



Residents Leave Legacy at Medford Multicare Center

Medford Multicare Center's motto is ***Caring Happens Here***. At last Wednesday's dedication ceremony of the Healing Garden in Medford Multicare's courtyard patio, it was evident that the facility lives up to this statement.

On Wednesday, a group of residents, family members, religious leaders & staff gathered together to dedicate the Healing Garden to two former residents. Carolyn O'Brien, Director of Therapeutic Recreation, told of the work former resident and Resident Council President Jeanette Giella did to make the Healing Garden a reality. She told of how Jeanette had a vision to beautify the patio so families could sit and relax in a picturesque space. She told of how Jeanette raised money for the Healing Garden project through the Resident Council Fund. Carolyn described how Jeanette did research, found a gardener from an advertisement in the Long Island Advance, and met with him to draw out plans. "This project came from her heart. She envisioned it and got the ball rolling," said Carolyn, "and we are grateful for the family of former resident Gary Evans who donated the rest of the money needed to make the garden a reality," she continued.



Family of Gary Evans

Pastor Dan Haughey from Victory Chapel in Patchogue said a dedication prayer and also spoke about his participation in a weekly Bible study group at the facility. He spoke of how the residents enlighten him and how he has observed the way the facility promotes love, encouragement and the celebration of life.



Family of Jeanette Giella pictured with members of the Resident Council front row left to right: Myrna Greene, President Joan George, and Jim Buffini. Second row right to left David Fielding, Administrator and Carolyn O'Brien, Director of Therapeutic Recreation

Jeanette's family spoke about how special she was and how Medford Multicare Center became her home. They thanked the facility for keeping her safe and happy. They said that during her tenure as Resident Council President she cared about all the residents at the facility and proudly watched over them. She was there to serve and help others.

Resident Joan George spoke in tribute to Jeanette and Gary. She had served as Treasurer of the Resident Council under Jeanette and is now the presiding Resident Council President because she wanted to give back. "I have received so much from Medford Multicare Center. They supply us [the residents] with all our needs. They [Medford Multicare] have been very good to me. As President, Jeanette helped a lot of people. She was there for them, she comforted them. Now, as Resident Council President, I will continue building a community and encourage residents to participate in programs so they can be happy," said Joan.

“Our priority here at Medford Multicare Center has been to establish a sense of community and to enable our residents to live life to the fullest degree possible. Our vision, passion and drive is to enable residents, family members & staff to cultivate a family atmosphere,” said David Fielding, Administrator. Mr. Fielding spoke of the facility’s plans to continue expanding the garden, and about plans to add bird feeders and a fountain in the spring. He noted that with Jeanette’s vision and the Evans’ family contribution, “We are just beginning to create this wonderful new space. The Healing Garden is a lasting legacy that will add joy to the daily lives of Medford’s residents, families & staff for many years to come!” said Mr. Fielding.

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Medford Multicare Center provides short-term restorative rehab, skilled nursing, long term geriatric services, respiratory /ventilator care, tracheostomy care, oxygen therapy, IV therapy, wound care and offers a secure dementia unit. Medford Multicare Center is located at 3115 Horseblock Rd in Medford, LI exit 64. Please call 631-730-3000 to schedule a tour or visit www.medfordmulticare.org for additional information.