



Jackson County Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers

News Release

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Music in Memory is a Valuable Part of Interfaith's Time For You Dementia Respite Program

The experience of music in working with dementia patients is invaluable. Research has found that musical memories are preserved in people with advanced dementia because these parts of the brain have not been affected by the disease. There are parts of the brain which retain long-term memory and have retained emotions. Music triggers these long-term memories. There are many occurrences of people who have not spoken in years singing songs that they knew in their early teens and early adulthood. Amazingly, people with dementia may not be able to complete a full sentence yet when familiar songs are heard, they are able to sing, whistle or tap their feet to the tunes. Music can bring joy to people's lives by reducing anxiety, stress and agitation. Interfaith's Time For You Dementia Respite Program has seen this first hand. "That is why we incorporate music into our program as often as possible," states Program Coordinator Shawn Callisto.

In December The Black River Falls High School Bell Choir will perform for Interfaith's Time For You Program, and they will have special visitors stopping throughout the month to play piano and do Christmas Carols. This is all possible because of a donation of a piano and a key board through from generous people in our community that understand the importance of music and memory. The respite participants also enjoy

music on a daily basis, either by CDs, radio, DVDs, or guest performers. If you would be interested in performing music for Interfaith's Time for You Program, please contact Interfaith at 715-284-7058.



Volunteer, Julie Drace, plays Christmas music on our new piano at our Time For You Respite Program.

