THANK YOU SPEECH

FOR

LINDA REYNOLDS

(**Thank the person who introduced you**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, thank you so much \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for that very generous introduction! Hello everyone!! It’s a pleasure to be here and an honor to accept this award on behalf of my family and all of the team at Tri City Rentals. Those of you that know my family and the work we do know how much Jewish Family Services means to us and you also know how committed we are to serving people within our community, either through outreach, real estate, or giving where it’s needed most. It is really humbling for us to receive this recognition for the NORC we support at our apartment community, Senior Circle. Alfred Nobel, the Swedish engineer and “innovator” once said, “If I have a thousand ideas and only one turns out to be good, I am satisfied.” Apparently Nobel had several good ideas!!! And the person who thought up the idea of NORC, or Naturally Occurring Retirement Community had an idea that we really felt we could implement in the best senses of the concept. Let’s face it; baby boomers have begun to reach those “golden years.” Many are still very young at heart, vital and actively engaged in life and effectively navigating all of its winding roads. A new dimension of addressing adult circumstances needed to be devised, and as we researched and implemented the concept of NORC and how it might work for the residents in our community, we realized it was an excellent and supportive matrix on which those that need it may rely.

Senior Circle is NOT assisted living. It’s a means for the residents to live their lives with just the right mount of administrative support and encouragement, literally right in their own back yard, or lobby, or community office (**or name 2 or 3 places where the residents can go on site to find the support they need**). It’s a program that provides guidance and logistics-whether someone needs help working through the red tape of a financial matter, negotiating appointments or any kind of issues involving social services, communicating with out of town relatives-should that be a issue-basically it’s a means to untangle the parts of life that might become more challenging to handle as life gets more and more complicated… and we all know that’s happening at a faster rate with each passing day.

It’s amazing to see the benefits of this kind of support and there are several residents that have truly blossomed within this context. The positive effects on people like \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ who was assisted with her \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ who managed to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are really an inspiration. Life is catching up with all of us, and at Senior Circle, the more we can provide assistance to the tenants, the more time they each have to maintain their busy, active and productive lives. It’s a lesson to us all!

I also have to say that I recently had the opportunity to browse through a book about one hundred things that everyone should know how to do, and I was astonished that giving back was not even on the list. Granted, not every task was as important as others…. do you know the proper way to shake hands? Do you know how to set a table? … How to hit a tennis ball? You get the idea. You would think that within that whole book would be, “Do you know how to give back? Do you appreciate the importance of making a difference?”

I grew up in a family of six children and although my parents owned a children’s clothing store, in an era when most of the kids had stay at home moms, my mother worked tirelessly with my father to provide for all of us. It was a struggle financially and logistically to keep all of us in line, but somehow, they managed. After the youngest was born, my father began a real estate business, pardon the pun, and started from the ground up. He grew that company from nothing and became very successful, and now my brothers, sisters and I run that business. No matter what conditions we had around us, we were always taught to give back and as my parents found their success, they made sure we were aware of our own social responsibilities. They never forgot where they came from and neither do we. From the time we were young, I am sure we all retained vivid images of our parents giving of themselves, their time and whatever resources they could spare to see to it that others were cared for. As a tribute to their memory, we do what we can to support others.

My work with Jewish Family Service is a testament to what I learned at home. Giving back is as essential to me as any of our other basic life forces and it’s true that there really is nothing more gratifying than to give to others. I am proud to support JFS in any way that I can and I believe in the work they do. From helping people with mental health issues, family dysfunction, and any of a myriad of life’s problems that may threaten any one of us, to supporting seniors and their unique circumstances, it is a privilege to endorse this group.

Alfred Nobel was a prolific and resourceful innovator-as a matter of fact, did you know he is credited with inventing dynamite? He’s a wonderful example of someone who celebrated brilliant ideas and giving to others. I am inspired by his “dynamite” generosity and I want to acknowledge all for recognizing our work too. Thank you all!