

Grand day Grandparents honored

Why was National Grandparents Day started? Lyn Semeyn, volunteer coordinator at Botsford Continuing Health Center in Farmington Hills, wanted to know, so she picked up the phone and called Marian McQuade, the founder herself.

The answer Semeyn received convinced her that holding the first Grandparents Day celebration at Botsford Continuing Health Center would be a good idea.

"Mrs. McQuade explained to me that National Grandparents Day has a three-fold purpose," Semeyn said. "First, to honor grandparents. Second, to give grandparents an opportunity to show love for their children's children and, lastly, to help children become aware of the strength and guidance older people can offer."

Semeyn said the center's event — held on National Grandparents Day, Sept. 11 — enabled residents to spend time with their loved ones, from sons and daughters to great-grandchildren. Clowns provided entertainment for all with magic and the making of balloon animals. Resident Christine Fleming, 96, was proud that four generations were represented by her family at the event.

"Just include me, my daughter, her daughter and her children. We were all there," Fleming said. "I have great-grandchildren too but they didn't come. The event was wonderful. It makes you feel good."

And how about the family of the founder herself? Semeyn learned that McQuade has 16 children and 40 grandchildren. McQuade began her campaign for the holiday in 1973 and Congress officially recognized the day in 1978.

Botsford Continuing Health Center (BCHC) is a 179-bed nursing facility. In addition to providing long-term care, the facility provides hospice care, short-term respite care for families that need relief from daily caregiving activities, and a variety of support groups as part of its community outreach program.

Farmington woman manages award-winning Arby's eatery

At the August convention of Arby's operations held in Nashville, Tenn., Wolverine Food Systems Inc. of Brighton received a prestigious award for its Arby's restaurant in Livonia.

The Livonia unit is located on Eight Mile Road, just west of Farmington Road. The 1993 award is Arby's Five Star Award and was presented to only five of the top Arby's restaurants in the world of a total of 2,700 worldwide.

Wolverine is owned and operated by Robert C. Reaser of Ann Arbor and Thomas J. Price of Northville. They also own Arby's in Brighton, Owosso and Birch Run, Mich.

The Livonia restaurant is managed by Farmington resident Debra Robinson and assistants Kelly Doubrowsky, Melissa Cash and Lisa Dornier. George Robinson of Farmington is the operations manager for Wolverine and supervises the franchise operations.

This award is based upon positive sales increases, and high standards of service to the customer and operations, along with the quality of the building and the interior dining areas.

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