

SPOT on

Speech Physical Occupational Therapy newsletter

March 2012

RehabCare
Restoring Function, Renewing Life.



Welcome to Our First Issue of SPOT on

The RehabCare Student Programs team is excited to share with you the first issue of our SPOT on newsletter. Each quarter we will shine the spotlight on a RehabCare facility and student that we believe exemplify the mission of our department.

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SPOT on Facility

by Lianne Daves

Trail Lake Nursing and Rehab

Trail Lake Nursing and Rehab, a 120-bed skilled nursing facility (SNF) in Fort Worth, has provided numerous successful clinical internship experiences to therapy students from programs in Texas and throughout the United States. By providing students with clinical internships, Bob Wincowski, Program Director at Trail Lake Nursing and Rehab, and his team are not only providing important hands-on experience, but they are also introducing the students to RehabCare's culture and playing a part in their post graduation employment decisions!

"I believe that taking students is another great way to make an excellent name for the facility you work in and for RehabCare. We encourage all of our disciplines to take students because we are a confident group who wants to lead by example. We have all had to do rotations in the past and it is a great way to give back to upcoming assistants and therapists," says Bob.

Jennifer Zoll, Physical Therapist at Trail Lake, has given back to the therapy field through serving as an incredible Clinical Instructor to multiple PTA and PT students, one being Amie Inamdar. What motivates her to be a CI? "My motivation is that I was

a student once. I always had such wonderful learning experiences. It was my clinical instructors that helped mold me into the clinician I am today. I like exposing students to new thoughts and ideas, showing them how to think outside the box and utilize their academics in the clinical setting.

We encourage all of our disciplines to take students because we are a confident group who wants to lead by example.

It's so exciting to see a student's eyes light up when a concept finally makes sense or they can develop a POC independently. I love physical therapy and I will always promote it any way that I can."

When asked why she believes Trail Lake is able to provide such great experiences for students she said, "Because they get to see a variety of different patients with multiple diagnoses. We work with orthopedic patients, strokes, dementia, general weakness etc. It never gets boring and we have such an interactive team we are always learning from each other, and helping each other grow as clinicians. This setting is unique in long-term care because the majority of our patients rehab and go home. It's a fast-paced, positive atmosphere that our patients thrive in." ●

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SPOT on Student

by Lauren Brody

Amie Inamdar

"To be perfectly honest, it is my favorite clinical experience thus far."

Feedback from Amie Inamdar, a third year physical therapy student at Saint Louis University, when asked about her Level 2 Clinical Rotation experience at our Trail Lake Nursing and Rehab facility in Ft. Worth, TX. It's the response we hope to receive each and every time we ask a student about his or her internship experience with RehabCare.

When asking Amie if we could feature her in our inaugural "Spot On" Student Programs newsletter, her immediate response was, "First and foremost, I am honored. Please feel free to do so!" When speaking to Amie I asked, "Why do you want to share your experience with other students, clinicians and faculty?" Amie said, "I truly think it's important that students have their eyes opened to the possibili-

ties within the skilled nursing facility setting. The geriatric population is often overlooked, and students need to understand that there is more to them than simply performing passive range of motion."

Students being provided clinical internships at RehabCare facilities, such as Trail Lake Nursing and Rehab, are not only receiving hands-on experience

– they also are being introduced to RehabCare's culture. And that is exactly what CI Jennifer Zoll and the team at Trail Lake did with Amie. "The environment created by the staff was incredibly welcoming and energetic, and the patient care provided was exemplary to say the least. It is rare to observe that caliber of inter-

professional cooperation and integrity."

The hope is that by doing internships the student will become acquainted enough with the company to consider it a potential em-

ployer. When asking Amie, the Texas native, if she would be interested in working with the geriatric population, she passionately says, "The world of outpatient physical therapy has always been compelling, but my experience with RehabCare in Fort Worth was truly eye-opening to the indescribable patients and professionals within the realm of skilled nursing facilities. I will be returning home to Houston, Texas and would love the opportunity to do site visits and observe a clinician at one of your Houston locations."

Amie will be returning home to Houston in early spring, where she will be studying for her board exams and planning to visit the RehabCare locations in the area, making her career decision after her exam has been completed. We wish you the best of luck, Amie, and hope you will join the RehabCare team! ●



Amie Inamdar with the staff at Trail Lake Nursing and Rehab in Ft. Worth, Texas.

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SPOT on School

by Lauren Brody

We are taking more students than ever into our buildings!

In 2011, 260 schools sent 1,322 students to do clinical affiliations at a RehabCare location. Overall, RehabCare's student programs department works with more than 500 schools on projects ranging from clinical affiliations and job fairs to special events that include a speakers program and hosting school labs in RehabCare facilities.

We wanted to know why schools love sending their students for a Geriatric rotation and even better, why they love RehabCare! So we went to one of our partner schools, St. Louis University, who has sent over 14 students to RehabCare sites throughout the U.S. in the last two years.

St. Louis University (SLU) has been an accredited program since 1936, offering a six-year, entry at a freshman level, DPT program. The Physical Therapy Program at Saint Louis University is at its heart a program grounded in service. Accepting 80+ students into the program each year, they are dedicated to preparing caring and competent physical therapists who understand and value interprofessional collaboration and the use of evidence in patient care.

When asking Carol Beckel, Instructor and Director of Clinical Education at SLU, what she loves most about working with RehabCare she says, "The variety of locations and the opportunities to collaborate with a variety of health care professionals at each site." With their large class sizes and students coming from various states throughout the U.S., RehabCare can really make an impact partnering with schools to provide clinical internships to their students.

We wanted to know how Carol's experience has been working with RehabCare? "Wonderful!" she quickly replies. "The clinics that accept our students provide an excellent opportunity for students to learn about geriatric care in a subacute setting."

Seeing more and more schools turning to geriatric settings for clinical experiences, we wanted to know as the Director of Clinical Education, why Carol feels it is important for students to get exposure in the SNF/LTC setting. "This is a very important portion of the health care continuum. I want students to understand that geriatric care outside of hospitals is critical to help individuals

return home after an illness or injury. Our students are eager to hear about new interventions for geriatric patients and to be challenged in their clinical reasoning."

As more and more programs like St. Louis University commit to giving their students internship exposure in the SNF/LTC setting, students will continue to have an "eye-opening experience to the indescribable patients and professionals" in these settings, just as it did for St. Louis University student Amie Inamdar.

RehabCare's Student Programs Department is fully dedicated to working with students and schools to support the education of future healthcare professionals. Collaborating with our clinical professionals, we have created a program dedicated to enhancing the learning experience of the student while pairing him or her with a professional therapist for clinical internships. Our team looks forward to continuing to develop these programs and accepting more students for internships each year! ●

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