

4 brothers enjoy working together at Woodland Pond

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(Photo: Photo courtesy of Woodland Pond)

NEW PALTZ – For some staff members and residents at Woodland Pond, there are special familial bonds and relationships that make it possible for some residents and staff to see family regularly.

There are eight sets of siblings, five parent-child duos, three sets of aunts-uncles, one married couple and a set of in-laws that work at the community. There are also a handful of staff that call residents family (mostly grandparent-grandchild combinations).

One of the largest families with the most years of service between them are the Seitz family, in which four brothers all work at Woodland Pond. Jeffrey Seitz was the first to be employed and eventually recommended his three brothers.

"I have been on the waitstaff for four years now," Jeffrey Seitz said in a news release. "I enjoy chatting with residents, hearing about their life experiences and learning from them as I serve food. I have made many friends since I began working at Woodland Pond. I had been working here for a year when the dining room manager complimented me on my service and work ethic, saying he wished there were 20 of me. I told him I could send my brother, Harrison, to the community for an interview, as he is also a good worker. He was hired in 2010. Then in 2011, I recruited my older brother Simon for a wait position, as I thought he would enjoy the work as much as Harrison and I did. Eventually Simon recommended our youngest brother, Samuel, who started earlier this year. Now we all work together on the dining services team. It's a lot of fun and a huge blessing to me."



Woodland Pond waitstaff team member Jeffrey Seitz enjoys playing the piano for the residents during special occasions or for a time of fellowship. (Photo: Photo courtesy of Woodland Pond)

Harrison Seitz is also a part-time waiter at Woodland Pond. He graduated with honors from Dutchess Community College in 2014 with an associate of science degree. Harrison became a certified personal trainer in May 2014 and sees clients at Crunch Fitness in Poughkeepsie, as well as Auerbach Chiropractic Health Center in Highland.

"When Jeffrey and Harrison recommended me for a waitstaff position, I thought it was an excellent opportunity. I love working in the kitchen and getting creative with my culinary skills," Simon Seitz in a news release. "Once I started offering suggestions to the cooks, everyone noticed how much I enjoyed food preparation. After only one year of service, I was promoted to lead cook. I have heard that the residents are particularly fond of my lunch specials. I enjoy preparing unique food for my family and friends in my spare time, too. It is truly a passion of mine."

Samuel Seitz is the youngest of the four Seitz brothers. He began working at Woodland Pond during the summer of 2014. He is a high school junior in Highland, where he resides with the rest of the Seitz brothers.



Simon Seitz, lead cook for Woodland Pond, enjoys making creative lunch specials for the residents and working with his brothers.*(Photo: Photo courtesy of Woodland Pond)*

"Life at Woodland Pond is truly a family affair," Executive Director Michelle Gramoglia said in a news release. "Day-to-day life here is made so special by the relationships that not only 'resemble' family ones, but are family ones. I am so proud that our community has been able to welcome and retain staff members that love and trust each other, and think enough about our community to want to bring their family onto our team. The Seitz brothers, and the more than a dozen other families here, make our community so distinctly warm and welcoming. We are excited to celebrate all our staff, their families, our residents and their families in this upcoming holiday season."

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