From the Administrator, Michele Halvorson:

Welcome to Fall and Winter!!
Welcome to Amber Gilbertson, Culinary Director and Stacy Hahn, Social Services Designee to Thief River Care Center. When you see them, introduce yourself. They are a welcomed addition to our team!

Amber Gilbertson         Stacy Hahn

Upcoming events:  Resident Satisfaction Surveys

The Minnesota Department of Health will be having Vital Research come on site to TRCC to couple our resident satisfaction surveys. We are looking at them being on our campus in the later part of November. Once results are back they will be shared.
**Holiday Vendor Show**

We will be hosting a Holiday Vendor Show on Thursday December 7th at Thief River Care Center from 5pm to 7pm. Tables are available for $20.00, Amanda B., RN is getting vendors organized to come on site. The money raised from the table rental is going toward the Nursing Departments for two blood pressure machines on wheels.

**Families please help us say Welcome to our many employees that have started with us!**

Brielle D., Culinary Aide, Stacy H., Social Services Designee, Connie H., Cook, Courtney H., Nursing Assistant, Becki H., Cook, Crystal J., Cook, Tina K., Nursing Assistant, Haley K., Culinary Aide, Taya M., Nursing Assistant, Angelica M., Nursing Assistant, Briana N., Nursing Assistant, Jay N., Culinary Aide/ Cook, Carlee P., Nursing Assistant, Braydon P., Culinary Aide, Brian P., Culinary Aide, Brookelynn R., Nursing Assistant, Madison R., Nursing Assistant, Noah S., Culinary Aide, Karma S., LPN, Jamie S., LPN, Brandon V., Nursing Assistant, Danielle W., Nursing Assistant

**We 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 Evergreens**

Please do not have floral arrangements come into our building with live Evergreens; they are a huge fire risk to our residents, employees and the building. Thanks so much!

**New Fall/Winter 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**

As of newsletter time, we have not received our official report back from the Minnesota Department of Health on our State Survey Results. We have a few care items and a few building items to work on. Education and training will be provided to our employees. When we do receive them they will be posted up front in the 2017 State Survey binder! Thanks for all your assistance during this busy time for our residents and our employees.
Infection Control Update: Cindy Engelstad, RN,IP-BC

Influenza season is here!

Influenza (Flu) is a contagious disease that can be serious. Every year millions of people get sick, hundreds of thousands are hospitalized, and thousands to tens of thousands of people die from flu.

Take these 3 actions to fight the flu!

**Get Vaccinated**-Everyone age 6 months and older should get an annual flu vaccine.

**Stop the Spread**-Avoid close contact with sick people, avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth, cover your coughs and sneezes, and wash your hands often.

**Flu Antivirals**-Take Antiviral drugs if your doctor prescribes them. Antiviral drugs can be used to treat flu illness milder and shorten the time you are sick.

Thrifty White Drug will be providing a Community Flu-Vaccination Clinic here on October 11, 2017 from 1:30-4:30 pm.

Our influenza vaccine has just arrived. We will now begin sending out Consent and Vaccine Information Sheets for residents.

Northland students wish to assist with our resident vaccinations this year, and we have tentatively set October 24th as the date for these.

We continue with Hand Hygiene Education as well as Antibiotic Stewardship activities on an on-going basis. Hand Hygiene has been reviewed with all departments and continues with all new staff upon orientation. Hand hygiene audits will continue on a monthly basis. Antibiotics and infections are being monitored daily and reviewed with our Consulting Pharmacist monthly to assure we have met the minimum criteria for antibiotics. In addition, we continue to monitor for correct antibiotic, dosage and duration. In September, an Antibiotic Stewardship Gap Analysis was completed. As a result, we implemented standardized communication and assessment tools, (SBAR’s) and increased tracking and monitoring of antibiotics ordered for our residents.

The Controlling Infection Challenges Creatively Grant (CICC) Quarter 3 focus was on Environmental Services and Dietary.

Infection Control Training was provided for the Environmental Services and Dietary Directors in August. We then trained their staff respectively in September.

Environmental Training included: Improving Hand Hygiene, Cleaning the Occupied and Discharged Patient Room, The Front Line of Infection Control, Selecting and using Personal Protective Equipment.

Dietary Training Included: Defining Food-borne Illness, Avoiding Food Contamination, Proper Handwashing Techniques, Avoiding Cross Contamination, Safe Food Temperatures, Proper Work Attire,

Personal Hygiene, First in First out Inventory Control, Proper Cleaning Techniques, What to do when Employees are Ill, Food Allergen Management.

