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Independent Living
Personal Care
Skilled Nursing Care

March 17, 2021

Friends Foundation for the Aging
P.O. Box 1081
Langhorne, PA 19047

To our Friends at Friends Foundation for the Aging:

Thank you so much for your continued support and interest in our Community Life programming here at the Friends Home in Kennett. Your grants have been instrumental in our ability to reach our vision of providing daily opportunities to our residents to engage their minds, bodies, and spirit both individually and in group settings.

Our initial intent for the Performing Arts Grant was to enhance our ability to provide programming to our residents where they are the performers. We envisioned a choir, musical skits, and individual instrumental recitals. Friends Home had experimented with these activities in the past with "Philly Senior Stage" and with our own small choir. The participation amongst all our residents was amazing and we wanted to continue offering these programs internally and more frequently.

The most rewarding part of these types of activities was the fact that all our residents, those with cognitive impairment and those without, could participate equally. People in the audience could not identify those with cognitive impairment because instruction and preparation is done so everyone can be a successful participant in the integrated group.

Unfortunately, COVID put a damper on our original plans for the grant. We were limited at best to small groups and no singing. But when COVID was in the building, residents were isolated to their rooms. Our Performing Arts Associate, Brenten Megee, was able to adapt the intent of the grant to make use of the materials for both now and when planning for post-COVID engagement.

Brenten did purchase the following items with your generous grant:

1. Updated sound system with compatible IPAD and microphones
2. Video recorder
3. Laptop to be used for editing and zoom meetings.
4. Hand chimes
5. Bongos
6. Karaoke machine
7. Acting scripts for seniors, both small group and solo performances

Where friends become family

During the pandemic we were able to utilize some of these items immediately. The laptop and video camera were used to zoom bingo, resident council and exercise classes to residents when grouping together was prohibited.

Plans for our holiday program this year were in place to develop a video of all our residents performing in small groups and individually. This holiday program was to be posted and shared with all family and friends. He had footage already completed of our hand chime choir, small group skits and individual readings. The production of this program was abruptly halted when we experienced our first major outbreak mid-December that did not finally resolve until mid-February.

Presently all residents and the majority of staff are fully immunized, so we are able to slowly regain some semblance of normal activity. The Friends Home has several residents who enjoy singing but group singing is still a high-risk behavior. Brenten is in the process of utilizing the equipment purchased to develop a "Friends Home Virtual Choir." Plans are under way to have a summer song under our belt in preparation for a larger scale performance this holiday season if COVID still prevents in person group choirs.

Once the weather is consistently warmer, we also plan to utilize this equipment, especially the karaoke machine outside on the front porch (maintaining the social distancing of course).

I look forward to the time I can show you all in person or via video the full extent of our vision for this grant and the programming it will allow the Friends Home to achieve. Thank you again from all of us here at Friends Home for your generous support and consideration of Friends Home in Kennett.

Sincerely,

Christine McDonald, MHA, NHA
Executive Director

Financials:

Grants and Contributions on Hand

Friends Foundation for the Aging \$20,000

Expenses:

Payroll:

Daniel Megee \$4,637

Activities:

Guitar Center \$15,363

Total Expense: \$20,000

Balance of Grant: \$0