



Event with retired NFL players at the Arvada house.



From left to right: Taylor and his wife Anna, Logan, Malou, Jeff, and family dog Koko

business beat

APPLEWOOD OUR HOUSE

Where New Memories Begin

Information and Photos Submitted by Malou Van Eljk, Genesee resident

Many people in the neighborhood may know Genesee resident Malou van Eljk as a local realtor, swimmer, and tennis player; however, what many don't know is that she is also an owner of Applewood Our House, Assisted Living and Memory Care Homes. During the Great Recession, Malou and her team had a vision to create a senior care facility that would be a service to elders with Dementia. In contrast to larger senior care facilities, Applewood Our House offers an alternative that is a boutique residential setting for elders to live together in a community and create an environment to have friends and care for one another. Applewood Our House started the first home in Golden in 2011, grew to two homes in 2012, three in 2013, and added their fourth home in 2016. Today Applewood Our House employees 45 people in the local area, and was a finalist in the medium business category for the Torch Award 2016 with the BBB.

The reason for Applewood Our House's success is simple: they care deeply for the people who inspire them. They fully believe in what they do. Every day they learn about interesting history and life experiences from their residents. The entire staff of Applewood Our House is dedicated to delivery of personalized care to every single resident, taking into account their unique needs, preferences, and requests. Their team is genuine, accepting,

and takes great pride in getting ratio to heart time with residents daily. The low 1-6 caregiver ratio creates an intimate environment in which residents can thrive. The staff at Applewood Our House always makes a conscious effort to honor and value their residents, whether that means sitting with them and listening to their stories or encouraging them to set the table and participate in the various inner-workings of the home. In every resident interaction, they act with kindness and compassion, setting a solid foundation for health, progress, comfort and safety of residents. Applewood Our House aims to create new memories for its residents and families while treating each person as an individual who deserves respect and dignity while receiving outstanding and passionate care.

Applewood Our House residences feel just like home; immediately instilling a sense of calm and comfort for residents and their families. The secure homes are designed with residents in mind and are similar to those that a resident would purchase for their very own family, located in residential neighborhoods. They offer a dietitian-created home cooked meals. Residents get to take part in many planned activities such as going fishing and camping, crafts, and fostering pets for the Foothills Animal Shelter. The shelter recently launched a pilot foster care program in collaboration with Applewood Our House. Currently, two eight-week-old kittens are

being fostered by the staff and residents until they are ready for adoption. "The Shelter is extremely excited to partner with Applewood on this endeavor," says Laurel Montgomery, Foster Program Manager. "The situation truly is win-win: The Shelter's foster animals have a place to thrive and the Applewood residents are able to interact with and care for young animals. While it is currently a pilot program, if it is successful, Foothills Animals Shelter will explore expanding the program in the future."

Other recent programming for residents included a visit from retired NFL players at the Applewood Our House Arvada home. Larry Bunsion (former Denver Broncos, KC Chiefs, and Oakland Raiders), Mike Rangel (former New Orleans Saints), Gerry Palmer (former Baltimore Ravens, KC Chiefs, and New Orleans Saints) and Billy Thompson (Denver Broncos Ring of Fame Inductee) delighted over 100 residents and guests with stories from their football careers, signed autographs, answered questions, and joined residents for lunch. Mike Rangel coordinated the event with assistance from the support group, A Little Help, the Denver Broncos Alumni Association, and the Pro Football Retired Players Association. "We know that seniors do best with multi-generational engagement, so we were happy to see so many of their family members participate in this event," said Rangel. "We enjoy these events as much as the seniors, so we hope to

have former players get out in the community for similar events at least once a month."

Malou's advice to Genesee neighbors is to enjoy every day and create memories with your loved ones. While it is optimal to age in place, there are options in the community for all.

Malou has lived in Genesee for 21 years; initially in the Sunrise area for 7 years, then on Columbine Court for 5 years, and now on Willowherb for 9 years. She was raised all over the world: born in Holland, and living in Switzerland, Japan, Holland, New Jersey, North Carolina, and then to Colorado. Malou and her husband Jeff met in Vail, and have raised their two boys, Taylor and Logan, in Genesee. They enjoy taking advantage of all the amenities of Genesee including swimming, tennis, hiking, biking, and snowshoeing.

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Are you a Genesee resident who owns a business? Would you like to tell your neighbors about it? Contact kelly.chopin@n2pub.com

