

2017 NATIONAL NURSING HOME WEEK CONTEST WINNERS
Creative Forecasting is pleased to announce the winners of our 24th
Annual National Nursing Home Week Contest. Their activities are in
the May 2017 issue of Creative Forecasting on pages 15 - 16

WINNERS

***MAD HATTER TEA PARTY - Amber Cook, Activity Coordinator,
Guthrie Towanda Personal Care Home, Towanda, PA**

***INTERNATIONAL THEME WEEK - Tina Senecal, Activity
Director, Ballou Home, Woonsocket, RI**

***THE JOURNEY - Shawn Lind, ADC, Activity Director, Providence
Care Center, Sandusky, OH**

***RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT - Barbara Ritchey, Lifestyle Coordinator,
Sugar Creek Assisted Living, Troy, MO**

***THANK-YOU BOX - Christine Ann Harper, CNA, Activity Aide,
Hawthorne Inn, Danville, IL**

Each of these winners received \$50.00... Congratulations!

NATIONAL NURSING HOME WEEK®

May 14 - 20, 2017

“The Spirit of America”

The sponsor of National Nursing Home Week® (NNHW) is the American Health Care Association (AHCA). The week was created in 1967 and always begins on Mother’s Day and continues through the following Saturday.

The 2017 theme is “The Spirit of America.” According to the AHCA, “Every skilled nursing care center embodies a unique and vibrant spirit and community for residents, volunteers, and staff alike. Acts of kindness, generosity, and compassion from proud veterans, immigrants, and hardworking people of different faiths fill the walls of each center. During NNHW, May 14 to 20, 2017, skilled nursing care centers will unite under the theme, “The Spirit of America.” This theme underscores the bond between staff, volunteers, and residents that capture the American spirit. Staff and residents view each other in the spirit of family. For staff, this reality is often a calling to a special mission and a life’s work.”

Visit www.nnhw.org for more information and www.facebook.com/nursinghomeweek. AHCA member communities should have received the product catalog and planning guide by mail in February. For non-members, the product catalog and planning guide can be downloaded free of charge from AHCA’s web site, www.nnhw.org.

We are excited to present the winners of *Creative Forecasting’s* Annual National Nursing Home Week Contest. Thanks to all the subscribers who sent entries! These winning entries can be adapted for all settings.

WINNERS

MAD HATTER TEA PARTY

Amber Cook, Activity Coordinator, Guthrie Towanda Personal Care Home, Towanda, PA

The idea for a Mad Hatter Tea Party came when a resident’s family member donated the hats she wore. The resident always had a hat on. There were so many wonderful hats that we wanted to honor her memory! Staff brought in different teacups and teapots to serve the tea in. Cupcakes were also served. We made big playing cards that looked like little men for centerpieces. Everyone wore a hat. We had a contest to solve riddles and played trivia games and Alice in Wonderland bingo. Door prizes were handed out, as well as candy.

INTERNATIONAL THEME WEEK

Tina Senecal, Activity Director, Ballou Home, Woonsocket, RI

The staff dressed in the colors and style of each country as did many of the residents. We also provided additional decorative accessories for the residents to wear. Food representative of each country was served for lunch. The most challenging part of each day was decorating for each country. It was done the night before so the residents could come out of their rooms in the morning to see the decorations.

Monday - China Day Residents went on an armchair travel show to China. A group from a Chinese Lion and Kung Fu school performed the Chinese Lion (a shorter version of the Chinese Dragon) with drums. This was a huge treat as this is normally just seen in a large parade. The group also put on a martial arts demonstration. Staff members went on treasure hunts looking for Chinese take-out boxes that had gift cards in them.

Tuesday - Canada Day Residents went on an armchair travel show by train through Canada. Staff members went on treasure hunts looking for maple leaf cookies.

Wednesday - Mexico Day Handmade red and black rose barrettes were passed out to the female residents to wear, and Mexican hats were given to the men to wear. A Mexican dancer entertained. The residents also watched an episode of *The Lawrence Welk Show*, "South of the Border." Staff members won raffle prizes such as gift cards to Taco Bell.

Thursday - Italy Day Residents played bocce ball for dollars. Residents and staff members enjoyed a gelato bar.

Friday - America Day The noon meal was a cookout. We had our Second Annual "Miss America" Contest featuring our CNAs dressed up in formalwear. Staff members brought their children, and right before the contest, the children marched down the aisle waving American flags while a DJ played patriotic music. Residents voted on the winners for the Miss America Contest. The winner received a crown, roses, and gift card, while the runner-up received roses and a gift card. Each of the contestants received a rose. The local newspaper covered the story.

THE JOURNEY

Shawn Lind, ADC, Activity Director, Providence Care Center, Sandusky, OH

We started a program at our community for each resident called The Journey. We took pictures of each resident's hands, placing a black or dark-colored cloth under them so the only thing showing were the hands then printed the pictures. Next, we interviewed the person asking biographical questions and typed these questions and answers to include in an album along with a photo of the hands. We asked family members and friends to write memories on the cover and back pages of the album. We will also be making a copy of each of the resident's hands and framing them and hanging them in their rooms. The pictures that we have framed look Victorian and are beautiful.

RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT

Barbara Ritchey, Lifestyle Coordinator, Sugar Creek Assisted Living, Troy, MO

The Resident Spotlight program is great for socialization and reminiscing. Each month, a different resident is chosen, and we contact family members beforehand to bring photos of their loved one at different stages of his or her life. These photos are used in the Resident Spotlight to showcase his or her life. People gather for the unveiling and enjoy refreshments and socializing. They learn a lot about the resident of the month. A recent honoree, Helen, said she was so surprised and really loved looking at the pictures she hadn't seen in many years. She is 94. Next month, Lorraine will be featured, and she is 101!

THANK-YOU BOX

Christine Ann Harper, CNA, Activity Aide, Hawthorne Inn, Danville, IL

Materials: (for each project)

- blank greeting card
- marker
- wooden or cardboard box
- Aleena's® clear glue
- embellishments (i.e., trims, ribbons, sequins)
- thank-you notes

Procedure:

- 1) Write thank you on the blank greeting card and glue it on top of the box.
- 2) Decorate the box with embellishments, as desired.
- 3) Put thank-you notes inside the box.
- 4) Place the box in a central location for residents to help themselves to thank-you notes to use. **CF**