Dec 2024 Official Newsletter



Thank you to Skilled Nursing Center residents and staff across Tennessee and South Carolina for sharing their art and heartfelt stories.

# "All Things Beautiful"

STORY BY:
DIANA ARMENO, ADMISSIONS DIRECTOR &
LORI KILLMEYER, ACTIVITY DIRECTOR
PRUITT HEALTH AT CONWAY
MEDICAL CENTER - CONWAY, SC

"Jamie Baker has been part of our PruittHealth family since 2021. Upon his arrival, we quickly learned of his musical talents as he would sing to anyone he came in contact with. Even today, he's serenading all the ladies with beautiful tunes he's come to know throughout his life. And, his talents don't end there!

He's a wonderful member of our Art4Life group. This particular piece is especially dear to him. He says he loves 'all things beautiful' and fondly remembers flowers being a part of his childhood. In fact, growing flowers ultimately became his hobby as a young boy.

It began with a neighbor who grew flowers. He tells me of his attraction to the shapes, colors, fragrances, and the beauty of growing them himself. Many of the resident-artists within our Art4Life group identify their creations with childhood memories — and Jamie is no exception. He's grateful for this art program and as in the company's name that created it — he's 'thriving 4 life' while making memorable artistic pieces."







Out of all of Bettie's artistic works, her picture she titled 'Blue Birds' brings back specific memories of being a young girl in Pennsylvania on her cousin's farm.

This family-inspired piece allows her to reminisce about those days and other happy times they shared together. Bettie shared that evoking expression through art brings together the past and present, as the birds are now infused with the new memory

#### "Bringing Together the Past & Present"

STORY BY:
DIANA ARMENO, ADMISSIONS DIRECTOR &
LORI KILLMEYER, ACTIVITY DIRECTOR
PRUITT HEALTH AT CONWAY
MEDICAL CENTER - CONWAY, SC

"Bettie has been a part of our PruittHealth family since 2018 and has always shown a propensity for the arts. At 99 years young, Bettie is showing us that age is never a barrier to creating memories, sharing the social connections she has made with other residents, and reaping the joys of expressing her feelings through her art.



Bettie with Son & Daughter-in-Law

of creating this piece with her friends. And, she says she's grateful for this program as she's able to create art every day and has something to look forward to.

As staff, we see the joy each day as she passes us in the hall with her projects and shares the goodness of what she's doing with all of us. Art transcends generations. We can all appreciate what Bettie has given us through her art."



# "My Snowman"

"I like it when winter comes because we usually have lots of snow. I created this snowman with red birds singing in the trees because it makes me think of Christmas."

— Lula, Resident-Artist

SUBMITTED BY:
FELICIA WIDEMAN, ACTIVITIES ASSISTANT
MCCORMIC POST-ACUTE
MCCORMICK, SC









# More from PruittHealth - Conway

"Art fosters social connection, a sense of belonging, and enables our residents to express their thoughts and feelings. For the Art4Life program, we provided a dedicated space for art-making, explored different art mediums, and incorporated art into the residents' functional daily living. Collectively, our residents decided to host an art show. Since this was their forum, we wanted to guide their work, listen as they told the stories of what each piece meant to them, and help to bring their work to life.

With their art on display, the day of the show arrived. Staff, family, and friends were all present as we revealed the residents' artistic works. We were delighted to see the residents' faces light up in disbelief when they saw the culmination of all they had created brought together in one space. Their dedication, hard work, emotional healing, and sense of belonging were evident as we shared the stories with their families — which was priceless! We'll share these artistic expressions as part of our story for years to come."

— Diana Armeno, Admissions Director & Lori Killmeyer, Activities Director







"It gives me chills all over when I look at my completed artwork! I can't believe I did this. I feel like I have a talent I never knew I had until I started coming to the art sessions."

— Peggy, Resident-Artist





# "Pumpkins & Chalk Pastels"

STORY BY: EMILY EATON
LIFE ENRICHMENT DIRECTOR
FOOTHILLS RETIREMENT COMMUNITY
EASLEY, SC

"Our residents enjoy sharing their favorite time of year though their artistic creations!"







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"I went to Myrtle Beach with my family every summer."

— Judy, Resident-Artist

# "Thinking About Christmas"

STORY BY: DEBBIE EARLY
ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR
SPRING CITY CARE &
REHABILITATION CENTER
SPRING CITY, TN

"It won't be long until Christmas arrives. It's true that as we age time seems to go by faster. Lynn thought about filling the Christmas stockings. She has grandchildren she truly loves and mails things to them frequently, since they live in another state.

Patsy enjoys looking at the different Christmas trees. She drew this one and decorated it for her art project. In December, our art sessions will be filled with sharing memories of Christmases past as we enjoy the holiday season."

# "Day at the Beach"

SUBMITTED BY: NEIL COAKLEY
ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR
RIVERSIDE HEALTH & REHAB
CHARLESTON, SC

"The beach has always been a place where I find peace."





# The Art4Life Program State-wide Initiative

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# You Can Help!

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