

Friday, October 13, 2023

MEMO:

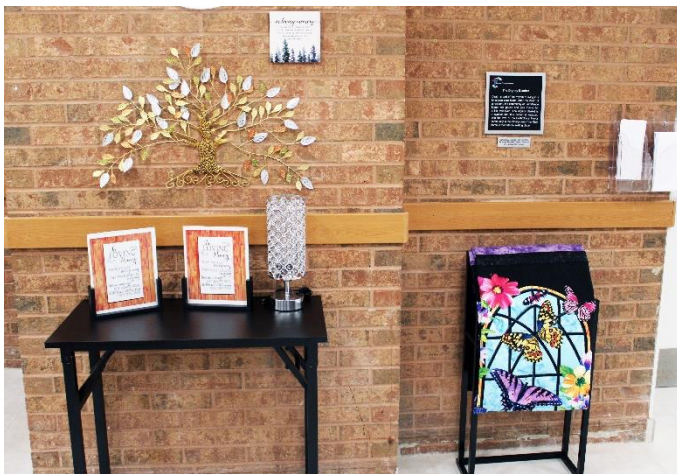
Regarding: NEW DIGNITY WALK AND BLANKET

Distribution: ALL FAITH AND GRACE MANOR RESIDENTS AND FAMILIES

From: Sellinor Ogwu, Administrator of FM and Justine Dudziak, Administrator of GM

Dear Families,

When you enter Faith or Grace Manor, you will now see a beautiful display containing a tree of life, a lamp and a handmade quilt. The quilts were lovingly made by three of our long-term volunteers – Anne, Shirley and Audrey. These items are the heartbeat of a new process that has begun at both Manors that will allow for increased grace and dignity for our residents who pass away in the homes.



The beautiful quilts, called dignity blankets, will be taken to the room of a resident who has passed away. The funeral home staff will take the blanket and gracefully cover the resident with it, before the resident is taken from their room. At the same time, staff will remove the musical triangle from the nursing station and will ring it throughout the home area, signaling for staff, other residents and visiting family members that a resident has passed away. All televisions will be turned off in lounges to allow for silence to fall over the home area.

All who are able, will be encouraged to gather near the door of the deceased resident to pay their respects. At this time, a prepared prayer and poem will be read by a staff member, a volunteer, a resident or a family member. Then, all gathered will hold a moment of silence in honour of the resident.

After this brief gathering, all present will be encouraged to follow as the resident is taken to the waiting funeral home vehicle, forming a Dignity Walk made up of friends, loved ones and staff to say goodbye to the resident as they leave the home for the last time.

The dignity blanket will then be returned to the display stand and the lamp will be turned on, as our way of honouring the resident until they are laid to rest. Once the lamp is turned off, the resident's name will be added to the tree of life on the wall.

We believe this will be a lovely way of honouring and remembering the residents that we have come to know, care for and love as family.

Sellinor and Justine