



Party with Purpose

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“Party with Purpose”

In 100 words or less describe your Best Practice:

Much of southern life centers around our love for food. We eat at parties, holidays, prefer special dinners and menus for each season and enjoy each other’s company at meals. The Life Enrichment team and household staff members have added the aroma, texture, residents’ taste preferences, family style seating and food to all events. Food is the center of Life Enrichment events and everyone is getting in on the action. Residents assist in planning menus, setting party dates, designing their table settings and serve to encourage each other to attend events like the Supper Club, birthday parties and holiday or religious meals.

What problem does your Best Practice address, and what is its primary purpose?

Party with a Purpose addresses the two-fold problem of social activity involvement in a diverse environment and weight loss prevention are addressed through this practice. Caloric needs of residents to support weight loss prevention and specialized cultural interests and planning are addressed through the “party with Purpose Programming” including: aromatherapy for appetite stimulation where foods are cooked on the unit adding the scent of home, a multi-cultural spiritual environment where Passover Seder and Easter dinner are served, holiday themed parties celebrating Irish and Black history and of course college football tailgate parties from schools around the country to name a few. This increased variety of foods and events has broadened our residents’ taste buds with their cultural exposure and social environment beyond bingo games and karaoke!

What groups of residents and others are involved in your Best Practice, and how does it work who and how many are helped, what are the benefits to these people and what methods or procedures/protocols are used to get results?

Certified nursing assistants, Life Enrichment Champions, physicians, families, residents, charge nurses, student nurses and unit managers collaborate to identify desired events, meal plans and timing to incorporate the sounds, sights, smells, tastes and themes that involve the most members of the household or the facility possible. This multi-level involvement has included physicians playing musical instruments at events, families attendance and involvement in planning, community religious leaders including rabbis, priests, chaplains and lay ministers getting in on the action and staff planning special events and lots of food indoors and outdoors too for everyone. Life Enrichment Champions and household members work together to collect ideas and execute the theme. The following examples include: Pajama Pizza Party Day, Easter Egg Hunt, Fiesta Theme Birthday party, Passover Seder, Patio Ice Cream Social, Lemonade Stand, Cookie Socials, Hot Dog Supper, Supper Club, Tailgate Party, Crock Pot Club, Household Birthday Party, Hanukah, and Cookies with Santa.

What has your Best Practice accomplished, and how have you been able to tell this?

Resident driven event planning has increased social interaction, cultural exposure, and variety in themes and encouraged increased family and interdisciplinary involvement while adding calories at each life enrichment event. This practice increased male participation through the attraction of food, social interaction and a voice in planning the party food! Party with a Purpose succeeded with an eye toward

fun focused hydration and nutrition opportunities. These events simply line up with the way elderly people live outside the nursing home and make the fun inside the nursing home.

Prior to Party with a Purpose activity involvement was at 5-10% overall throughout the facility with an even lower interest by male residents. Including food, multi-cultural dynamics, interdisciplinary planning, mixed gender interest events life baseball and football parties and music in the programming we have seen that resident involvement has increased over 50%. Simple additions of piano music, popcorn and even cookie baking have really made a difference. The increased calories have further augmented the war against weight loss and its consequences with permission of liberalized diets by physician services.

What problem, obstacles or challenges might other facilities face in replicating part to all of your innovation? Were there any adverse affects or any ways that things turned out differently than you had planned? Do you know of any other facilities which have tried this or a similar best practice idea?

One obstacle noted was motivating staff members to get on-board and bring their residents in on the action was the most obvious obstacle faced throughout the facility. Once the front-line staff supported the move, their residents bought in and participation dramatically increased overall.

What was the cost to implement your Best Practice include dollars, supplies, equipment, etc? How did you pay for it?

Reducing the cost impact was managed through acquiring vendor donations, family donations, staff participation and use of the Life Enrichment budget to meet the needs of the various events.

What are the reasons you consider this Best Practice to be excellent and innovative?

1. This is a resident driven practice.
2. This practice is cost-effective as the residents choose the food, the party and therefore waste is eliminated.
3. This is an effective means of boosting participation, eliminating wasted opportunities to offer calories and utilizing the Life Enrichment budget to promote nutrition, socialization, and staff involvement in meeting the multicultural needs of the resident population.
4. This practice is fun! Everyone loves food!









2 North Pajama Party!



Families were invited to participate in the 2 North pajama party and have lunch with their loves one. Everyone played games, popped popcorn and made tacos for lunch. Most of the residents enjoyed wearing their pajamas all day!

Fiesta Time!

