

THE FRONT PORCH

All the happy happenings at Cotton Grove Estate



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AARP: Household Model Senior Homes Weathering COVID-19 Well

COVID-19 has proven particularly dangerous for the elderly community, and those who reside in nursing homes are at an even greater risk. However, new reports suggest that not all seniors living in a group facility need worry. In fact, household model homes with dedicated staff, private bedrooms, and easy access to outdoor spaces have effectively reduced the spread of the novel coronavirus.

According to the [AARP](#), family-style senior homes like Cotton Grove Estate are better weathering the pandemic than their "big box" counterparts with hundreds of beds and less personalized care.

"The single most effective aspect is private rooms and bathrooms for each of the residents," said Elaine Ryan, [AARP](#) vice president of state advocacy and strategy integration. By contrast, early research has shown that the structure of semiprivate rooms – or what Ryan called "shared rooms" – was the most critical factor in the spread of infections.



Caregiver Spotlight: Vanessa Smith

My life has been profoundly affected (or touched deeply) by the relationships of those who provided love and care to me when I was young, and as I grew into adulthood. It feels only natural for me to return that love by providing the support and care they need as they age.

Knowing that you make a difference in a person's life, daily, is meaningful! Caring for loved ones and the sense of pride it brings to me is what led me to my work here at Cotton Grove.

At Cotton Grove, I am afforded the opportunity to help other families whose loved ones need the same care and support I gave to mine. I love knowing I make a difference not in just our residents' lives, but in their families, as well.

Cotton Grove and I have the same mission: To provide care with consideration and dignity in a kind, loving environment. Cotton Grove allows me the opportunity to perform work that is meaningful to my life and to others.

Vanessa Smith



A Message From Anna

Hello Friends,

The past few weeks here at Cotton Grove have been an emotional and eye-opening time for me, as I had the great pleasure of moving my own grandfather into our facility as a permanent resident. I am so grateful for the opportunity to care for him now, and that my own family can experience the sense of comfort that comes along with moving a loved one in at Cotton Grove.

Over the years, I've become accustomed to the usual progression of emotions our families experience when we welcome a new resident. I never take for granted the responsibility I have been entrusted with to help them navigate through these bittersweet feelings of sadness over leaving their loved one in a senior home, coupled with the comfort of knowing that they are in the very best of hands. After all, the driving force behind everything we do at Cotton Grove is to treat each resident the way the person who loves them the most would. It's this sentiment which largely inspired me to open a luxury senior care facility here in Jesup to begin with. My passion lies in providing our residents and their families this peace of mind during such a difficult transition in their lives.

But, now, the shoe is on the other foot! I did not expect to be overcome with emotion when my own family moved my sweet Papa in at Cotton Grove, but, truth be told, I found myself in a puddle of tears on the front porch steps that day. In that moment, I couldn't be the owner of Cotton Grove Estate; I simply needed to be a granddaughter.

Thankfully, the caregivers on duty recognized this and came to my rescue, taking charge of my duties so that I could simply be a granddaughter instead of a business owner. I feel such a tremendous sense of gratitude for these women, who are truly doing God's work. I can only hope that I am someday able to repay them by being their support system when they need it.

A Message From Anna, Cont.

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Seeing things from the other side has brought me a newfound sense of perspective, which I am also deeply grateful for. Now, I know exactly what our families are feeling as I coach them through this difficult time.

Perspective, when it is gained through personal experience, is such a sweet gift.

To our Cotton Grove families, thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for allowing our team the tremendous pleasure of caring for your dear loved ones in their golden years. And to all of my sweet caregivers, you are worth your weight in gold! We are so blessed that you have chosen to spend your time here at Cotton Grove loving and caring for our residents.

Warmly,

Anna Jones Pittard
Owner, Cotton Grove Estate

