

KindredHearts Trains Dementia Care Specialists

September is World Alzheimer's Month. Throughout September, people with dementia and advocates for the disease join together by raising awareness in support of the 35 million people affected worldwide by dementia. In honor of this month's pledge to create awareness for this disease we are proud to share more with you about KindredHearts commitment to quality resident care and our training partnership with the Alzheimer's & Dementia Alliance of Wisconsin.

As a company, KindredHearts has a strong commitment to training its staff as part of the foundation of quality resident care. One of the company's training goals for 2012 is to increase our capability to care for residents with dementia. It was decided that each Residence Director, Resident Assistant Specialist and Resident Assistant working in a memory care facility would attend the Alzheimer's Association training in 2012. This is a two day, 15 hour training where our employees are immersed in creative and interactive learning. They learn the most up-to-date knowledge and techniques for caring for persons with dementia. The curriculum includes: 8 effects of dementia, causes of dementia, environmental factors that affect people with dementia, using resident's history, and barriers to good communication and re-direction techniques. Completing this training results in earning the designation, "Dementia Care Specialist."

To date, our company has 71 "Dementia Care Specialists." We are excited about our partnership with Alzheimer's & Dementia Alliance of Wisconsin and look forward to using training and education as a tool to differentiate our company from competitors by providing superior care for our residents.

A KindredHearts core value is that quality is a bi-product of good training. Our comprehensive training program keeps us a step ahead of other assisted living providers.

Foundation of Our Training

- Each employee working in a CBRF must complete 30 hours of training within the first 90 days of employment taught by a state approved Registered Nurse. The subjects and content are approved and provided by the state.
- KindredHearts staff receives 70% more training than mandated by state regulations. This includes an additional 20 hours of classroom training and 48 hours of in-house training which consists of job shadowing and competency completion before being allowed to work independently.
- Every KindredHearts staff member receives a total of 98 hours of training in the first 30 days of employment.
- Staff must show competency in the following areas to complete training; personal cares, safe transfers, medication administration, inquiry and tours, resident rights, dining services, dementia, challenging behaviors, activities, housekeeping, laundry, care plans, and charting.
- Staff receives approximately 30 hours of continuing education annually; the state requirement is 15 hours.



Did You Know..

- 1 in 8 Americans 65 and older have Alzheimer's disease.
- Nearly half of people ages 85 and older have Alzheimer's disease.
- Of those with Alzheimer's disease, an estimated 4% are under 65, 6% are 65 to 74, 44% are 75 to 84, and 46% are 85 or older.
- An estimated 800,000 people with Alzheimer's disease (one in seven) live alone and up to half of them do not have an identifiable caregiver.
- People with dementia who live alone are exposed to risks that exceed the risks encountered by people with dementia who live with others, including: inadequate self-care, malnutrition, untreated medical conditions, falls, wandering from home and accidental deaths.