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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **“Music & Memory” Program at Three Pillars Inspires Toe-Tapping and Smiles**

*With equipment funded by a grant, residents are experiencing renewed meaning and connection with music*



*Three Pillars’ Masonic Center for Health & Rehab resident Ruth Jensen enjoys the gift of music.*

**Dousman, WI. April 26, 2016** – Three Pillars’ residents are experiencing music’s incredible ability to inspire the soul. A look around the Masonic Center for Health and Rehab shows numerous smiles, frequent singing, and spirited toe-tapping becoming regular, welcome occurrences, thanks to the Wisconsin Music & Memory Program!

The program, part of a national initiative, is designed to help people with Alzheimer’s and related dementias find renewed meaning and connection with music. The core feature of the program is utilizing programmable iPods to bring music to the resident on an individual basis. Among the goals of the program are enhancing engagement and socialization, reducing agitation, alleviating restlessness, increasing attention, and providing purposeful and enjoyable leisure opportunities.

Three Pillars received a grant to fund the equipment for initiating the program, which included 10 iPods with corresponding headphones and ear buds, as well as portable speakers. Each iPod is loaded with a different genre of music, offering a broad variety to meet any resident’s musical taste. The program, managed by the Three Pillars Recreation Services Department, is currently implemented at the Masonic Center for Health & Rehab (Skilled Nursing Facility), which serves up to 70 residents - many of whom are impacted by dementia.

Melissa Gibbs, Three Pillars’ Recreation Therapist explains, “Through a log system and educational materials, the equipment is available and accessible for any resident, any time of day, assisted by any staff member.”

“The impact of music has always been known to be remarkable,” Gibbs continues. “The Music & Memory Program has had an undeniably positive, calming, and uplifting impact on a number of residents here in a variety of behavioral circumstances.”

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# Three Pillars

SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITIES

With an eye towards the future, additional iPods and music equipment are on the Masonic Center for Health & Rehab's wish list so that they may expand upon the established program. Additionally, with the generosity of monetary gifts, Three Pillars hopes to expand the program to Riverside Lodge Memory Care (Community Based Residential Facility), as well as to acute care patients at Hickory Suites Rehabilitation.

To learn more about supporting the Music & Memory Program at Three Pillars, please contact Jane Olisar, Chief Development Officer, at 262.965.7294 or [jolisar@threepillars.org](mailto:jolisar@threepillars.org).

Three Pillars' new website ([www.threepillars.org](http://www.threepillars.org)) now features online donation capabilities. Simply click the "Donate Now" button in the upper right corner. Donors are also able to designate their gifts.

**Three Pillars Senior Living Communities** is a not-for-profit organization with locations in Dousman and Cecil, Wisconsin and is sponsored by the Masonic Fraternity. Three Pillars Senior Living Communities takes pride in meeting the social, physical, and spiritual needs of all seniors by providing high-quality senior housing and services. For more information, visit [www.threepillars.org](http://www.threepillars.org).

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