As we move past the whirlwind of the holidays, the budding optimism kindled by spring’s warm months just ahead fosters a promise of new life, new challenges…and new hopes. As we have written before, one of our hopes for launching the quarterly newsletter was to seed a sense of community. Our hope would be that the newsletter could become a forum to stimulate discussion and bring up consequential topics centered around our clients and frontline staff. And it would be a way of developing mutual understanding, helping the outsider process our residents’ world view, in times of happiness, sadness, fear, and contentment.

At the end of each board meeting, we receive a lesson in courage. Our clients, regardless their disabilities, take on each day with contagious determination. Our staff, both literally and figuratively, journey forward with them on this path, locked arm-in-arm. In the end, this interdependence breeds a partnership of love and trust.

I hope our organization will be even more active by supporting our staff, residents, and clients that are out and about. However, we realize that it takes more than hope - it requires action. I encourage you, the wonderful readers of this newsletter, to see how you can help. We need volunteers to donate their time and talents. We would love your help during those summer nights at baseball games, BBQs, or helping with the logistics it takes for our people to be active participants in the community. By contributing your time, you will find that helping feed joy to the souls of our residents fills something elemental within your own..

The Board strives to make progress in RSS being the first workplace of choice and the best place to live—your donation of time will build the foundation of community relationships with staff and residents. We welcome your contribution as you help build a sense of community, understanding, and memorable stories to share. There is something for all of us to do, and as a community, we can make a real change and a real difference. It just takes time, which is something we hope you can give. To find out more about opportunities to give of your time and talent, please email us at info@rssmt.org.

If there is anything you would like mentioned in future newsletters, we would love to hear from you. Perhaps there is some news or research you found interesting. We would be happy to pass it along. Other great topics would be highlighting a staff member going above and beyond the call of duty. We want to showcase and highlight our sense of gratitude. The same goes for local businesses going above and beyond helping our residents and staff--They, too, need to be recognized.

We hope this newsletter finds you well and optimistic about the spring months ahead.

Sincerely,

RSS Board of Directors