



THE VISIONEER

A Project Update for Our New Vision Campaign Partners
March 2013

Moving Home to Willow Ridge

By Rhonda Wolpert, Green House Guide

Positive energy radiates from elders and staff as elders move to Willow Ridge!

Phyllis, always the social person, makes great conversation as she welcomes and orients new house members. Phyllis tells me she has admittedly gone from a Doubting Thomas to a true believer about the Green House homes.

Early in the morning on day two, I visited with Christine, who was sitting in front of her computer reading her e-mails. She said she slept well, had her choice of a delicious breakfast, and was appreciative of her room and the technology available to her. She said the people caring for her are attentive and she felt “nurtured.” Smiling, she commented on how much others “like to sleep in here!”

Within the first few days, relationships were established, identifying that two elders are former Home Economic teachers, as is another elder’s daughter-in-law, and one elder used to do mending for another elder in the home. Two of the elders lived across the hall from one another at Mennonite Home Assisted Living and now live in the same house, eating at the same table.

Prayer is said at each meal, led by family members, elders, or Shahbazim. Meals are all about Convivium, great food and good conversation, where people sit at the table well after their meal has been eaten, enjoying conversation and companionship.

Now that a few weeks have passed, Shahbazim, elders, and families alike are adjusting to new routines, finding the “rhythm” of their homes. We have noticed that some elders show increased independence and cognition.

Though the first few days were challenging for Shahbazim, I have recently heard several say, “I would not want to work anywhere else.”



Above: Green House Guide, Rhonda Wolpert, talks with elder, Dorothy Lloyd, following her move to Betty House on February 5. Seven elders are currently living at Frieda House while six are living at Betty House. Below: Volunteer, Bill Suter, and Shahbaz, Paula Inkrott, assist Dorothy as she arrives at Betty House.



*View more pictures of the move and other events at
mhcoliving.org/news or go to
[facebook.com/MHCOhio](https://www.facebook.com/MHCOhio).*

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Above: Elder, Betty Smith and her daughter, Vivien Shaffer, pose for a picture on Betty's first day living in Frieda House. Above Right: Volunteer, Mahlon Geiger, helps move elders' items into their new homes at Willow Ridge. Right: Shahbaz, Tracy McIlroy, prepares a meal at Frieda House. Below: Heather Clum is the Director of Nursing at Willow Ridge. Heather is part of the clinical support team which includes Shahbazim, and others with expertise in nutrition, life-enrichment, housekeeping, and maintenance.



One Step Closer to Full Occupancy

On Friday, March 1, we received a follow-up survey from the Ohio Department of Health regarding "Life Safety Code" and were given the verbal word that we passed. This is another significant step toward being able to bring occupancy at Willow Ridge to twenty elders. Unfortunately, a "verbal word" is not permission to move additional elders. We must wait on the proper documentation which may take another "4-6 weeks, more or less." We appreciate your prayers for patience and that the process may move ahead quickly.