

Leaders in Culture Change

Fountain Springs Health Care takes pride in being leaders in the area of *Culture Change* in long term care, a national movement which is changing the way facilities serve their residents.

As the baby boomers are finding themselves caring for their aging parents, they are asking for specific changes to the long term care industry in survey after survey. Some of the common themes include the following:

- * More homelike settings
- * Consistent Staffing
- * Interaction with Pets and Children
- * Interactive Activities
- * Buffet style dining
- * Selective menus
- * Open meal times
- * Cloth napkins & tablecloths at dining tables
- * Theme meals & cookouts
- * Dining room hostess
- * Staff dining with residents
- * Private rooms
- * Continued growth and learning at all ages
- * Individual, rather than institutional, approach
- * Maintaining connections with family
- * Light, open, homey, and positive living space with access to outdoor areas

In 2004, Fountain Springs underwent a major structural renovation, in an attempt to address these requests. Residents now make selections in buffet style dining, and enjoy soft serve ice cream and extensive outdoor areas including a barn, vegetable garden, and flower gardens. The residents interact with the facility's numerous pets, including two cats, fish, birds, chickens, a rabbit and two visiting black labs.

In the fall of 2007, Administrator Mary Sateren, joined Bernadette Nelson, RN, the project manager of the Nursing Home Quality Improvement program for the South Dakota Foundation for Medical Care, in presenting a workshop at Ft. Meade, South Dakota, in order to educate other facilities about implementing *Culture Change*. In June of 2008, Mary was hired again by Ft. Meade to present a two-day *Culture Change* workshop at Fountain Springs Health Care, which was attended by leaders from nursing facilities from Nebraska, South Dakota, and Wyoming.

Fountain Springs is committed to continue their efforts in the area of *Culture Change* to better meet the needs of our residents and their families.

