

SALUTE TO SERVICE HOMETOWN Heroes

Carrie Hegg

Activities Director, The Meadows

How has COVID-19 affected your daily life?

I have to think about my family and myself being around other people. We have essentially just kept to ourselves as a family. I look at people differently because I don't want to be around anyone that I don't know is safe. I could bring COVID into my building and harm my residents. It's much harder for our residents at The Meadows. Due to COVID, we've been in lockdown since early March. They've had to be away from their family other than phone contact and some visits through windows. And they don't understand why their family can't come in to visit anymore. It's beyond their understanding. But, gradually, in their own time, residents are accepting the changes. It's especially hard for people because they don't see their family. Fortunately, we can have family members talk with them over the phone and assure them that they are safe. Another big difference is that we have to think of

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Alice Chambers

Active senior in the community, 90 years old

How has COVID-19 affected your daily life?

The Stay at Home order has kept me completely isolated at my home for several weeks. I am 100% ok with this but it is hard. My husband Bud and I do desperately miss going to church to worship, going dancing, and playing cards with my friends at the Senior Center.

How has it affected others' lives around you?

I can't go to visit any of my friends and family. Also, I am not allowing any visitors to my home including friends and family. Luckily, I am very fortunate that my daughter is able to pick up my groceries and drop them on the porch for me. I do call and check on all my friends/family frequently and they call me too. This really helps. We all have to take care of each other.

And beyond the current crisis, what long-term effects do you anticipate in your field/situation?

I'll never forget the impact that COVID-19 has had on our community. I never thought my children would see something like this but it will for sure remain forever in our hearts especially for those we have lost to the virus. My biggest concern is that once the Stay at Home order has been lifted and people begin to go back to their daily lives the virus will come back and hit our community again in the fall or even next year. I pray we get through this and never have to deal with it again. One thing I do love to see is that families are doing things together when perhaps they didn't "have time" to before. People are helping people like never before, even strangers helping strangers. My hope would be that this will stay the same after the order has been lifted as this is how God has intended us to live and love one another.

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Vanessa Hoskins Tatman

Mother is in nursing home, contracted COVID-19 and recovered

How has COVID-19 affected your daily life?

Having a mother in a nursing facility in the area where numerous cases of the Covid-19 Virus broke out was beyond scary. My mother was sick, taken to the ER, tested for the virus, it came back negative. She was retested 3 days later. This time she tested positive. She was immediately started on two medications. Her health issues; COPD, asthma, Alzheimer's, and only one lung caused great concern to our family. The most difficult thing for us to watch for staff and residents alike was the lack of personal interaction, there were no hugs, high five's, or even just a pat on the shoulder. Residents were so confused. For our family it was hard because we were used to visiting and spending time together and doing activities with our mother.

How has it affected others' lives around you?

Being a Nutrition Site Manager, several volunteers have asked to be taken off the routes until this passes. This is sad because volunteers are very hard to find. Thankfully, our local Coffey County Sheriff's Department and Coffey County Public Transportation have stepped in to deliver meals for the elderly.



See Vanessa, Page 10

The City of Hartford would like to thank all healthcare professionals and educators for their hard work and dedication. We would also like to give a special "Thank You" to the employees that work for Quest Services. We appreciate you!

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