



Photo: Morrison Communities staff members Jake Ineson, Dawn Pelletier and Deleenn Brooks wearing donated cloth masks.

Community Steps Up with Masks for The Morrison Communities

WHITEFIELD — The Morrison Communities sends a shout out of “thanks” to everyone who has sewn and donated masks for the staff and residents at The Morrison’s two campuses: The Morrison Skilled Nursing Facility and Sartwell Place Assisted Living on Terrace Street and The Summit by Morrison on Summit Drive, just off Route 116, both in Whitefield.

“We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of local sewers, as well as companies like Burgeon Outdoor, a Lincoln-based outdoor apparel company,” said Shannon Lynch, Executive Director at Summit by Morrison. “We are committed to our mission of keeping both our residents and staff safe and healthy during the coronavirus pandemic. Having a ready supply of well-made masks has helped to make our job easier.”

“A simple post on Facebook resulted in a tremendous response, which none of us expected,” said Louise Belanger, Executive Director of The Morrison Skilled Nursing and Sartwell Assisted Living. “We have received close to over 600 masks to date. That sounds like a lot but it’s not as we use and launder so many each day to supply our more than 175 staff members on both campuses, along with our residents. We are so appreciative of the community’s response to our request for help.”

Among those sewing masks is a cadre of dedicated community and family members who have turned out a large number of the protective cloth face coverings. The daughter of a

resident was the first to call and she started sewing and delivering daily in those first few weeks, including a few in special fabrics that she knew her Dad would like. Another resident's daughter living in New York rushed up several packages of masks. Another person wanted her aunt to have a mask and sent a supply for her and whoever else needed one. Others came from complete strangers or groups of sewing angels.

Burgeon Outdoor, which designs a line of outdoor apparel, recalibrated some of their manufacturing to produce free masks for the public, and they unhesitatingly sent a large supply to The Morrison Communities, noted Lynch.

While staff at both facilities are now required to wear surgical masks while working, the handmade masks are keeping residents safe and are used by staff to and from work. "We are just so grateful to everyone who has contributed," said Belanger. "This community effort to help keep our residents and staff safe at a critical time is what makes living and working in the North Country so special."

The Morrison Communities is a nonprofit 501 (c)(3) charitable community that has been providing quality healthcare to residents of New Hampshire's North Country since 1903. Located on two campuses in Whitefield, the original Morrison building includes The Morrison Skilled Nursing, Sartwell Place Assisted Living, and both Inpatient and Outpatient Rehabilitation. The new Summit by Morrison campus provides Independent Living, Assisted Living and Memory Care options. For more information, go to www.themorrisoncommunities.org.