

In November 2011, I visited Warrensburg Manor Care Center. Warrensburg Manor is on the culture change journey. They participate with Missouri's culture change coalition, [MCS](#). They have made many person-centered care changes and have many more planned for the future. One of the major focuses of change is meal service. They have cook-to-order breakfasts with a large variety of options available. They provide continental breakfast for anyone who chooses to sleep in and snacks are available at all times at no extra cost.

They have a culture change team that is made up of department heads, CNAs, dietary staff, and residents. Other changes they have made include assisting residents to go to bed and get up as they choose, liberalizing medication passes, and improving bathing choices. They have added weekend, evening, and night activities. They also have consistent staffing assignments. The next change they have planned is to increase meal choices for lunch.

The home was built in 1976; however, they have made several improvements, including converting nine formerly semi-private rooms to private rooms and adding several "double private" privacy enhanced semi-private rooms. Residents can have their own refrigerators in their rooms if they wish. The home is decorated with art by J. VanSant, who used to be a Medication Technician there. One painting includes actual residents.



Paintings by former CMT J. VanSant



Resident Room

They have a lot of activities. The residents particularly enjoy food-centered activities. They make homemade bread, apple butter, and stew. The Dietary Manager puts on a cooking show. She gives residents samples and has a special guest table during the show. Some resident do volunteer work, such as passing out bingo cards. They also have a 16-resident special care unit, which has its own Activity Coordinator.

Another favorite activity is the “Magic Me” intergenerational program from a local school. It is a three-year program that begins when the students are in the 6th grade. They visit the home two times per month. They work with the Activity Director and do things with and for the residents.

They were getting ready to participate with the St. Jude’s for Kids Marathon. The Magic Me students help the residents to participate in the marathon. They mark of a track and have individuals who monitor the number of laps completed. They also have t-shirts and a barbecue for the event. Medals are awarded for the most miles. All residents are able to participate, regardless of their abilities.

I met CMT Teresa Baker. Ms. Baker is from Leeton and has worked at Warrensburg Manor for the past 7 ½ years. She has also worked at other long-term care homes, but says Warrensburg Manor feels much more like home. More attention is paid to residents’ preferences there.



CMT Teresa Baker

Ms. Baker said they have a lot of activities and a lot of fun. They have yard sales and a lot of outings and performers. Residents really enjoy the dinners and holiday celebrations. There have been many improvements since she has worked there. She especially liked the fact that residents are given more bathing options and there is more family involvement. They have family members serving as volunteers.

I also met 92-year-old resident Juanita Lane. Ms Lane told me that she is Pennsylvania Dutch and her parents came from Germany. She was born and raised in Warrensburg. She married a farmer in 1940 and moved to a 300 acre farm at Knob Noster. They raised cattle, wheat, soy beans, and corn. We talked about how things were back then. She said they farmed with horses in the beginning. Their first tractor had steel wheels. She believed it was an Allis Chalmers. She also told me about buying their first television in 1954.



Resident Juanita Lane

Her husband died in 1997, but she continued to live on the farm and manage it until a year ago, when her knees got too worn out and she started having trouble getting around. She then moved to Warrensburg Manor. She still owns the farm, but has people who take care of it for her. She also still owns 40 registered Angus cows, plus bulls and calves. She enjoys visiting the farm when she can.

She has two daughters, one in Nebraska and one in Texas. She also has two grandsons and a granddaughter. She was obviously very proud of them. One grandson is a banker and the other is a real estate agent. Her granddaughter is a very successful model. She showed me many photos of her in magazines ads and even on a cover.



Resident Lane's granddaughter, Kaet Lane

She said she enjoys life at Warrensburg Manor. They have excellent nursing staff. She especially enjoys the company. They have a good recreation director. Her favorite activities include the exercise group that she enjoys walking with, Bible study group, bingo, monthly birthday parties, special singers, and the coffee group that she discusses current events with. She also enjoys private time when she watches television or uses her computer.