PKIMC Boasts Top Nursing Home in State

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Erik Wander/KMXT

U.S. News and World Report recently ranked the long-term Care Center at Providence Kodiak Island Medical Center as the number one nursing home in Alaska. Meanwhile, the Care Center's administration and staff are hoping to realize their dream of a new facility to replace its current space in the near future.

Care Center staff and administrators accepted the honor with great pride. Nursing home administrator Judy Fine responded to the number one ranking and explained the rating system.

-- (Fine 1 38 sec. "We're really proud ... number one in Alaska.")

Fine said working in the Care Center is more than just a job for nurses and staff, but compared it to more of a calling.

-- (Fine 2 21 sec. "You are not just giving ... to the end of their life here.")

Part of the Care Center's mission statement, which was developed by the entire staff last year, says compassion, tenderness, harmony and healing of the soul is at the very heart of what they do. Margaret Hall's 92-year-old husband, Father Hugh Hall, has been a resident since February, 2006, prior to which Margaret cared for him at home. She said she couldn't be happier with the quality of care at the center.

-- (Hall 1 29 sec. "The care he's receiving is ... can't find the right words.")

93-year-old Mary Hennessy has been a resident for seven months. Her daughter, Kodiak resident Betty Walters, brought her to Kodiak from her home in New York to live in the Care Center. Hennessy said she feels she feels at home and that she's receiving the best care possible.

-- (Hennessy 1 52 sec. "Couldn't be better ... somebody is there for me.")

Fine emphasized that although the Care Center provides top-quality care to its residents, operating in a 40-year-old building is not their preference. She said the facility should ideally provide a more home-like atmosphere.

-- (Fine 3 40 sec. "Many in the community ... neighborhood model of living.")

Fine said the biggest barrier to realizing that model of living for Care Center residents is finding a way to pay for it. Borghy Holm, Public Relations and Communications Coordinator for PKIMC explained the importance of finding a way to fund the facility. She said a large portion could be paid by Medicaid funds, but that the Borough would have to fund the rest.

-- (Holm 37 sec. "A lot of the projects ... as they can possibly be.")

The Care Center's mission statement concludes that they serve with integrity and respect to nurture, enrich and celebrate the lives of one another, and refers to theirs as sacred work. Fine said she is grateful to all the members of the Kodiak community who contribute to the center and the well-being of its residents in various ways. I'm Erik Wander.

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