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– Michelle Houriet Voutour, Executive Director of Independence Hill Retirement Community

It's YOUR Time:

# Independence Hill Retirement Community

By Alissa Reinhard

At Independence Hill Retirement Community, there's an overwhelming sense of belonging that fills every corner of the beautiful property and there are no strangers! Residents are cherished members of a large, welcoming, warm family. Retirement is an exciting, wonderful time for the residents of Independence Hill. Retirees, it's YOUR time...start a brand new chapter in your life to experience the freedom of retirement for yourself - play, explore, create, and enjoy!

"We strive to provide 'top notch' service here at Independence Hill," said Michelle Houriet Voutour, Executive Director of Independence Hill Retirement Community. "We care for our residents as if they were our very own family members. We take great pride in having the opportunity to serve this great generation and are rewarded daily by their hugs and appreciation."

Independence Hill is truly home, without the stress and strain that comes with actual homeownership. Gourmet meals, home maintenance, housekeeping, concierge services, transportation, a fitness center, heated swimming pool...the list of amenities offered to each and every resident is seemingly endless. The opportunity to enjoy every aspect of your home surrounded by great neighbors – who will quickly become your friends – is the icing on the cake.

"Our residents are extremely social," explained



Michelle. "New residents usually tell us that their decision to move here was made after walking through the door, hearing the laughter in the dining room, and meeting residents that are welcoming and share their enthusiasm about living at Independence Hill."

At Independence Hill, residents now have the time to spend with their friends doing the things they love. Finding activities that residents are interested in is very important to the team at Independence Hill. When a new resident moves in, the Independence Hill team gets to know them,

learning about their hobbies, interests, game preferences, what their career was, where they are from, etc. Then, the Independence Hill Activities Team informs them of groups, activities and outings that they might enjoy.

"Keeping our residents active allows them to continue to live their independent lives in an environment that is nurturing, upbeat, exciting, fun and safe," explained Michelle. "We try to give them opportunities to learn and experience new things as well as things they are comfortable with. Moving here is a time for growth in this new chapter of life."

When planning the social calendar, the Activities Team always includes residents in the discussion, inviting them to take part in a monthly "Calendar Chat" where they can bring their ideas and suggestions and chime in on what they enjoyed about previous events.

"When planning, we also try to think about that specific generation and what they might have considered a fun event when they were younger," added Evonn Short, Director of Activities and Transportation. "Some of our most popular events are probably our Big Band Dance, Casino Night, poolside events like Fiesta or a Luau, fitness classes, Wine Club, tea parties, local concerts and plays, and our Grandpal Reading Program."

“We listen to what our residents want and do everything in our power to make it happen,” Michelle added. “We honor them, and never forget that we are in their home! Our staff truly enjoys spending their days with our residents. There is a lot of laughter here, a lot of fun.”

Making the move into a retirement community can be overwhelming for some, but at Independence Hill, the residents who are the

most uncertain or reserved oftentimes become the community’s busiest social butterflies.

“We had a female resident move in to Independence Hill who was very shy and wary of the idea of being around so many people,” Michelle described. “As I was asking her about what she had done and enjoyed during her working years and got to know her, I quickly realized that she was a lot more social than she was leading me to believe, she was simply overwhelmed by the move. I suggested to her that she join the group that was heading out for Happy Hour that evening for wine tasting and appetizers.”

“Of course, she said ‘No, not today,’” Michelle continued. “But then, as another resident passed us in the hallway, she invited her to come along and sit with her. The emphatic ‘no’ became an enthusiastic ‘maybe’ and ultimately, she went! She had a wonderful time, met many new friends, and is thriving as she participates and volunteers around the community. She is now the person who invites others to join her. She truly looks 10 years younger and I have not seen her without a dab of lipstick on, a pep in her step, and a beautiful smile on her face! That is what life at Independence Hill does for you!”

This scenario is quite common at Independence Hill. It’s a place for new beginnings. Life does not



have to be somber or boring. It can instead be a time for dancing, trying something new, finding a new best friend, or even falling in love again . . . the possibilities are endless . . . but possible they are!

Caregivers and family members can also feel at peace, knowing that at Independence Hill, mom or dad – or both – are really in a wonderful place.

Families are often surprised when they find out that their loved ones are not cooped up in their apartments all day – instead they are attending activities, out on day trips, trying new things, etc.

“The best is when family members tell me, ‘I call, but she tells me she is too busy and can’t talk to me right now!’” said Michelle, with a smile. “It’s hard to apologize for that!”

Independence Hill is family-owned and operated with a long-tenured team that is dedicated to making sure residents’ lives are filled with laughter, fulfillment and enjoyment each and every day. Management and staff love what they do – and it shows. And most importantly, the residents feel it and are thriving!

“Our teams’ sincere efforts shine through in all that they do,” said Michelle.

*Independence Hill Retirement Community is located in the heart of Stone Oak with easy access to shopping, medical offices, entertainment, places of worship, and more. For more information, or to schedule a tour today, visit [www.independencehill.com](http://www.independencehill.com) or call 210-591-0013.*

**Independence Hill**  
**20450 Huebner Road**  
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- Arts & Crafts Studio
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- Two Libraries
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