

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

St. Joseph Manor Re-commits to Implementing the Eden Alternative

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(Brockton, MA)

The Eden Alternative[®] is a small not-for-profit organization making a big difference in the world. The Philosophy is based on the core belief that aging should be a continued stage of development and growth, rather than a period of decline. The Eden Alternative is a powerful tool for improving quality of life for our Elders and for recapturing a meaningful work life for the Care Partners. The Eden Alternative is dedicated to supporting others in the creation of communities which eliminate the plagues of Loneliness, Helplessness, and Boredom. These are plagues of the human spirit, not the human body, but they can be just as debilitating and just as deadly as any disease of the body.

The core concept of The Eden Alternative is strikingly simple. We must teach ourselves to see places where Elders live as habitats for human beings rather than facilities for the frail and elderly. We must learn what Mother Nature has to teach us about vibrant, vigorous living. We must create a garden where people grow and thrive.

Founded in 1991, by Dr. William Thomas, a Harvard-educated physician and Board Certified Geriatrician, the Eden Alternative now claims over 17,000 Associates and 200 registered homes in the U.S. and Canada. The Eden Alternative is a growing movement around the world including the U.K., Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Scandinavia and the Faroe Islands. The staff and management of homes on the Eden Registry continue to work towards meaningful cultural change through ongoing training and a continued dedication to making life better for those who live and work there.

St. Joseph Manor Health Care, Inc. joined the Eden Registry to make a public statement about their commitment to creating a Human Habitat for the Elders, and the Care Partners. In today's society long-term care organizations are often singled out because of their flaws, but the Eden Alternative believes it can be different. The Eden Registry is an honor society that elevates and acknowledges the hard work of going against long standing institutional systems and creating a true home, and community. Homes listed on the Eden Registry have committed to doing just that, through the adoption the Eden Alternative Principles and Practices.

It should be noted that implementing the Eden Alternative is a journey and homes on the Eden Registry are all at different stages of growth along that journey. Homes are admitted to the Eden Registry based on their foundation of Eden Alternative education, the support and commitment of their formal leadership, and their plans for ongoing growth and implementation. The Eden Alternative organization provides guidance, support and encouragement to these homes, but does not offer close supervision of their daily operations.

Anne DeMinico, CEO/Administrator, states that "The Eden Alternative has shown us how companion animals, the opportunity to give meaningful care to other living things, and the variety and spontaneity that mark an enlivened community can succeed where pills and therapies fail. It also shows us how to create a warm culture that is characterized by optimism, trust, generosity and people working together to make a better world for our Elders. Most importantly, Eden teaches us that decisions belong with our Elders, or as close to our Elders as possible."

The traditional medical model that has been dominant in the care of our Elders has many shortcomings. The plagues of the human spirit run rampant in these cold, sterile social and physical environments. Our Elders need and deserve an opportunity for a life worth living, not just time spent waiting to die. With the adoption of the Eden Alternative Philosophy and Principles, St. Joseph Manor is working to show people it can be different.

For information on the Eden Alternative[®], please check their website at www.edenalt.org. Available at the "Eden Store" on our web site is a variety of books that can assist you learning more about The Eden Alternative.

St. Joseph Manor is a non-profit nursing home and skilled care facility with 118 beds. A majority of the resident rooms at St. Joseph Manor are private. Also available is our Mater Dei Adult Day Health Program with a 60 client a day capability.

Contact:

Anne DeMinico

CEO/Administrator

St. Joseph Manor Health Care Inc.

215 Thatcher St., Brockton, MA 02302

Tele. 508-583-5834, x3015

e-mail: ademinico@SJMbrockton.org