoods of White Lake
- The Fairmont of Farmington Hills

### Administrative/Outreach

- Post-Admission Survey Taker
- Bereavement Mailings

## What do I Wear to a Visit?

- ID Badge
- Your Open Arms Volunteer T-Shirt
- Comfortable bottoms, preferably that reach your fingertips when your arms are at your side
- Comfortable shoes (I recommend closed toe shoes, wheelchairs...ouch!)

## This Month's Important Dates

August 1<sup>st</sup>: James C. 91<sup>st</sup>

August 2<sup>nd</sup>: IDG 12pm

August 5<sup>th</sup>: Lena V. 93<sup>rd</sup>

August 16<sup>th</sup>: IDG 12pm

August 30<sup>th</sup>: Muriel P. 92<sup>nd</sup>

August 30<sup>th</sup>: IDG 12pm

August 31<sup>st</sup>: Janis B. 63<sup>rd</sup>

### Contact Information

Please feel free to contact me with any questions, concerns, or comments you may have:

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