

Heroes can appear at any place and time, they can be dressed as a clown or rabbit, they can hold a hand, they can lend an ear, and they can make ice cream floats. I have watched a hero emerge in Chris Ibarra, our Life Enrichment Volunteer Coordinator. Chris' caring and compassionate ways can put a smile on any resident's face even on the darkest of days. He is very dedicated to his work with the residents and the community. Chris is here day in and day out, to enrich the lives of our residents. Chris demonstrates amazing insight in finding just the right activities to ensure our residents have a fulfilled, fun day.

Chris is continuously looking for activities that relate to each resident's past. He even drives them by their "old homes" when they go on an outing. The residents in Memory Care love Chris to "cook" for them even though the items he cooks don't always come out right. It does however give the residents a laugh and they encourage him.

Chris' unique personality really shines by his ability to encourage the more reserved residents to try something new or just be a part of the fun, if its dressing up as a super hero or a cupid, "whatever it takes" is his motto.

Chris' nurturing spirit for our memory care residents really shows with the daily activities that he plans for them. His activities are therapeutic in allowing them to maintain some of there daily life skills. He is always planning something different for our residents to experience; it may be a trip to the Zoo, a "road trip" to a wildlife park or just a picnic in the park, it is always made special because of the excitement and fun Chris brings to the experience.

With Chris' busy schedule keeping residents active and just the activities that he plans daily for our community he always seems to amaze me how eager he is to step up and fill in anywhere in the building whether it be filling in on a med cart to care for residents, helping with any maintenance issues, assisting with the front office, helping families move in, or staying late to serve out dinner when the care partners need a little extra help.

Chris not only helps out at our Community but many of our sister Communities have sent their Life Enrichment Volunteer Coordinators to "Experience Chris", his enthusiasm is contagious and his caring is obvious to anyone who comes into our Community.

What more can I say about Chris Ibarra? He is a true hero and friend in our community to all the residents and families. Chris leaves a lasting impression on anyone that meets him. His laugh, his costumes, his imagination, his enthusiasm, his sense of humor, his caring, his determination to give our residents the best life at Santa Fe Trails he can, that's Chris.

We strongly recommend Chris Ibarra for the ALFA's Hero Award due to his outstanding accomplishments within our community.

Sincerely,

Karla Shaffer

Assistant Director, Santa Fe Trails Assisted Living and Memory Care

Kathy Stanley

Executive Director, Santa Fe Trails Assisted Living & Memory Care