

How to Make a Nursing Home Feel More Like Home:

- 1** Bring in a favorite chair that your loved one enjoys relaxing in. Having a comfortable and familiar chair helps make the transition easier by making their new home to be similar to their previous one.
- 2** Decorate the walls of the room with items that are familiar to the resident. Hang a few favorite paintings or pictures taken from the walls of their home.
- 3** Place pictures of family members around the room to surround the resident with familiar faces. This is also helpful for those suffering from dementia or Alzheimer's to help them remember the faces of family members.
- 4** Place a small refrigerator in the resident's rooms and stock it with their favorite snacks and beverages so they can help themselves in between meals. Be sure to keep health needs and conditions in mind when choosing what to put in refrigerator. (Any appliances should be checked by Maintenance at Bethany)
- 5** Provide a television and a radio in the room of your loved one to help them feel more like home. A VCR or DVD player with some of their favorite shows recorded would provide a nice afternoon activity. You could also leave a copy of home movies or a picture slide show for them to watch. If there is a special event in the family such as a birthday party that they are not able to attend, try sending them a recording of it. This will help them feel connected and up-to-date with family that might live far away.
- 6** Give your loved one a calendar with important family dates on it such as birthdays, anniversaries or weddings. This will be especially helpful for residents with dementia.