

## **Happy Graduation! The Laurels of Massillon Sends Rehab Guests Home with a Smile**

August 8 was “graduation day” at The Laurels of Massillon for several guests heading home after rehabilitation stints at the facility.

The Laurels of Massillon has a long-standing tradition of sending off departing guests from the facility’s rehabilitation program with their very own graduation ceremony. Graduates are presented with a gift and certificate of completion as associates and remaining guests gather to celebrate and say goodbye.

“We know how challenging the rehabilitation process can be for many of our guests, so we feel it is important to celebrate their accomplishments during their time in the program,” Olivia Ramsey, rehabilitation services director at The Laurels of Massillon said. “It is extremely rewarding seeing the pride they display in their achievements. Guests become family during their time in our care so we love being able to share the graduation experience with their actual family as they transition back to home life.”



Larry Hershberger was one of several guests celebrated at the most recent graduation. He made quick progress through his rehab stay of two weeks following heart surgery, during which he also celebrated his birthday with fellow guests and Laurel associates. Hershberger was excited to return to a more regular routine at home and credited the care he received at The Laurels of Massillon for helping in his fast recovery.

“I’m going to be able to drive again on August 17 and I’m bringing in donuts for everyone sometime soon after that,” Hershberger said upon receiving his certificate of completion. “I am very thankful for my care here from nursing and therapy. God bless you all!”

The state-of-the-art rehab facility at The Laurels of Massillon makes it possible to not only offer seven-day-a-week therapy for current guests, but also outpatient therapy for the community. Many former guests elect to receive additional treatment with the rehabilitation team, led by Ramsey, upon arrival home.

Hershberger will be one of them, as he plans on returning to the facility with his wife for additional physical and occupational therapy.

“It’s a credit to our wonderful and talented associates that so many guests choose to return to The Laurels for follow-up therapy and maintenance after returning home,” Ramsey said. “It makes saying goodbye easier because we know we will be seeing them again soon to help them continue on their road to recovery.”

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