



August 2017

Greetings, from all of us at Breath of Life!

On Friday August 18, 2017 I met with Terri Foley from the LeadingAge Minnesota Foundation at Breath of Life Adult Day Service to review our progress with the \$ 5000.00 Workforce Solutions grant we received to move from a paper based training to on-line in-service training through EduCare. We had just finished our training room which now includes two adjustable height desks, desk chairs, chair mats and laptops. We also have paid our 2017 EduCare subscription and will be paying for 2018 EduCare subscription in December of 2017. Our transition to web-based training has been terrific. Now after completing a training module our staff can take a short examination which is graded immediately by the program. Also at the end of the year we can print up a training summary for each staff member and volunteer and put the summary in their file. Without this grant from LeadingAge Minnesota, Breath of Life would have been forced to stay with paper based in-service training which reduces our staff efficiency. On Friday and Saturday October 13-14, 2017 nine employees and two board members will be heading to Bloomington, Minnesota to attend the LeadingAge Minnesota Adult Day Service Annual Conference. The individuals attending the conference will gain practical skills and information and updates on the latest practices in Adult Day Services. Throughout the conference our staff and board members will have plenty of opportunities to meet and network with other providers, hear from family caregivers and increase their knowledge. The following topics will be discussed:

- Mental health
- Building resilience
- Regulation and compliance
- Vulnerable adults
- Quality
- Programming
- Managed care
- Marketing and branding

This conference and future conferences are possible because of a second LeadingAge Minnesota Foundation grant (\$ 7500) which we received in July 2017. This grant will cover conference registration fees, meals, transportation, hotel rooms and parking. We will also be sending employees, volunteers and board members to several upcoming conferences including the LeadingAge Minnesota Institute in February 2018, Meeting of the Minds Dementia Conference in March 2018, Caring for People with Memory Loss in June 2018 and the LeadingAge Minnesota Adult Day Service Annual Conference in October 2018. Please contact me if you know of any other seminars or conferences that you think would be a good fit for us for the remainder of 2017 or in 2018.

Investing in our people is my number one priority because our return on our investment is priceless! Our participants will be the biggest beneficiaries from invigorated, trained and knowledgeable volunteers, staff and board members. If you want additional information on any of these conferences or would like me to talk about them to a group, please give me a call. Have a wonderful Fall season!

Sincerely,  
Paul Welch

