

Advent House Report for PEM March 5, 2018

Residents:

We have welcomed three Residents this year. Our current resident who presented as quite imminent on admission has improved to the point that she is making plans to return back home. We just never know how these stories will turn out! Caring for these dear ones and their families remains the greatest and most humbling experience. It is such a privilege that we are entrusted with caring for these Residents at this most fragile and precious time of their life journey.

Staff: We are dealing with an extreme Resident care volunteer shortage. Laurie, myself and the weekend nurses have been covering multiple shifts in addition to our regular duties ~ sometimes working until midnight and then having to return in the morning for the 7AM shift. Each week to fill the schedule requires 56 four hour shifts and 7 eight hour shifts. The midnight to 8AM shift is covered by the home care agency aide through our Residents' hospice benefit. This week there are 22 openings and next week there are 37 open shifts. Needless to say, it has been difficult. Many of the other Homes are experiencing the same issues. A few of the Houses have hired additional paid nursing staff or operate with only one volunteer on at a time to manage two Residents. I am not comfortable with this idea. A few of the Homes have closed for the winter months and are hoping to reopen soon or having only one Resident instead of filling both beds. We have had only one Resident for the past three weeks mainly due to lack of appropriate referrals which has turned out to be a blessing in disguise since I am not sure how we would have managed.

Finance Committee:

Meeting in March

Fundraising: See Vicki Deady's report

Gala committee meetings have begun and as ever we have a wonderful committee filled with fabulous ideas. We are all very much looking forward to another incredible event and hope you all can attend filling a PEM board table!! It is at **Monroe Golf Club on Saturday, April 14, 2018 at six pm.**

Great response to the Annual Appeal. It is always bittersweet for us as we read the names of all the loved ones and remember our connections to them.

House Maintenance:

In good shape; fingers crossed!!

Sweet Charity: 650 Whitney Road, Suite C

Our sweet shop is up and running and doing so much better than our initial expectations! Getting positive feedback from our customers. The co-assistant managers are doing a wonderful job and we are starting to get the volunteer slots filled to ensure adequate staffing. We worked with a young man needing community service hours; reorganized the work room and moved heavy furniture; proved a great help to us as well as fulfilling his needed hours. Another unexpected opportunity for the shop to support our community! We continue to promote the store through facebook, the Pennysaver and the churches reminding all of our ongoing need for donations and shoppers!

Volunteers:

Our volunteers remain our greatest asset and greatest need. As we had hoped, Sweet Charity is already expanding our base of community knowledge of the Advent House and several shoppers have expressed an interest in becoming more involved. See Laurie's report.

Peace,

Glenda Hastings, Director