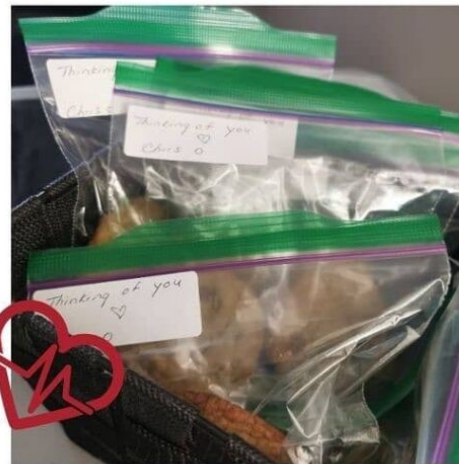
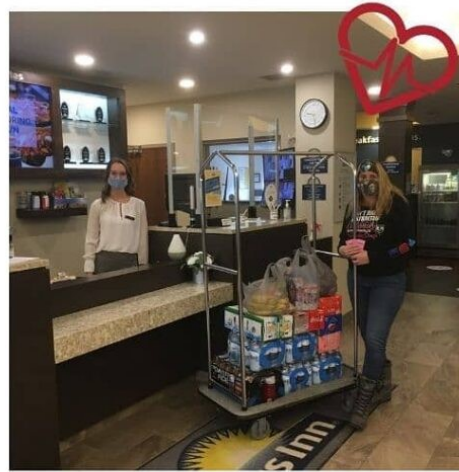


Community Shows Overwhelming Support For Front Line Workers Staying At The Days Inn In Lindsay

By Jennifer Walker - January 29, 2021



Courtesy Days INN

KAWARTHA LAKES –When staff from Caressant Care in Lindsay temporarily moved into the Days Inn to help stop the spread of Coronavirus, they had no idea how the community would rally around them, wrapping them in kindness and support.

Caressant Care is in the middle of a coronavirus outbreak. According to Hotel Manager, Candace Buckley, the Days Inn in Lindsay has welcomed 10 to 20 front line workers from the facility.

“We have sectioned them off from staff and guests and we have been receiving a lot of phone calls from restaurants and locals wanting to bring food and anything they may need,” she said. “Its been amazing, we laugh and smile every time we pick up the phone, it’s another person asking what’s going on and how they can help. It’s really made us feel good especially the hotel staff, its new and challenging, we all have to work together, this has been a positive in this strange time we are in.”

Buckley noted that the hotel encourages those who wish to help to bring food that is individually portioned. The hotel stores the meals and food in the stock room for staff to help themselves. She also said that workers are not permitted in the lobby or the elevators so often the front- line

workers will call the front desk.

"We let them know what's available, what's been provided, and we deliver it to the guests room in a contactless way," Buckley said. "At this point we have a lot of food, we encourage people if they do want to contribute, they can bring it to the Caressant Care Home, we should support all staff, there is staff working over there that are going through a lot."



Photo - courtesy Lindsey Buckley.

Local business, churches and community members have consistently been dropping off food and more recently, gift cards. Meals have included lasagnes, fresh salads, baked goods, jams and more.

"We are working together and trying to get through this strange and difficult time, it puts a smile on our face here," said Buckley.

"We certainly appreciate the outpouring of support from our amazing community during this difficult time. Every "we are thinking of you" and "stay strong" message as well as thoughtful gestures for our staff are very deeply appreciated. It clearly shows that we are all in this together," Stuart Oakley, Communications Caressant Care told Kawartha 411. "We simply cannot thank everyone enough for their tremendous kindness.

According to Buckley, they are unaware of how long the front line workers will be with them at the Days Inn but she said they welcome them and take it day by day.

"We've just been extending them day by day and when they're ready to leave we check them out," she said. "It's been a lot to figure out how we can accommodate, we 100 per cent want to support our community members, we want to make sure they feel comfortable."

Buckley noted that hotel staff always communicates with regular guests that they have outbreak guests staying at the hotel and anyone that has the virus is not permitted.

"We really value them (regular guests) we have taken quite a hit with no tourists, so we value the business we are getting," she said. "It is important for our regular guests to feel comfortable and that they had communication out to them that we had the health care workers here."

In March the Days Inn in Lindsay established a safety plan during the pandemic with increased safety measures, cleaning procedures and more.

Buckley noted that hotel staff had to be vigilant in keeping front line workers and those who were quarantining separated from the rest of the hotel.

"We were proactive, we take extra steps to keep staff and guests safe," she explained. "We really do our best to keep everyone comfortable at the hotel. This situation has really challenged the

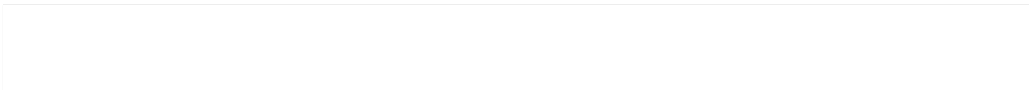
hotel industry. We are thankful for the essential business guests that we are getting such as construction workers and others.”

The Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge District health Unit first declared an outbreak at Caressant Care on McLaughlin Road in Lindsay on January 9th. There’s been over 40 cases so far although many have now been “resolved”. An outbreak was declared at Caressant Care Nursing Home on Mary Street West in Lindsay on January 23 after one staff member tested positive. On the retirement side of the Mary Street home there were two positive staff cases according to officials at the home. The outbreak was recently declared over at a second Caressant Care Nursing Home on Mary Street West. .

“We have been advised by Public Health that the outbreak at Caressant Care Lindsay Nursing Home (Mary Street) is over.” explains Oakley.

All residents on the Long Term Care side of the home are scheduled for vaccination on Friday.

“We certainly appreciate what folks are doing to help limit the spread of COVID-19 by observing Public Health Guidelines around face coverings, hand hygiene and social distancing. By all of us working together, we can defeat this invisible enemy.” Oakley says.



Jennifer Walker

Jennifer decided to study journalism after having a life long passion for writing. She began her career as a reporter for the Uxbridge Times Journal and moved on to freelance work for various publications after her and her husband welcomed their daughters. She has been published in various Durham Region newspapers, the Durham Parent Magazine as well as Equine Wellness. Jennifer continues to follow her dreams as a wife, mother and journalist and is so excited to join the team at Kawartha411.