

## *A Beautiful Day in our Neighborhood*

The world is a very big place...but it feels to me more like an extended neighborhood these days. The moment I turn on the TV I hear of my neighbors in China, Italy and South Korea, often before I hear about my Metro Milwaukee neighbors.

It makes sense when you consider the pandemic the world is dealing with. But I'd like to take a moment to focus on some neighborhoods a little closer to home.

I see senior communities function every day as a neighborhood. These days those neighborhoods are experiencing their own version of isolating. In the midst of that, many wonderful things are happening. There are staff setting up Face Time or Zoom visits with family members who aren't able to see them in person. I've heard countless stories of residents busy baking banana bread, muffins and cookies and leaving them at their neighbors doorstep. A generation that continues to be resourceful and giving.

A local church came by one of our communities to set up an outdoor Easter display to enhance the resident's reflection on Easter.

Our talented lifestyle staff have so many gifts to share. One of our lifestyle coordinators plays the saxophone so beautifully. One day he filled the halls with an impromptu concert. One by one the seniors opened their apartment doors to take in that lively and uplifting musical performance.

A marketing director in one of our communities shared with me that the best part of her day now is when she gets to go door-to-door delivering lunch and dinner to each apartment. She stated she's built an even stronger relationship with each individual, to the point that she knows exactly who likes coffee black,

who likes soup with or without crackers, who opts for dessert and who needs her to grab their silverware for them.

The ice cream, activity and drink carts are roaming the halls of our senior communities these days delivering not just food and games, but conversation and a smiling face. Did you know that when your smile is genuine it actually reaches your eyes... so despite wearing a mask the positive energy is easily communicated.

What gestures of kindness are happening in your neighborhood? Are you waving and smiling as you pass neighbors on your walk? Are you thanking the person at your neighborhood grocery checkout for serving you today? As you stream your faith service, are you checking in to say thanks for the message of strength and perseverance they delivered?

This is a time when our neighborhood can give us strength. But it's also a time when we can be the initiator of kindness and hope in those around us. In every crisis there are opportunities. It doesn't take a grand gesture to make an impact, it takes a small act of human kindness. Lift your head and look for your opportunity.

*This article is a reprint of a blog posted by  
Adele Lund, Laureate Group's Director of  
Community and Business Relations*

---

*For 50 years, Laureate Group, a local, family owned business has been helping older adults and their families manage the challenges of aging. Laureate Group operates eight senior communities throughout the Greater Milwaukee area. Additional resources can be found at:*

*www.laureategroup.com/blog • www.laureategroup.com • Laureate Cares: 262-832-7113  
Careers for Caring People: www.laureategroup.com/careers*