Serendipity Adult Day Services News



November 2026

Excellence in Care
Dementia Care Program of Distinction

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Dates to Remember

--CLOSED--
11/11 – Veteran's Day
11/26 & 11/27 - Thanksgiving

"In all things, give thanks."
1 Thessalonians 5:18



https://www.salvationarmyusa.org/usa-western-territory/alaska/serendipity/



Serendipity Partnership with Anchorage School District ACT Program

Serendipity has partnered for our second year with the ACT Program. For those that are not familiar with this wonderful program –

The ACT Program in Anchorage is the Adult Community Transition Program — a post-secondary, community-based instructional program for students aged 18–21 who need extra support transitioning into adult life. It is part of the Anchorage School District (ASD) and is designed for students who have completed the required core credits at their neighborhood school but need additional transitional services to prepare for post-secondary education, employment, or independent living. It is community-based, meaning it takes place in local settings rather than a traditional school classroom, and is tailored to individual needs, which can be especially important for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

Its focus:

> **Practical, job-ready skills** (e.g., workplace communication, daily living tasks)
> **Transition planning** for college, vocational training, or employment
> **Support in community settings** to build independence
> **Customized learning plans** that can address sensory, communication, or social concerns.

We are so happy and proud to have added to our Serendipity Family : Niobe Vicks, Charlie Tangman Antonio & Romero Anaya and their teacher, Devyn Bagley. The group assists with breaking down boxes, helping us with charitable activities and they joins us in Bingo and in daily exercise. Miss Noibe discovered it was a participant's birthday this past week and enlisted all to celebrate his birthday in song. It was incredibly touching. We enjoy the great smiles and joy that Charlie and Romero bring as well. Thank you to Devyn Bagley for being the mentor that you are to these fine and fabulous folks.

Hard at work, but not without smiles!

We at Serendipity give our *thanks* for this incredible collaboration!





Additional Collaborations/Partnerships:

Serendipity is reaching out to other programs and individuals that will enhance program delivery. Exercise instructors from the YMCA will soon be coming to Serendipity to lead us in a variety of seated / modified exercises, bringing new ideas and activities to help keep us active, engaged and working up a sweat.

Additionally, looking to have another artist in residence to lead us in creative expression. We did a little reconnaissance at Blaine's and found quite a few more resources available to our facility. Stay tuned for more information.

And, for those of you that have not met Vickie, our crafting aficionado / instructor, feel free to not only stop in and say hi, but also join our group in whatever cool crafting she has conjured up for us. Crafting with Vickie is four times a month.

Field Trips

Unfortunately, we were unable to attend any field trips in October. Looking forward to getting out and about in December due to November holidays (and closures) and it being shorter month. If you have any ideas for our group, let us know. As you know, we are up for anything!

Care Giver Corner:

Supporting Misidentification of People or Places

By Kimberly West, ADC, CDP, MDE, VMC

A person living with dementia may sometimes mistake one person for another or become unsure about where they are. Changes in memory, recognition, and the brain's ability to connect a familiar face or place with the correct information can make someone in the present seem like a person from the past. A spouse may be called "Mom" or "Dad," an adult child may be mistaken for a sibling, or a familiar home may suddenly feel unfamiliar. In some cases, older memories remain easier to access than more recent ones, so the person may be experiencing the moment from an earlier period in life. Confusion can also extend beyond people to the surroundings themselves. Changes in vision, lighting, fatigue, illness, or stress may make even a familiar place seem different or unfamiliar. These moments can be upsetting for everyone. Rather than repeatedly correcting the mistake, caregivers can focus on the feelings behind what the person is saying and help them feel safe and comfortable. The following tips offer practical ways to respond when a person misidentifies someone or becomes unsure of their surroundings.

- Do not force recognition. If the person believes a spouse is a parent, sibling, or someone else familiar, avoid repeatedly correcting them or asking them to identify you. This can increase embarrassment, frustration, or distress.
- Respond to the relationship the person seems to be experiencing. If they call a spouse "Mom," they may be responding to feelings of comfort, safety, or familiarity. A simple response such as "I'm here with you" can be more helpful than correcting the name.
- Offer your identity without making it a test. If the person seems unsure, say, "Hi, it's Kimberly," or "I came to sit with you for a while." Avoid questions such as "Do you remember who I am?"
- Follow the emotion behind the statement. If the person asks for someone from the past, try "You're thinking about your mother. Tell me about her," rather than immediately explaining where that person is or that they have died.
- Be cautious about giving painful news again. If the person is unable to retain the information, repeatedly telling them that a loved one has died may cause them to experience the grief as if hearing it for the first time.
- When someone says, "I want to go home," explore what home means to them. They may be looking for a childhood home, a previous house, family members, or simply a feeling of safety and familiarity. Try asking, "What do you like best about home?" or "Who would be there?"
- Redirect only after acknowledging the concern. Before changing the subject, show that you have heard what the person is saying. Then move toward something familiar: "You're looking for your sister. Let's sit together and look at these family pictures."
- Focus on comfort rather than accuracy. The goal is not always to convince the person of the correct name, relationship, or location. Helping them feel safe, understood, and connected may be more important in that moment.

Supporting Misidentification of People or Places, continued

A calm, reassuring response can make these moments easier. Avoid testing memory, offer familiar cues, keep explanations simple, and respond to the feeling behind the words. Focusing on comfort rather than correction can help the person feel safe, supported, and connected.

Resources:

Alzheimer's Association – Memory Loss and Confusion
Dementia Australia – Hallucinations and Delusions
National Institute on Aging – Helping Family and Friends Understand Alzheimer's Disease
National Institute on Aging – Infographic: Do's and Don'ts: Communicating with a Person Who Has Alzheimer's Disease
Dementia Australia – Visiting Someone with Dementia

Upcoming Holiday Opportunities within The Salvation Army:

SALVATION ARMY 2026 VOLUNTEERING

Thanksgiving Day Home Delivered Meals

6:30 - 10:30 - 24 opportunities
1712 A Street



Angel Tree/GIFT Toy Sorting

Various Dates between Nov 30 to December 15 2 hour Shifts

SA/FB Warehouse



Angel Tree/GIFT Distribution

Various 3 hour Shifts December 17, 18, 19

Salvation Army Corps Community Center
1701 C Street



Bell Ringing

Various locations
November 20- December 24th

Contact Major Tim Carr



For more details Call or Email
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