

STONERIDGE RETIREMENT LIVING

This year's conference theme feels a little ironic for me personally as I evaluate our ministry. With the significant increase in Alzheimer and dementia care, I sometimes feel I forget who I am let alone who we are as a ministry called to serve our senior population. All joking aside, we have actually been contemplating this question for several years, as we try to manage in this ever-changing landscape of the healthcare system.

Who we are is continually redefined and re-molded to fit the needs of the residents we serve. What we will always be and hold true to is our Christian heritage to serve the aged and infirmed in a manner where Christ's love is expressed and shared each and every day. While we will continue to operate in this manner we know we need to do more to become a better provider to those entrusted to our care. Our vision for 2019 is to help our residents define who they are and find hope in their remaining years as their abilities to function as in the past have in many cases significantly diminished.

Each year as more regulations are passed, our team is required to spend more time on documentation, slightly invading the extra time they would spend building closer personal relationships with our residents. Sitting in those wheelchairs, lying in those beds, behind those walkers and canes was an individual who at one point had something to look forward to and was full of life. Behind those cries of pain or relentless requests to go home was an individual who functioned and contributed in some way to society, their parents, their spouse, their children and their friends.

We are committed to not allow regulation be a stumbling block to residents finding themselves again as a person and rediscover the things that got them excited to wake up in the morning. Behind those sleeping eyes, feeble bodies and aged hands is a person longing to be loved, listened to and comforted. As we help our residents bring back who they were, we will begin to show WHO WE ARE - A team of people, with our own problems, who still has a heart to care for seniors in this vulnerable time of their life.

As the industry continues to change, reimbursement continues to decline and regulations continue to grow, we will still be defined by recognizing the need to care for those in need. Our focus cannot only be on growing independent living, which tends to be the easiest and most financially stable. Yes, we will continue to expand our independent living with the expectation to serve more residents and help support the overhead. Yes, we will still continue to provide personal care and offer benevolent aid where possible to those who have exhausted their resources. Most importantly, we will continue to provide skilled nursing and care for those with the biggest needs.

Continuing to provide spiritual programming is vital to the StoneRidge ministry. We are continuously evaluating ways to reach both residents and team members through a variety of opportunities. In 2018, we added a spiritual component to our wellness program inviting staff an opportunity to explore their beliefs. Griefshare was launched and becomes a place where residents and team members could begin the healing process. LifeTree was launched in 2019, and while we are not seeing the turnout we had desired, we believe this will be an avenue to allow the lost to have an opportunity to explore their questions on faith in a non-threatening environment. We will continue to be faithful in serving our residents, team members and families, looking for more opportunities to share Jesus Christ in this broken world.

Respectfully submitted in Christ's Service,

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President & CEO