

Assisted Living



INNOVATIONS IN QUALITY AWARD

Seniors Saving Seniors



Casa de Flores

California Assisted Living

CALA

Association

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residents' testimonials

“It's something for us to do, it's giving back to the community. It is a good feeling for us to work in some capacity that makes others feel good and makes us happy too. And we have a lot of fun doing it.”

June

“The dog cookies are now a personal item I carry around with me in my walker, in case I see a dog. They are not as happy to see me without them. I am very happy with where the money is going.”

Rhoda

“I just like when the dogs come in to visit me.”

Harold



program description

The Seniors Saving Seniors Program was developed by Makena Ojeda, Activity Director at Casa de Flores Assisted Living, and affords residents the opportunity to save their four-legged senior counterparts at Woods Humane Society in San Luis Obispo. They accomplish this by baking dog biscuits – a.k.a. *GrandPaw's Cookies* – then selling them at local craft fairs and farmers markets. Funds raised are then used to pay the adoption fee for senior cats and dogs. Whether mixing dough, baking dog biscuits, selling them at various venues, or simply spending time with these loving pets, residents know they played a part in finding a home for these wise and wonderful creatures. Since its inception in 2011, the program has raised over \$8,000 and paid the fees for 44 senior pet adoptions.

goals

- Raise funds to enable the adoption of otherwise overlooked senior pets
- Provide residents an opportunity to become involved in a community project and work toward a common goal
- Enable residents to visit with pets awaiting adoption

benefits

- Social engagement
- Animal companionship
- Allows for varying degrees of involvement suited to residents' interests and capabilities
- Great for marketing and media attention
- Can be adapted and adopted at communities wherever animal shelters are found

“Seniors Saving Seniors has increased self-esteem, created a sense of community, and reminded residents that they are important contributors to a very worthy cause. We've seen social lives improve as they work toward achieving a common goal and celebrate together when animals are placed in forever homes.”

Makena Ojeda, Activity Director, Casa de Flores

advice to those wanting to incorporate a similar program

- Reach out to local animal shelters and organizations to learn of their greatest needs
- Invite resident input
- Keep it simple!