



A New Vision
Transforming Elder Living
A Green House Project

THE VISIONEER

A Project Update for Our New Vision Campaign Partners

July 2012



This is a view from the back of House B. The stone pathway shows how a sidewalk will connect both houses together, making it easy for elders and guests to visit one another. The curbs of Willow Ridge Court have been poured and sidewalks are nearly complete. The exterior paint on both houses is almost finished.

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Sorry, she's not "Home."

In a recent Blog post, [Dr. Allen Power](#), MD, tells the following story. (Dr. Power is an Eden Mentor at St. John's Home in Rochester, NY, and Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of Rochester.) *One consequence of opening a new living space like our Green Houses is that it lays bare some aspects of institutional care that never occurred to me before. This seems to happen with regularity these days. Here's a story.*

A woman stopped by recently to visit her mother. The Shahbaz came to the door and said, "She's not home right now." With a big smile and somewhat teary eyes, her daughter asked where she was, and it was explained that she had gone with a staff member to Wegman's (grocery store) to get supplies for dinner. Her daughter was moved to tears at the thought that her mother would be out shopping for dinner. Another nursing home paradigm busted.

We can't wait to begin telling our own stories of how Willow Ridge has become home for our elders.



The kitchen cabinet installation of both homes is nearing completion. This picture is taken in House B which has a “cottage style” motif. House A has a dark, natural wood look done in an “arts and crafts” style. Vinyl floors in the bedrooms and kitchens will be installed soon.

Question of the Month?

What is happening at Mennonite Memorial Home when 20 elders move to Willow Ridge?

For many years we have been asked, “Do you provide short term rehab facilities? Our answer has been “yes, but...” “Yes, but we have only a few private rooms. Yes, but we don’t have a separate unit. Yes, but our therapy room is limited.”

After twenty elders move to Willow Ridge from Mennonite Memorial Home, the first section of floor 2 will be renovated to create a 12-bed, short-term rehab neighborhood with private rooms and a state-of-the-art therapy room. We are pleased to continue working with pH7 Architects and Garlock Brothers Construction (our Willow Ridge team) to complete this project.

Financing for this project is also in place as we included costs for this renovation with Willow Ridge construction costs.

We are grateful for everyone who has supported the *New Vision* campaign to make both projects possible.

Calling all Shabaz

To emphasize that Green House home caregivers have a different role than in a traditional nursing home, the title *Shahbaz* is used. These “universal workers” work closely with the elders and other staff to provide an environment where elders are actively involved in daily decision making. The Shahbaz will be state tested nursing assistants (STNAs) who receive an additional 120 hours of Green House training. Additional training includes safe food handling, culinary training, working with a self-directed work team, communication, etc. On July 11th, current employees of MHCO can participate in a job fair to learn more about the Shahbaz and nurse positions available at Willow Ridge and apply. A second job fair is tentatively scheduled for July 25. Please pray that this important process will go well as Shahbaz and nurses are identified for Willow Ridge.