

Family First Newsletter

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253-853-2033 / website: familyfirstafh.com



Winter 2010

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(See next page for pictures!)

Thank you to everyone who attended our 2009 Holiday party. What a great time! We would also like to thank all of you who helped us bring our residents and family together for a very special afternoon.

~Love The Thomson's

Family First Staff Pay's it Forward

This past December two of our staff 'Paid it Forward' to families in need. Family First submitted a 'Cheers' to the Gateway, our local newspaper, giving recognition to them. We'd like to share their heartfelt actions with you.

Karry Jones, one of our Crescent home caregivers was robbed 6 days prior to Christmas; the thieves stole her families wrapped Christmas presents from under their tree. When Becky Lester, Resident Manager of our Crescent home heard about this, she contacted the Gig Harbor Fire fighter's toy drive coordinator.

The Toy Drive coordinator responded and delivered an abundance of gifts for Karry's children on Christmas Eve. So many gifts came in that Karry paid it forward by gifting another less fortunate family with 1/3 of the toys for their children. Cheers to you Becky and Karry for sharing the heart of Christmas with others in need!



We Love Our Resident Managers

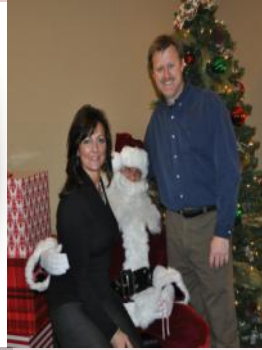
WHATS NEW!!

Family First will be expanding our office space. We will be moving to Suite 312 this spring. Look for our "Open House" email in the coming weeks!

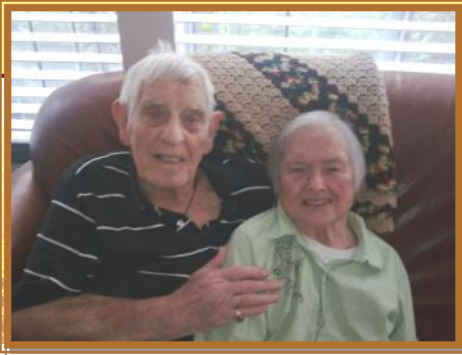




Family First Holiday Party 2009



A Family First Note Book Story..... By Julie



For those of you who have seen the movie or read the book *The Notebook*, you know what a true love story is. If you were to visit our 59th street house on most any afternoon, you may be fortunate enough to witness a man talk about 70 plus years of loving memories he had with his beautiful bride.

That's right, Bill and Shirley were married over 70 years! When Shirley's Alzheimer's progressed she came to live at Family First. It was the first time they were ever apart.

Bill was ok with the idea. He realized his bride needed special care. He visited most every day. Bill and Shirley would cuddle on the couch and she was always so happy to see him. She could no longer find her words but she would smile big and hum a happy tune. The residents, caregivers and family visitors looked forward to listening to Bill share their love story. He spoke of the joys and challenges and told funny stories but most of all, he talked about how much they loved each other.

One day Bill's visits stopped, his health had taken a turn for the worse. Shortly thereafter, Bill and Shirley's son and daughter in law came to give Shirley the news, Bill would no longer be visiting, just looking down from heaven.

Even with her disease we knew Shirley understood. Shirley couldn't express her knowledge that Bill had passed, it was obvious that there was a deep awareness, evident when she willfully decided to stop eating and drinking. It is our belief that she firmly chose to join Bill and she did so in a most natural and peaceful way, reaching always for someone that she so clearly saw. We feel so blessed to have known them both and hear their notebook story.

Please see our blog on our web site at familyfirstafh.com for a touching article written by Bill's Granddaughter detailing the passing of her Grandfather and his memorable life with Shirley.

(Grab your tissues!)

In Loving Memory

Beatty Jean H.

Leila M.

Marie B.

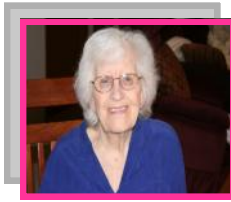
Shirley P.

Happy Birthday!

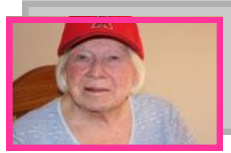
- 1/7-Scott C.
- 3/25-Ruth R.
- 3/28-Hellen C.
- 3/30-Nina D.
- 4/19-Lorraine P.
- 5/13-Fran H.
- 5/17-Willy Y.
- 5/18-Ruby P.
- 6/5-Ceceilia T.
- 6/11-Lula E.
- 6/21-Shirley S.
- 6/22-Eileen B.
- 6/25-Leila M.



