



The Spirit of Grace

GRACE LIVING CENTERS

Tinker Naval Service Members Share Their Time and Experiences with Grace - NW 10th St. Residents



The visiting Naval service members pose in front of Grace Living Center - NW 10th St. Back row: Lt. David Gardner, IT1 Karim Abunimeh, IT1 Ken Backes, OS2 Chris House, and AW3 Samuel Watts. Front row: IT2 Anita Baumgartner, IT2 Kristie Wettgen, AW2 Shannon Daris, IT3 Carlos Libreros and AW1 Jonathan Scott.

Grace Living Center - Northwest 10th Street residents met members of the Communications Department of Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron 3 (VQ-3) stationed at Tinker Air Force Base when the Naval Service members visited the Grace community recently.

Ten Naval service members conducted a presentation about their mission in the Mercury 707 aircraft, shared donuts and coffee in the dining room and visited with residents for over two hours.

Squadron members also visited rooms of residents, including service veterans of various branches of the military, who were unable to attend the presentation.

"This was a profound experience for all of us today," said AW1 Jonathan Scott.

"It was a great opportunity to meet and talk with the residents, especially those who have served in the armed forces, and we'd like to visit again" said Scott.

Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron 3 (VQ-3)

provides durable airborne command, control, and communications between the National Command Authority (NCA) and U.S. strategic and non-strategic forces.

Two squadrons, the "Ironmen" of VQ-3 and the "Shadows" of VQ-4 deploy more than 20 aircrews from Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma.

Grace Living Center Nurses Traveled to Mississippi to Help Nursing Homes Hit by Hurricane Katrina

On Sept. 14, six Grace Living Center nurses drove to Gulfport, Mississippi to assist two nursing homes damaged by Hurricane Katrina. Although the four long days of work were exhausting, Grace nurses said they were grateful to help.

At the request of the Mississippi Board of Nursing, the group helped Lakeview Nursing and Rehabilitation Center and Driftwood Nursing Home.

"From 100 miles outside of Gulfport we saw twisted trees," Pam Chain, RN of Grace - Bethany and Grace - NW 10th, said. "The closer we got, the more rubble we saw. Parking lots were full of people living in tents and RVs, and we saw people living in a house with a tree through the roof."

"I was honored to go," Chain said. "The Director of Nursing at Lakeview had been working from 1 a.m. to 5 p.m. the day we arrived. She had not had a day off in two



Grace RNs Jennifer Brewer and Amber Nowling visit with Ms. Lebo, a grateful Mississippi elder.

weeks. We arrived at 7 p.m. and were on the floor at 11 p.m."

The nurses worked as nurses' aides. They started work each night at 11 p.m. and slept after serving breakfast. They drove back to Oklahoma Monday morning after working partial shifts Sunday night.

Grace Living Centers paid for the nurses' trip. "I'm grateful to Don Greiner (president of Grace)," Chain said. "Without his gen-

erosity, I couldn't have gone to help. I'd go again in a heartbeat!"

Nurses who traveled to Mississippi were: Amber Nowling, RN of Grace Living Centers' Home Office; Lisa Booth, RN of Grace - Stillwater and Muskogee; Jennifer Brewer, RN of Grace - Buffalo and Woodward; Karma Billgrien, LPN of Grace - Jenks; and Tawnee Hawley, RN of Grace - Tahlequah East Shawnee and Tahlequah University Northwest; and Pam Chain, RN of Grace - Bethany and NW 10th.

GRACE LIVING CENTERS

PRINCIPLES of RESPECT

Responsibility. We are personally accountable for our actions and how they affect others.

Ethics. We will not participate in or tolerate dishonesty or abuse. We are obligated to report unethical behavior.

Servant Attitude. We are givers, not takers. We are listeners, not talkers. We are promoters of others, not ourselves.

Pride. We believe in the dignity of our work and the honor of our profession. We expect the best of ourselves and one another.

Efficiency. We recognize the value of the resources available to us and will use them responsibly.

Communication. We communicate in an honest, factual and fair manner, and recognize the value of honest feedback. We will promote a positive environment free of fear, harassment and intimidation.

