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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Veteran Residents Wrapped in Warmth at Three Pillars Senior Living Communities

*New campaign allows sponsors to gift personalized branch of service blankets to all Masonic Center for Health & Rehabilitation and Riverside Lodge Memory Care veterans*

**Dousman, WI. November 8, 2016** – Veterans are deserving of thanks, praise, and recognition for their many sacrifices for our freedom. Three Pillars Senior Living Communities organized one special way in which they can express just that this Veteran’s Day.

It was Melissa Gibbs, Recreation Therapist at Three Pillars, who conjured up the idea for personalized *Branch of Service* blankets for each resident veteran in the Masonic Center for Health & Rehabilitation and Riverside Lodge Memory Care. Each year, residents participate in moving programs and services which honor and recognize the veterans.

“Our residents are some of the most exceptional people I know, and they deserve the world,” says Gibbs. “A boutonniere and favor to recognize their sacrifices as veterans are special, but I got to thinking that maybe we could do something even more.”



Children at Abundant Life Christian Childcare in Summit, WI, enjoyed a special visit from Jane Olisar, Chief Development Officer at Three Pillars, as she expressed thanks for their generous blanket sponsorships.



Gibbs’ handmade *Branch of Service* blankets will be presented to each veteran at the Masonic Center for Health & Rehabilitation on Veteran’s Day.

Gibbs, who is a talented crafter, has made many high-quality handmade fleece blankets, and all who receive them as gifts fall in love with them. They’re not just any blankets, but made in a special way with hand-woven edges and careful expertise. It was these blankets that came to Gibbs’ mind as an idea for the residents who often enjoy a cozy layer of warmth on their lap at Three Pillars.

Working with Three Pillar’s Chief Development Officer, Jane Olisar, the two put together a campaign inviting staff, family members, and friends in the community to “Sponsor a Veteran with Warmth” by covering the cost of the blanket materials. All 18 blankets were successfully sponsored, so this Veteran’s Day each veteran of the Masonic Center for Health and Rehab will be presented with their own personalized blanket made of fabric featuring their own branch of military service.

Among the groups and individuals who sponsored the blankets, one was a bit of a heart-warming surprise. When Susan Kohlhaas, the director of Abundant Life Christian Childcare in Summit, WI, heard about the campaign, her heartstrings tugged. Children at the center participated in a coin drive competition to raise funds

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in hopes of sponsoring a Three Pillars veteran with warmth. At the conclusion of the drive, the coins added up to enough for not just one blanket, but three, with additional donations going towards the Three Pillars Resident Support Fund.

“We want to instill in the children that we care about supporting our community and giving back. We saw this as a great way to do this and support our Veterans,” commented Kohlhaas. “The children were proud to act as good citizens and neighbors, doing a great deed for members of our community who truly deserve it.”

Blankets will be adorned with a special personalized tag featuring the sponsor’s name and presented at a special ceremony on Veteran’s Day.

To learn more about ways you can give to Three Pillars and the residents, visit [www.threepillars.org/Get-Involved/Charitable-Giving.htm](http://www.threepillars.org/Get-Involved/Charitable-Giving.htm) or contact Jane Olisar at [jolisar@threepillars.org](mailto:jolisar@threepillars.org) / 262.965.7294.

**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).



Graham Pangborn, 2, of Summit, enjoys a sneak peak at one of the veteran blankets sponsored by Abundant Life Christian Childcare.



Jane Olisar, Chief Development Officer at Three Pillars, shows a blanket and expresses gratitude to the children and teachers at Abundant Life Christian Childcare.

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