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KETTLE MORAINE MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS MAKE TOES TAP AT THREE PILLARS

A generous donation of iPods connects deeply with older adults at the senior community's skilled nursing and memory care

Dousman, Wis. November 20, 2019 — In October of 2018, Kettle Moraine Middle School sixth graders Riley Grossklaus and Ella Lephardt were inspired by the documentary *Alive Inside*, which explores the unique connection humans find in music and its healing power where prescription medications sometimes fall short. The students set their sights on helping older adults in their community through the power of music, and got to work devising a plan for their project.

Later, in the spring of 2019, the *Music & Memories* theme of Three Pillars Senior Living Communities' first annual fundraising gala in support of memory care further motivated the students to bring music to the ears of older adults at the Dousman-based senior community. They formally launched a school and community-wide "iPod Drive", creating a promotional video to share with the entire middle school.

Riley commented, "The school and the parents were very excited to help support the iPod drive."

The students also set out to further to explore music genre preferences for Three Pillars' skilled nursing and memory care residents so they could set up and program each donated iPod with meaningful tunes.



Kettle Moraine Middle School seventh graders Ella Lephardt (L) and Riley Grossklaus (R) dropped off donations from their iPod drive to bring the joy of music to Three Pillars residents.

Over the course of the year, Riley and Ella's drive was a success, bringing in many new or gently used iPods and even raising additional funds for accessories and expanded storage capacities.

Now in seventh grade, the 12 and 13-year old ladies' vision became a reality. Residents, staff, students, and parents were all-smiles during a special visit to Three Pillars to donate the music equipment, and it's only the beginning of an exceptional partnership.

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Three Pillars Riverside Lodge Memory Care resident Bob Feulner is overjoyed to have music-on-demand at his fingertips, thanks to the iPod drive coordinated by Kettle Moraine middle schoolers.

Three Pillars' campus Recreation & Music Therapists, Lifestyles Teams, Memory Care Nurse Manager, and Chief Development Officer have worked closely with Riley and Ella to initiate the iPod music programs, and the students will continue to volunteer through ongoing visits to help residents learn how to use the equipment and fill their ears with music they love.

According to the students, their favorite part of the process to date was, "... getting to come to Three Pillars and work with the staff and residents." They enjoyed learning about Three Pillars as an organization and how their contribution will make a real difference in the lives of the older adults who live there.

Individuals interested in supporting this effort with a donation of an iPod or funds may contact Three Pillars' Development office at 262.965.7294 or give@threepillars.org.

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Three Pillars Senior Living Communities is a not-for-profit organization located in Dousman, WI and is sponsored by the Masonic Fraternity. Three Pillars Senior Living Communities takes pride in meeting the social, physical, and spiritual needs of older adults by providing high quality senior housing and services.

For more information about this story or Three Pillars Senior Living Communities please contact Josh Van Den Berg, Chief Marketing & Communications Officer at 262.965.7391 or jvandenberg@threepillars.org

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