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Designing the Perfect Move *Belmont Village and Gregory Williams Make Moving Easy for New Residents*

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Designing the Perfect Move

Belmont Village and Gregory Williams Make Moving Easy for New Residents

By Julie Walke

The move from a longtime family home to a senior living community is unlike any other. Often made amid changing needs and shifting family dynamics, the transition can be challenging for all involved.

Senior relocation specialist Gregory Williams has made it his business to help families handle this move of a lifetime by combining his expertise in gerontology with his talent for design. Williams works with Los Angeles area Senior Living communities such as the Belmont Village communities in Burbank, Hollywood, Encino and Rancho Palos Verdes.

"When Belmont Village welcomes a new resident, we want them to feel at home right away, and we're always looking for ways to ease this transition for our families," said Allison Marty, executive director of Belmont Village in Burbank. "Our Resident Welcoming Committee encourages existing residents to meet newcomers and introduce them to our programs -



Allison Marty, executive director of Belmont Village Burbank (center) greets Chris Rigby and her mom Gladys at Josephine's Kitchen, where Gladys says she enjoys the restaurant-style dining, especially the variety of fresh salads and entrées.

what Gregory does adds another dimension to that. He takes the stress out of setting up a new place so that our resident can focus on meeting friends and enjoying our services - it makes such a difference."

Part interior designer, part



The focus of Gladys' new living room is this collection of 167 cherished photos taken by her husband during their travels together. "When a client shows me a favorite piece of furniture or a collection that they love and asks if it will fit, I just say, 'it has to!' and I find a way to make it work," said Williams.

therapist and part mover, Williams develops his design through careful listening. "I avoid the cookie cutter approach. Each person and circumstance is unique," said Williams. "I listen to my clients in their existing homes, see what is important to them, evaluate the new space and work with the family to negotiate what stays, what goes and what we buy new to cre-

ate that special environment."

Chris Rigby works for Senior Transitions, an agency that assists seniors in finding assisted living communities. She understands the challenges involved better than most. However, when she decided to move her own mother to Belmont Village in Burbank, she found it hard to set a moving date.

According to Rigby, "It was a

difficult time for our family because my father, Ted, had just passed away. So, Gregory drove to Lake San Marcos to meet with Gladys. I was delighted that she immediately liked and trusted him. Every element of the move occurred exactly as he outlined. And she is very happy at Belmont Village."

The focus of Gladys' new living room is a series of photographs taken by Ted on the many trips they took together over the years. "These wonderful pictures were hanging in her den and she told me how much pleasure she got from reliving each of her trips - I knew those memories would make Gladys' new apartment feel like home," said Williams.

Belmont Village residents have their own apartments, enjoy nutritious meals, housekeeping, transportation and activities. A well-trained and licensed staff is available around the clock for personal care needs. For more information, please call Allison Marty at (818) 972-2405 or visit www.belmontvillage.com.