From the Administrator, Michele Halvorson:

Happy New Year, Happy Valentine’s Day, Happy St. Patrick’s Day and Happy Easter as Easter is quite early this year on April 1st.

Happy Easter & Easter Buffet (more details in the Culinary Section)

Christmas

Thanks to all who helped make the resident Christmas Party such a huge success! We appreciate all the families that came to celebrate with us.

Upcoming events:

Plan your day around our Annual Fundraiser!

*Our annual fundraiser is on **Tuesday May 8th from 5 – 8 pm. NEW DAY** of the week for us!! If you are able to help volunteer please see Lori Thompson in Activities to sign up. If you would like to donate an item to the Silent Auction, please see Lori Thompson or Michele Halvorson.
**Special Meal Thursday January 18th**, Resident choice meal will be Deep fried walleye, Sirloin steaks, Fried potatoes with onions, Carrots, Green beans, cottage cheese, Ice cream Sundaes and Fresh Fruit Salad.

**Resident Satisfaction Surveys**
The Minnesota Department of Health had Vital Research came on site to TRCC to complete our resident satisfaction surveys. Results should be back in January or February, once results are back they will be shared.

**We continue to need your help!**
Thief River Care Center is a teaching facility. At any one time we have many of our employees who are learning their job, how can you assist them? Tell them your name; get to know something about our employees. If they do something wonderful, complete caught you in the act of kindness form! Also pray for our employees, with being a catholic faith based facility, the power of prayer has huge rewards for our team! We also at any point have opening in our home for new employees. Please read the large bulletin board up front with positions posted. What about starting an endowment fund for our employees or would you like to design a scholarship program for them? Wouldn’t be nice if our employees received funds from your to help pay for schooling?

**Live Lilies or Peonies**
Please do not have floral arrangements come into our building with live Lilies or Peonies; we have some residents and employees that are allergic to them. Thanks so much!

**New Winter/Spring Clothing?**
Thief River Care Center wants to ensure your resident gets their own clothes back from our laundry. If new clothing is brought in please ask our employees to get it to laundry to be labeled. Thief River Care Center is not responsible for lost or misplaced clothing; we will do our best to get items back to your loved ones. If you want to do your own loved ones laundry, please let us know. Thanks!

**State Survey Results**
Our official report is back from the Minnesota Department of Health and it is posted up front in the 2017 State Survey binder! We had 5 F care related tags and 3 K building tags. Thanks for all your assistance during this busy time for our residents and our employees.

**Volunteers**
Do you have some free time? Do you have a skill that our residents would benefit from? If you are interested in volunteering, please see Lori Thompson in our Activities Department!
Quality Incentive Payment System (QIIP)

We at TRCC are going to do our one year project on our Quality of Life Survey in the area of relationships. This just started for us in November, so we might not know results until January or February, so we have no new data to share at this time.

Performance Improvement Program (PIIP)

We are in our second year of our 2 year grant with the Minnesota Department of Health.

Thief River Care Center Continues to Expand Antibiotic Stewardship Program

Thief River Care Center has made the commitment to use antibiotics responsibly by putting an Antibiotic Stewardship Program in place. Thief River Care Center has been actively working to establish a culture that embraces the proper use of antibiotics in the treatment of infections. By doing so, Thief River Care Center hopes to reduce the adverse effects associated with antibiotic use and to minimize the risk of antibiotic resistance (the development of bacteria that are resistant to antibiotic medication). Antibiotic-resistant bacteria are harder to kill and can cause harmful complications and untreatable infections. Using antibiotic medication only when truly needed preserves the power of antibiotics and allows for better outcomes. Thief River Care Center has put evidenced based practice guidelines in place and has provided education to staff on their Antibiotic Stewardship Program and Infection Prevention and Control Program. Educational resources and materials have been developed for residents and families too. Thief River Care Center will continue to work with their medical providers, pharmacy consultants, and entire healthcare team to expand the program and aim for excellence in care. (This article was also in The Times recently)

Nursing home rate increases

For those of you who pay privately for your stay at Thief River Care Center, we received the rate notice for January 2018 from the State of Minnesota. There were letters sent out with your specific case mix rate and the rate sheet so you can see the exact cost of care per day.

Please do not hesitate to contact me Michele Halvorson, MHA, LNHA, Administrator at 218-683-8101 or Stacy Hahn, social services designee at 218-684-8104 with any questions.
From Social Services: Stacy Hahn

The TRCC Family Council Meeting was held on Wednesday, December 20th at 4:00pm. Three family members were present. Lorin from Maintenance attended and reviewed our Emergency Preparedness Procedures and Disaster Plans. The next Family Council Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 17th, 2018 at 4:00p.m. in the Conference Room at Thief River Falls Care Center. Family and Friends of TRCC residents are welcome to attend. If you have an idea for a speaker at one of our meetings, or questions about Family Councils, please contact Stacy Hahn, Social Services Designee at TRCC (218) 683-8104. Thank you.

