

Employee of the Month: Greg Titzel
Refurbishment Specialist

Greg Titzel started out with our Maintenance Department in October of 2003. He initially worked along side Frank Gale for two and a half years handling the day to day work requests throughout the facility. One day Bud Bell, our Lead Refurbisher, needed some extra help with a painting project so Greg got reassigned and the rest is history. Greg found his niche within the Refub Division and under the direction and training of Bud, before anyone knew it, he was handling entire apartment remodels on his own. Greg has shown exceptional skills in the area of electrical wiring and is often asked to go and assist other members of the Refurb Division in this area. Dave Rauch, Director of Plant Operations, states that Greg is very reliable, a self starter and is always in his assigned area working. He works so quiet and independently that there are days I have to wonder if he is even here and go check his timecard just to make sure.



Away from Friendship Village you will find Greg living a quiet life just outside Claysville, PA . In his spare time, Greg enjoys gardening and working on farm equipment with his father or riding his bike on some of the many rails to trails projects throughout Pennsylvania. When the weather is nice, Greg likes to spend his time enjoying his 25 foot pontoon boat he keeps moored on Seneca Lake in Ohio or relaxing in his 30 foot RV camper he keeps at Spring Valley Campground in Cambridge Ohio, just a short distance from the lake. When we look at what Greg has done to help make Friendship Village a better place for all, we can be glad he chose not to stay in one of his prior jobs as an over the road truck driver.

Congratulations Greg on being our Employee of the Month for February!

Volunteers of the Month: Martha Berman and Bob Wittig



You've all heard "back in the day" used to express how things were but aren't necessarily so now. Well, back in the day, before the advent of the Book Discussion group (*which meets in the Walnut Lounge*), there were book reviews given in the St. Clair Room. The reviews were on one book, given by one person, to whomever wanted to sit in on it that particular day. The presenters were most often residents but, on a few occasions, there were "outsiders" who came in to present. From that sprang up a concept for a whole new group to be formed and it is our pleasure to name Martha Berman and Bob Wittig as the Volunteers of the Month for February because of the Novels Read Aloud Program that takes place in the Activity Room each Thursday afternoon.

Martha Berman is truly the founder of this program with a little help from Betty Helmig. At the "back in the day" book review, Martha had reviewed "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime" -- the plot centering around an autistic boy. Martha did not go through the whole plot and especially did not reveal the ending. Later that day she got a call from Betty Helmig who told her what a wonderful review it had been and could she tell her the ending. Martha's reply was "You will have to read the book". To which Betty replied "I can't" and from that exchange grew the Novels Read Aloud Program. Martha told Betty she would be happy to read her that particular story and that Betty was welcome to have any of her other friends who had difficulty reading join them. They met in the Chestnut Lounge long before it became our theater. In fact they not only read that one novel, but many other novels up there as well.

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Volunteers of the Month: Martha Berman and Bob Wittig

That was eight years ago. Martha, who never had been able to go on any lunch bunches because of the Thursday reading schedule, decided it was time to get another person to alternate reading on Thursday so Martha wouldn't be tied up every week. She immediately thought of Bob Wittig because he has a voice that everyone can easily hear and understand. When approached by Martha, Bob quickly agreed to the proposal and thus, the Novels Read Aloud Program was formed.

Novels Read Aloud Program is not just a dash into the library and pick any book. There is a lot of time that goes into picking a book that interests everyone in the group. Martha has found that Anita Shreve is a favorite author as well as prolific –she still is writing a new book a year. “Water for Elephants”, so highly acclaimed as a book and a movie, however, was not well received. Too many characters are hard to keep track of when you only read the novel once a week. Also, if after reading 50 pages of a new novel and they do not like it, the novel is not finished and another one is chosen.

Novels Read Aloud is open to anyone who likes to read but is having difficulty reading, even with large type books. If anyone is interested in joining the group, please feel free to come to the Activity Room any Thursday at 1:30 PM. A new book will be starting on February 2nd.

Thank you Martha and Bob for providing so much pleasure to people who otherwise would not have the opportunity to enjoy novels at home. Your efforts are certainly greatly appreciated.

Congratulations Martha Berman and Bob Wittig on being our Volunteers of the Month for February.