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Training for a New Way of Life

Building a new home for our residents is not just for show. Our residents deserve a life of fun, normality, and as much independence as possible. Over the next year, each staff member will be required to complete a series of training experiences, to equip them with the skills they will need to bring out the best in each resident in their new home environments.

A meaningful life means far more than the outdated medical concept of “SCDFU (skud-foo) care” --safe, clean, dry, fed, up. Understanding the new model of life for the aging may actually be more difficult for staff members who have been in the business a long time. Twenty years ago, SCDFU care was our goal!

Finding a meaningful life for residents at different stages of dementia is a balancing act. The right balance is found where the staff caregiver knows each person’s individual abilities and patterns, and assists just enough. This concept is commonly known as the “just right challenge.” The “just right challenge” is just one part of a 30-session training series that will begin with our third floor staff.

I have had the pleasure of bringing the administrative staff through the training modules over the past month, and am excited to be leading the first group of floor staff through the same program, starting June 1. I promise you will notice the difference!

Susan Farris, Executive Director