WELLNESS CORNER

Why Giving Is Good for Your Health

Studies show how giving affects your body

We all know giving helps others, whether we volunteer for organizations, offer emotional support to those around us or donate to charities. But did you know that the warm and fuzzy feeling you get from helping others is actually good for you? Studies show that giving can actually boost your physical and mental health.

"I can recall giving my daughter a dollar to buy a gift for us during the holidays in elementary school," recalls psychologist Scott Bea, PsyD. "When she returned home, she couldn't wait to give us the gift she picked out. In fact, she insisted we open it immediately."

There's just something about the delight of gift-giving that makes us feel good, but there's actually science backing it up. Research says that people who give social support to others have lower blood pressure than people who don't. Supportive interaction with others also helps people recover from coronary-related events.

Researchers also say that people who give their time to help others through community and organizational involvement have greater self-esteem, less depression and lower stress levels than those who don't.

Giving can help you live longer

According to one study, people who were 55 and older who volunteered for two or more organizations were 44% less likely to die over a five-year period than those who didn't volunteer — even accounting for many other factors including age, exercise, general health and negative habits like smoking.

Another study found similar numbers of elderly people who gave help to friends, relatives and neighbors, or who gave emotional support to their spouses versus those who didn't.

Feeling happier

Biologically, giving can create a "warm glow," activating regions in the brain associated with pleasure, connection with other people and trust. This is the reason why you feel excitement when you're about to give a gift to someone else (and why you feel close to them during), or why you feel happy driving back from a volunteer experience.

There is evidence that, during gift-giving behaviors, humans secrete "feel good" chemicals in our brains, such as serotonin (a mood-mediating chemical), dopamine (a feel-good chemical) and oxytocin (a compassion and bonding chemical).

When you look at the functional MRIs of subjects who gave to various charities, scientists have found that giving stimulates the mesolimbic pathway, which is the reward center in the brain — releasing endorphins and creating what is known as the "helper's high."

And like other highs, this one is addictive, too. So go ahead and reach out to someone in need, decide what charities you'd like to give to and identify opportunities to give back in your community. Your mental and physical health will thank you – and so will the people you help.

GIVE





OCTOBER 20 | Kindway Club

All residents are welcome if they are seeking information about medical cannabis and if it can help you, or if you are interested in obtaining your medical cannabis card. Kindway Club will meet monthly, and each month we will be discussing a different topic or use for medical cannabis. If you are a medical cannabis card holder, there are some additional activities you can partake in such as, THC & CBD topical massages, infused smoothies, and many

more fun ways to feel better each day. A personal invite will go out to each card holder each month with details about that month's activity. Please reach out to Kelly if you would like to attend any of our activities or would like more information.

FEATURED: The Bedford Big Hearts

WOW wow woooowza! We are just blown away by the outpour of family, friends, residents, staff, and community that showed up for out first ever annual End of Summer Block Party and Fundraiser. With nearly 200 in attendance, we were able to blow our



original goal of \$2,500 out of the water. The final number for the fundraiser donation was \$3,035! And if that wasn't exciting enough, Bedford has generously offered to donate an additional \$3,000, making our final donation to the Over the Edge event \$6,035!! Love Columbia, the hosting charity for the over the edge event, has expressed how overwhelmed and greatful they are for all the BIG hearts over here at Bedford. Since we have surpassed our goal, Kelly Champ, our Activities Director will now be going "Over the Edge" of the Tiger Hotel on October 29th. All residents are welcome to come and watch. The time is still being determined for her schedule to repel, but updates will be posted in the Gazette. Unfortunately, since this event falls on a Saturday we will be unable to provide transportation. Thank you all again for directly impacting our community month after month

This month is special for the Bedford BIG Hearts. This month is our 1 year anniversary, and we would like to celebrate it simply by doing what we do best, by helping those in need. No need is too small for the BIG hearts, and in this case they are actually small, young boys and girls to be exact. This month we will be collecting trick or treat candy for the Columbia Boys & Girls Club. The youths in this free after school program often do not get the small joy of trick or treating on Halloween, so we will bringing the treats to them. The Club will be hosting a Halloween Party and we will provide the goodies. You can begin placing donations in our collection area located at the bottom of the stairs on the lower level. The last day to donate is the 24th and any interested volunteers can join us in the Magnolia Room on the 26th to stuff 250 bags with Halloween Candy.

WELCOME YOUR NEW NEIGHBOR!

Doris Lackey
Barbra & Gale Carman

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS!

Katie Lampitt	2110
Mandy Manderino	3rd
Diane Larkin	6th
George Hoey	22nd
Paul Sundet	23nd
Jo Higgins	26th
Terrace Patrick	27th
Opal Orrinderf	28th
Bob Young	28th
Alan Woody	28th

Jane Thompson

