



WEATHERLY INN

The WEATHERLY REPORT

Summer 2004

Hospice Services at The Weatherly Inn... One Family's Journey

When many people think of The Weatherly Inn, they think of assisted living or dementia care. That's why, for some, it may come as a surprise that we also coordinate with hospice services.

Both The Weatherly Inn in Tacoma and The Weatherly Inn at Lake Meridian offer these specialized services in-house, thanks to partnerships with hospice organizations in King and Pierce counties.

"We are eternally thankful," says Sandra McConnell, when asked about her family's experience with hospice. Her mother, Florence Mickelson, passed away in March from cancer and was a resident at The Weatherly Inn in Tacoma.

Florence moved to The Weatherly Inn after Sandra and her brother, John, visited nearly a dozen different assisted living facilities in the Tacoma area. Ultimately, she ended up moving only 1.2 miles from the home she had lived in for the previous

42 years. The move to assisted living was on the advice of her physician, who had recommended it due to some falls Florence had experienced. At the time, no one knew about the cancer, which was discovered about two months after she moved to The Weatherly Inn.

"The hospice team helped us immeasurably," Sandra says. "They were excellent trainers and wonderful at educating us on what to expect, what was coming and what to do.

"They were fantastic with my mother. They were very responsive and always right there if she needed anything."

Sandra isn't shy to recommend The Weatherly Inn, and the services of Franciscan Hospice, to anyone. And, she may be one of the most qualified to do so—having had the unique experience of living at The Weatherly Inn herself for six weeks.

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Did You Know?

Both The Weatherly Inn for Assisted Living and The Weatherly Inn at Lake Meridian are prepared to accept **emergency and weekend admits**? Just call us in Tacoma at (253) 752-8550 or in Kent at (253) 630-7496. We'll be glad to help.

Also, we invite seniors, their families and healthcare professionals to visit us for a tour anytime. We're available seven days a week—just call us and let us know what time works best for you!

The assistance you need, the independence you want & the dignity you deserve.

Fundraising for the Future

Alzheimer's is a tragic disease for which there is no known cure. But, there is hope.

At The Weatherly Inn, we consider it our duty and pleasure to do our small part in helping to raise funds to benefit Alzheimer's research and services. Each year, in addition to participating in the Alzheimer's Association's Memory Walk, several fundraising events and projects are held in support of this important cause.

This September (13-17), The Weatherly Inn at Lake Meridian invites the public to share in "Rock-n-Roll Week." We're planning special events for each of the five days, including special guest speaker, Dr. Elaine Peskin, from the University of Washington (UW) Alzheimer's Research Center. A reminiscence sale will also be held. All proceeds will go to benefit UW Alzheimer's research.

The Weatherly Inn ~ Tacoma is already busy with fundraising efforts on behalf of the Alzheimer's Association Western and Central Washington State Chapter. A special raffle is being held each month for a variety of distinctive

The Weatherly's New Addition More Than Just a Pet

Walk into The Weatherly Inn at Lake Meridian and chances are a lovable dog named Allie may greet you. While Allie is a new fixture here, pet therapy has long been an important part of our Alzheimer's and dementia program.

Before Allie joined our "family," residents had the company of Toby, a yellow lab who passed away this spring at the ripe age of 14. Knowing how much the dog meant to all the residents, Bev Baccus, general manager at The Weatherly Inn, didn't waste any time contacting the local animal shelter. "We were so fortunate when we found Toby at the shelter that I called them back... to ask if they could keep a look out for a dog like him that would fit into our unique environment," she says.

No doubt, Allie has been a perfect addition — and has adapted quite well to not only being in the midst of 72 people, but also to The Weatherly's four cats. Allie is trained in obedience and loves to shake hands. She freely roams the residence, but it's clear she knows who is in



We'll miss yellow labrador Toby, Weatherly family member and friend to residents and staff alike.

Memory Walk 2004

Take strides in the fight against Alzheimer's disease at this year's Memory Walk, the Alzheimer's Association's signature event. Nationally, since 1989, Memory Walk participants have raised more than \$120 million for Alzheimer's programs and services. Every dollar raised in our community stays to support local programs and services.

Form a team, or join ours, at one of these events:

Pierce Co. Memory Walk	Seattle Memory Walk
Saturday, Aug. 28	Sunday, Sept. 12
Annie Wright School, Tacoma	Sand Pt. Magnuson Park, Seattle

Registration begins at 9am / Walk begins at 10am

For more info, call us at The Weatherly Inn or contact the Alzheimer's Association at (800) 848-7097. See you there!

gift baskets based on a theme, such as gardening or car care. The baskets are on display and tickets are sold throughout the month. Be sure to stop by for your chance to win! Other fundraisers throughout the year include car washes, barbecues and furniture sales. Last year, these activities raised nearly \$8,000 for the Pierce County Memory Walk.

charge. She won't enter a resident's room unless she's given the "ok" and invited to do so.

"She has a very soft spirit," says Bev. "She's a lovable dog."

And love her they do. The residents love to watch her play ball and like to pet her. "Having her here contributes to the homelike experience... many of the residents had pets previously so it's a comforting feeling," Bev explains. "The opportunity for them to sit and stroke the dog also has a calming effect."

