



## **RCC Acknowledges National Activity Professionals' Week**

A paint brush sweeps across a row of nails, dice teeter within a board game's plane and a listening ear perfects the simple art of conversation – it's all in a day's work for recreation staff at Central Jersey's Roosevelt Care Centers.

Regardless the schedule, these activities are often the day's highlight for the participants that the recreation department aims to keep healthy and happy.

So given that the National Activity Professionals' Week runs between Jan. 19 and Jan. 24, Roosevelt Care Centers would like to acknowledge several stellar members of the team, who make a daily impact on the lives of long-term and subacute care residents. It's also worth noting that in talking with these employees, many revealed some of the reasons why they look forward to clocking in each day, sentiments that were deserving of some recognition:



*"The best part is just getting to see all the different residents and meeting so many fascinating people. We are in a unique position. A lot of our residents think of us more as friends...if you can make them smile, provide comfort or help them in some way, it not only brightens their day, it brightens yours."* – Joanne Franklin, recreation director with Roosevelt Care Center at Edison.

*"I come to work and my residents look forward to doing activities. I love it when they have smiles on their faces; I think it is the most beautiful thing in the world...the best part of my job is when I know I've made a difference in each of my residents' lives."*  
– Keri Schafer, recreation therapist with Roosevelt Care Center at Old Bridge.

*"Exercise time with them really makes my day because it's gratifying to see them get involved and stay active."* – Lisley Ayllon, recreation aid with Roosevelt Care Center at Old Bridge.

*“I look forward to seeing my residents and I like making them feel good. I like when they feel like they’ve accomplished something.”* – Kathy Burinda, recreation aid with Roosevelt Care Center at Edison.

*“I really cherish our outings with this community of residents. It gives me pleasure seeing them enjoying themselves in a different atmosphere.”* – Joyce Martel, recreation aid with Roosevelt Care Center at Old Bridge.

*“I like visiting with them and hearing their stories, which I’ve learned a lot from. They compare how it is now to how it used to be. It’s taught me never to take things for granted.”* – Kim Essel, recreation therapist with Roosevelt Care Center at Edison.

*“I enjoy being with the residents and sing along is my favorite activity. I’ve been doing this for years, and they really like it when I dance around. They make me feel appreciated.”* – Liz Wagner, certified therapeutic recreation specialist with Roosevelt Care Center at Edison.

*“I simply love to make them happy. This is their home and what they want is what they want; and I’m constantly doing my best to try and accommodate them.”* – Jennifer Sturak, recreation aid with Roosevelt Care Center at Old Bridge.

*“I love working with the residents. I play bingo and call the numbers out. They have some of the best reactions.”* – Lisa Paterniti, recreation aid with Roosevelt Care Center at Edison.

Again Roosevelt Care Centers would like to thank and commend all of its recreation department employees for their hard work and for being such a positive driving force within the lives of residents.