Corporate-wide policies and checklists for these departments are being finalized and will be provided soon.

Hygiena environmental monitoring training was completed and environmental surface testing began in September.
We have been enjoying the outdoors this past quarter at TRCC with a horse show, Ho Down, trip to A & W and picking tomatoes in the garden. Also a bus outing to Roxanne’s gardens and to the County Fair Band shell. We also enjoyed a lot of musical entertainment. Now the weather is changing and the holidays are coming.

**Upcoming events:** The residents will be judging decorated pumpkins on Wed. Oct. 25 2:00 (anyone is welcome to enter pumpkins in our pumpkin decorating contest.) The residents will have a **Halloween party** Tues. Oct. 31 2:00 (bring costumes for your family member if they would like.) On Tues. we welcome **Trick-or-Treaters** from 6:00-7:00 and residents are welcome to be out in the atrium for Trick-or-treaters that evening. If your family member wants to give out their candy they can or donate candy and we will fill plastic pumpkins and have available for the Trick-or-treaters.

If you need to reserve an area for your family holiday parties please contact Lori in activities. Also stop or call to buy Thanksgiving Buffet tickets. If you want a meal from TRCC the kitchen needs to know in advance. Please plan ahead for Holiday celebrations.

We look forward to lots of music and caroling groups to come entertain. We will be having a **decorating party** on Tues. Nov. 28 and welcome everyone to join us. There will be cider and goodies in the activity room and we will be trimming the Care Center for the holidays. Mark your calendars for the **Christmas party, program& Santa** on Sat. Dec. 9 at 2:00.

Activity calendars are posted in all resident rooms, and extra copies are in the wire basket in the entry and also posted on our website. Family and friends are all encouraged to participate along with the residents.

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**Remembering our Friends:**

Denise Nordhagen  
Blanche Palm  
Irwin Johnson  

Connie Ferber  
Lannette Baker  
Robert Olson
As many of you may already know, we recently completed our annual Department of Health Survey. We are still awaiting our official results, as soon as we receive them and complete our plan of correction we will have them posted up at the front of the building. We are anticipating three care deficiencies that should be simple fixes.

The flu season is upon us and we are teaming up with Thrifty White Drug to host a flu shot clinic on October 11<sup>th</sup> from 1:30pm-4:30pm. If you are interested in obtaining your influenza vaccine please come (insurance cards will be necessary) and Thrifty White Drug will be administering the injections. We will soon be sending out the consent forms for resident vaccinations. If you can complete the form and bring it in or mail it back as quickly as possible so we can get the immunizations given in a timely manner we would greatly appreciate it. Once completed the forms can be turned in at either nurse’s station. Thank you so much for your cooperation and consideration as we are all working to take care of our compromised residents, friends, and family members.

With the holidays soon here and the winter weather coming, we do ask that if you aren’t feeling you refrain from visiting. If you must visit and aren’t feeling well we ask that you wear a mask when in the building. If you have any questions please let me know (218-683-8102) or Cindy Engelstad as our Infection Control and Preventionist (218-683-8116).

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 employee at TRCC.

Please fill out Caught in the Act of Kindness forms to thank staff who do the little extra things that make the Care Center that special place. The forms are at the nurses stations.

From Director of Nursing: Allison Matters

Michele Halvorson, Admin. (August)

Lori Thompson, Dir. of Activities (September)

Jordan Nelson, NAR (October)

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
From Dietary Department: Amber Gilbertson

Thanksgiving Meal at TRCC

November 24, 2017

11:30-12:30

TRCC Falls Theater

Home Roasted Sliced Turkey

Real Mashed Potatoes

Sage Dressing

Turkey Gravy

Green Bean Casserole

Honey Glazed Carrots

Cranberry Sauce

Lefsa

Pumpkin or Apple Pie

$10.00 a meal for Guest

$5.00 for kids 12 years and under

Sign up by Nov. 15th

Call Lori in Activities at 218-683-8106.
Purchase tickets at Business Office or Activities, as you Must have a ticket to get a meal.
From Social Services: Stacy Hahn

Greetings from Social Services!! I am the new Social Services Designee at TRCC. I am so excited to be taking on this new role. My career prior to starting at TRCC was becoming a Certified Occupation Therapy Assistant and working the last 20 plus years at the Greenbush Nursing Home as the Activities Director. I look forward to meeting all the residents and their families.

My door is always open! Don’t hesitate to stop by any time with ideas, concerns or suggestions!

Happy fall to all of you!!!