Some of the most enjoyable times — for both the residents and Allie — come when the canine gets to join her new friends on excursions in The Weatherly Inn's van. "Sometimes when they're out, they'll stop at a park and let her run," Bev says. "And, on the occasions when she can't go with them, she sits and pouts by the door!"

For more information on pet therapy or any of the other services offered at The Weatherly Inn at Lake Meridian, call (253) 630-7496.

Meet Our Staff



Working at The Weatherly Inn for Assisted Living feels a little like *deja vu* for Tacoma native **Cathy Florenzen**, RN, director of nursing. Cathy used to spend warm spring and summer days where The Weatherly Inn now stands—back in the days when a drive-in occupied the property where The Weatherly was built 15 years ago.

In her position, Cathy brings over 20 years of experience to The Weatherly Inn. She has worked in critical care, as well as assisted living and is also a

nationally certified emergency room nurse. Prior to joining The Weatherly Inn, Cathy worked as the director of nursing for an assisted living community in Bremerton.

At The Weatherly Inn, Cathy is responsible for managing a staff of 15 licensed nurses (LPNs), as well as handling case management and oversight of our healthcare program.

“The fact that we have multiple licensed nurses present on-site 24-hours-a-day allows us to assess a patient with a higher acuity medical need than might be possible elsewhere,” she says. “It also allows us to respond to emergencies and provide exceptional case management services to maintain our residents’ health and optimal level of functioning.”

Cathy was drawn to work with The Weatherly Inn for a number of reasons, but one point that really impressed her was the fact that the residence is family-owned, rather than operated by a large corporation.

“I’m also very eager to work closely with all the discharge planners to assist their patients needing this healthcare setting,” she adds. “The fact that we have 24-hour nurses means we are capable of working 24/7 with the discharge planners to assist in a smooth transfer from setting to setting.”



Kristi Knox joined The Weatherly Inn at Lake Meridian as community relations director two years ago. In her position, Kristi educates others about our assisted living Alzheimer’s residence. “I want to provide as much detailed information as people need,” she says. “I enjoy helping both healthcare professionals and families find out more about who we are and what we do.”

Kristi also spends her time planning educational forums for families and healthcare professionals, as well as

connecting those in need with other outside community resources.

Her passions in life are children and Christian music, although it’s clear Kristi also has a passion for her career. “The people are what make this job so rewarding,” she says. “The residents are just wonderful and I dearly love them.”

Kristi welcomes the opportunity to meet you and answer any questions you may have. She can be reached at (206) 794-5544 or (253) 630-7496.

Upcoming Events

Please call *The Weatherly Inn ~ Tacoma* (253-752-8550) or *The Weatherly Inn at Lake Meridian* (253-630-7496) for details & to reserve your space.

JULY

Independence Barbecue

Thursday, July 1, Noon
The Weatherly Inn at Lake Meridian

Howard & Marie

Nostalgic sing-a-long
Thursday, July 1, 3pm
The Weatherly Inn ~ Tacoma

Joe Gallucci

Music from Broadway & Hollywood (piano)
Saturday, July 10, 3pm
The Weatherly Inn ~ Tacoma

Music with Bobby Jorge

Thursday, July 15, 10:30am
The Weatherly Inn at Lake Meridian

Tacoma Banjo Club

Thursday, July 22, 3pm
The Weatherly Inn ~ Tacoma

Let’s Pickle!

Come make homemade pickles
Thursday, July 22, 1:30pm
The Weatherly Inn at Lake Meridian

Jim Leonhard

Accordion music
Thursday, July 29, 3pm
The Weatherly Inn ~ Tacoma

AUGUST

David Rhys-Johnson

Pianist
Thursday, August 5, 3pm
The Weatherly Inn ~ Tacoma

Joe Mundo

Thursday, August 12, 3:15pm
The Weatherly Inn ~ Tacoma

Ice Cream Making

Friday, August 13, 10am
The Weatherly Inn at Lake Meridian

Hawaiian Luau

Tuesday, August 17, Noon
(Hawaiian music with Joe Mundo starts at 2:45)
The Weatherly Inn at Lake Meridian

(JOURNEY, continued from front page)

“My mother's house was sold, so there was nowhere for me to stay,” she says. “So I was able to stay on a twin bed in her room. I really got to know the staff well, as I interacted with them on a daily basis. They are skilled and compassionate. To see them kiss a resident on the hand or call them by name — you can see they are special people.”

She continues, “My mother had a lot of needs toward the end. The Weatherly Inn offers so many services, like taking residents to doctor's appointments. They were very accommodating.”

According to Sandra, having the services of hospice was truly a blessing. “They bathed her just two hours before she died. We

didn't know she was that close to dying, but that was so wonderful,” she says.

With the focus of hospice care on comfort and maintaining quality of life, many other services are available at The Weatherly Inn, such as massage therapy and aromatherapy. “My mother had her first massage in her life at the age of 94,” Sandra says.

Reflecting on her experience, she explains she appreciated the guidance of the hospice staff throughout the process and at the end.

“Right after my mother died, they suggested we leave (the room) while staff took care of the details. So we packed a picnic lunch and sat on the beach at Point Defiance Park. It was a good place for us to be.”

The Weatherly Report is published by The Weatherly Inn for our residents, their families, and our friends in the industry. Contact us in Tacoma at **253-752-8550**, in Kent at **253-630-7496**, or on our website at www.weatherlyinn.com



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