Teamwork. Our strength lies in our sense of family and the ongoing development of each other. We will work together to reach our goals, and openly celebrate each other's successes.

GLC SW 55th Adds Gazebo to Butterfly Garden

A special ceremony at Grace - SW 55th was recently held to dedicate a new gazebo that was added to the butterfly garden.

A \$700 grant from Youth as Resources was used to build the gazebo. Youth group members from the India Pentecostal Assembly constructed the 11'x11' wooden structure this past summer to complete a butterfly garden that was built last year.

"We are so thankful for the grant we received to build the gazebo," Social Service



India Pentecostal Assembly youth group members show off the gazebo they built for Grace-SW 55th.

Director Chris Lewis said. "With that money and the help we received from the youth group, we now have a wonderful new feature to our home that all of our elders can enjoy."

"We are thrilled with the addition of the new gazebo to our butterfly garden," Yvonne Nachimson administra-

tor for SW 55th. "We are so happy to provide a unique place for our elders to sit and visit Mother Nature when the weather is nice."

To locate a Grace Living Center near you, call
877-OK-GRACE
or visit us on the internet at
www.gracelivingcenters.com

Memories of Grace



Grace Living Center Serves as Home to Hurricane Evacuees

Grace Living Center welcomed seven hurricane evacuees into its care recently, including 70-year-old Norma Kennedy. Kennedy was evacuated twice, first from New Orleans, then Texas as Hurricane Rita approached. Kennedy was one of two hurricane evacuees to find refuge at Grace Living Center - Edmond. Another five found refuge and support at Grace Living Center-Norman.

Norma Kennedy of New Orleans, who was evacuated from both Hurricane Katrina and Rita, relaxes comfortably in her new home at Grace - Edmond.



Grace Living Center El Reno Received Great Turnout at Recent Health Fair

Grace Living Center - El Reno recently hosted a free health fair at the Tuttle Senior Center. Staff members from El Reno visit the Tuttle Senior Center, and others, once a month to provide free health screenings. From left to right: Grace-El Reno's Denise Fisher, Tuttle Senior Citizens Coordinator Debra Smith, Grace-El Reno's Amber Wright and a Martha Mae Singleton, the lucky door prize winner.

Rodeo Queens Visit Grace Living Center - Stillwater



Grace Living Center resident Mike Watts grinned from ear-to-ear while posing with the Pawnee Bill Memorial Rodeo Queen candidates. Pictured with Watts are Stormi Guidry, Whitney Adams, Rilee Gann and Kate Chambers.

Grace Living Center - Wildewood Celebrates with Hawaiian Luau



Grace Living Center - Wildewood recently held a Hawaiian Luau to celebrate with residents. The community was invited to take part in the Luau. During the celebration, residents and guests enjoyed a limbo competition, moonwalk, fishing for live catfish, employee dunk tank and chicken squat bingo, played with live chickens. Free food was also served, and included roast pork, along with hotdogs and hamburgers for the kids. Elders and guests enjoy a game of chicken squat bingo at Wildewood's Luau.

Grace Living Center's Camp Eden Brings Fun to Campers and Elders



Each year, Clinton's Grace Living Center welcomes 8 to 12 children per day to Camp Eden to make crafts, play games, and share meals with Grace elders. Each day the children went from room to room sharing treats with elders who were not physically able to participate. Residents and campers also enjoyed a hot dog cookout during camp. Seated from left to right: Sarah McCathern, Coop Armstrong, Cayla McCathern, Violet Brown and Gertie Richardson. Standing from left to right: Louise Penn, Connor Albert, Trey Albert, Dex Felch, Mercedes Waters and Richard Brown.

Snapshots from Grace Living Center Grandparents Day Celebrations



Stillwater: Family and friends recently joined Grace - Stillwater residents to celebrate Grandparents Day. During a party to celebrate the day, residents enjoyed games and refreshments with their family members. Elder Inez Blasier received a bouquet of flowers from her grandson, Max Lucas. They are pictured with (from left to right) Susan Lucas, Anita Jones and Jean Hoffman.

