

Bringing New Life to Loved Ones with Dementia through Art

Advantage Senior Care, Inc. offers a special art therapy program that may access a loved one's long or short term memories using our distinguished artist and compassionate caregiver, Jeanne Dunham. Jeanne provides the compassion, art methods and skills to bring the loved one back into a richer life whether they are dealing with dementia or not. Our agency provides new tools for the family in communicating and handling every day issues for loved ones with dementia.

Much research has proven that creative arts bypass the limitations of dementia disorders and reawaken a sense of personality, identity, purpose and dignity. This art therapy operates on the premise that each individual uses color, line and shape in a manner closely linked to his/her unique self. New connections are made between the loved one, the artist and the family and friends through art. Researchers have seen an improvement of depression symptoms, enhanced cognition and increased sociability among those participating in art therapy programs. There continues to be growing research evidence that points to the value of art therapy for those growing older, and, the possibility that the aging brain becomes more creative than it may have been in younger years.

Call Carolyn Mattingly (404.312.6423 or e-mail her at cbmatt@charter.net) for more information on our art therapy program. Remember that the creative arts can reunite even a late stage Alzheimer's sufferer with parts of his/her former self. For healthy seniors who take the initiative to combine creativity and the arts, new confidences and social relationships are established.