

CONNECTIONS

at the RESIDENTIAL LIVING CENTER

DECEMBER 2025



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Contact Us

Want to learn more about living in our Residential Living Center? Call us at **785-204-7115** to schedule a private tour for yourself or a loved one.



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A Few Words from Samantha

Samantha Young, RN, Senior Manager, Residential Living Center



The holiday season has always been special to me. It’s a time spent with family, where memories are made. Growing up, I always looked forward to my grandma’s wide assortment of candies and seeing all the beautiful holiday cards she’d receive each year from friends and family. Cards arrived daily from near and far with what seemed like hundreds on display by New Year’s Day.

This year, we would like to bring the joy and excitement of receiving holiday greetings to our residents and share a beautiful display of cards and well wishes with everyone who visits us throughout the season. Would you please include the RLC family on your mailing list this holiday season?

Holiday cards can be mailed to:

Anderson County Hospital Residential Living Center
421 S. Maple St.
Garnett, Kansas 66032

Thank you for helping us deliver some extra special holiday cheer to all our staff and residents this year!

—Samantha



Holiday Giving

Anderson County Hospital and the RLC are collecting food staples, household supplies, and small gift items for Hope Unlimited, which serves victims of domestic and sexual violence in Anderson, Allen, Neosho, and Woodson counties. You’ll find collection bins in the hospital’s main lobby and near our front door here at the RLC. Donations are used to support a Holiday Hope Shop, to stock their shelter, and to help victims as they set up new, safe homes for their families.

Please join our residents and staff and help make the holidays a little brighter for others in need.

Donations will be collected through Friday, Dec. 19.



Culinary Corner



The berries in this festive fruit salad stain the dressing ruby red, and when served in a clear glass bowl, this salad will be the prettiest dish on your holiday table. It’s quickly assembled from a variety of canned and frozen fruits that are easy to keep on hand for a family dinner or potluck, and it can be made a day ahead of time. Apricot pie filling is the secret ingredient, and everyone will be asking for the recipe.

Festive Fruit Salad

Ingredients

- 2-16 oz. bag frozen mixed berries (strawberries, blackberries, blueberries, and raspberries)
- 20 oz. can pineapple chunks or tidbits, drained
- 15 oz. can mandarin oranges, drained
- 15 oz. can apricot pie filling

Directions

1. Pour frozen berry mix into a large bowl. (Do not thaw.)
2. Add pineapple chunks and mandarin oranges.
3. Gently fold in apricot pie filling to coat, being careful to not break up the fruit.
4. Let sit in the refrigerator for one hour or until frozen fruits are thawed. Gently turn into a clear glass bowl to serve.

Peach pie filling is easier to find on grocery store shelves and may be substituted for apricot, but the apricot offers a brighter flavor. Other fruits, such as chopped apples or pears, halved red or green grapes, pitted cherries, pomegranate arils, or fresh cranberries can be substituted or added, according to taste.



Holiday Traditions

Here are ways people mark the holidays around the world.

United States: Many families enjoy familiar holiday meals and traditions, from festive gatherings to regional dishes that vary widely across the country.

Mexico: In many communities, the holiday season includes gatherings with traditional foods such as tamales or sweet breads shared with family and friends.

Italy: Some families observe long-standing traditions like the Feast of the Seven Fishes on Christmas Eve or enjoy special holiday desserts such as panettone.

Germany: Holiday markets, seasonal pastries, and time spent with loved ones are well-known parts of many families’ winter celebrations.

Japan: While Christmas is not a national holiday, some families take part in modern, Western-inspired customs including sharing a festive meal together or enjoying seasonal lights and decorations.

Around the world: Every community and family celebrates differently, and traditions can vary even within regions. Whether through food, faith, music, or time spent with loved ones, the season often centers around connection, generosity, and reflection.



Christmas Stocking Oranges

Many of us remember finding an orange in our Christmas stockings. But where did this tradition come from?

In 19th-century Europe, oranges were rare and costly—a luxury usually enjoyed only by the wealthy. Around the same time, the tradition of hanging Christmas stockings took hold. For families of modest means, an orange became a treasured treat to tuck into their children’s stockings.



