

## Giving them something Good to talk about.....

I must say last Tuesday was something different. We had our first manager's meeting of the year at JARC. I have to admit it was the best meeting I have ever been to (not that any of the other meetings were bad) because it was a meeting that focused on us as people first and managers second. It was exciting to see people shed their suits and work skin and be more themselves. Most of us turn this off at work and turn it back on once we end the work day. It was an opportunity to engage in group activities and socialize while building a bond with each other. We were given different tools and methods that we could utilize to help support each other and build stronger work relationships with each other.

We were not expected to be perfect nor scolded for what we were or were not doing as team leaders but given great advice on how to better support each other as a team. We were encouraged to spend the same quality time with each other as we give to those we serve. I learned a lot of valuable information pertaining to myself and others. So often we become consumed with the work we have to do at our own homes that we manage that we forget to check in on our families at our brother and sister homes. We are all the link in the chain of the same network. We were reminded that we are a company that is linked together by every person that JARC nurtures and advocates for. We are all linked in our goal to give the correct amount of love, support, guidance, friendship and structure to build a safe and loving environment.

It is not often that you have an opportunity to work for a company that strives to give just as much support to their team of leaders as they do to those we care for. It sets the margin of expectation rather high and has a ladder built by the very bodies of our CEO, Chief operating officer, Director of community support, and all the other people that work from the main office to the homes. I think this meeting left us all feeling a sense of gratitude and knowing we have the full support we need to support the people we serve as well as each other. I know we left that meeting feeling a strong sense of relief knowing we can be better and stronger by taking the time to learn from and about each other.

We, as managers, are at the forefront of the teams we lead. We are the examples that will set the mold for what is expected of great people that have dedicated their lives to help others flourish. We are the mentors that will carry the next group of managers to the very same place we have already traveled. I used to think there was no such thing as perfection. We have the opportunity to get up each day whether sick or well to give someone a better day, to be a friend to talk to, to help fulfill, or a shoulder to lean or cry on. I'd have to say we are perfect. We had already reached perfection once we've done everything we could do and know in our hearts and minds there was nothing left undone. We are the people who will give them something good to talk about. We are JARC.

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By

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Enriching