

Ron Smith Care Centre



@ Elphin Lodge

JULY 2020 No.59



Dr Christina Eleftheriades and Sr Leanie Bessinger with resident Marie Diesel on the day she was discharged from isolation.

Expert care

"Dr Carmella Mielke and Dr Christina Eleftheriades have been outstanding in the level of care they have given our residents," says Zabeth Zühlisdröff, Rand Aid's GM Services and Advance Division.

Both doctors have a special interest in geriatric care and have practices at Elphin Lodge. They are thus on hand at all times to assist in the care of those RSCC residents who have the coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

"They consulted widely with specialists to develop a treatment regime for the residents in isolation and spent long hours attending to the very sick,

seven days a week," says Zabeth.

"Both doctors are very hands-on. The minute someone showed a deterioration, they consulted and acted accordingly. At the same time, they liaised closely with families and kept them informed and calm. They were both instrumental in the practices put in place in RSCC and continue to give guidance daily," says Zabeth.

Despite the age and co-morbidities of the residents, RSCC has had a remarkable recovery rate. Of the 21 residents and staff members diagnosed at the beginning of June, two residents sadly passed away but all the others recovered, including the residents who were in isolation.

"We are very grateful to our in-house doctors and other medical experts with whom we collaborate," says Matron Avril Maltman.

Regrettably, three residents tested positive on June 29 and have been placed in isolation. As a precaution, a further six residents were isolated. Three staff members are also being isolated.

"We wish them a speedy recovery," says Matron Avril.



Celebratory photo as resident Marie Roberts is discharged from the isolation unit.

Bags packed with love

RSCC recently arranged for care packages to be sent by family members to their loved ones to in some small way fill the gap left by the no-visitor lockdown regulation.

"The families bought carefully selected goodies to warm their loved one's heart," says social worker Debbie Beech.

"With the lockdown being indefinite, we brainstormed ideas about connecting families with their loved ones without actual contact. Hence the idea of sending individualised care packs or gifts for their loved ones to let them know they are missing them and thinking of them.

"The families responded really positively and gifts have ranged from a tin of condensed milk to teddies and choccies. The gifts are accompanied by a letter or card or photos of the family.

"We also had a couple of donations of extra items for residents with no family so we could put something together for them," says Debbie.

PICTURED BELOW is resident Irene Green after receiving her goodie bag.



WhatsApp messages from appreciative family members

It means so much to all of us at RSCC when our residents' family members reach out in gratitude or share their thoughts with us.

'I am extremely grateful for all the love and care my dad is receiving. Thank you to everyone who works there.'

'I am so grateful our mom is where she is.'

'Our mom really hit the jackpot when she moved into River Lodge. She has been treated with such care and empathy and so have we. Our love and appreciation to Sr Leanie and Dr Christina, all the nurses and carers.'

*'A special note to all:
Those we love don't go away
They walk beside us everyday
Unseen, unheard,
But always near
Still loved
Still missed
And forever dear.'
(From a River Lodge 2 family member on the passing of three residents)*

'Thank you to the good doctors and staff at Rand Aid. I so appreciate your selfless care for our loved ones, despite significant personal cost to all the staff. Thank you.'

Thank you to all who take such amazing care of our loved ones with love and compassion and such dedication. It means so much to us.'

DEDICATED RSCC TEAM

Senior Nursing Manager Matron Avril Maltman has praised the RSCC team for their dedication.

"The team has really pulled together during these trying times, including our in-house doctors, nursing staff, house-keeping and supplementary staff.

"From the time that the first resident tested positive for COVID-19, everyone has worked tirelessly to ensure that our strict infection control policies are maintained.

"On Monday June 22, we also had to deal with the taxi shutdown in Gauteng and once again, everyone pulled together to ensure the residents were well cared for," says Matron Avril.



Chocolate treats - Shirley Isaacs and her daughter Amy Pleaner were instrumental in arranging a donation of 300 Lindt Chocolate Bunnies through her husband Kevin and Seed SA in memory of Rae Hurwitz, Shirley's mom and Amy's 'bubbe'. Rae, who lived in an apartment at Elphin Lodge since 1997, passed away in the care centre in June 2019. The bunnies will be shared between the doctors, staff and residents.

Syd Philips reads the letter sent to him in the care package that was carefully put together by his family.



Birthdays

RESIDENTS

03 July, Marie Diesel, River Lodge 3 (83)
04 July, Ron Adcock, Woodlands (79)
05 July, Maria Mendonca, Lakeside (84)
08 July, Karen Mitchell, Cedar Park (73)
13 July, Leon Shuker, Cedar Park (89)
14 July, Beryl Backhouse, Lakeside (83)
19 July, Douglas Morgan, River Lodge 3 (76)
19 July, Susanna Town, Woodlands (89)
21 July, Janice Costigan, River Lodge 2 (75)
27 July, Ems Horn, River Lodge 2 (67)
31 July, Rosina Pretorius, River Lodge 2 (89)

VOLUNTEERS

7 July, Jean Johnson
16 July, Denise McGee
29 July, Sherill Singh

STAFF

5 July, Zabeth Zühlsdorff (Head Office)
7 July, Fikile Ndabazitha (Day Care Special)
13 July, Eunice Lakay (Cedar Park)
15 July, Grace Tshikalange (Woodlands)
16 July, Lilly Mathebula (Woodlands)
18 July, Constance Bonoko (Kitchen)
19 July, Loraine Martiny (RL3)
19 July, Dorothy Mashaba (RL3)
22 July, Mary Kekana (Housekeeping)
22 July, Chrestina Nzeru (Security)
23 July, Melta Molefe (RL3)
25 July, Peter Letsoalo (Elfie Driver)
26 July, Peggy Plaatjie (Cedar Park)
*Staff members must remember to pop in at reception to receive a small birthday surprise!

WELCOME TO

Denise Anstey, River Lodge 2
Joan Bennett, Woodlands

FONDLY REMEMBERED

Myer Fish, River Lodge 2
Norman Woolf, River Lodge 2
Dorothy Lawrence, Cedar Park
Eve Johnston, River Lodge 2
Erica Penney, Lakeside
Helen Goldmann, River Lodge 1
Beryl Baskind, Woodlands