

FALL 2015

The Rural Report

OCTOBER 2015

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Wilber Care Center

Caring Is Our Calling

611 N Main St., Wilber, NE 68465
Phone: 402-821-2331 - Fax: 402-821-2568

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Fall is in the air. Children are going back to school. Halloween will soon be here. And with Thanksgiving, we need to give thanks for the many blessings that are bestowed upon us.

We are very fortunate that we live in a country that values our elders. And while I gripe about Medicaid not paying its fair share and the fact that we have to charge the private pay residents more because of this fact, we as a society spend a lot of money on keeping our elders safe

and as healthy as possible. So I would encourage us all that at the end of a long day of dealing with the many administrative challenges, that we remember to be kind and supportive of one another.

Best
Regards,
Ron Ross,
President



From Your Community

Summer is almost over and I think we have survived the heat. We had a great turn out for our 4th of July Celebration. Residents and staff alike enjoyed Czech days. We were able to take residents down town for the celebration on Friday. The Czech dancers, the alumni band and the queens all visited our facility. The Wilber Care Center also had a float in the parade. In July we had our annual Department of Health Survey and it went very well. We have a few things to work on but we had a

very good survey. I am so grateful to have very competent caring staff they make my job easy. State surveyors did comment how they enjoyed watching the staff and residents interact and that they could tell that staff truly care about their residents. The other exciting news I have to share is that we are continuing to work on plans to remodel the south wing of our facility. We plan to make all rooms on that end private rooms, enlarge some of the bathrooms and of course just update things. This remodel

will help us provide an environment that our residents and future residents most desire and it will help us stay competitive with other facilities in our area. The other benefit to the room remodel is increased staff safety. This will allow more room for staff to work and easier access to the bathrooms especially for residents who use wheel chairs. I do not anticipate that construction will start until after the first of the year but we are getting closer.

Tips for Halloween and Dementia Residents

By Roz Phillips



Autumn will soon be here and with autumn comes Halloween. Halloween is one of those holidays that can be challenging and preparation and thought should go into this holiday.

Some concerns during this holiday are scary costumes, extra visits, candy concerns, Halloween decorations and Halloween sounds.

If still at home and you feel the constant ringing of the doorbell is too much, just turn your lights off to discourage people from coming to your home. Or if you still want to participate in the festivities, place a bowl of candy at the door with a note "Please take one".

Most facilities have extra guests, children from the community coming in costume and staff dressed for Halloween. Some residents will enjoy the events and others may shy away. Here are a few tips to consider for Halloween.

1. Be realistic about your expectations for Halloween and individual stress.
2. Discuss your plans with the individual; just don't go into a lot of detail.
3. Be prepared to alter your plans. Go at a time when it is not as crowded.
4. Avoid candles, use non-flame candles or lights.
5. Put pumpkins and mums up on tables to avoid tripping.

6. If you find the individual picking at decorations, remove or take them down.

7. Limit decorations. They may cause confusion and agitation.

8. Try non-scary decorations like pumpkins and fall leaves vs. ghosts, goblins and witches.

9. Consider not using scary sounds but instead try Halloween songs.

10. Avoid floor mats that make scary sounds, decorations that are voice activated.

11. Avoid using tapes and CDs with creaking doors, ghost screaming and other scary sounds.

12. Limit sugar intake, offer fruit.

13. If the individual is not over whelmed encourage them to hand out the candy but supervise them to avoid elopement or other risky behaviors.

14. Create new memories by baking a pumpkin pie, decorating sugar cookies, painting a pumpkin with children or others.

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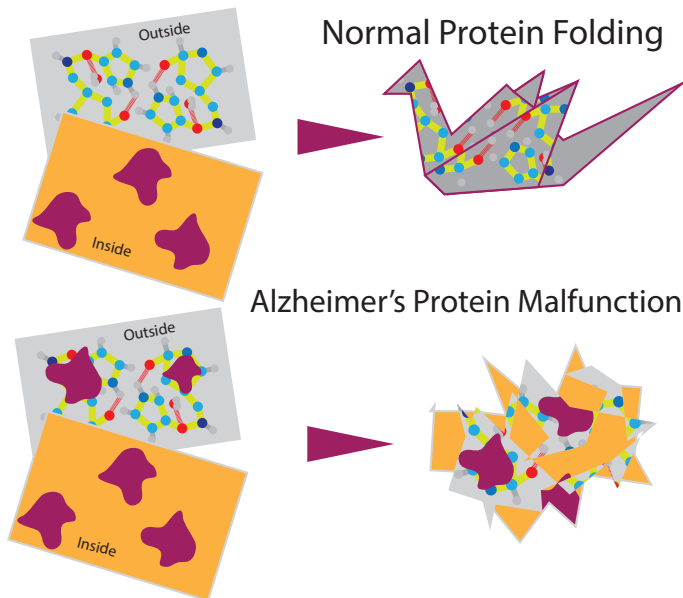
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Alzheimer's - a Cure in Sight?

By Tory Moghadam

Agusta Deter was the first person to be diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease almost 114 years ago. In the time since, we have had little improvement in treating it. Alzheimer's affects more than 40 million people worldwide. If we live to the age of 80, our chances of getting it are roughly 50%. Samuel Cohen spoke at a recent TED talk about his team's research.



"Today, of the top ten causes of death worldwide, Alzheimer's is the only one we can't prevent, cure, or even slow down." Samuel goes on to give more staggering facts about the lack of funding for this disease, and makes a brave claim: "...we can cure it." Today we believe that Alzheimer's disease is caused by proteins that are improperly folded. Stephen gives the analogy of a piece of paper with sticky goo on the back, while the front of the paper has none. This paper is then folded into a piece of origami. He states later that in Alzheimer's patients, both sides become sticky and the protein is then not folded properly causing big clumps and plaques.

Stephen Cohen's team then set out to try to fix this problem. With their diverse group of scientists, they have managed to find a new class of drugs focused on

one of the steps in protein process. On stage Stephen demonstrated a video of worms in three groups.

Group A were healthy, Group B had improper protein clumps like in Alzheimer's, and Group C had improper protein clumps but had been treated with their team's drug. Group 2 showed little promise as to be expected. The worms were shriveled and looked like they had pieces missing. Group A and C, however, both seemed to be teeming with life.

Samuel concluded his talk by talking about the victims and families of Alzheimer's and saying this "Help speak up for them... ..demand a cure! "

Source: Cohen, Samuel "Alzheimer's is not normal aging - and we can cure it" TED.com. TED, June, 15th 2015 Published. Web. October, 1 2015 Accessed.

http://www.ted.com/talks/samuel_cohen_alzheimer_s_is_not_normal_aging_and_we_can_cure_it#sthash.U30DGsw5.dpuf



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Al Shakespeare

Lisa Kisinger

Shane Filipi

Barb Dreyer



Rural
Health
Development, Inc.

Cambridge Office
1115 Nasby, Box 487
Cambridge, NE 69022

Lincoln Office
1919 S. 40th St., Suite 206
Lincoln, NE 68506



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