

Waynesville NC Single Service Award Entry McCracken Nursing Home

The Waynesville NC Aktion Club adopted McCracken Low Income Nursing Home seven years ago and has consistently written cards to them, held Christmas parties, played bingo and planted their gardens every spring.

This spring, a group of four Aktion Club members and three Kiwanis Advisors planted their spring flower beds. A committee was formed and they decided the date, what their budget would be and how many members would be needed for the project. They went to Lowes and purchased \$300 worth of beautiful spring flower plants, planting soil and mulch. Lowes was kind enough to partner with us and we only paid \$80.

When we called McCracken to let them know we were coming, the manager said that our timing couldn't have been more perfect. As a result of Covid, the residents were at a new "low" because they hadn't been out for months and hadn't had many visitors and our project would "definitely lift their spirits".

We arrived at 9:00 am with donuts and most of the residents were sitting outside waiting for us. We visited and then got to work weeding and planting. Several residents wearing their bathrobes helped us dig and position the plants. After we planted all the flowers and put mulch down, the beds were missing one thing and we had a great idea. Two of the group homes had painted festive river rocks during their lockdown period and we went by their homes and gathered 30 beautiful rocks to spread throughout their gardens.

At the end of the day, their gardens looked bright, cheery and festive with all the spring flowers and painted rocks. The residents loved what we had done and we all admired our work and happily visited with the residents. As we drove away that day, we all felt such a great feeling of pride and accomplishment and were so thrilled we could be part of such a worthwhile project. The smiles of all the residents at the end of the day made everyone proud to be Aktion Club members and Advisors.

Marti Peithman
Aktion Club Advisor
Waynesville NC Aktion Club









