



THE VISIONEER

*A Project Update for Our New Vision Campaign Partners
Summer 2014*

Celebrating Accomplishments and Milestones

Several significant events have taken place at Willow Ridge since the last issue of *The Visioneer*. In April the Ohio Department of Health conducted their first annual survey since Willow Ridge opened. The purpose of these annual surveys is to ensure that the quality of care and the quality of life of the elders is provided for in a “homelike” environment. We are pleased to report that there were no citations given regarding health and life safety. At their exit interview, they reported that they “liked the model and appreciated the integration of elders and staff.” In the last week we learned that Willow Ridge received a five-star rating by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, which is the highest rating available.

Earlier in April we received a visit from representatives from the Green House Project national office to conduct their “House-warming Visit.” Such visits are conducted approximately one year after homes open and provide an opportunity to assess how the model is working. During their visit they met one-on-one with elders and their family members, nurses, Shahbazim, clinical support team members, executive leadership and board members. All were asked to complete an extensive survey. While there is always room for improvement, their summary was overwhelmingly positive, including:

- “it feels like a real home”
- “hospitality is abundant”
- “Busy but relaxed”
- “Convivium is exceptional—best we’ve seen. Not just a big table...sense of community.” (Convivium refers to the positive life-spirit of the home environment.)
- “without exception-willingness/eagerness to continue to learn and grow”
- “high level of ownership and pride”
- “nursing and Shahbazim-a reciprocal relationship observed—this is usually the exception”
- “Shahbazim—such strong advocates for elders”
- “very friendly place”



Elder Alice and her husband celebrate Hawaiian Day as part of National Nursing Home Week.

- “great attentiveness toward elders for special times
- “you’ve held true to the model”
- “beautiful end of life rituals”

These two positive assessments, as well as a continued census of over 99% provide strong affirmation that MHCO’s commitment to the Green House model was the right decision for the elders in our community. If you have not visited Willow Ridge, we encourage you to stop by. Thank you for supporting this vision.

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

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Above: MMH Administrator, Rhonda Wolpert, cuts the ribbon at the opening of the *Transition to Home Rehabilitation Center* on February 23 as Jeanne Wehri, RN, observes.

Below: MHCO is grateful for the excellent service provided by the Northwest Physical Therapy team.



More Renovations to Come

Now that two *Green House*® homes at Willow Ridge and the *Transition to Home Rehabilitation Center* at Mennonite Memorial Home are complete, additional renovations will commence at Mennonite Memorial Home later this summer. Renovations on East Wing (the original building at MMH) will include new windows, an A/C upgrade and a new roof. The goal of this renovation is to provide a more comfortable environment for elders.



Elder Betty and her daughter (above) and Elder Phyllis and friends (below) enjoy the Willow Ridge Fireworks Block Party on June 28.



Question of the Month?

So, are people coming to MMH for rehab services?

Absolutely! MMH has provided rehab services for many years. However, many potential guests chose to receive their rehab services at a facility where they could have a private room. Prior to opening *Transition to Home* at our MMH community, we averaged about seven rehab guests per month. Since *Transition to Home*, Bluffton, opened in April, the twelve rooms filled up quickly. In fact, our census for rehabilitation reached an all-time high of 19 in May. This strong participation in the program is affirmation of the board's decision to pursue this vision. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the *New Vision* campaign and helped make this dream a reality!