

Photos by Patti Hartog



PROMOTION



“Everything we do here is to reduce the progression of the disease [dementia] while increasing quality of life. Every integrated piece, from caregivers to kitchen staff to the activities director to the director of nursing, has a role to play that assists with that goal.” — Amy Clark, executive director of Barton House

BARTON HOUSE | Individuals with dementia and other cognitive declines benefit from routines, which help maintain functional abilities and reduce stress and anxiety. As the executive director of Barton House, a small memory care community, Amy Clark knows that when a new resident arrives, it can be stressful for both the newcomer and the current residents. All have to go through a process of adjustment.

Prior to a new resident joining the community, Amy will visit with the individual and his/her family to conduct an assessment. Her decision on when to admit the client depends not only on the needs of that person, but on the needs of Barton House’s current residents. If a resident who has been in the community

for two weeks is still struggling to adapt to routines and schedules, Amy may delay another resident moving in for a short time. “I’m not going to fill up the building just to fill my beds. We’re more about quality care than quantity,” she says.

One of the most important things Barton House does is connect prospective families with families whose loved ones are currently or have been residents. “It’s one thing when the executive director or director of nursing say, ‘This is what we do.’ It’s another thing when they’re actually talking to the family of a resident,” she says.

Caregiving at Barton House is holistic, impacting residents’ physical, cognitive, and emotional well-being. Morning

routines focus on cognitive stimulation, such as trivia, while afternoons are structured around a rest period followed by activities to get the blood moving. Residents regularly welcome not only their families, but organizations from the community, such as the zoo.

Caregiving at Barton House also means that it feels like a home. A dog and cat live at Barton House (as well as some fish) to provide comfort and snuggles to residents.

