

Food for Thought and Conversation Cart The newest addition to the CLCs

To engage residents in socializing in the day room, Nutrition and Food Service implemented a Food for Thought and Conversation Cart on Saturday and Sunday afternoons on all CLCs. This is a cart with special foods, desserts, fruits and beverages. The purpose is to entice the residents to gather in the day room for conversation and while there enjoy a special beverage and refreshment. The Food Service Worker engages the residents in conversation and assists in promoting a social environment among the residents. In many homes, while dining or gathering for meals, food plays an integral role in getting together, communicating, cementing friendships and forming a sense of community. The cart has played an important part in meeting those goals, is very popular and a great enhancement to the neighborhoods.

LTG Huntoon Visits CLC Residents

Superintendent of the US Military Academy at West Point, LTG Huntoon, visited the CLC residents and H-1 garden. He thanked the residents for their service to the country.

Kay Napoli, RN, LTG Huntoon with resident Dante Scarano



LTG Huntoon visits with a resident



LTG Huntoon admires the H1 garden

Community Living Center Newsletter

VOLUME I



A newsletter for and about VA Hudson Valley HCS Community Living Centers

WWII Veteran Celebrates 99th Birthday at VA Hudson Valley Health Care System

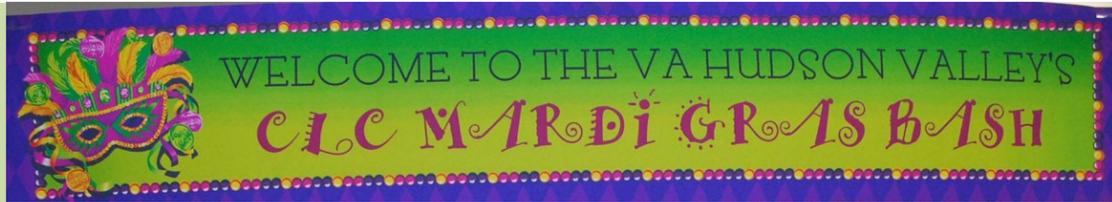


Resident WWII Veteran, John Stroud, celebrated his 99th birthday recently at the VA Hudson Valley Health Care System, FDR Montrose campus. Mr. Stroud's daughters, Shelly Stroud and Sandra Singh, and granddaughter, Shamara, were present for the celebration along with various VA Hudson Valley residents and staff.

Barbara Reale, RN Receives Excellence in Nursing Award

Barbara Reale, RN is a staff nurse on the Freedom Center (6AB). She is the charge nurse and affectively coordinates the day-to-day functions on this active CLC. She has a compassionate, caring, "can do" attitude, and demonstrates keen attention to detail going above and beyond on a daily basis. Ms. Reale consistently places the needs of the residents, staff, and the goals of VA HVHCS above her personal needs. She is a positive force, and is very focused on excellence in the delivery of care for all Veteran residents.





Community Living Residents Enjoy Mardi Gras

"Laissez Les Bons Temps Rouler" otherwise known as "Let the Good Times Roll!" has been a New Orleans staple saying for decades. And the spirit in which it is said is one of friendship, joy, and fun-loving revelry! That was exactly the atmosphere at the 2012 VA Hudson Valley Mardi Gras Bash held June 1st at the Castle Point Campus. Veterans from all Community Living Centers were represented and were treated to a feast for the eyes, ears and appetite! The decorations and take-away souvenirs were fit for Bourbon Street itself, while listening to Jazz, Cajun, New Orleans Zydeco and live banjo music. Palates were greeted with mouth watering jambalaya and sent



Mr. & Mrs. Rudolph Albanese

wheeling with the ultimate southern delicacy – rich banana pudding.

Snap shots of the event seem to transport you to that mysterious southern city just by seeing the residents decked out in their Mardi Gras vests,



Jacob Straube and friend

bow ties, and elaborate feather masks. It took many people to pull off such a successful party and to do this every 4-6 months is a magical feat that will continue so that the CLC residents understand how special they are to their VA community.

Pets visit with our residents

Left to right: Carly, Jules, and Gilda



Sandy Dumeng, RN receives the VA Secretary's Hands & Heart Award



Patricia Burke, Associate Director, Patient Services and Nursing, Ms. Dumeng, and Gerald Culliton, Director, VA Hudson Valley

Sandy Dumeng RN is a full time staff nurse on Community Living Center (CLC) Heroes Harbor (B2), Castle Point campus. Ms. Dumeng has been an integral part of Nursing Service for several years. She has functioned in many roles during her tenure and has dedicated herself to the delivery of safe and compassionate care to the Veteran at the bedside. Over the years she has had many opportunities to leave the bedside

of care and each time has chosen to stay to be in the forefront of resident care. She is an outstanding clinician who demonstrates all of the qualities of a "Nurse" you would want to have at your bedside. Her compassion, dedication, understanding and knowledge has served as a guide to orchestrate our Veterans to recovery. Today she stands out as one of the Helping Hands role models.

New Home of the Heroes (6CD)

15AB recently moved to 6CD to provide continuity with the Freedom Center (6AB). The move to new space provided an uplifting atmosphere to the residents and staff.



Living Room



Day Room