

Friendship Village salutes staff

Contributed by Susan Vosdoganes, marketing director for Friendship Village Tempe.

These days it's not uncommon for people to change careers every few years.

But one local retirement community has uncovered the secret to attracting loyal and quality associates with its inviting culture. This year Friendship Village Tempe will recognize 25 staff members who have served more than two decades at the community.

"We are very fortunate to have such dedicated and first-rate professionals," said Darrell Jensen, executive director for Friendship Village Tempe, a life-care community that is home to more than 900 seniors.

"It may be the housekeeper who takes pride in helping maintain hundreds of residences each week, a dining services worker who helps prepare and serve more than 1,500 entrées a day, or a move-in coordinator who helps new residents get settled into their home."

According to Jensen, the secret to attracting such valuable and committed professionals is the hospitality that residents and staff members exude.

"Hospitality and customer service is a

big component at Friendship Village. It's part of our culture," said Jensen. "I've never worked anywhere I've felt such warmth. It comes straight from the heart."

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To give thanks to staff members, Friendship Village hosts employee appreciation events and holiday parties throughout the year, as well as recognizes Employees of the Month and associates with perfect attendance.

"It's always important to show people how much they're appreciated. And it's so easy for us to recognize the value of our employees," said Jensen. "We're like family at Friendship Village."

According to Jensen, who in September will have served 20 years at the community, working at Friendship Village is more than simply work.

"It's truly rewarding and really makes a difference in people's lives."

Since 1980, Friendship Village Tempe has set the standard in senior living and provided its residents with a fulfilling retirement lifestyle. The community, at 2645 E. Southern Ave. in Tempe, has 575 one- and two-bedroom apartments and garden homes with architecture inspired by the Southwest.

Information: 480-831-5000 or www.FriendshipVillageAZ.com.

