

# NURSING DEPARTMENT TRANSFORMED

*One of the most valuable support teams at SLC is the Nursing Department, where the health of residents is dependent upon the abilities of four very skilled people; Fr. David Stawasz, SdC, RN, Emily Wild, LPN, Debbie Markiewicz, RN, and Heidi Divert, LPN.*

"The new medication system has completely changed our nursing department and allowed us to focus on all aspects of nursing."

Emily Wild, SLC Staff LPN

While Fr. Dave has been at St. Louis Center for many years practicing the skills he learned before becoming a priest, Emily, Debbie and Heidi are relatively new to St. Louis Center.

Emily Wild, who has worked at SLC for 2.5 years now, is happy to be a practicing nurse to help people get better when they're ill. "I enjoy helping someone to be their eyes, ears and nose when they need extra help," said Emily. "And providing them with a quality of life that maybe they couldn't get anywhere else is important. This is a lot like home care to me, and that was my passion. This is their home, and I travel from one house to another and really enjoy my work."

As part of its continuous improvement program, SLC introduced a new medication packing process which makes the process much less labor intensive. This change allows the Nursing staff to spend more time monitoring the health and wellness of the residents. Communicating with medical professionals, school staff, parents, and direct care staff is also a big part of the job,

and can now be given more of the time it deserves.

According to Emily, "This change has given us the ability to improve nursing care to the residents," and she is happy about these improvements. "I feel like I'm able to give patients more quality time. Medication is just one part of the treatment. It's really improved our nursing department."

Deb Markiewicz, came to St. Louis Center at the end of 2018, and shared similar thoughts about the new med packaging program. "It's easier now to pack meds for school, home and work, and it's nice for the parents too, because they can see the dates that are on them now when they go home."

The St. Louis Center nursing staff believes that the new medication packing system has had a positive effect on the health care of the residents of St. Louis Center by freeing them up to perform more pro-active nursing skills like taking vital signs, observing behaviors, and measuring the impacts of their treatment plans while also being more responsive in the event of illness or injury. Perhaps providentially, all just in time for a global pandemic.



Emily Wild, LPN, trains new direct care staff members how to use the new Med Pass system.