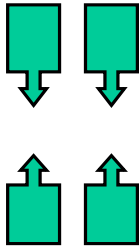
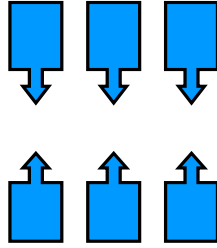


Helpful Hints from Cory Geishauser
From
The Hakuna Matatas (Pennsylvania)

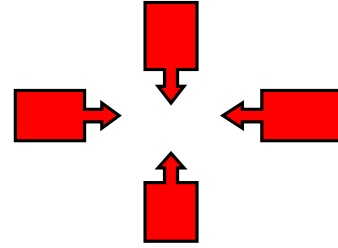
Generally, Nursing Centers, Personal Care Homes and Assisted Living Communities are limited to dancing space and assistance. So, I keep the choreo very basic for the chauffeurs and have fun with a variety of set up formations. You can do lots more!



Mini Squares



Facing Line Trios



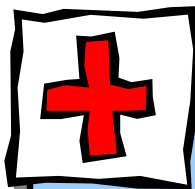
Diamonds

I really like involving the staff, volunteers, friends and families to partake in this activity. Wheelchair square dancing works very well as an intergenerational program. As an Activity Director myself, I enjoy programs that promote many different aspects of life. This activity is an exercise, a sing along and a reminiscing program all rolled up into one event.



HELPFUL HINTS

- 1 It's very helpful if the wheelchairs have foot rests.
- 2 Make sure the breaks to the chairs are not locked down.
- 3 Too much spinning of the chairs can make the residents dizzy.
- 4 Gerry beds are a very different handle than wheelchairs
- 5 Sometimes, residents have afghans on their laps.
Be careful, they do tend to get tangled in the chairs.
- 6 The chauffeurs should not be other residents
- 7 The execution time of the calls are longer than normal
- 8 Extra staff need to be on stand by in case of emergencies
- 9 Motorized scooters work well with a square of all scooters
- 10 If you are the chauffeur, introduce yourself to the resident in the chair before standing behind and maneuvering them.



Being certified in CPR and First Aid is a great benefit to have when you are pitching the idea to the Activity Directors. Plus, it's just a good thing to earn as a square dance caller or leader.

Some residents really enjoy WATCHING the square dance, but do not want to participate. Please, respect their wishes.



Wheelchair Square Dancing

Identification Names I've heard over the years

Wheelers

Residents
Dancers
Seniors
Spinners



Dealers

Chauffeurs
Pushers
Escorts
Chaperons

Remember, this activity is primarily for the residents. If you want to have fun with the volunteers, perhaps a line dance just for them. Or, get a few extra wheelchairs, put the chauffeurs in the chairs and call one tip that way. But they have to maneuver the chairs on their own.

The residents usually get a good laugh out of this special tip. The staff is laughing a lot too.



Make sure they are capable enough to move the chairs on their own. And, keep the tip short

Most activity professionals are really into having Theme Dances. This makes your selection of Singing Calls much easier.

If you are calling a wheelchair dance at a Children's Hospital or a pediatrics wing, make sure you are open to lots of suggestions and requests. I've had to invent variations of The Chicken Dance, Hokey Pokey, Bingo Waltz, Macarena and other popular mixer dances.

