

Modify It, Move It, Make It Work

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Do you ever take time to celebrate the myriad talents we each possess and the difference we make in the lives of the residents who live in our facilities?

An activity staff member was walking down the hall recently carrying a folding screen from the dining room which she had changed into a screen to show slides on by draping a piece of fabric over it. Thinking about how adaptable activity folks can be when unexpected situations arise made me realize we spend a lot of time, modifying, moving and just making things work.

I'm absolutely certain that Activity Professionals are the most well rounded people on the planet. We have to know all about past and current events, how to cook and garden and craft. Our leadership skills are honed daily in large and small group programs and we develop the fine art of the tactful response to difficult or sometimes outrageous questions and requests. We know music from a wide variety of eras; most of it before some of us were even born and can magically turn a music program into a game or a game onto a reminiscing program. We are bird watchers and stargazers, fitness gurus and public speakers. Being a host or hostess becomes second nature and we're the ones who always get to cut the cake. We have to be accountants and travel guides, animal experts and empathetic listeners. And we do it all with a smile and a compassionate touch. We give of ourselves in big and little moments, in obvious and quite ways.

Take some time to celebrate our profession, to celebrate the diversity in our departments, and the uniqueness of each one of us.

I'm sure the residents at your facilities are grateful to each of you for bringing your own special touch to the programs and events you lead. And never forget that what you do is vital to the quality of life for the residents we serve.

Thanks for modifying it, moving it and just making it work!