

Holiday Cheer for Children Exceeds Goal
by Jenny Hellman with the Sweet Life at Rosehill in Shawnee

What began as a simple discussion about a community holiday project turned out to be a holiday success! During a culture change committee meeting at The Sweet Life at Rosehill in Shawnee Kansas, a resident had a brilliant idea! Roy* suggested a way for staff, residents and residents family members to give back to the community this past holiday season. Mr. Roy suggested that The Sweet Life collect gifts for Children Mercy Hospital. It was not hard to think of Children's Mercy he said. They do great things for the kiddies. Mr. Roy's idea was well received and Holiday Cheer for Children was set in motion. Flyers were posted throughout the community and letters were sent to family members to invite them to participate. Mr. Roy met with other residents and staff to let them know how they could help. It was wonderful to see Mr. Roy take pride in his idea while encouraging others to support Holiday Cheer for Children. Several of our residents took the opportunity to support Mr. Roy's idea and purchased toys during an outing to Wal-Mart. The residents had a great time strolling through the aisles full of toys and selecting what they thought the kids would like. Items collected for Children's Mercy Hospital included stuffed animals, coloring books, puzzles, journals, nail polish, and a variety of toys. The Sweet Life had set a lofty goal of collecting 500 new items. When the final count was complete, a total of 578 new items had been collected. The donations were delivered to Children's Mercy before Christmas with the help of residents, family members and staff. Those who helped with the delivery enjoyed lunch at the Gold Ox to celebrate a job well done!

*Name has been changed to protect privacy