



ToyMakers of East Lake

"Making Smiles One Toy at a Time"



Toy Stories

Fall 2019 by Bob Helms

Newsflash From ToyMakers of East Lake

It is my honor to introduce to you four outstanding people who are making a huge difference through their service and volunteerism at Toymakers of East Lake.

Bob Rath
Loren Masley
Linda Masley
Madeleine Chicoine

Mr. Bob Rath will turn 100 years old September 25. Bob has been in the Toymakers shop making toys and inspiring others to do the same until just a few weeks ago when he suffered a stroke. Following some intensive rehab, Bob moved into HarborChase Assisted Living to continue his recovery. Upon displaying a couple of Toymaker toys in his room, Bob discovered another former Toymaker was also a resident at HarborChase. Both men have a heart for helping others and with the help of Loren's daughter, Linda and Madeleine Chicoine, director of life enrichment at HarborChase, Bob and Loren are once again active Toymakers. In the past two weeks Bob, Loren and Linda have hand-sanded a couple hundred wooden toys and returned them to the Toymakers shop for painting. Madeleine has picked up the ball to make this a formal opportunity for other residents to join Toymakers. Linda is an active participant in the process. Thanks to Madeleine there is now a Toymakers kiosk in the HarborChase activity room to house the toys and supplies that will provide residents with the ongoing opportunity to volunteer. Another resident of HarborChase, who is planning to participate, tells me that this program will give them a purpose and an opportunity to make a real difference in someone's life. Congratulations to Bob, Loren, Linda and Madeleine for transforming HarborChase into the first assisted living Toymakers of East Lake program.

Below is a letter I received from Madeleine:

Dear Bob Helms,

On behalf of HarborChase of Palm Harbor I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude for your efforts in reaching out to our community regarding facilitating a satellite operation of the Toymakers of East Lake, here at our building. As you know so many of our residents here at HarborChase have amazing legacy's and have accomplished so much in their lifetimes. They are people who come from a working generation. A generation who didn't have remote controlled everything, and produced value through blood, sweat, and tears. Unfortunately, at this stage in their lives many of my residents have lost the physical ability to be productive. To those who have created meaningful things all their life, they lose the feeling of worth. They no longer have anything to offer, cannot create, they feel useless, for lack of better words. With the help of Toymakers of East Lake and you Mr. Helms, I hope to give them an opportunity to be useful again. To take part in creating a meaningful item. And item that will bring joy to someone, somewhere. To take part in the journey that each beautiful wooden toy will voyage. As many fun and creative crafts I can plan, they are just crafts. And while they may have value, they have no journey, they will not travel to a child in need, to bring a light in darkness. To give my residents the opportunity to be part of something bigger and know their work was for something. That is my goal. And with the help of Toymakers of East Lake I feel confident I can offer that to my residents. Together we will have the awesome privilege to provide an opportunity for residents to feel propose and worth again. Although they are just wooden toys they are so much more to each person who is part of that journey.

I cannot wait to unfold all the magical moments we will share having Toymakers of East Lake at HarborChase of Palm Harbor. I hope to make a solid contribution toward production as well. Thank you again for the opportunity and looking forward to our future!



Madeleine Chicoine
Director of Life Enrichment

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To Donate via PayPal or Credit Card:
(www.toymakersofeastlake.org)

Checks may be mailed to ToyMakers of East Lake, 2690
Tanglewood Trail, Palm Harbor, FL 34685.