



Library Outreach - CHECK it OUT – *literally!*

Administrator:

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If we can't go to the library then the library will come to us. There is a wealth of FREE resources that can be utilized at the local library. This extraordinary institution offers SOMETHING for EVERYONE. As a result, the residents at our facility have experienced positive outcomes. Our simple library card opens the door to amazing materials that benefit our residents. These materials provide not only mental and visual stimulation but also auditory stimulation for those with impaired vision.

The primary purpose of utilizing our local county library is to serve our resident's and enhance their quality of life. Library materials can help reduce the following challenges: isolation, boredom, inactivity, negative behaviors – constant requests for attention/pacing, depression and decreased social contact.

The wonderful thing about accessing the library resources is that there is literally SOMETHING for EVERYONE. Many of our residents are introduced to library resources in speech therapy. Residents with significant hearing loss, major visual deficits, and severe dementia benefit. They are applicable for our younger residents, as well as our elder ones. Both men and women enjoy the varied materials. Furthermore, each month a librarian from the library, comes to our building as a scheduled facility activity. Our activity director contacts the librarian and a date is set. The librarian sets up a screen and projects images and videos related to very interesting topics. It is always a hit at our facility... it doesn't hurt that the librarian is a wonderful story teller and dynamic speaker. She also provides us with a small library of books (approximately 75) that are given to the facility to keep. A simple paper log can be created to keep up with which resident's have certain materials. Another log can document specific items requested by residents, should they want a particular author or topic.

There is also a service that we have not utilized, but could be accessed. It is Books-by-Mail, which is a free service provided by our county library cooperative. It is a unique service that services those who are unable to go to the public library in person. Most books-by-mail users are elderly or housebound, but patrons of any age who are unable to travel to a library may use this service. No library card is needed. Materials are checked out for 4 weeks. There is a limit of 4 items. Renewals can be made over the phone. No overdue fines are charged.

The greatest thing is that libraries are FREE. Where else can you go into an establishment empty handed and come out with bags of amazing materials? Our library allows up to 100 items to be checked out! Another potential cost is the time and gas it takes to go to the library. This is generally completed on a volunteer basis. Fortunately our library is only 2 miles away.

Plus if the library closest to us does not have a particular title you can request it and they will locate it from another library and bring it to your library for pick up. You can also drop off materials at any library in the county.