

Consumer Voice – 2022 Resident’s Voice Challenge

By: Britta Stewart, Memorial Driftwood Nursing Center

The covid has been with our facility since March, 2020. During the process it has taken my husband, Mr. Stewart's life and now I am a widow. I now reside at Driftwood Nursing Center located in Gulfport, MS for my own health issues. At Driftwood, the patients have recovered. Last Christmas season we were on the TV news station WLOX and how we were whole once again. I, Ms. Stewart, spoke in front of the camera. We also were placed on the Angel Tree and every resident received presents from the community.

As a community we still have physical therapy, restorative, social events, worship by all denominations, and have activities like bingo. As a resident, you have the right to participate in other activities that do not interfere with the rights of other residents in this facility. Now regarding our residents, we have our Ombudsman representing our residents' rights in this facility. As a community, the rights of the facility are covered by the resident council. We have as President myself, Ms. Stewart, a Vice President, and a secretary who also reside at this facility. We as residents can interact with people from the community and participate in community activities both within and outside the facility. We also have the right to organize and participate in resident groups. As residents we have the right to see our own doctors, as choosing. Also, residents can participate in hospice, that comes from the outside to visit our residents in need.

In closing, during covid our lives were affected daily including attending church services on Sundays. The minister was not allowed inside due to covid and preached in the parking lot instead. As a facility and community, we overcame the covid and will continue to be strong.