



Medford Multicare Center's Family of Caregivers Pull Together During Sandy

Every health care facility is required to have an emergency management plan and an evacuation plan ready and in place. Although it is hoped to never have to use these procedures, Medford Multicare Center implemented their plan with success during hurricane Sandy last week.

In preparation for the storm, Medford Multicare's management team requested volunteers who could sleep overnight at the facility so additional staffing could be present during storm. Many staff volunteered and went above and beyond their call of duty to make sure the residents were safe, that they had their medications, and that everyone was alright. These staff would go on to stay at the facility for 30 hours.



Left to Right: Melissa Williams, LPN, Denise Tenn, LPN, Lynette Baldwin, CNA, and Marsha Hunt, CNA, four examples of Medford's dedicated staff who cared for residents during Sandy. These staff also stayed and served during Hurricane Irene last year.

One staff member, Lynette Baldwin, CNA, would have been off the day of the storm but called in to ask if help was needed. "I was welcomed to come to work and to bring my 9 year old. We spent the night so I could be here to lend a helping hand," she said.

Melissa Williams, LPN and Denise Tenn, LPN said that everything went well during the storm. "We briefly went on generator power, but all staff was here, including Department Heads, Rehabilitation and Recreation. We pulled together as a team. Recreation even had a bowling activity the night of the storm to keep the residents occupied. Family members of residents and staff and anyone who needed shelter were also invited to the facility. If you were evacuated and had nowhere to go, Medford Multicare Center welcomed you," said Melissa.

In addition to caring for the residents admitted to Medford Multicare Center, the facility welcomed 20 residents from Grandell Rehab and Nursing Center, a facility in Long Beach evacuated before Sandy. Because of the damage at Grandell, these residents are still at the facility.

This is the 2nd year Medford Multicare accommodated evacuated residents, as there had been evacuations from facilities near the shore last year as a precaution before Irene. "We're taking care of Grandell's residents like our own. Some Grandell staff have been here to help with care, and Medford Multicare has even accommodated some Grandell staff who have slept here," Said Melissa.

"There was a nice breakfast served for all of us on Tuesday morning and the Assistant Administrator went to pick up staff that wanted to come to work but couldn't drive in", said Melissa. The consensus from the ladies was unanimous. "Working here is great," said Marsha Hunt, CNA. They take good care of staff and their family members", said Lynette.

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Medford Multicare Center provides short-term restorative rehab, skilled nursing, long term geriatric services, respiratory /ventilator care, tracheostomy care, oxygen therapy, IV therapy, wound care and offers a secure dementia unit. Medford Multicare Center is located at 3115 Horseblock Rd in Medford,

LIE exit 64. Please call 631-730-3000 to schedule a tour or visit www.medfordmulticare.org for additional information.