Care Center Companions !!!

We are always looking for volunteers who would like to spend some time with residents and staff to enhance the lives of our residents. We have some great volunteers that I can’t thank enough. If you have some new, fun ideas that we could share with our residents please contact Lori at 683-8106 or email at lathompson@trcc.sfhs.org

Employees of the Month:

These employees were Caught in the Act of Kindness as they were working as a team player with the other staff and completing their work as well. They are hard workers and have kind hearts. We are lucky to have them as employees at TRCC.

Remembering our friends:

Ione Gonsorowski  Patrick Krause
Kendell Kolden   Blanche Bakken
Charlotte “Pollie” Skjerven  Myrtle Ritko
Lillie Asp  Mildred Hovet
Harriet Kiesow  Bjarne Kvasager
Duane Larson  Bernice Looker

Naomi Lee, Assistant DON (Nov.)

Mary Woitas, Laundry (Dec.)

Mary Matter, RN Manager (Jan.)
We sure enjoyed the holiday events this past quarter. October-We had a great Halloween party with pumpkin carving, lots of staff costumes, a pumpkin piñata and lots of trick-or-Treaters. November-The Thief River Falls quilters presented our veterans with quilts and we had a great Thanksgiving buffet. December-We had many music and caroling groups and enjoyed a wonderful Christmas party and program with Santa and lots of goodies and gifts.

A big thanks to everyone for joining in to help make the holidays great for all our residents.

Now the cold has set in for the start of the new year. January-The calendar is a little quieter after the busy December and then February comes with valentine festivities, crowning of the Kings and Queens and the Sweetheart banquet.

Upcoming Events: Family Council 1-17-18 4:00 Conference Room

* Winter “Blues” party 1-16-18 2:00 Blueberry Café

* Valentine Party 2-14-18 2:00 Evergreen Dining Room

*Sweeheart Banquet 2-15-18 5:30 activities room

Activity calendars are posted in all resident rooms. Extra copies are in the wire basket in the entry and now on facebook. Family and friends are all encouraged to participate along with the residents.

From Recreational Therapy: Lori Thompson

As the holidays are behind us and Spring is getting closer by the day we want to remind everyone that it is still flu season and to speak with nursing staff prior to visiting if you are exhibiting any symptoms. Are goal is to keep all of the residents as safe as possible in the hopes of preventing any influenza cases.

A big thanks to all of the family members that came to be a part of our annual Christmas program on December 9th. It is so much fun to get residents and family members involved during this time of year.

We have had a lot of new staff training and I wanted to thank all of you with your patience and willingness to help us achieve such a great staff!

The frigid temperatures of northern Minnesota are upon us now. Please remember to not only bundle yourself up but also your loved ones that reside with us if you take them out. Once again, thank you for all that you do to help us here at TRCC.

Director of Nursing: Allison Matter
As I’ve mentioned in the past few newsletters the beginning of November 2016 there have been some updates to the State Life Safety Codes for our type of facilities. These codes have been transitioned into our facility without any hitch. I want to thank everyone for understanding and help with making the facility safer in the fire prevention sense.

Snow Note... Environmental Services works diligently to keep the sidewalks and the driveways clear so we can move around the outside in safe manner. We need your help. When we come to TRCC for a visit and we’re parking up to the sidewalk, we ask that we do not park our vehicle whereas our vehicle is obstructing any part of the sidewalk. This decreases the sidewalk width and makes it difficult for residents and other visitors to walk down the sidewalk safely. It also prevents staff from moving snow fall off the entirety of the walkway. Once again, thank you for all you do to keep the Thief River Care Center top notch.

Environmental Services: Lorin

Hello from dietary! Some big changes are happening in the month of January 2018. Our new dietary software SNO launched January 1st. New menu cycles with new fresh choices for the residents. We also started an Ala carte menu that gives the even more choices to pick from if they don’t like the main choice on the menu for that day. We have a new featured sandwich every week and seasonal fresh fruit choices at every meal now. We are also bringing back the Easter buffet this year for families and residents to enjoy! In March we will advertise tickets that friends and family can purchase for the buffet. Can’t wait to see you all on Easter!
Easter

Pineapple Glazed Ham
Augratin Potatoes
Honey Glazed Carrots
Western Egg Bake
Deviled Eggs
Peach Crisp w/whipped Topping
Frosted Sugar Cookies

Happy Easter Day