



*Proud to be an affiliated partner of  
Teepa Snow and Positive Approach LLC.*

American Senior Communities is proud to share that we are committed to a training program implementing Teepa Snow's GEMS™ and Positive Approach™ to Care techniques and philosophies.

We are making a difference for staff, residents and families as *Dementia Aware* communities.

For more information about Teepa Snow or *The Positive Approach to Care* visit [teepasnow.com](http://teepasnow.com).



[ASCSeniorCare.com](http://ASCSeniorCare.com)

# *Caring Treasures*

*A Guide Preserving Individual Strengths  
through Teepa Snow's GEMS™*



On average, 75-80% of our residents in any given community are living with a diagnosis of Dementia. Realizing that our role is to continue to improve our assessment and care of these residents who depend on us to make sense of their ever-changing reality, we have created a program called Caring Treasures.

This program provides our therapy staff the resources to determine the stage in which a resident is living within their dementia progression. This process allows us to implement the most appropriate management strategies, meaningful and familiar activities, best practice communication approaches, realistic expectations and safety measures in terms of activities of daily living and mobility.

## *Components of Caring Treasures*

### *Dementia Staging*

Dementia Staging is a diagnostic process that allows staff to determine current cognitive and physical abilities. Within the first 72 hours post admission, therapy staff will initiate the dementia staging process.

- *Facilitates resident adjustment.*
- *Fosters relationships with staff.*
- *Provides initial awareness of safety concerns.*
- *Promotes staff understanding of resident's current abilities, which allows them to support remaining abilities.*



### *GEMS™*

Once the dementia stage is determined, that stage is correlated to one of Teepa Snow's GEMS™. The GEM™ assigned correlates to a set of cognitive ability and physical characteristics in which staff can easily identify the best approach to care for the individual resident.

We are then able to create an environment that allows our residents to make sense of the world around them, along with offering them the opportunity to remain as independent as possible, for as long as possible. By doing so, we can most effectively provide a home in which our residents continue to live a life of purpose and meaning.

### *Individualized Functional Program*

A very specific and individualized communication tool called a Functional Maintenance Program is derived from the characteristics of the GEM™ level. Therapists communicate specific characteristics that impact the resident's activities of daily living like bathing, dressing, grooming and eating, as well as specific activities that a person finds meaningful and familiar.

This tool facilitates communication with the staff to give residents a sense of purpose, comfort and safety in their ever changing reality.