



Northern Highlights

They cared for us, we care for them.

June 2008



Northern Lights Health Care Center
706 Bratley Dr.
Washburn, WI 54891

CONSTRUCTION ZONE

New CBRF and Therapy Clinic Going Up.

Groundbreaking April 28, 2008

Residents, staff, and community representatives turned the first shovels full of dirt on the new construction project. A large backhoe took over for some serious digging. Plunkett Raysich Architects and Horizon Construction plan on having the building ready for use by March 2009.

The main floor will house a **CBRF**. The garden level below will house expanded space for **physical therapy**, **occupational therapy**, and **speech therapy** with a drive up entrance for the convenience of outpatients.



What Is a CBRF?

A Community Based Residential Facility (CBRF) is the certification required for assisted living housing that is designed for persons with memory loss. This 16 unit apartment building will have all private rooms with private toilet rooms and then shared dining, kitchen, living rooms, library, bath/shower spas, laundry. With universal careworkers on site 24 hours/day, meals and assistance with care and assistance with housekeeping chores are provided. Home health nurses make routine visits as needed. This particular CBRF will be named this fall, probably a name related to the beautiful old oak being preserved in one corner of the property. For more information about this assisted living, contact Tricia Unseth at 373-5621.

How Much Care and What Kind of Surroundings Do You Want?

We are community owned with a commitment to accept all, regardless of payer source. Many people will outlive their savings/retirement and need the back up of Medical Assistance (Medicaid). Someone recently asked me if we shouldn't just all spend our savings quickly and rely on Medicaid if we need assistance. I replied with the above questions.

If no one had the foresight, means, or good fortune to save for their care in later years, our care and surroundings would be very different. Private pay, insurance, even Medicare help keep our average hours of care and the capital improvements on our building from being just the minimums. Facilities with 90% or more Medicaid reimbursement are high risk for closing. The State has argued that Medicaid minimums are not good enough, but have not been able to raise them. We have raised them for all our residents because 30 to 50% of us have some savings, retirement, or insurance that, when put with Medicaid, allows us to meet the quality care goal of 4 hours per patient per day and allows us to upgrade the building every 15 to 20 years and replace furnishings and equipment as they wear out. Then, if we need Medicaid, it is there as a net, and the next person pays privately for as long as they can.

Thank you for your donations in 2007.

\$11,194 plus equipment and furnishings gifts were donated as memorials or gifts. This brought a new travelling tv/vcr, family room furniture, new outdoor awning, piano, music, artwork, and many more popular musical groups right to our residents.

2008 WISH LIST: *There are many ways to give of your time and talents. Here are a few suggested by staff or residents:*

\$35 for new Wii games for the residents

\$50 to \$300 sponsor a concert at the Health Center

\$32 treats a van load of residents to a pie and coffee outing

\$529 buys a new computer for the resident internet station

A stained glass window for religious services has seed money from one family and is looking for any amount to add to that.

Plants, trees, and other landscaping are memorials that will be seen and enjoyed by hundreds in our community.

Furnishings and artwork for the remodeled café and hallways at the health center.

Your time and helping hands for a fishing outing at the dock.

Our Staff Thanks You for Your "Thank You's"

Many families and former residents sent "Thank You" notes, or snacks, or flowers to let staff know how much their care was appreciated. Nothing is as uplifting as such "Thank You's"

How to Contact Us:

Telephone (715) 373-5621

Staff:

Gene Jordan, Administrator
Jan Benson, Admissions / Social Services
Jennifer Augustine, Nursing Services
Becky Mika, Therapy Services
Tamara Deragon, Business Office
Kay Kennedy, Human Resources
Tricia Unseth, Assisted Living
Sharon Jolma, Activities and Volunteers

Board of Directors:

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