

Harvester Residential Care

In June 2011, I visited Harvester Residential Care in St. Charles. Harvester is located in a quiet residential neighborhood. It blends so well into the community that I drove past it at first, thinking that it was just another one of the neighborhoods residential homes. They are dually licensed with the Department of Health and Senior Services and the Department of Mental Health.



There is a very homey feel. Staff members are not required to wear uniforms. There is Wi-Fi and a community computer. They did not have a dog living at the home while I was there, but they have had in the past. Some employees bring their dogs to work with them daily.

Harvester residents are very active. There are approximately 12 to 14 outings offered each month. They employ a Recreation Therapist to help the residents to be engaged and active. Residents do volunteer work, such as call bingo, set tables, and sweep floors. Some residents do volunteer work through a local community volunteer work program.

During my visit, I met 80-year-old resident Harry (Bud) Matych. He told me about his two daughters, one son, and lots of grandchildren. He has lived at Harvester for 2 ½ years. I commented on how well he looked for his age. He said it was a result of “clean living and pure thoughts.” He told me that he enjoyed life at Harvester. The residents all get along well. The food is good and if there is something on the menu that he doesn’t care for, he asks for something from the refrigerator. He said, “We never go hungry around here.”

Bud is a graduate of Michigan State University School of Journalism. He was a Military Police Officer in the Army and commanded the 1st Army Radio School as a 1st Lieutenant. After his military service, he worked in Public Relations and Advertising.



Resident Bud Matych

He retired from Boeing, where he worked in Marine Helicopter Promotions. He showed me a photograph that was taken when he was a guest on the Ed Sullivan show. A Vietnam War hero, who had flown a Boeing troop carrier helicopter through fierce firefights to rescue troops, he was being honored on the show. He was invited to appear as a representative from Boeing. He enjoys participating in the men's group. They go on outings and to ballgames. He likes spending time outdoors and there is a long list of activities to participate in.



Independent Living Home Adjacent to Harvester RCF

In addition to residential care, there are 10 single family style homes within a two block area that have been converted into independent living homes. On occasion, residents whose conditions improve move from the residential care home to one of the independent living homes. There are also occasions when independent living residents' conditions deteriorate to the point that they have need to move into the residential care home. Some of the independent living residents visit the residential care home to participate in church services and other activities.