

FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF HOMES and SERVICES FOR THE AGING
The FAHSA Innovation Exchange

Submission

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Date of Submission:	03-21-2007
Title of Innovation:	Fantasy Cruise
Topic for Submission: (Please choose a topic from the list included in the attached submission guidelines which best describes the innovation you are submitting.)	Topic: Quality of Life for Residents and Staff
Audience: (Choose one or more, as appropriate.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HUD Housing Communities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Retirement Communities (CCRC or fee for Service) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Assisted Living Facilities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nursing Homes

1. **Description of Innovation:** Please succinctly describe the innovative program or service, creative idea or best practice and the resulting benefits to your organization or the consumers you serve. Limit the narrative to three pages, excluding attachments such as forms.

During the month of August, Florida Lutheran Retirement Center is transformed into the S. S. FLRC Princess Fantasy Cruise and we set sail to distant shores.

To set the stage, we take down pictures in our lobby and put up portholes. All areas of our campus are given a new name, i.e., Lido Deck, Atlantis Dinning Room, Shakespeare Library, Princess Spa, and Sun Deck. Laminated signs with the new names of the rooms are posted in each area. We hang real life vests (borrowed from staff) in the lobby and meeting rooms. Poster boards are set up on display providing information on the countries that we will be visiting. A portrait station is set up in the lobby area with a scheduled picture taken in each port of call. We post all pictures taken during the cruise

so that residents or staff can purchase their pictures. We provide t-shirts with SS FLRC Princess Fantasy Cruise on the front and sell them to staff and residents at cost.

On August 1st we host a Sail Away Party to kick off our cruise. Each person is given a boarding pass as they enter the room. A life vest made by our craft group is under each chair. After the passengers are introduced to the Captain and her staff, passengers are told about upcoming activities. Next we hold a mock life boat drill. A bell rings and each person takes the life vest from under their chair, puts it on and goes to the refreshment table that matches their boarding pass. Each year we add new programs, but the standards are Casino Night, Tacky Tourist Contest, Sexy Knee Contest, Choir Concert and Chocolate Buffet, Cooking Classes and Happy Hour, Shore Excursion Previews, the Portrait Station and the most popular is the Captain's Dinner.

Each week, as we enter a new port of call each passenger receives a newsletter, "The Princess Passport", telling passengers about the country we are visiting and all the programs available that week.

On August 31st we hold a welcome home party bringing our fantasy cruise to an end.

2. **Budget:** Provide information about the annual budget or total cost of your innovation (if a one-time expense) and the number of staff or volunteers used to implement it. If your innovation did not require a budget or staff, please indicate.

We are able to have different businesses sponsor our Sail Away Party and Chocolate Buffet. We also have staff volunteer to bake items for our chocolate buffet. Each department head looks forward to helping with the Sail Away Party, Casino Night and the Chocolate Buffet.

Life Vests and port holes are made from card stock and are reused each year. Information boards are made by cutting and pasting pictures from travel magazines, the internet and the library.

Prizes, sets and props are purchased from the Dollar Tree, thrift shops and school supply stores. Our meal tickets to our main dining hall are a big hit as prizes.

T-shirts, outings and the Captain's Dinner are at cost to our residents. Selling pictures at \$1 helps cover the cost of all pictures taken during the cruise. We have help from several volunteers and accept assistance from staff and residents for our programs.