Living life to the fullest

the Pleasantview Home

Spring 2019

Envisioning the Future...Campaign Update

With approximately two years of personal conversations, a few small group gatherings, numerous meetings and much prayer, the administration and board of directors are grateful for the progress made on Pleasantview's *Building on Tradition… Envisioning the Future* capital campaign.

As this issue of *The View* goes to press, nearly $1.9 million has been generated toward the overall goal of slightly more than $5 million. (This is the fund-raising goal, though the entire project will cost $10 million).

"We are very excited for this project and for what the future holds for Pleasantview," said Nick Jedlicka, Executive Administrator. "Being able to offer new services and facilities is something we need to do to stay viable in the field of long term care."

As reported in the winter edition, the project includes two much-needed additions to the Pleasantview campus. One phase includes a renovation process in which nearly 50 rooms are set to be converted into 30 *Assisted Living* (AL) apartments. This addition provides the step necessary for residents between *Independent Living* and full nursing care.

Physical Therapists working with residents in their new space, formally the recreation room.

While residential care in the past has been available, the model Pleasantview was using was outdated and no longer functional. Instead of small rooms with shower facilities elsewhere on the floor, the new plan calls for private showers in each apartment. A second feature of AL will be a kitchenette in each apartment: a table with chairs, microwave, refrigerator, cupboard space and a sink.

"Assisted Living in particular will be an excellent addition to our campus," said Jedlicka. "This allows us to meet the needs of people who may have a slight need for assistance, but maybe they aren't quite ready to make the step into nursing care. We've also provided a model for caring for those who

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Building Project Preparation Continues

In anticipation of the capital building campaign, staff at Pleasantview have been making preparations to get the facilities ready for the $10 million project. There are many areas that need attention before construction begins!

Number one, the original Pleasantview building is slated for renovation. The renovation—when completed—will result in a 30-bed Assisted Living facility. A renovation is very loud, messy, and noisy work, so in order to do the work without disturbing residents the building needs to be unoccupied. As noted in previous communication this is a process that has already begun. Residents from the third floor (East) will be methodically transitioned to West. Pleasantview staff has been (and will continue) working closely with residents and their families on these moves.

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Building Project Preparation Continues

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The former Therapy room, now a double-occupancy resident room

In order to help this process, a few former resident rooms on West are being remodeled to better accommodate more residents on the West Unit. The therapy room has been relocated to the 1st floor of the three-story building, adjacent to the laundry services (the former recreation room.) Therapists Jen Turner and Rachel Freml make up the therapy team and are enjoying their new space! The former therapy room conversion is complete, and as you are reading this it is already home to two residents!

Additionally, the dietary department office has been relocated. Dietary Manager Rick Surly and Assistant Manager Jenni Kasper have moved just down the hallway into what most recently was pantry space, but in the past had also been the dietary office. Installation of plumbing, flooring, replacing a doorway with block, and a few other items need to be done to complete the conversion of the dietary office back into a resident room.

It's very important to note: these changes also help us with a separate and ongoing issue. For many years, Pleasantview has relied upon temporary staffing agencies to help provide care for the residents. While staff is needed to provide care, paying temporary or agency staff is very expensive. At times the consistency of care falters because it cannot be assured that the same individuals from the temp agency will be on campus. However, the plan for vacating third floor drastically reduces the need for temp staffing. This is a very big plus for Pleasantview…it ensures that more in-house staff will be available to provide the top notch care that residents are accustomed to! By using employed staff and reducing agency, better service is provided to the residents; scheduling is much less difficult; and a large financial burden is released.

Pleasantview employees have done an excellent job adjusting to these changes so far, and their efforts to make the institution successful are appreciated. The staff works long, hard hours and everyone looks forward to the days where they can look at the fruits of their labor from within the new facilities that this project will bring!

Rick and Jenni's (Kitchen Managers) new office

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have dementia and/or Alzheimer's; being able to improve upon that is a very big positive for Pleasantview and for those living with dementia-related illnesses in the community."

