

A decorative border with colorful geometric patterns, including stars, flowers, and mandala-like designs in shades of blue, orange, green, and red, surrounds the central text.

Storytelling in Senior Living

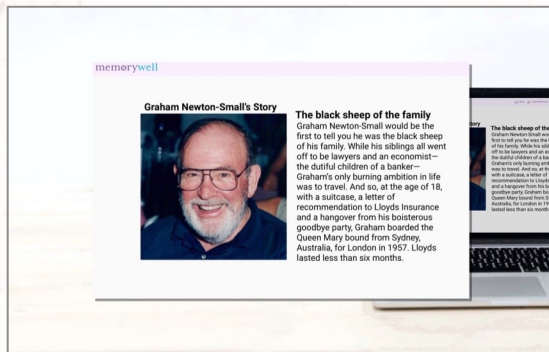
PAM 5500: Introduction to Senior Living &
Related Programs
Anne Cramer (ajc44)

A Human Right

“Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits”
(United Nations, 1948).



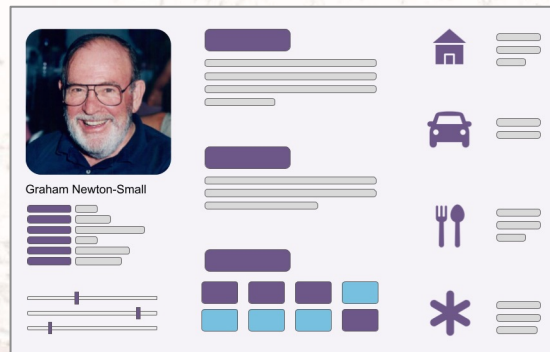
Innovation: MemoryWell™



Life Stories

Each person shares their life story, which is captured and shared with care teams to build connection and empathy

(Newton-Small, 2016)



Insights

Aligned with medical histories, these stories provide context, inform decisions, and improve care outcomes



The potential of storytelling in a senior living environment

- Does not have to be fantastic or mythical
- Preference for stories of real people
- Humor, engendering healthy laughter
- Engage all senses – sight, sound, smell, touch
- Most importantly: spark memories and encouraging the audience to tell stories of their own

(Murphy, 2002)



Effective storytelling

(Murphy, 2002)

Stimulates the mind

Imagination is still very powerful and a necessary muscle to flex; listening is as important as speaking

Provokes memories

Listeners may bring up their own tales from the past to enhance the experience

Sharing with others

Acting as a catalyst to draw stories out of others, perhaps highlighting commonalities





References

Murphy, K. (2002). Connecting Across the Years: Storytelling in Assisted Living Centers. *Diving in the Moon Journal* (3)

Newton-Small, J. (2016). *Patient Stories*. MemoryWell.
<https://www.memorywell.com/patient-stories>

United Nations (1948). "Universal Declaration of Human Rights." 217 (III) A. Paris, 1948. <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights>

