



Felician Village

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Felician Village employee panelist at UW-Madison virtual event**

MANITOWOC, Wis. (March 3, 2021) - Connie Thimmig, Felician Village Director of Enrichment Services, was invited by The University of Wisconsin-Madison College of Nursing to be a panelist for their virtual CARE (Center for Aging Research and Education) Network presentation on “Social isolation, loneliness, and relationships in long-term care” on February 23, 2021.

Thimmig discussed the innovative ways Felician Village has kept their residents active and engaged during the COVID-19 pandemic. She commented, “The resident’s well-being was always the first priority. We had to find creative solutions for safely communicating to the residents, who are the most vulnerable to this virus. Our staff was constantly observing how residents were responding and thinking of ways to best serve them.”

Over the past 11 months, Felician Village staff assisted with over 1500 virtual, window, and outdoor visits between residents and their loved ones. These virtual options for visits also included coordinated birthday parties, a baby shower, and even a wedding.

Besides connecting with loved ones outside of Felician Village, it was important to provide residents social activity internally while remaining safe. Thimmig said, “We needed to reimagine the ways we socially interacted with residents and do that with less help (no volunteers or visitors).” For instance, music therapy has provided individualized music experiences for Felician Village residents. It allows for interaction with others through music-making, singing together, writing songs together, playing instruments together. Even with just one other person it can strengthen a person's awareness of not being alone and increase their feelings of worth.

**About Felician Village**

Felician Village, a continuing care campus, has been providing housing and services for seniors through rehabilitation, independent living, assisted living and long-term care for more than 130 years. Felician Village is a Catholic organization that welcomes people from all faiths.

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