



## Life Care Center of Brookfield

I recently visited Life Care Center of Brookfield, which is a Medicare/Medicaid certified home that is licensed for 120 residents. The home was built in the early 1980's with the typical institutional floor plan from that era. However, they are making significant efforts to accommodate residents' individual needs and preferences and to make "home" for the individuals who live there.



There is a shadow box outside of each room that is decorated to provide an introduction to the residents who live there. The number of electrical outlets in each room has been doubled to accommodate the residents' needs. Many residents have small refrigerators in their rooms. The home is equipped with wi-fi so residents can connect to the internet if they wish.

The home is decorated with old black and white photos of Brookfield that bring back memories of the “good old days”.



They consider pets on a case-by-case basis and accommodate when they can. While I was there, they did not have any residents who had 24/7 pets but family members bring the residents’ pets in for visits. They have staff members who bring their pets to work with them and the Humane Society also brings in pets from the local animal shelter.

Several residents are active with volunteer activities. The activity room was overflowing with preparations for the upcoming community Easter egg hunt. Some residents make and sell jewelry and others volunteer to help new residents until they are settled in and become part of the big family.





Dining service has been improved. Residents who choose to sleep in can get their breakfast later. Meal choices are presented to residents in the morning and their orders are taken. There is an always available menu for residents who aren't keen on the meal choices. The dining room tables are decorated with table cloths and linen napkins. Institutional serving trays have been replaced with glass dinnerware.

Rather than a large nursing station, there is a small nurses' work area. They have limited overhead paging and have provided staff members with walkie-talkies and portable telephones.



While residents can currently take the type of bath they prefer at the time they prefer it, the bathing experience will soon be improved. They are planning to remodel their bathing rooms and add new whirlpool tubs.