

## Pinecrest Farms celebrates World Alzheimer's Day with education

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Pinecrest Farms of Midland recently joined millions of others to celebrate World Alzheimer's Day 2015. Each year, Alzheimer's organizations around the world concentrate efforts on raising awareness about Alzheimer's and dementia on this day.

Pinecrest Farms staff members underwent intensive, full day training in preparation to become certified dementia practitioners via the National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners. The group also opened their doors to area professionals looking to gain education in this specialized field.

The need for competent, compassionate care for individuals with dementia related illness is ever present and increasing. The need is so significant, in fact, that in its 2015 Facts and Figures Report, the Alzheimer's Association recently estimated that one in three seniors suffers with Alzheimer's disease or another type of dementia related illness. Because dementia related chronic illness requires specialized skills and knowledge, training is imperative.

Pinecrest Farms offers a range of services designed specifically to improve the quality of life of all residents.

"By working intensely with each person on an individual basis as well as keeping strong community ties, Pinecrest offers unique opportunities and continued social involvement for every person," a spokesperson said.

The home is also steeped in local history, celebrating its 150-year anniversary this year.

During the full day of training, four Pinecrest Farms employees completed the course necessary for certification as certified dementia practitioners: MaKayla Grotkowski, Vicki Johnson, director of nursing, Ronda Cunningham and Administrator Joe Blewett.

During the seminar, attendees received in-depth knowledge regarding specific dementia related illnesses (including Alzheimer's disease), as well as information about nutrition, personal care, spiritual needs, pain, communication, behavioral and emotional expressions, community resources, end of life, abuse and neglect prevention and awareness, and more.

"The CDP training was an intensive all day training that used practical real world examples so our staff can better serve our residents with Alzheimer's or dementia," said Blewett.

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