HONORING OUR ELDERS

Angel Corps’ goal is to enrich the lives of its clients and employees. Sometimes that goal is achieved in unforeseen ways.

article by Margeaux Corrao  •  photography provided

Art of Angels projects help alleviate loneliness, helplessness and boredom among our elders.

Art of Angels embraces the Eden At Home philosophy of home care. Eden At Home (EdenAlt.org) is based on principles developed by Dr. William Thomas. The first principle states that the plagues of loneliness, helplessness and boredom account for the bulk of suffering among our elders.

In an effort to alleviate these plagues, an Angel Corp’s caregiver facilitates an Art of Angels monthly meeting of clients and their friends and neighbors. Together they choose an art or craft project to complete during the meeting. Angel Corps pays for the facilitator and supplies.

The program started in 2009. The first meeting was held in Steuben County. It quickly caught on and now Angel Corps sponsors Art of Angels meetings in several locations throughout northeast Indiana.

In Wells County, Kendra Baumgartner, a caregiver for Angel Corps, is the facilitator for Art of Angels. Baumgartner enjoys arts and crafts projects, so it is as rewarding for her as it is for the participants. She appreciates and acknowledges the close and continuing contact that this opportunity for companionship provides. When selecting a project, she looks for something that will honor the elders and give them a sense of purpose and accomplishment.

“One day I joined one of the groups,” says Dorian Maples, RN and owner of Angel Corps. “As they were in the midst of creating their project, they shared ideas for future projects, things like crochet, baking, reading Shakespeare and more. I realized that all they needed to fight feelings of loneliness, helplessness and boredom was a place to get together, some neighbors and a facilitator.”

If you would like to learn more about the Art of Angels program, contact Dorian at Dorian@IndianaGeriatrics.com or (260) 426-4357.

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Years in business: 12
Products and Services: Specializing in non-medical home care including personal care, bathing, meal preparation, light housekeeping, laundry and maintaining social interaction.