

Special training augments resident care at Jerome Home



Four employees of Jerome Home, located at 975 Corbin Ave., recently completed specialized training to better assist residents during meals. The Aug. 1 graduation marked the completion of the first Feeding Assistant Training held at Jerome Home, which offers skilled nursing, short-term rehabilitation, residential care, memory care and assisted living.

Graduates were Greg Sieron, dining director; Alexandra Morales, housekeeping; Robert Schmelzer, exercise physiologist; and Ann Marie Massey, dietary aide, who were trained to assist residents during meals and work under the direct supervision of licensed nursing staff.

Six Jerome Home employees conducted the training which included eight hours of classroom instruction and supervision during four meals. Students learned feeding techniques, safety and emergency procedures including the Heimlich Maneuver, infection control practices, resident behaviors, and communication and interpersonal skills.

The training was modeled on numerous core values including respect, dignity and worth of each resident as an individual, respect for each person's diversity, therapeutic relationships that are caring and compassionate, and encouragement of the resident to be as independent as possible.

The curriculum corresponds to the federally required feeding assistance program and has been approved by the state of Connecticut Department of Public Health.

"Being able to assist our residents in such a meaningful way is absolutely wonderful. This is a great program," Morales said.

Jerome Home offers skilled nursing, short-term rehabilitation, residential care, memory care and assisted living, and is a not for profit member of Hartford HealthCare Senior Services. For more information about Jerome Home, visit jeromehome.org.