Dr. Nyle Kauffman, a long-time community resident, former medical director of Pleasantview and co-chair of the building project, addressed a second phase of the project: new construction of 14-16 private rooms to better care for residents with Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia.

"A lot has been learned in how to provide the best environment for dementia care in the past 30 years. Pleasantview provided a low-stimulus unit many years ago as a significant step in improving the care environment.

"As I observed my first wife Lois after she became a resident in that unit, it was obvious that the low-stimulus care made a big difference in how comfortable she and the others were. It was very impressive! The goal for the future is a ground-level facility with access to a secure courtyard, allowing Pleasantview to continue giving the best possible care for people with dementia."

This phase will include rooms that are much more 'home-like,' and will also feature in-room showers. An added component of this phase will feature an outdoor courtyard, enclosed to the point of prohibiting elopement from the facility.

The most common question posed is that of "when." When will the project actually begin? How long will it take? Will I (or my loved one) be able to enjoy these additions? And which are you doing first?

First of all, ***when***…

Priority number one is taking care of current residents and meeting their needs; a key component of that involves as minimal disruption as possible…which in turn means the possibility of relocating residents to a part of the facility where they will receive optimal care, thus allowing the renovation process to begin.

A second piece of the 'when' puzzle involves fund-raising. At the point in which $2.7 million is contributed and/or committed, the process will begin, provided the space is void of residents. AL will be located on the top two floors of the original building of PV.

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A conceptual rendering of future 2nd floor dining area.

Staff News

McKinnsey Erlenbush Bolton will be working as Nurse Manager and spending part of her time in the role of Charge Nurse. McKinnsey went to nursing school at Kirkwood Community College and has worked at Pleasantview since 2014. She started her new role in mid-April.

Jennifer Bennett has moved to the new role of Executive Assistant and continues to market the homes in the Village. Jennifer operated a small business in Wellman since 1995 with her husband Dale. She completed a Bachelors of Arts degree in Psychology in 2010 from William Penn University.

Heather Canott will be working as the Village Life Coordinator. Heather will continue to work some hours in the Care Facility with the Activity Department and as a CNA. Heather has been with Pleasantview for 25 years.

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About Pleasantview Home:
Developed by churches in the Kalona area in 1958. Pleasantview Home is a non-profit retirement community offering a continuum of services, from independent living to nursing and Alzheimer's care.

Mission Statement:
Pleasantview is a Christ-centered community that promotes aging well and supports the quality of life for our residents, their families and our employees.

Core Values:
Integrity, quality, compassion, faith, community

Board of Directors:
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How long will the process take? Assuming all goes according to schedule, Jedlicka says it could be an 18-24 month process from start to finish. Of course weather is a factor, as well as other unforeseen circumstances.

Will I or my loved ones be able to enjoy these additions? Obviously this answer is elusive! No one can predict one's life span or an exact timetable. This project will happen, and many members of the community will benefit!

Which phase will be done first? For various reasons, it is likely that the Assisted Living portion will be completed first. It makes sense financially, while at the same time keeping the best interests of residents in mind.

What are the overarching goals of the project?

In addition to simply adding facilities and renovating others – and the direct result of those phases – a major improvement will be condensing the nursing portion of Pleasantview care into one location. That location will be ground-level and fully connected. It will provide more cost-efficiency by way of streamlining staff.

A tangible example is what happened on occasion during the inclement weather patterns of this winter. Say, for example, that bad weather prohibits a nurse aide from coming into work. It's next to impossible to find coverage on short notice, so the logical step is to pull an aide from one of the current nursing sections. Under present arrangements, that will leave one section short because of the distance the aide has to move to.

Upon completion of the project, *all* nursing units will be centrally located, allowing much more fluidity among staff members to cover all areas.

Additionally, Pleasantview was built in 1958 to more institutional hospital standards. The trend in today's senior care is to provide a more 'home-like' atmosphere.

Dementia residents need space, which the project will address. They need calm and quiet, which too the project will address.

"Our aim is to address the needs of this community in such a way that our local residents will not have reason to go outside the community," said Jedlicka. "We hope to meet all of their needs on one campus."