



THE VISIONEER

A Project Update for Our New Vision Campaign Partners
Fall 2013

MHCO Wins Award for Excellence In Service (Best Practices)

Mennonite Home Communities of Ohio, was selected as the winner of the “Excellence in Service (Best Practices)” award, presented at a luncheon on Sept. 12, during the [LeadingAge Ohio](#) annual conference in Columbus. Each year, LeadingAge Ohio invites nominations for various awards, which are formally presented at the annual fall conference. MHCO received the award for being innovative and visionary in the quest to bring the first Green House homes to Ohio.

The supporting documentation we sent with the award application consisted of 11 stories that have been shared by staff, elders and elders’ family members who are experiencing Willow Ridge. (As recipients of *The Visioneer*, you have read many of these stories.) These stories demonstrated improved quality of life and enhanced resident and family satisfaction. These improvements were made possible by the commitment of staff and the physical environment of Betty House and Frieda House.

LeadingAge Ohio promotes and fosters the best practices that make the lives of elders meaningful, enjoyable and safe. By taking the lead in Ohio, MHCO has the opportunity to encourage other nursing homes to consider the Green House model.

LeadingAge Ohio represents approximately 400 non-profit long-term care organizations located in more than 150 Ohio towns and cities. The mission of LeadingAge Ohio is to “Empower not-for-profit Ohio organizations to optimize choices for successful aging.”

Commenting on the award, Laura Voth, CEO, stated, “It is a privilege to have been selected for this award. It would not have been possible without the hard work and commitment of staff, board members, churches, donors, and the broader community.”

Thank you, donors, for helping MHCO lead the way in innovative practices that make “real home” possible for the elders in our community.



Christine Purves, (middle right) living at Frieda House, invited friends over for a party. Good food, good friends, good fellowship. Home!

Willow Ridge would not have been possible without the hard work and commitment of staff, board members, churches, donors, and the broader community.

-Laura Voth, CEO

View more pictures of events at mhcoliving.org/news or go to facebook.com/MHCOOhio.

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Question of the Month?

How are the renovations at MMH coming along?

Renovations at Mennonite Memorial Home began on April 1, 2013. Despite the ominous date of commencement, the construction crews and staff have not been fooling around! On Tuesday, October 1, five elders living on Floor 2 moved across the hall into new, private rooms. With their move, renovations can now begin on the other side of the hall.

When completed, Mennonite Memorial Home will have a new roof (parts of which were last replaced in 1984), a new generator (couldn't get parts anymore), and a state of the art rehabilitation and wellness center. Twelve rooms in all are being transformed from semi-private to private rooms (a desire of the community for many years.) All will have their own bathroom and 10 of the 12 will also have private showers. Two new dining rooms will feature plenty of natural light with a warm, comfortable atmosphere. A well-equipped physical and occupational therapy room will be easily accessible to both resident and outpatient individuals.

The staff of M&W Construction as well as the subcontractors have shown great sensitivity to our elders and staff. In fact, the activities staff have been very impressed with the way construction workers interact with the elders. Many of the elders enjoy watching the progress and talking with the contractors. No doubt, some of them will be sad to see the project completed! Completion is expected by December 31, 2013.



Renovations at Mennonite Memorial Home made possible by the New Vision campaign include a new generator (top picture) and a new roof. Interior renovations include a new dining room (left) with more natural light, 12 private rooms for short term rehab and a state-of-the-art physical therapy room. Renovations are expected to be completed by December 31, 2013.