Senior Saviors
Foster program
The joy of bringing people and pets together
Pets help us feel better

- Lower blood pressure
- Alleviate depression
- Reduce stress
- Provide purpose
- Lower cholesterol
- Increase physical activity
- Reduce isolation/conversation starter
- Higher survival rate after a heart attack
Senior Saviors Program

- Launched April 2017 with 3 pilot locations
- Facility completes foster application
- Meeting and training with foster coordinator
- Supplies and medical care provided
- Return for surgery and adoption
- 50% discount on Senior Savior fosters for facilities’ employees
- Puppies and kittens spend about 3 weeks in foster care at the facility and are well socialized
- Prevents disease transmission in at risk puppies and kittens
- Frees up space at the adoption center
- All have already found adoptive homes when they return for surgery
- Increases awareness of the organization in the community
- Cultivates a new potential donor base
“Sometimes, it can be hard to engage memory care residents, but they make a connection with the animals instantly. It’s amazing to see,” says Tracy Hickman of the senior community’s activities department.

“One woman is not very verbal, but I know what I witnessed when she held the puppies. The joy on her face was unmistakable. You didn’t need words to see how meaningful it was and how important this was to her.”

Another gentleman shared how he always had animals growing up as a boy, and this really took him back to his childhood and made him feel young again. He said that he and his wife spend every moment that they can get with the puppies.

“We need these animals as much as they need us.”
“The kittens are a wonderful addition to our Generations floor. The animals make it easy for residents and family members to bond and have that special time together again. Towards the end of life, these memories and these moments are so very important,” says Erika Holmes, Activities Coordinator.

- One man wasn't waking up for much of anything anymore, not even to eat or drink. One day I brought a kitten into his room. His eyes were barely open, but he must have seen what I was holding because his eyes popped open! He smiled really big and reached out to touch the kitten. I set her on his chest. He was smiling ear to ear - I couldn't believe it! He started to speak; he mentioned the kitten was soft and even noticed she was purring. It was an amazing moment to witness.

- Another man didn't believe he needed to be in a community, let alone, memory care. He became responsible for them - played with them all day long, let them in and out of their pen, and made sure they had fresh water. He had some struggles with depression and told me several times, if it weren't for the kittens, he wouldn't have much of a reason to live.
Questions?

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