



12/16/21

Dear Residents, Families and Friends:

As the end of the year and the Holidays are approaching, we wanted to reach out and give a year-end review and thank you for being part of our Welcome Family. It is no secret that 2021 was just as challenging as 2020. The pandemic continues to impact our lives, our business, and our families. I think we are all recognizing that we are in for the long haul with COVID-19. As a reminder, we continue to keep our COVID-19 Updates link updated on our website: [www.welcomenursinghome.com](http://www.welcomenursinghome.com). As any positives are identified, the numbers are updated. We will also have signage on the doors indicating if we are in outbreak testing. As of today, we are in outbreak testing. Fortunately, everyone who was considered a close contact has tested negative to date. Unfortunately, the new variant Omicron, is reported to be 4 to 5 times more infectious than the Delta variant and I fear that we will be in outbreak testing more often than not as the local county numbers continue to trend up. The good news is that Omicron does not appear to be as deadly, but we are dealing with a fragile population. Health authorities continue to encourage vaccinations and booster as they are the primary tool we have to combat the virus. Preliminary data shows the Booster to be effective against Omicron. We continue to offer vaccinations and booster clinics to our residents and staff. As a family member, if you are having difficulty scheduling or finding a vaccination site feel free to let me know and I am happy to assist you.



Today, we had a modified Employee Recognition Celebration to honor our team that has worked so hard this last year. Every year we have selected one employee who went above and beyond as our Employee of the Year based on nominations received from co-workers, families, residents, and vendors. This year, we received three beautifully written nominations to recognize ALL 2021 STAFF as Employee of the Year. In these unprecedented times, we could not have survived without EVERYONE on our team stepping up, picking up, lifting up and cheering up each other. 2021 certainly was a year that proved Teamwork makes the Dream work. Our success was certainly as a direct result of our team that dedicated their time and service to our residents, and we are proud to honor them.

We are humbled and honored to serve you. We are anxiously awaiting 2022 and pray that it brings, Joy, Light, Comfort and Health to you all. Blessings to you and your loved ones this Holiday Season.

Stay Well,

Heidi J. W. Freas MSOTR/L