



ST. LEONARD

A FRANCISCAN LIVING COMMUNITY

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St. Leonard Opens \$14 M Assisted Living and Memory Support Residence

San Damiano Residence introduces homelike setting to an industry built on medical-based models

Centerville, OH (January 27, 2012) – St. Leonard Franciscan Living Community will open the doors today to its \$14 million San Damiano Residence Assisted Living and Memory Support Center, setting it apart as a leader in dementia and Alzheimer’s disease care.

The 74,000-square-foot center includes three, two-story wings – one offering 22 assisted living suites and the remaining two dedicated to 60 assisted and skilled nursing memory support private rooms. San Damiano Residence increases the employee base at St. Leonard by 60 new employees to 420 total employees and expands its campus to 696 living options including independent living, assisted living, memory support and skilled nursing.

The homelike setting of San Damiano Residence – named after the cross where St. Francis of Assisi was praying when he received the commission to rebuild the church – breaks away from the traditional medical-based model found in continuing care retirement communities (CCRC). Moreover, it creates a place where St. Leonard will implement its national award-winning memory care therapy, which it pioneered two years ago.

“Three years ago we crafted a long-term vision for our community centered around holistic wellness and vital living,” said Tim Dressman, executive director. “San Damiano Residence is one of the first steps in bringing that vision to life. We are excited and proud to offer yet another option to seniors in our community who are in need of these services.”

San Damiano Residence opens just five months after The Franciscan Center, the campus’ \$4 million wellness center and restaurant, debuted. Both facilities – designed by Columbus-based Andrews Architects – showcase amenities and architectural features that promote a holistic and therapeutic culture.

Small features in the San Damiano Residence deliver noticeable differences. Larger windows with lower sills let in light and allow residents to enjoy the view outdoors. Personal medicine cabinets, located in each memory support room, eliminate the need for roaming medical carts and silent alarm systems connected to beepers reduce loud noises often associated with medical settings.

The building's aesthetic appeal includes its warm hues and inviting communal living spaces with stone fireplaces and libraries. The absence of central nursing stations enable staff to spend more time with residents. Five spas are situated throughout the building with a meditation room, beauty shop and physical therapy room located on the first floor while two large courtyards provide a place to spend time outside.

Even the service of meals makes it feel more like home. Satellite kitchens located in each memory support wing allow greater flexibility in dining service options for residents. And residents in the assisted living wing can dine together in a 1,300-square-foot dining room or enjoy a private meal with family in a separate room that seats up to eight.

“St. Leonard has strengthened its offerings and quality of care to its residents, much as it did with the wellness center,” said Russ Garber, director of senior living design at Andrews Architects. “The fact that St. Leonard has advanced its specialization in memory care and created a building like this is truly unique.”

The new center will locate all dementia and Alzheimer's residents in one area and double the amount of memory support residents it can serve. Each memory support wing is equipped with a special resource center for St. Leonard's Behavior-Based Ergonomic Therapy (BBET) program. The nationally- recognized program has delivered significant improvements in memory care outcomes since its implementation nearly two years ago and serves as a model for CCRCs around the country.

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St. Leonard is one of the largest senior living communities in the United States located on 240 acres of countryside in Centerville, Ohio, just 10 miles south of Dayton. The community's unique array of distinctive, yet interrelated, mature living programs are designed to meet the individual needs of the 760 seniors living there. Sponsored by the Sisters of St. Francis of Sylvania, Ohio, St. Leonard provides a secure and friendly atmosphere where reverence, service and stewardship are its foundation. They are the third largest employer in the city of Centerville.