

Aldersbridge Communities celebrates name change, construction of new Rehabilitation Center

NEW NAME

United Methodist Elder Care, a non-profit provider of long-term care, skilled nursing, rehabilitation, assisted living and independent living services for seniors, has changed its name to Aldersbridge Communities.

The name change was effective this past June when it was announced by Board of Trustees President Daniel P. Genannt at the United Methodist Elder Care annual gala.

Although Aldersbridge Communities is the new overall name of the organization, the names of each community – Winslow Gardens (assisted and independent living in East Providence), Linn Health & Rehabilitation (skilled nursing, therapy services and long-term care in East Providence), Arbor Hill (assisted living in the Federal Hill section of Providence) and St. Germain (assisted living at St. Germain Manor in Woonsocket) – remain unchanged, as does the organization's ownership, leadership personnel and nonprofit status.

In 1971, United Methodist Elder Care was founded in East Providence as a retirement center by an innovative group of entrepreneurs and dedicated leaders of local Methodist churches to help older persons live in comfort, dignity and with purpose. "Over the years, we expanded our services but didn't stray far from our mission. However, our name did not keep up with the times," states Richard A. Gamache, MS, FACHCA, chief executive officer of Aldersbridge Communities. "Although we've always aspired to be inclusive, the communities that we serve increasingly perceived us as exclusive. Non-Methodists wondered if they could get hired, serve on our Board, or place their loved ones in our care. Our original name was no longer reflective of what we do, who we are, and what we stand for."

The word "Aldersbridge" was created based on a combination of historic "Aldersgate" Street in London where Methodism Founder John Wesley had his conversion moment in 1738, leading to the development of the religious movement in Britain and America; and "bridge" to represent the connectivity of people and places which is the basis for unity. "We also discovered during the rebranding process that 'alder' is the name of a tree that has healing qualities,



(formerly United Methodist Elder Care)

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is tremendously strong and has a uniquely beneficial root system supplying nutrients to all nearby plant systems. Together, the symbolic meaning behind our name unites us in our healthcare mission and unifies our properties under one organization," adds Mr. Gamache. "We celebrate the dawn of a new era as we move forward to serve the healthcare needs of our communities."

NEW REHABILITATION CENTER – LARGEST OF ITS KIND IN EAST BAY

Aldersbridge Communities is pleased to announce the final phase of construction of its new Rehabilitation Center at Linn Health & Rehabilitation, located on

Alexander Avenue in East Providence, adjacent to Winslow Gardens.

The Center, which will officially open in Spring of 2019, is the largest in-house rehabilitation unit within a nonprofit skilled nursing facility in the East Bay. Measuring 1,800 square feet in size, the Center has ample space for providing occupational and physical therapy services to Linn residents and outpatients, to get them back on their feet after surgery or a health event, back to their home or work routine, or simply to function with the most optimal health.

The Center features a central, nonslip walkway lane for working on ambulatory motion or golf putting, a simulated ATM, Wii game console area, steps, kitchen, laundry/bathroom, treadmill and other state-of-the-art therapy equipment. Previously, the space had been used as a dining area for Linn residents.

"The space is light and airy with plenty of glass window openings and has an contemporary 'easy street' feel to it where you have different components from life that can get incorporated into the OT and PT routine as needed," states RGB Architects Project Manager Tracey Donnelly, AIA. "It's designed with

materials and floor products for a warm and homey feel so as not to feel institutional. We made considerations for patient space to move around during therapy, and also addressed much-needed storage so the room will not look cluttered."

At the end of the unit is a wall mural that is inspiring with water views and pleasant color tones. There is also an area for private therapy rooms for sensory work and relaxation.

"Helping our residents and outpatients with activities of daily living is our goal," notes Cathy Donnelly, administrator of Linn Health & Rehabilitation. "Our therapists have either created unique programs or adopted proven rehab programs that are highly recommended for chronic or temporary health conditions that prevent a person from doing their best. Whether it's recovering from knee or hip replacement and being able to walk to the fridge or take something out of the oven; or a person with COPD working on getting in and out of the tub or shower, our therapists are here to provide the individualized attention a person needs to rehabilitate as quickly and efficiently as possible."