

## And the Doc Sang

Precious stories occur in our centers everyday. Linda Harres, the director of nursing services at Garden Terrace Alzheimer's Center of Excellence in Federal Way, Washington, shared a real jewel with me recently about one of her residents there. Here it is:

Doc Eddy is an 89-year-old retired colo-rectal surgeon who has been here for two weeks. Doc was pacing about early yesterday morning and I could sense his agitation as I made rounds. He began talking with me about "pleasantries" and was interested in being able to do his "new" job. He wasn't too sure about being able to give us "fulltime" yet, but he would work up to it. However, in the meantime he needed to be interviewing staff to help him run his new office.

He wrote a list of questions that were appropriate for interviewing office staff and proceeded, methodically, to interview the nursing assistants, the nurses, housekeepers, etc. A few days went by and one of the nursing assistants asked him how he was. He replied, "I am just fine, thank you. We must, at some point, discuss salary with the people I have decided to hire for my office. You are one of the nursing assistants that I would like to come to work for me."

The nursing assistant said, "How much are you paying?" He responded, "What'll it take to get you to work for me? How much do you want?" She replied, "How about \$20 per hour?"

In perfect voice, in clear baritone, he belted out *To Want The Impossible Dream!* and went on with the rest of the song and shocked all the people in the unit. "Did you hear Doc sing?" "Doc sang to Hattie" "Boy, he has a great voice!"

So, in our world of dementia there still is quality -- and life! Doc Eddy is living proof of that. It takes getting into their world on a daily basis to prove the services we do provide.

Thanks, Linda, for a wonderful story.

--Beecher Hunter