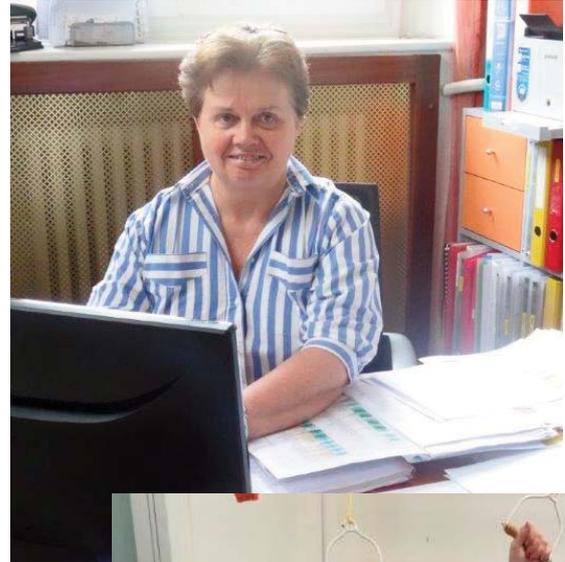




Sisters
Hospitallers

Comprehensive Healthcare

Did you know that our work for health covers all dimensions of the person?. We intend to cure and care. Find out how this hospitaller value is develops in the Province of France.



Alix de Chabot

**Nursing
coordinator at
Maison Sainte
Germaine.
Paris, France**



My name is Alix de Chabot. I arrived at Maison Sainte Germaine in January 2015 as nursing coordinator. I already had experience helping vulnerable people, but not in the field of disability.

My contract is part of the medicalization of 30 places at the care home. I have taken this mission very seriously and I have always taken into account the aging of the residents we welcome on this home and the need to adapt to their needs.

Its implementation has undoubtedly resulted in major changes, especially with regard to the rooms. In addition, with the objective to act as humanely as possible and ensure better monitoring, I've organised team meetings and created files that reflect the residents' way of life, their personalities and affinities, making adjustments whenever necessary. **In keeping with the essence of Father Menni's values concerning welcoming, listening, and respect, we also ensure their comfort and adapt the schedule of medical care so they can attend religious services, according to their preference.**

My job involves making sure that professionals are aware of the more discrete residents, those who ask for less, who may be at a greater disadvantage, or who have no family. It is important to pay more attention to these people and propose them activities.

One of the biggest challenges for me is to be with as many residents as possible in their last moments of life. La Maison Sainte Germaine is their home and, naturally, it's important that they feel welcome and calm for as long as possible. Being able to stay in their home is comforting, especially because it is where all of their points of reference are. There's a family atmosphere here and the residents have many friends, both

internal and external. The presence of the sisters also plays a major role in the quality of their lives, especially since the older residents were raised by them.

The teams, regardless of their personal beliefs and experience, care for the residents in the latter stages of life with serenity and compassion. **They are very close and share special relationships that should be supported.** To that end, I launched an end-of-life training and accompaniment programme for the professional teams.

In addition, despite their limited capacity, I've tried to adapt the residents' activities in an effort to prevent isolation, foster social ties, build self-esteem, and reinforce the pleasure of being in the company of others—all while respecting the choices of each individual. We have reorganised the teams so the nursing assistants and the special education assistants can spend time with the residents, accompanying them in their activities and outings.

Since taking on this role, the medicalization of Maison Sainte Germaine has enabled me to implement a truly humane way to care for the most vulnerable individuals.

The sisters welcomed me to Maison Sainte Germaine 55 years ago, and a lot of memories from those years come to my mind.

They promoted the autonomy of people and used to say to us: "Everyone has to do what little they can for themselves." I peeled vegetables to help the sisters in the kitchen. I even fed the babies their bottles. I also filled boxes with ink cartridges, which they paid me for. The sisters played with us. They helped us grow in faith and invited us to participate in Mass.

Now, I make bags and sell raffle tickets for the fair to people passing on the street. The locals know me well and never hesitate to show their generosity. I think I would have been a very good seller!

I can say that I had a happy childhood and that, thanks to the constant willingness to listen of the sisters and the personnel at Maison Sainte Germaine, I managed to overcome many obstacles and accept my disability. On behalf of all the residents, I would like to thank the sisters. You have looked after us as if you were our mothers!



Evelyne C.