



ADVENT CHRISTIAN RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES

COMMUNITIES OF CARING. SEASONED WITH GRACE.

REPORT TO THE EASTERN REGION OF ADVENT CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

Still in the shadow of our 100th anniversary, we're pleased to share with you this update.

COVID MANAGEMENT

The world changed over a year ago. Senior living communities came under special focus as the worldwide pandemic seemed to target the elderly. Anyone watching the news knows that communities like Vernon Homes and Meetinghouse Village had to radically transform care practices – from lockdowns to restricted visitation to suppressed activity programs. Government regulations – already onerous – seemed to double. Census shortfalls gutted operating income, despite government assistance programs. Worst of all, the prospect of resident illness and death loomed.

Thankfully, our campus in Kittery, Maine has not sustained any ill effect in the past year, in good measure due to Meetinghouse Village being an Independent Living community. But our Vernon Homes community in Vermont, caring for the frailest seniors, has not been immune to the vagaries of Covid. Residents, staff and general operations have been impacted. We're emerging slowly from this difficult time, adapting to a new normal that will mark the senior care profession for the foreseeable future.

GREEN HOUSE VISION

But even in the face of these realities, we are not settling for mere survival. By now many of you



have heard about the Green House model of care envisioned at our Vernon campus. Part of a larger national movement, the model provides 24-hour nursing in individual houses or building sectors of 12 residents each, rather than in the large, institutional facilities that are the current norm. The model restores care to a home setting and incorporates an innovative regimen that is oriented to resident preferences and rhythms. National clinical measures all indicate measurable improvements in the well-being and satisfaction of residents living in Green Houses.

As our current nursing home has aged, this long-held vision is in the process of becoming a reality. In process are site engineering, architectural design, state regulatory authorization and financing. Our conviction is that this revolutionary model of care will transform the lives of the neediest seniors entrusted to us and carry us into our next century in the spirit of innovation that has marked us from the beginning.

Further information, updates and opportunities for support can be found at www.greenhousevt.org.

ADVENT CHRISTIAN ASSISTANCE

We continue to enjoy the capacity to provide subsidy assistance to Advent Christian pastors, missionaries, and other denominational workers whose income is not sufficient to meet care and residential needs. Our “Minister’s Fund” provides these means at both our campuses. To say we’re grateful to be able to continue this support is all the more poignant since it was the founding principle on which the old “Vernon Home” was established just over 100 years ago.

OTHER ACTIVITY

In addition to these major items, other significant developments since 2017 bear notice:

- Thanks to ongoing support for our Annual Fund, continuous improvements to both campuses has been possible, with upgrades to major structural, communication, equipment, emergency alert and sanitation systems. Resident living areas and décor have also been consistently enhanced.
- In support of the Green House vision, we are initiating a Capital Campaign through which donors can take part in a revolution in senior care. One aspect of the Campaign provides opportunities for family groups to come together with a corporate gift in the name of a beloved family patriarch or matriarch, who will be commemorated by naming some component of the new community in their memory.



As we look forward to another century in which to “incarnate grace” to those entrusted to our care through our core principles of Exceptionality, Innovation and Generosity, we’re grateful for our historic partnership with the Advent Christian Church through the decades. That partnership has been a source of strength and identity to us, and one of which we trust all the Advent Christian family feels a worthy part.

Respectfully,

Larry Knowles, President

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