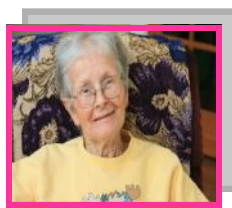
Scott



Fran



Eileen

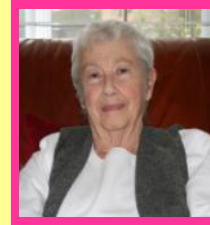


Shirley



Cecelia

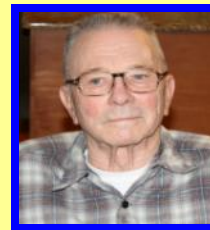
Welcome New Residents!



Nina



Florence



Max

Family First Outing's and Activities!

~A day at the movies



~A fall picnic



~Visit to Humane Society picking a kitty



~A day on the boat

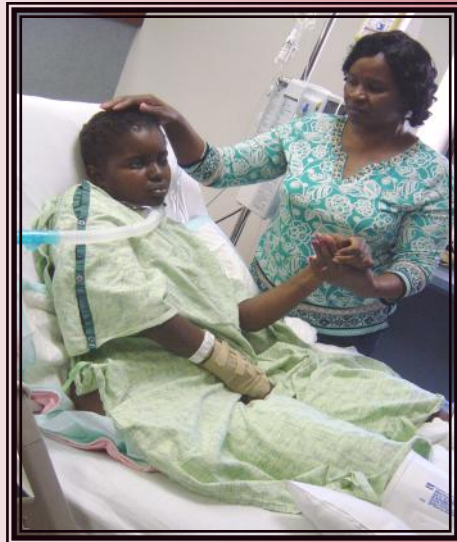


~Taking John to the ball game



~Holiday decorating





Caregiver helps her daughter fight for her Life!

~Donation Account had been Established~

Our staff is so precious to us, so when one is faced with a life crisis, we feel compelled to share it with our friends and family members to help. Cecily Kuibita is a caregiver at our Olalla home. Her daughter Caroline is 23 years of age; she has been attending school in Birmingham Alabama since 2008. Currently, Caroline is in the Hospital in Alabama unable to feed or care for herself.

Caroline became ill in November with pneumonia and was treated as an out patient. The day before Thanksgiving, Caroline escorted her friend to the airport; arriving back to her car, Caroline became very sick; requiring assistance from the airport police to call an ambulance to transport her to the hospital. The doctors had a difficult time diagnosing her illness, the following Sunday she was admitted to ICU where she remained till January 4th, when she was moved to a hospital room.

Cecily and her husband flew to Alabama, taking 3 weeks off work. Needing to provide an income for her family, Cecily returned to Washington mid December. While home in Washington, Caroline's health condition necessitated Cecily be there with her. Cecily flew back to Alabama January 19, where she's taken a 2nd Apartment; the family is retaining one here in WA in hopes of returning soon.

It is Cecily's hope that Caroline's health stabilizes so that she can bring her back to Washington, care for Caroline here and resume her work at Family First.

*Family First has set up a donation account to provide some financial relief to Cecily Kuibita and her family. If you would like to contribute you may do so at any Columbia bank or our Family First office. Checks can be made out to Cecily Kuibita donation account. If you have any questions please contact our operations manager **Mary Mason at 253-853-2033** or email her at :*

mary @familyfirstafh.com

Thank you for your generosity

~Chris and Julie Thomson



FAMILY FIRST
4700 Pt. Fosdick Drive NW,
#204
Gig Harbor, WA 98335
253-853-2033

Family First is now taking insulin
dependent residents



Family First Adult Family Homes

59TH STREET HOME

4001 59th St. Ct. NW, Gig Harbor

ROSEDALE HOME

8219 Dogwood Ln. NW, Gig Harbor

ARTONDALE HOME

5305 81st Ave NW, Gig Harbor

CRESCENT VALLEY HOME

2904 138 St. NW, Gig Harbor

OLALLA HOME

4553 SE Burley Olalla Rd., Olalla

For additional information or tours of our homes,
please call Julie Thomson at (253)853-2033
julie@familyfirstafh.com