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HEAD OF THE E.G. FISHER PUBLIC LIBRARY TAKES HER LOVE OF READING ALLOUD TO THE COMMUNITY AT MORNING POINTE

ATHENS, TN- September 2011 –We all can remember the joy of having a parent or teacher read aloud to us at some point during our lives. Now, residents at Morning Pointe Assisted Living of Athens, Tennessee are sharing in that love every month thanks to the head librarian at the E.G. Fisher Public Library.

Once a month, Beth Mercer, head librarian along with Julie Forkner, reference librarian pack up their favorite books to share and clear their throats as they prepare to read aloud to the residents at Morning Pointe of Athens. Sometimes they share poetry, short stories or a selection from a long book. “We both like reading aloud, it’s a real pleasure to select books and read to folks,” says Mercer.

The program is part of the library’s community outreach. Mercer says they have been doing it for years, but as it developed and grew, they made the commitment to come every single month. “It’s just a good group of women, dear women. It’s very satisfying when they give us feedback and engage in conversations,” says Mercer. “Typically, a dozen or so women attend, many,” Mercer adds, “they knew before they even started the group.”

“Our residents look forward to Beth reading and sharing books each month,” says Heather Trew, life enrichment director for Morning Pointe. “Not only do they all share in the love of a story, but having it read aloud brings back lots of fond memories,” adds Trew.

Mercer says her love of reading aloud came from her own parents. “My father and I always shared reading aloud together and did so for many, many years,” explains Mercer. Now, she continues to share that love each month with the residents at Morning Pointe.

Independent Healthcare Properties, LLC, a Chattanooga, Tenn.-based senior healthcare services company, develops and manages 17 Morning Pointe® Assisted Living and The Lantern Alzheimer’s/Memory Care Center of Excellence communities in five southern states including locations in Chattanooga and Ooltewah, TN. IHP was founded in 1996 by regional healthcare entrepreneurs, Greg A. Vital and Franklin Farrow. For more information, please visit www.morningpointe.com