

Garden Park

NURSING & REHABILITATION CENTER, LLC

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THE RECOGNITION CONTINUES

#1 in Louisiana

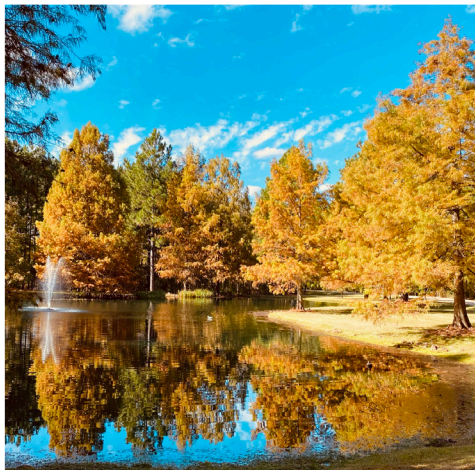
Our beautiful campus has changed with the seasons, but our winning recognition has not stopped. Staff from our facility recently returned from Las Vegas where they accepted the American Health Care Association Gold Excellence in Quality Award. Our facility was thrilled to be the first facility in Louisiana to ever receive the award, only three facilities in the U.S. won this year. The award is based on the Baldrige criteria, a National Quality Award established by U.S. Congress in 1987 to enhance awareness of quality management and recognize organizations that have successfully implemented quality management systems. It was named after Malcolm Baldrige, who served as the U.S. Secretary of Commerce and was a strong advocate for quality management. Our dedication to quality improvement was a commitment prior to learning about the Baldrige Award, but since we have focused on utilizing the criteria our results have continued to improve.

In 2025, we were recognized by Newsweek as the fourth best nursing facility in Louisiana with more than 150 beds. The other two categories are 50-99 beds and 100-149 beds. The top nursing homes in each state are assessed and ranked based on four pillars: performance data, recommendations of medical professionals, accreditations and resident satisfaction. We are excited to announce that the data for 2026 has been shared, and Garden Park is now listed as the

#1 nursing facility in Louisiana with more than 150 beds. Not only were we listed as one of America's Best Nursing Homes, we were listed as the #1 nursing home in Louisiana. This honor would not be possible without an amazing team of dedicated staff that are committed to our mission of Improving Quality of Life.

The Louisiana Nursing Home Association recently held their annual convention in New Orleans where Garden Park was presented with a plaque for winning the "Highest Distinction in AHCA's National Quality Award Program." We were also very excited to learn that one of our amazing volunteers received Louisiana's Adult Volunteer of the Year!

We understand that one of the most important and often difficult decisions families face is choosing a trusted nursing home for themselves or a loved one. Whether the need is for short-term rehab, skilled nursing, or long-term care, finding the right facility can make a profound difference in health outcomes and overall quality of life. We remain grateful for the opportunity to serve our residents and their families.



SUCCESSION PLANNING SUCCESS

Andrea Tatum, RN



One area that we are proud of at Garden Park is our career development opportunities which start at the beginning with the interview process. We ask candidates their goals and explain different paths available at our facility. Our career ladder is encouraged, which often includes tuition assistance or flexible scheduling. We have multiple team members that have utilized these opportunities to progress within our facility.

Our Assistant Director of Nursing, Andrea Tatum, started with us in 2005 as our Transportation Aide. She drove the van to take residents to their doctor's appointments, and she made \$6.45 per hour. She was passionate about geriatrics, and she enrolled in the Practical Nursing program at LSUS. She became a

LPN with us in 2008, and she has worked in multiple positions. As many of our resident started to have higher acuity needs, she decided to return to school to become a Registered Nurse. She transitioned to RN in 2022 and continued to work where needed, until Tammy Brown, Director of Nursing, convinced her to become her assistant. She is also frequently called upon to help staff with IT, Maintenance and animal rescue issues.

When not at Garden Park, you can find her cheering for the LSU Tigers, gardening, or caring for a variety of animals. She's also very proud to share about her "children", her adult nephew and niece that call her "Tata". We are thankful that she has dedicated more than twenty years to her Garden Park family.



