

Blessed Trinity

Elder Care Center

By David Hardison

“Touching Lives Since 2002”



Our Mission:

To serve the parish of Blessed Trinity and surrounding community with quality, affordable day care services for seniors in a spiritual, nurturing and stimulating environment that preserves dignity, promotes independence and strengthens family relationships by encouraging and supporting individual choice.



Fulfilling a need:

Elder Care opened on March 25, 2002. The first day we opened we had one client and 3 staff. For several months we only opened 2-3 days a week when we had clients. The other days were spent getting the word out to the agencies and physicians that would refer. Our goal was simple: to provide adult day services to seniors who could not be left home alone because of safety reasons and to offer care providers a safe location for their loved one while they worked or took a break from their caregiving duties.

Benefits:

Some studies have shown that regular age-appropriate activities and social contact can improve mood and cognition in the elderly. As we age and our senses and memory falter, many find this type of service can help improve alertness, social skills, and memory. The greatest benefit to our participants are the relationships and connections they make while attending. In addition to the relationships formed, our clients are served breakfast, a hot lunch, and an afternoon snack as well as a variety of activities throughout the day. We also provide intergenerational activities through the parish school and Angels in Arms Daycare.

Interesting people:

Our years of service have offered us an opportunity to meet some very interesting and historically significant



people. In 2003 we cared for one of the original 1920s Radio City Rockettes. She could still do a partial high kick. Another of our clients was a drummer for several of the big bands of the 1930s and 40s. We have also have had veterans from WW-2 with many exciting and sometimes tragic stories. These events and stories help to weave together the life, times and relationships that are the fabric of Elder Care.

Our Growth:

The increase in clients was sluggish at first and it was over 2 years before we reached the point we were self-sufficient. As we grew, and the word spread, we were approached by several agencies to join their network of providers. We contracted with the Veterans Administration in 2004 and began providing services to eligible veterans. Today we provide adult day services to 16 veterans, 5 of whom served our country during World War 2. Every November we honor our veterans with a special service given by the Marion County Veterans Service Center. In March 2012, we celebrated 10 years of serving our seniors with an open house and a proclamation from the mayor of Ocala.



Dedicated Staff & Volunteers:

All the Elder Care staff have been here for 5 years or more. The Director has been with Elder Care from the beginning and one of our part-time nurses has been here for 13 years. We cannot over-emphasize the value of the volunteers who help us at Elder Care, dedicating their time, without compensation, to be part of our mission.



Our Active Mission:

In our 16 plus years of service to the seniors in this community, we have strived to give our participants the "best day ever" through caring and attentive staff, interesting and stimulating social events, fun arts and crafts activities and nutritious meals and snacks. We look forward to living up to this ongoing mission for years to come.