



June 7, 2013

Dear Ms. Feinsilber,

My name is Sue Close and I am the Recreation Manager at The Thompson House, a 100-bed skilled nursing and short-term rehabilitative facility here in Rhinebeck. Over the years, Thompson House has been the fortunate recipient of several outreach programs sponsored by the Rhinebeck Chamber of Music Society.

Confucius once said that “music produces a kind of pleasure which human nature cannot do without” and nowhere is that sentiment more evident than in a setting in which I work. Throughout my 25 year career in geriatric recreation, I have consistently witnessed the astounding effects live music can have on those who’ve endured the ravages of illness and disease- particularly Alzheimer’s disease. For those who are no longer able to communicate or comprehend; whose days can be filled with fear, confusion and inner torment, it is the music that brings them joy...the familiar...the relief.

Thanks to Roz Austin and the Rhinebeck Chamber of Music Society, our residents have enjoyed high caliber, live musical performances that we would not otherwise have been able to afford. Classical quartets to Barbershop quartets, they have provided music to appeal to all and invariably, the resident responses have been remarkable. To see those who can’t remember their name or recognize family suddenly sing along (word for word) or tap their toes in time with the music is what, I dare say, outreach is all about.

Bringing live music to “shut-ins” is also a wonderful way for residents to maintain connections with their community. It’s important for our residents to still feel connected and a part of things; RCMS does that!!

Sincerely,

Sue Close, CTRS
Recreation Manager