

## Kremmling Chamber of Commerce August Business of the Month Cliffview Assisted Living Center

*Amy Cordova, Deanna Aylor, Jeff Pexton, the people that make  
Cliffview Assisted Living Center-Business of the Month stand behind  
residents Rhoda Dean, Dorothy Keith and Adlor Mahon.*

*Kim Bodemann/Grand Gazette*



Cliffview Assisted Living Center in Kremmling was named the Business of the Month by the Kremmling Chamber of Commerce for the month of August.

The facility has 24 rooms and opened in 1994 with five residents. It took approximately two years for the facility to fill to capacity. Jeff Pexton, current administrator at Cliffview, said the census right now is 25 residents. Several rooms have the capacity for a married couple. Keeping the facility full can be challenging as the average stay for a resident is approximately 2-3 years. The resident that has currently been at Cliffview the longest has lived there since 2006. A full census is important to keep the assisted care facility operating in the black.

Pexton said he loves his job and the most rewarding part of the job is helping the residents. "I have a lot of respect for them (residents)," he said. "I have learned a lot from them."

Cliffview employs 18 people and Pexton praised the staff as being top-notch and focused on resident care. The field of senior citizen care is shifting to "person-centered" care, Pexton said, where housing facilities like Cliffview look to make the living situation as much like a person's home as is reasonable.

One example at Cliffview is that residents have some flexibility on the time they come to breakfast. Another example is that pets are allowed in Cliffview, as long as the resident is able to care for that animal.

Pexton said Cliffview has an excellent reputation in the community.

He noted that the first administrator at Cliffview, Mary Pat Gale, worked tirelessly to promote Cliffview and to enhance the quality of life for residents. "She deserves a lot of credit," Pexton said, "for that good reputation."

Currently, Cliffview has 11 residents from Grand County, one from Summit County and one from Jackson County. The other residents have family members in the region who have moved their loved one to a facility where they are close and will also receive top notch care.

On a weekly basis, Cliffview features exercise sessions, crafts, Bingo and lots of music. "The residents love music," Pexton said. The population has a mix of private pay residents as well as those for whom Medicaid pays the bill. The challenge, Pexton said, is to keep the budget balanced. Medicaid reimbursement did increase by eight percent this past year, but it had been significantly cut the previous three years. However, that reimbursement is still less than the actual cost of providing housing, food and assisted living care. The current population is about half private pay and half Medicaid. Pexton stressed there is no difference in the level of care provided by the staff. Most of the staff members, he noted, are not even aware of who are private-pay residents and who are Medicaid-pay patients.

The facility was developed by the town of Kremmling, partly as an economic development initiative after the Louisiana-Pacific waferboard plant closed in the early 1990s. The town appointed a steering committee to help develop the facility and the town, following the leadership of Mayor Peg Toft, donated \$300,000 to the construction of the building. The general contractor for the building was DMJ Contractors of Kremmling.

The town also applied for grant money to help pay for construction and the facility received a federal loan at the 11th hour of the project to complete the funding process.

The facility is currently owned by the Grand County Housing Authority and is managed by Senior Housing Options of Denver. For more information about the facility or to inquire about call 970-724-3530.

*Larry Banman/Grand Gazette*

**Grand Gazette September 5, 2013 Volume 2, Number 24**