

Christmas Spirit

The Christmas spirit is alive and well in the centers of Life Care and American Lifestyles -- if a visit last Wednesday, Thursday and Friday to 10 of our campuses is any gauge.

Forrest Preston, Bill Eason and I traveled to various American Lifestyles locations to introduce Eason, the new executive vice president of ALI, to the leadership and buildings. These included (facilities and general managers): Remington Heights, Amy Birkel; Highland Cove, Stan Ketcher; Quail Ridge, Jodi Thomas; Bridge View Estates, Lori Bentzler; Valley View, Betsy Maier (and Cole Clarke, executive director); Las Fuentes Resort Village, Linda Villa; Life Care Center of Paradise Valley in Nevada and The Bridge, Bina Hribik and Wanda Jackson; Mountain View Retirement Village, Debbie Engen; The Citadel independent living, assisted living and skilled nursing, Michelle Donahue and Jeanette Garner.

The centers were festively adorned with greenery and red ribbons and bows. Christmas trees sparkled in their finest seasonal attire. Gingerbread houses and other holiday crafts were on display. And, of course, hot apple cider, coffee and a variety of cakes and cookies abounded.

More importantly, however, is the good cheer in the voices of residents, family members and associates who eagerly enter the holiday period and the promise that it holds. This truly is a special time of year. What is it that produces the magic of Christmas? Reasons include:

- The celebration of the birth of the Savior, the "reason for the season."
- The attention of giving to others, especially those with needs, which produces a personal blessing to the benefactor. That commitment is a daily, yearlong practice for the associates of Life Care, American Lifestyles and Life Care at Home.
- An extraordinary display of smiles, hugs and handshakes that gladden the heart.

Christmas is, indeed, a wonderful time to enrich the relationships of family, friends, associates and the people we serve.

--Beecher Hunter