

## **Care & Connect Training Center – Resident and Staff Training Stories**

### **Ms. K**

Ms. K came to our Long Term Care unit in June of 1982 with a diagnosis of intracranial injury, aphasia and muscle contractures. She was 37 years old. Because of these injuries, she is now bed-bound and unable to attend group activities.

With the addition of the new Care & Connect Training Center and technology, we educated our staff and volunteers to quickly begin using the technology to bring activities to Ms. K on a touchscreen tablet. Over the last few months, she has explored the various program options. Ms. K. loves everything about Elvis! She often chooses to view pictures of Graceland or watch Elvis music videos on YouTube. She also loves to watch funny videos or listen to selections from the audio book program and spiritual music videos.

The staff have learned how to better engage and Ms. K has been supported in her new activities that she would be unable to participate in otherwise. Now, she engages more fully, laughs more often, and is always willing to participate in our 1:1 visits.

Ms. K's participation in these activities enriches her life experiences, increasing her satisfaction level and overall sense of wellbeing, which results in a quality of life that she would otherwise be unable to achieve. The staff are encouraged and better caregivers now that they have learned to implement their new skills.

### **Mr. G**

Mr. G came to our transition to home unit with a diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease and dementia with behavioral disturbances and anxiety. He exhibited anxious pacing all day and most of the evening, even to the extreme that he wouldn't be able to sit long enough to eat a meal.

In his younger years, Mr. G was a very successful drummer, having recorded many albums with famous country and bluegrass artists. One day after training the staff on new music programs, the activity and therapy staff took him to the touchscreen computer and opened the Juke Box program. Mr. G. chose the country music option and began drumming to the music.

Both he and his wife relaxed immediately. He was able to stop pacing, and therapy staff were able to keep him engaged for the whole session. Mr. G and his wife continued to use the various music programs – country, spirituals and soft rock - during his stay with us.

Mr. G's engagement not only gave him an outlet for his energy, but also continually resulted in reducing his anxious pacing and increasing his quality of life. This was very gratifying to staff as they were trained in our Care & Connect Training Center to use the technology in their caregiving and saw such hope-filled results.