

Meet Arkadiy Yakubov of Orchard Senior Living

From Russia with Love

By **Mary Stribling** - Orchard Community Relations Director

Arkadiy grew up in Russia, but he has lived in the United States for 30 years. Graduating from NYU with a degree in Finance, he had no training in healthcare or senior living before starting Orchard Senior Living in the Brookhaven area of Atlanta in 2007.

When unsuccessful in finding a quality Senior Living facility for his Grandmother with her rapidly worsening Alzheimers, Arkadiy decided to start his own business in order to provide the quality of care that his Grandmother deserved. Orchard was founded on the principle of Assisted Living with a Memory Care component located in the same facility.

Arkadiy had a crash course in health care regulations and procedures when he first opened Orchard. He also learned quickly that a quality assisted living community is always open – 24 hours a day / 7 days a week / 365 days a year.

The family owned and operated business has a center in Brookhaven and in Athens, and employs about 150 full time employees. Arkadiy is a hands-on owner who even designs his buildings and creates the culture within the Orchard community.

In order to provide the best possible products and services to Orchard's residents, Arkadiy meets all his staff and residents. He stays very visible, and is accessible for any questions or concerns that may arise.

According to Arkadiy, "Finding a quality Senior Living community can be overwhelming. Therefore, start looking early and at least familiarize yourself with a little bit of what's ahead. It breaks my heart to see people unprepared, because they are forced to make hard decisions out of necessity, rather than choice. We will continue to grow, but at a slow pace. My goal is to provide quality care, not just grow the business."

"Being a business owner is hard work, but I enjoy meeting many

amazing seniors and kind-hearted employees. I love to develop my staff and help them see things through a different lens. One thing is certain - we are all getting old and one day we could end up in a place like Orchard, and I want that to be an amazing experience."

For a man who can hold a handstand for 1 minute and run a mile under 6 minutes, continued success for Arkadiy and Orchard Senior Living seems like a sure bet.

