

A Party With a Twist

The birthday party for Jim Clarke, a resident at Life Care Center of Sandpoint, Idaho, had all the makings of the traditional celebration. It had the favors, the balloons, the cards and, of course, the cake.

But all of a sudden, it took a different twist.

Elany Kisner, certified nursing assistant, announced to the partygoers that Clarke had been composing a song with lyrics, and she asked his permission to sing it and share it with the group. He consented, and she performed it.

“The sweetness with which she sang this song, with Jim’s words, had a magical effect on everyone in the room,” his wife, Judith Clarke, said.

“You could have heard a pin drop! This special sharing helped to make his 70th birthday a very memorable one for all of us, and especially for Jim, as his words and feelings were validated and honored in such a lovely way. Elany brings this level of care to her duties in the unit as well where Jim resides.”



Judith and Jim Clarke

Executive Director Irene Michael describes Kisner as “very soft-spoken, very caring. She takes the initiative to see that our residents are well served.”

Life experiences such as this are evident every day in Life Care facilities all across the country. They provide the reasons why we all – residents, families, associates and communities at large – should observe and enjoy National Nursing Home Week, which began Sunday and runs through Saturday.

Theme for the week, appropriately, is *Celebrating the Journey*. Each of our centers has a supportive and caring environment providing enrichment for residents and families to continue growing, learning and finding the joy in living. The week honors the lives of nursing home residents and those who care for them.

From cookouts and carnivals to field trips and talent shows, Nursing Home Week is fun for everyone. This week’s activities also provide opportunities for socializing, reminiscing and volunteering.

Life Care’s Public Relations department has provided a kit with creative ideas and resources added to your own to make the week special, including colorful posters of amazing residents Dennis Doler of Camellia Gardens of Life Care in Thomasville, Ga.; Ursula Earnshaw of Marysville Care Center in Marysville, Wash.; Richie Grassley of Evergreen House Health Center in East Providence, R.I.; and Helen Sigler, of Life Care Center of Kona, Hawaii.

So ... enjoy our week as we tell our story.

– Beecher Hunter