

LeadingAge Wyoming Newsletter

Saying Goodbye to Sandy Ward

This past week, we said goodbye to a good friend, Sandy Ward. I was grateful to have a last chance to thank him and tell him how much his friendship and mentorship had meant to me.

My last time talking with Sandy was about old times including the time we skipped out on LeadingAge meetings in Thermopolis to make a mad dash to Dubois to see all the antlers on sale during the big antler show. We lamented the fact that we never made it to the big show in Jackson but then I reminded him he had enough antlers of his own to hold his own show. We talked about the many meetings we attended over the years in Jackson and how he tried to get his CEU certificate early so he could sneak out to see the wildlife.

We talked about our other friend, Dan Lex, that lost his battle to cancer years ago, and Sandy told me he hoped to be sitting under a tree with his friend Dan soon. When I received word Sunday morning, in my mind's eye, I could see their joyful reunion.

I am grateful I got a chance to tell Sandy how much he had meant to me and many other people around the state. He was a mentor to many of us and I am forever grateful for the example he was to me. He was passionate about his facility in Buffalo and had spent more than 30 years serving his community and building a

facility his community could be proud of. As a new nursing home administrator in the late 1990's there was no one better for me to learn from or example to follow. He was always available and willing to help in any way.

Not only did Sandy keep the hospital on budget for three decades, he has also brought state-of-the-art medical equipment to the facility and overseen the addition of new surgical, birthing and emergency room facilities, along with renovations of the center's clinic and nursing home.

Sandy was also proud of spearheading the effort to build the renovated Amie Holt Care Center.

Staff at the hospital learned a lot from Ward over the years. One of those things was how to be a servant.

"There was a time awhile ago when we were really low on CNAs," Schueler said. "Because of this, Sandy decided to receive CNA training so that he could fill in while we were trying to hire people."

As staff members reflected on Ward's love of chocolate and the time he pranked an employee by pretending to be a corpse, the fondness in their voices made it clear that they were no longer talking about their boss.



They were talking about a mentor. A friend. A father figure. Over 30 years, he had become like family to them.

There is no way to put in to words what an impact Sandy had on many of our lives or to extol all of his accomplishments and virtues. Needless to say, I learned a great deal from Sandy. He taught me courage and determination. He taught me love and humility. He taught me service and selflessness. He taught me unwavering faith and he taught me a lot about love as I watch his intense love for his wife and family.

I will never forget Sandy or the lessons I learned from him. I look forward to the day we will see each other again.

A celebration of life will be held November 3 at the Bozeman Trail Steakhouse in Buffalo, Wyoming.

Donations to honor Sandy may be made to the Johnson County Hospital General Donation.

St. John's Medical Center Announces Name for Future Center

St. John's Medical Center trustees have approved the name "Sage Living at St. John's Medical Center" for the future skilled nursing facility that will replace the current St. John's Living Center.

The naming process involved community submissions of possible names, a legal review of those suggestions, and a public survey of name choices, which found "Sage Living" to convey attributes of well-being, uplifting, wisdom, and vitality.

"The community has been with us lock-step through every phase of

this project," said chief communications officer Karen Connelly.

Developing programming concepts, selecting a new name, and supporting the project with philanthropy: these are just a few of the major ways in which the community is helping to create a vital new facility for Teton County. "It's heartwarming and hugely beneficial to have such broad-based participation," said Connelly.

To address the issue of name confusion with the Senior Center, the medical center and foun-

dation collaborated on a process to invite the community to select a new name for the new living center. The major trend identified by the naming committee was that most of the name submissions reflected a sense of place and community. The naming committee winnowed the initial long list to several names that used words closely associated with key attributes of St. John's Medical Center and its resident-focused, 5-Star living center.



The Legacy featured in National Publication

Campbell County Health announces that The Legacy Living and Rehabilitation Center was recently featured in a Hardwired Magazine article titled, "Living the Mission of Excellence Every Day, A Post-acute Care Provider Delivers on Its Promise."

The article describes how The Legacy improved overall resident satisfaction from the 30th percentile in 2015 to the 98th percentile by creating a culture of alignment and accountability, beginning with hiring employees who will be a fit for the organization.

Resident Experience Coordinator Mary Barks enlisted one of The Legacy residents, Rosetta, to share her personal experiences about what it feels like to be truly cared for with new staff during employee orientation.

"What a tremendous honor for CCH and continuing health services to be published in Hardwired, said Chad Wolbers, MHA, FACHE, Studer Coach and Account Leader. "What's even more impressive is the results they are earning by embracing best practices and holding themselves accountable to an incredibly high standard of care. I'm very proud of Mary's achievement of being published, but even more so in terms of her personal mission and commitment to help others."

Hardwired Results® is a complimentary magazine published by Studer Group. The first issue was published in Fall 2004 and was created to provide organizations with specific tools and techniques to achieve results and sustain growth. Each issue shares in-depth information on key topics, case studies on Studer

Group partners and tools to help hardwire results across the organization. All issues of Hardwired Results® magazines can be found at www.studergroup.com/hardwired-results.

In October 2012, CCH partnered with Studer Group, a nationally recognized company whose mission is to make healthcare a better place for employees to work, physicians to practice medicine and patients to receive care. The Studer Group coaches healthcare systems by providing a detailed framework and practical how-to's to create a culture of service, clinical and operational excellence.

To learn more about The Legacy, visit www.legacywyo.org.