HOLIDAY MEMORIES

Norman Vincent Peale said, "Christmas waves a magic wand over this world and behold, everything is softer and more beautiful." For most of us that magic wand is a wooden spoon conjuring up delights of years past. Tastes and smells are strongly linked to emotional memories, meaning that the aromas of holiday food can trigger powerful feelings of nostalgia for past celebrations. Neuroscience explains that pleasurable foods trigger a release of dopamine, a neurotransmitter associated with reward. Tammeaka Pouncy has big feelings associated with holiday dressing. "I make homemade cornbread dressing starting with baking cornbread with bell pepper and onion then add my broth. Stove Top? You better NOT!" Debbie Crager remembers her mom, Dorothy Jones', Crunch Drop Cookies and Grape Leaf Rolls being a very big part of the holidays.

Each November our staff has a Friendsgiving Feast. Everyone signs up to bring a covered dish to share with others. After sharing a delicious meal together, each person votes on their favorite item. The star of the feast was always Nita Tatum's banana pudding, and it was always gone too soon! While the dessert was not life-saving, it was life changing for many. While it is very simple, maybe what made it so special was the love that put it together. We have procured the recipe and wanted to share it. Bon Appetit and may all your family feasts be they grand or petite, be filled with delicious food and a second helping of love.

Nita's Banana Pudding:

- 1 Instant Vanilla Jello Pudding
- 5 Ripe Bananas
- 1 container Cool Whip
- 1 14oz can Sweetened Condensed Milk
- 1 11oz box Nilla Wafers

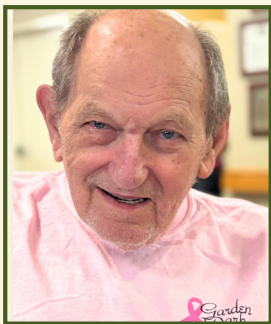


Mrs. Nita is picture wearing her winning ribbon for the staff favorite at Friendsgiving.

Pink Out For Breast Cancer



NEED MORE JOY? BE GRATEFUL!



In this season of Thanksgiving we remember that the quickest path to joy is through the door of gratitude. Research shows a strong link between gratitude and happiness, with gratitude practices like journaling, beginning and ending your day with thanks and naming the positives in your life lead to lower levels of anxiety and depression. As it turns out the beloved 'old fashioned' practice of counting your blessings has gained modern legitimacy through scientific research. Wisdom from Johnson Oatman's 1897's "Count Your Blessings," remains solid advice.

*"So, amid the conflict, whether great or small,
Do not be discouraged, God is over all;
Count your many blessings, angels will attend, Help and comfort give you to your
journey's end."*

Here are a few blessings which we are counting this season:

"I am thankful for my health now that I am better," Marilyn Otstott

From nurse, Loyd Adams, "I am thankful for constructive relationships I have in my life."

"I'm grateful for my family," says resident Ivory Smith

Ms. Linda Thompson says, "I am thankful for my life right now. I thank God for that. Every day is very important."

Laura Baldwin says, "I am thankful for such a great work family"



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

We not only have the most amazing staff, we are blessed with faithful, fun and friendly volunteers. These individuals deliver calendars, provide spiritual services, live music, exercise, Golden Retrievers and much more! Thank you volunteers for improving the quality of life of our residents! We are grateful for you.



AHCA GOLD AWARD ACCEPTANCE SPEECH



“I am truly honored to accept this award on behalf of our amazing team at Garden Park Nursing & Rehabilitation, Central Management Company and the great state of Louisiana. It’s been a special year. LSU won the College World Series, Louisiana won the first Gold Quality Award, and we are still hoping that Lee Corso was correct in his National Championship prediction!

We have always embraced a competitive spirit at Garden Park, and when we began this journey, we believed that we were award worthy. In 2016, we earned the Bronze Award. In 2017, the Silver. In 2018, we qualified for a Gold site visit and felt confident... then we were notified that we still had some improving to do.

After the letdown of 2018, we utilized our feedback report and applied again. And again. And again. It took us four Gold applications to get here today. But with each attempt, we learned more about our organization, our processes and ourselves. Those lessons became especially clear during the pandemic and the retirement of experienced senior leaders. I cannot tell you how many times we found ourselves saying, ‘we definitely need an improvement to this process.’ That

is when it finally clicked. For years, we had been leaning on our incredible people. But to truly grow and sustain excellence, we needed more than individual effort; we needed effective, systematic processes that could guide us no matter who was in the role or what challenges came our way.