December 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<div>DAILY</div> <div>10 a.m. Devotional Group</div> <div>Activities are subject to change.</div>	1 <div>10:30 a.m. Decorate Christmas Tree</div> <div>1:30 p.m. Karaoke Richard</div>	2 <div>10:30 a.m. Men's Mugs</div> <div>1:30 p.m. Make Paper Plate Globes</div>	3 <div>10:30 a.m. Bake Cookies</div> <div>2 p.m. Happy Hour</div> <div>4:15 p.m. Bible Study Josh</div>	4 <div>10:30 a.m. Activity with Jennifer</div> <div>1:30 p.m. Bingo</div>	5 <div>10:30 a.m. Coffee & Conversation</div> <div>1:30 p.m. Make Holiday Cards: Children's Mercy Patients</div>	6 <div>Group Exercises</div> <div>Coloring</div>
<div> Pearl Harbor Day 7</div> <div>3:15 p.m. Holy Angels Catholic Service</div> <div>7:20 p.m. Texans @ Chiefs—NBC, Peacock</div>	8 <div>10:30 a.m. Paper Snowman Craft</div> <div>1:30 p.m. Play Noodle Ball</div>	9 <div>10:30 a.m. Holiday Games</div> <div>1:30 p.m. Card Game</div> <div>6 p.m. Special Visitor</div>	10 <div>10:30 a.m. Activity Council</div> <div>2 p.m. Happy Hour</div> <div>4:15 p.m. Bible Study Josh</div>	11 <div>10:30 a.m. Holiday Craft</div> <div>1:30 p.m. Holiday Movie (Resident Choice)</div>	12 <div>10:30 a.m. Bingo</div> <div>1:30 p.m. Eggnog & Christmas Trivia</div>	13 <div>Music & Manicures</div>
<div> 14</div> <div>12 p.m. Chargers @ Chiefs—CBS</div> <div>3:15 p.m. Dunkard Brethren Church Service</div>	Hanukkah Begins 15 <div>10:30 a.m. Holiday Mad Libs</div> <div>1:30 p.m. Holiday Movie (Resident Choice)</div>	16 <div>10:30 a.m. Activity with Jennifer</div> <div>1:30 p.m. Plastic Wrap Ball Game</div>	17 <div>10:30 a.m. Holiday Craft</div> <div>2 p.m. Happy Hour</div> <div>4:15 p.m. Bible Study Josh</div>	18 <div>10:30 a.m. Candy Cane Dice Game</div> <div>1:30 p.m. Bingo</div>	19 <div>10:30 a.m. Snowball Fight</div> <div>1:30 p.m. Hot Chocolate Bar</div> <div>6 p.m. Special Outing</div>	20 <div>Group Exercises</div> <div>Coloring</div>
<div> Winter Solstice 21</div> <div>12 p.m. Chiefs @ Titans—CBS</div> <div>3:15 p.m. First Baptist Church Service</div>	22 <div>10:30 a.m. Handworking Club</div> <div>1:30 p.m. Blue Hat Club</div>	23 <div>10:30 a.m. Holiday Movie & Decorate Cookies</div> <div>1:30 p.m. Christmas Social: Residents & Staff</div>	Christmas Eve 24 <div>10:30 a.m. Listen to Music & Popcorn</div> <div>4:15 p.m. Bible Study Josh</div>	<div> Christmas 25</div> <div></div> <div>Holiday Movie Day</div> <div>7:15 p.m. Broncos @ Chiefs—Prime Video</div>	Kwanzaa 26 <div>10:30 a.m. Trivia</div> <div>1:30 p.m. Bingo Auction</div>	27 <div>Music & Manicures</div>
28 <div>3:15 p.m. United Methodist Church Service</div>	29 <div>10:30 a.m. Resident Council</div> <div>1:30 p.m. Group Exercises</div>	30 <div>10:30 a.m. Play Noodle Ball</div> <div>1:30 p.m. Activity with Shelby</div>	New Year's Eve 31 <div>10:30 a.m. Food Committee</div> <div>2 p.m. New Year's Social</div> <div>4:15 p.m. Bible Study Josh</div>	<div></div> <div></div> <div></div>		

Employee SPOTLIGHT



Dawn Adams, LPN

Say hello to Dawn Adams! When Dawn accepted a position as a cook at a long-term care community in Richmond, she didn't anticipate her career would take a turn. Preparing nutritious meals and engaging residents in conversation at mealtimes made her want to do more, so back to school she went. Dawn came to work at the RLC as a CNA but continued taking classes to build her certifications and skills. Upon earning her LPN, Dawn jumped on the chance to transition into a full-time nursing role at the RLC.

She knows many residents and their families from living in the area and likes how residents and staff have histories of family and friendship that go way back. "It makes living and working here feel familiar and comfortable, like home," says Dawn.

She's passionate about resident care that goes beyond health and comfort to truly improve quality of life. "Our team is focused on providing the best care and bringing joy to our residents. It's so rewarding when residents and their families see that and reach out to share their appreciation."

Outside of work, Dawn enjoys spending time with her family and credits her daughters for daily inspiration. "I want to be a good role model for them," says Dawn. "They motivate me to be a better person."



