

It's Their Turn

This week honors a very special group of our associates. It is National Activity Professionals' Week, January 21-26, and they deserve our appreciation and our applause. Their energy and creativity add spice to the routine of everyday living for our residents in Life Care and Century Park. They are fun-loving individuals who bring sunshine to those they serve everyday, no matter what the weather outside or the mood of the environment inside. Among other points of their job descriptions, our activity professionals excel in:

- Recruiting and overseeing our volunteer initiatives.
- Directing the Operation Christmas Child project.
- Finding, encouraging and developing the latent talents of our residents in such fields as art, music and creative writing, among others.
- Promoting friendship and goodwill through social activities.
- Planning and implementing special events for holidays, birthdays, anniversaries and other occasions.
- Creating and maintaining an atmosphere of warmth, personal interest and positive outlook.

The quality of life of our residents? Our activity professionals have much to do with this objective.

Normally, it is the activity department's job to plan celebrations, as the National Activity Professionals organization points out. But in this case, the activity professionals are the honorees, and someone else, such as the executive director, should take charge of this tribute. Our centers are engaged in various forms of recognition, developed with the interdisciplinary staff, I am certain. These may include a giant greeting card signed by residents and families, a certificate of appreciation, a reception, flowers and notes collected from residents and families.

We are proud of the dedication and work of our activity professionals, and we salute them during this, their very own, week.

--Beecher Hunter