



National Church Residences

2015 Volunteers of the Year

Health Care



Richard Rundels

Bristol Village Health Care & Hospice, Waverly, OH

This is the first year we had one nominee garner six nominations. The staff and residents of Bristol Village have found a true gem in Richard. He began his journey with National Church Residences as his mother was admitted. He is described as always having a smile on his face and being one of the most positive people to be around. Kind, considerate and humble spirited, Richard will spend hours at the bedside of a dying patient. He brings in food that the person especially enjoys and some refer to him as “the candy man”. He purchases the candy on his own and brings to clients and their family. He will sit with patients and residents and help them play bingo and do puzzles in the nursing care units. Bristol Village has received multiple cards and calls from family that mention him and how thankful they are to have Richard touch their lives. Beyond his volunteer hours, he attends every grief share meeting EVERY visitation and funeral service for the clients he has been involved with. He even sends a blanket throw to the funeral of every client- he did not even tell the staff about this gesture but a family shared this with the staff. One nominator stated they have never seen a more dedicated, loving volunteer than this man. The lives and hearts he has touched will forever be impacted by his grace and caring.



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Housing



Harriet Hardy

Madison Tower, Madison Township, MI

Harriet Hardy, 88, has been a part of the volunteer landscape of the Madison Tower campus for 15 year . She has maintained several volunteer positions in the property. Currently she works in the kitchen 5 days a week. She sets the area up in the mornings, helps direct new people needing to learn how to sign in for a meal, takes the food delivery and serves the food. As if that was not enough, she is the director of the choir and puts together and delivers the monthly newsletter. Harriet rarely misses a day and it is difficult to count the people that she has helped over the years.



Rick Dement

Grace Gardens, O'Fallon, MO

Pastor Rick has grown up, so to speak at Grace Gardens. He has been volunteering there for 27 years. The person nominating Pastor Rick describes him as a hero. Every Thursday the residences can count on Pastor Rick to lead a non-denominational Bible Study. Besides his weekly visits when Grace Gardens residences experienced an untimely and unexpected death, Pastor Rick was there within minutes. He was there not only for the immediate family but, also the other affected residences in the building and the extended family. National Church Residences' core values run deep in Pastor Rick. The staff and residences at Grace Gardens could not be more proud to call him their friend and hero.



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John Davis

Commons at Livingston, Columbus, OH

John is the program leader for a national 501©3 called Project Health Waters Fly Fishing. Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing is an organization dedicated to the physical and emotional rehabilitation of disabled military service personnel and disabled veterans through fly fishing and associated activities and outings. John and the local Madmen Chapter #477 started hosting fly tying workshops for formerly homeless and disabled veterans at the Commons at Livingston. They host two monthly trainings and through these meetings have developed deep bonds with many Commons at Livingston veterans. John and his team take complete ownership of the group and those that attend. They make the calls from the front desk to invite residents to come down, they follow up with residents when they have not seen them in a while, often they are the ones that the residents go to share stories of success or a set-back. Fly fishing is the medium and relationships are the output John is looking for. In 2014, 500 hours of service were given by Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing. John shared that “If you peak in on one of our meetings, you will see no difference between volunteers and vets. It is just people enjoying one another’s company, sharing stories and tying flies.”

When the weather breaks, the Project Health Waters Fly Fishing crew takes veterans to casting ponds and on fishing trips all around Ohio.