SW 55th: Floor Tech Darry Ellis and Billie Looney kick up their heels and celebrate Grandparents' Day at Grace-SW 55th



Chickasha's Grace Living Center Balloons Travel 230 Miles to Reach Kansas Pen Pals

At 5 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 11, Grace - Chickasha's elders released balloons seeking pen pals on Grandparents Day. At 8 a.m., Monday morning, 230 miles away, farmer Willard Wiebe found 25 balloons in his soybeans near White Water, Kansas. On Oct. 10, Grace-Chickasha elders received 12 letters from the Weibe's granddaughter's third-grade class.



Grace - Chickasha elders release balloons in hopes to find pen pals as part of their Grandparents Day celebration.

Bethany's Director of Nursing Wins Nurse Week's Leadership Award

The national magazine Nurse Week recently honored Grace Living Center - Bethany's Director of Nursing, Kim Selvey, RN with a Nursing Excellence Award in Leadership for a six-state region for her role in caring for the elderly. She is now a finalist for the National Nurse of the Year Award in the category of leadership, which will be announced in November.

"We are so proud of Kim," Don Greiner, president of Grace Living Centers, said. "This award is terrific recognition of the outstanding job she does each day."

"Kim has only been with Grace - Bethany for 18 months; but in that time, family satisfaction with our facility has risen from 59 percent to 97 percent," Administrator Barbie Harter explained. "Kim shows leadership by helping people believe in their work and in themselves. She truly deserves this award for her exceptional leadership."



From left to right: Bethany's Grace Living Center Administrator Barbie Harter and Director of Nursing Kim Selvey hold the Nurse Week award Selvey won for Nursing Excellence - Leadership.

"I have been fortunate to have good leaders throughout my nursing career," Selvey said. "I'm receiving the award, but our success at Bethany is due to the work of an entire team. Our charge nurses, certified medication aides and certified nurses aides have a strong will to succeed. It's a team effort, and I'm proud to be part of the team."

Grace Living Center Brookwood's Red Hat Society Seeks Fun and Friendship

Watch out! The red and pink-hatted sisters have arrived.

In September, red hat sisters were sworn in at Grace-Brookwood. The group included 28 red hat sisters who are elders and 28 special sisters who are volunteers or employees. Each red hat sister has a special sister who shares outings and events with her. Women older than 50 wear red hats and women 49 and younger wear pink hats.

Theresa Perdue, Grace-Brookwood activities director is delighted with the new sisterhood. "We'll have two events a month - one at Brookwood and one outside for those who can leave the home,"



Brookwood elder Syona Wiley grins from ear to ear while being serenaded by an Elvis impersonator during the Red Hat Society ceremony.

Perdue said. "In September, an Elvis impersonator joined our swearing-in ceremony. We've had a Minnie Pearl impersonator come to our home for special events, and in October, an outing for hamburgers was on the agenda."

"I'm really excited about the program," Perdue said. "I think

we'll reach more volunteers, and the women are having so much fun."

The national Red Hat Society is a loosely-organized group whose mission statement includes... "deciding to meet middle age with verve, humor, and élan. ...we share a bond of affection, forged by common life experiences and a genuine enthusiasm for wherever life takes us next."

Community Partners

Shared Graces Brings Seniors and Elementary Students Together

Developing proper reading skills is an important part of elementary education. To help develop those abilities, Oklahoma City school children and elders at three Grace Living Centers are being brought together through a unique program called Shared Graces.

As part of the Shared Graces program, students from Dunbar, Eisenhower and Oakridge elementary schools will read with elders at Grace Living Center - Del City, Wildewood and Wilshire.

The program strives to increase elementary students' reading achievements while providing beneficial intergenerational interaction between students and senior citizens. While at the home, the children are partnered up with an elder, and they read one-on-one with them for approximately 45 minutes.

"Grace has participated in this program for several years and it has been very successful," Mollie Wooldridge, director of life enrichment for Grace said. "Many times, our elders are able to help the children with their reading skills just by allowing them to read to them and helping them sound out the words. This is a win-win situation for our residents and the children."

Shared Graces is a joint project of the Oklahoma City Public Schools Foundation, Grace Living Centers and Bank of America.

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