

CHELSEA: Chelsea Retirement Communities executive director finds joy in new role

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Todd Hanselman, the new executive director of Chelsea Retirement Community, enjoys working in an organization that touches peoples' lives.

"I make the analogy to new employees that these are not widgets or car parts we're dealing with," he said. "Our success is not based on how much product we produce. The actions we take every day affect the people we

serve.

"That's the most gratifying part of my role as executive director. I get instant feedback on how we're doing and what we're doing that improves someone's life, whether that be on a very small level or on a larger scale."

Hanselman previously spent more than 14 years in the human resources department at United Methodist Retirement Communities, a nonprofit service provider in independent and assisted senior living with services and living arrangements at Chelsea Retirement Community, The Cedars of Dexter and The Pines Senior Apartments. Care includes independent living, assisted living, short-term medical and rehabilitative care, and memory loss and dementia care. UMRC also co-sponsors, with the Chelsea Area Wellness Foundation, the Silver Maples of Chelsea senior living community.

Promoted in January, Hanselman's primary focus is operational oversight of all areas of the Chelsea campus, including Independent Living, Glazier Assisted Living, Kresge Healthcare

Center and Towsley Village Memory Care Center.

Hanselman, who holds a bachelor's degree in human resources development from Oakland University, is a certified professional of human resources through the Society for Human Resources Management and HR Certification Institute.

He was initially drawn to this field by the prospect of becoming a trainer.

"I enjoy learning and sharing my knowledge with others," he said. "As I got farther into my coursework and particularly after my internship at Presbyterian Villages of Michigan, I became fascinated with labor relations and employee relations."

During his internship, his human resources director referred him to UMRC for a vacancy at Boulevard Temple in Detroit, where he began his career as employment manager in 1997.

"I truly enjoyed my time there," he said. "I found I not only loved working in HR, but I also loved working in healthcare and a mission based organization. Knowing I was part of a facility that was providing quality care for seniors in the city of Detroit – where there was definitely a need – was very rewarding."

Hanselman became human resources manager at the Chelsea Retirement Community in 2000.

"It was the next step in my development, getting experience in a very different setting, more levels of care and a larger population of employees and residents. It also expanded my responsibilities for larger portions of the HR function at UMRC."

Kresge Rehabilitation Center serves hundreds of residents a year, he said. "We have excellent rehab facilities and staff that work with residents in all areas of the campus.

"Towsley Village is also a very special part of our campus. It continues the tradition started with Wesley Hall, where UMRC was the first organization to create a residential model memory care unit."

Although Hanselman currently lives in Livonia with his wife Nikki, daughters Alex and Madeline, and a fox hound named Dolce, he was born and raised on the west side of Ann Arbor and is a graduate of Pioneer High School.

"Some of the friends I went to grade school with lived in Chelsea. It feels very familiar to be working in the Chelsea area, about 15 miles from where I grew up."

In his spare time, he enjoys playing guitar, fly fishing and wood working and recently built a vanity for his daughters' bedroom.

He attends Peace Lutheran Church in Livonia, where he serves on one of the boards and on the Church Council.

http://www.heritage.com/articles/2012/04/11/chelsea_standard/news/doc4f82fd692b2c9486223384.txt?viewmode=fullstory