It is impossible to fully thank everyone who has been part of this AHCA Quality Award journey, but I have to start with the incredible staff at our facility and their unwavering commitment to our mission of Improving Quality of Life. They have embraced continuous quality improvement not as a requirement, but as a way of life.

A heartfelt thank you as well to the leadership at Central Management, whose vision and support inspire all of our facilities to aim higher. I also want to recognize Mr. Teddy Price, who, in addition to his leadership within our company, serves as the President of the Louisiana Nursing Home Association where he works tirelessly to promote our industry and encourage providers across the state to use the AHCA Quality Award program as a roadmap for better results. To the Quality Award team and the examiners that reviewed our applications and visited our facility; thank you for providing clear, actionable ways for us to grow. Most importantly, I am deeply grateful to my family for their patience as they tolerated the countless replies of, ‘I can’t, I’ve got gold stuff to work on.’”

Our quality award journey has been about perseverance, learning and never giving up; even when the odds for Louisiana felt long. Las Vegas is an appropriate place for this moment, where people keep dreaming, trying, and hoping for a big win... Louisiana, we did it!”



HOLIDAY FAMILY VISIT PROMPTS

The holidays are the most popular time for family visits at Garden Park. To reduce anxiety and have a smooth, enjoyable visit, pack your flexibility and these helpful tips:

Bring a Prop

Recreating holiday traditions and adjusting them to the needs of a loved one allows for continued connection for family members. Rather than merely discussing days gone by, bring a photo album or an I Pad loaded with photos to prompt memories. A picture is worth a thousand words and in many cases can be a conversation starter.

Bring a Snack

Christmas cookies, cocoa, peppermints and friendship tea all signal the taste of Christmas. Come equipped with a favorite snack but know that some medications as well as a declining sense of smell can effect ones’ sense of taste.

Bring a Tune

Music can absolutely set the stage for a great visit! Interestingly enough, memories from age 15-25 seem the most accessible even among those with Dementia. Come with your phone charged and a Christmas play list curated by era; one to be easily recalled by your loved one.

Remember the Kids

Children and Christmas are a magical combination and little ones are a rare treat, especially for nursing home residents. It is tremendously valuable for children to learn to relate to their older relatives



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WHO KNEW? MARGARET WREN



Margaret Wren began her acting career when the Shreveport film industry was booming in the mid 2000's. Starting as an extra, she set her sights on the costume department and ultimately made her dream come true as a wardrobe.

“The biggest project Margaret worked on was Battle: Los Angeles which made history shutting down

I-20 and I-49 at the same time. She was wonderful!” Says Connie Herring who also worked in the movie industry.

Rebel Wren spoke about his wife's film journey. “Beginning as an extra, she was never star struck. She was in a scene with James Earl Jones. Her favorite actor she got to meet was Buck Taylor from Gunsmoke.

It did not take her long at all to get into background / extra costuming. That job was tedious, she had to take continuity shots to make sure the wardrobe of a scene was identical from one day of filming to the next. There could be 10 or 200 extras.”

How fascinating the life of a Shreveport Film crew is!

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER

- 4- Bible Study
- 5- Bingo with Camp Joy
- 7- Coffee and Conversation
- 10- Joyful Noise Choir of Christ UMC
- 11- Garden Park Rangers
- 12- Fall Festival
- 13- Catholic Mass, November Birthday Party
- 14- Bingo
- 17- Bible Study
- 20- Resident Council Meeting
- 21- Men's Group
- 25- Travel Club: South Africa
- 27- Thanksgiving
- 28- Bell Ringer practice

DECEMBER

- 1- Games with Ms. Dee
- 3- Christmas Puzzle Party w Loyola
- 5- Christmas Shop with Longstreet B. C.
- 9- Garden Park Rangers
- 12- Resident Christmas Party
- 13- Brookwood B.C. Caroling
- 17- North DeSoto Middle School Choir
- 18- Pathways in Education Christmas Visit
- 23- Travel Club* Christmas Around The World
- 26- Art Club
- 30- Men's Club
- 31- NYE Party