Favorite Holiday Memories

We asked residents about a favorite gift they received growing up or other special holiday memories. Here's what they had to say:

- *My favorite gift was a little doll in a green dress. I got her from my teacher and named her Betty.*—Arlene B.
- *My favorite gift was a BB gun.*—Buddy T.
- *I remember getting some nice new slippers.*—Clara R.
- *My favorite thing was getting together with all my family.*—Betty Rees
- *My favorite gift was a cap gun. We'd play Roy Rogers with it.*—Darrel H.
- *I always liked getting new toys. The kids and family had a lot of fun when we were all together.*—Dixie B.
- *My favorite gift was a doll and a babydoll buggy.*—Mary L.
- *My favorite gift was a record player from my aunt and uncle.*—Eddie L.
- *My favorite gift was my first doll, from my Aunt Mildred.*—Georgia D.
- *Daddy got me a dolly with a red polka dot dress and red curls. Her name was Sally, and we had matching dresses!*—Grace W.
- *My favorite gift was a train with tracks. Santa gave it to me!*—James W.
- *My favorite gift was a baby doll received from my mother.*—Joan H.
- *I had great times building snowmen and having snowball fights.*—John D.
- *My favorite gifts were dolls. Santa always gave them to me!*—Maryanne R.
- *I loved spending time with Grandma Louisa at Christmastime.*—Leona H.
- *My favorite gift was a doll wearing a wedding dress. My mother and sister got her for me.*—Linda M.
- *A special gift was a housecoat my mom sewed. It was light blue with kittens with bells on their collars.*—Lydia M.
- *My favorite gift was a doll from my mom.*—Marjorie M.
- *I always enjoyed spending time with my family at Christmas.*—Michiko N.
- *My favorite memory was going to my mom's parents' house to celebrate. They were excited to see us, and it would make me so excited.*—Nancy S.
- *My favorite gift was a BB gun.*—Patrick L.
- *My favorite memory was being with extended family. We would usually meet at my grandparents' house.*—Sharon B.
- *My favorite memories are enjoying the day with family.*—Thelma H.
- *I always liked getting new toys, especially a basketball!*—Tom D.
- *My favorite gift was a doll. My sisters and I would always play with our dolls together.*—Wanda Y.



Resident Spotlight: Georgia Dilley

Georgia Dilley began life on a small family farm near Oregon, Missouri, but after her father became ill, the family moved to St. Joseph, Missouri. In Georgia's senior year of high school, she took a course that gave extra credit to students who held jobs outside of school. Following in her mother's footsteps, Georgia went to work at a nursing home.



"I grew up in a nursing home," Georgia says. Her mother worked in a nursing home, and young Georgia often tagged along. "My best friend was an older woman who lived there named Annie. She played dolls with me, and I loved her so much." Watching her mother—and experiencing her own special relationship—made a big impression on Georgia and she's always felt naturally drawn to caring for others.

Georgia married soon after high school and welcomed twins, a boy and a girl, followed by another daughter 10 months later. Georgia stayed home raising her children and managed through some very tough years, but she was strong and determined and did whatever she needed to do to provide for her family.

When the children went to school, Georgia's heart pulled her back to nursing home work, caring for others. After relocating to Garnett, she worked in nursing homes in Burlington, Richmond, and Garnett, including what is now our very own Residential Living Center.

In her spare time, Georgia enjoyed crafting. Her favorite was crochet. She made many afghans, Christmas boots, snowmen, and hanging hand towels. She still likes to crochet but has struggled getting her hands to work the way they should.

Here at the RLC, Georgia enjoys having her own room and looking out her window. "I like joking around with the staff and when people come to visit," she says. Georgia does not feel comfortable around big groups and takes meals in her room, but she enjoys having visitors and talking one-on-one with people, especially with other women.



"If you're strolling down the hall, knock on my door, but only before 11 a.m. or after 12:30 p.m., please!" she says. Georgia won't miss an episode of *The Young and the Restless* or *The Bold and the Beautiful*. She keeps her television on most of the day, but she'll gladly turn it down for visitors after her soaps.

Georgia appreciates not worrying about safety. "When the electricity goes out in a storm, there's generator back-up to keep my oxygen on. If I need help in the middle of the night, I just push a button, and help is on the way. I feel safe and secure, and I'm happy here."



Resident GIFTS

Gifts for long-term care residents and other older adults should be thoughtful and practical, focusing on comfort, engagement, and ease of use. Here are some ideas you might consider when selecting gifts for your friends and loved ones this holiday, or any day.

Comfort and warmth

- **Clothing:** Soft socks with grips, cozy slippers, cardigans, shawls, or comfortable robes
- **Bedding:** A soft, warm blanket or a fleece throw

Engagement and activities

- **Reading, puzzles, and games:** Large-print books, crosswords, word search puzzles, or adult coloring books
- **Memory-focused:** Digital photo frames or personalized memory books and calendars
- **Sensory stimulation:** Fidget blankets, scented pillows, wreath for the door, or flowers

Practical and personal care

- **Personal care items:** Lotions, hand cream, lip balm, or scented soaps
- **Daily aids:** Easy-grip pens and notepads

Food and drink

- **Snacks:** Assorted cookies, crackers, or other favorite treats
- **Beverages:** Variety packs of tea



