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THE *Lotus* LEAF

A THRIVEMORE NEWSLETTER



DEMENTIA CARE

EverTogether Offers a New Way Forward

When someone develops dementia, couples often face a painful choice: remain together without enough support or live apart so one person can receive specialized care. ThriveMore created EverTogether to offer another option.

Now under construction at Brookridge in Winston-Salem, the EverTogether Residence is a new model designed for couples when one partner is living with dementia. It will allow partners to continue sharing a home and daily life while giving each person the right level of support.

The residence will include 12 private homes arranged in a circular design. Each home will have an attached rear studio that opens to a secure shared courtyard and clubhouse. The partner living with dementia can move freely between familiar spaces, visit neighbors and take part in activities at a central clubhouse staffed by specially trained caregivers.

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CELEBRATING 75 YEARS & LOOKING AHEAD

A Message from Our CEO



This year, ThriveMore is proud to celebrate 75 years of serving older adults across North Carolina. Our story began in 1951 with the founding of Baptist Homes for the Aging, inspired by Baptists who envisioned better ways to care for older adults. Through changing names, growing campuses and expanding services, that commitment has remained steady: helping people live with dignity, purpose and a deep sense of belonging.

This fall, we marked this milestone together with in-person celebrations at each of our campuses. Residents, team members and guests gathered for food, music, special recognitions and time together — a fitting tribute to the people and relationships that have shaped ThriveMore's first 75 years. Please turn to the last page of this newsletter to enjoy photos from these joyful gatherings.

As we look to the future, we know that the need for our organization will only grow. Seventy-five years ago, there were about 13 million adults age 65 and older in the US. Today, that number has increased to roughly 66 million. And 75 years from now, it's projected to reach nearly 107 million.

ThriveMore is positioned to meet those needs in a myriad of ways, as you'll read in this issue. You'll learn about EverTogether, an innovative approach designed to help couples remain together while receiving different levels of support. You'll find out about the progress taking shape at Brice Pointe in New Bern and more.

As we reflect on where we began, we are equally grateful for all who are helping write ThriveMore's next chapter — residents, team members, families, donors, partners, board members and future residents. Thank you for being part of this important anniversary year and the future we're building together.

With gratitude,

Reed VanderSlik, President & CEO

MARKING MILESTONES

Celebrating 75 Years Together

This fall, residents and team members across all four ThriveMore campuses came together to celebrate our 75th anniversary. Filled with fellowship, good food and meaningful moments, each gathering honored the people who have shaped our story while celebrating the bright future ahead. We are grateful to everyone who joined us in marking this special milestone! View more photos on page 6.







THE CARE HE WITNESSED

Inspired A Lasting Gift

Few people have experienced ThriveMore from as many perspectives as Maurice Briggs. He first knew Brookridge as a son of a resident, also served there as chaplain for 10 years and today calls it home as a resident. Through each role, he has seen the compassion, integrity and quality of care that define ThriveMore.

Maurice's connection began when his mother spent her final years at Brookridge. He watched team members care for her consistently and compassionately. When she outlived her financial resources, the Baptist Retirement Homes Foundation helped make it possible for her to remain and continue receiving care.

"This place is deeply dedicated to the welfare of residents and their family," Maurice said.

Years later, after retiring as Brookridge's chaplain, Maurice and his wife chose to return as residents. Soon after they moved in, a team member asked if he remembered her. She had cared for his mother. For Maurice, the moment affirmed that the culture of compassion he had witnessed years earlier was still present.



Having experienced ThriveMore as a family member, team member and resident, Maurice wanted to help sustain that care for others. He created a charitable remainder trust naming the Foundation as one of the beneficiaries.

"The value system and the integrity of it was here to stay, and I wanted to contribute to its financial stability with what I had to give," he said.

Maurice's planned gift is one example of how donors can create a meaningful legacy. Estate gifts may include beneficiary designations, wills, trusts and other planning tools.

Through his estate plan, Maurice is helping ensure ThriveMore can continue caring for older adults, supporting team members and strengthening the places it serves for generations to come.

Learn more about ways to give at THRIVEMORENC.ORG/GIVING

Ginger Harris

HONORED AS A HOMETOWN HERO

For nearly 20 years, Ginger Harris has led Taylor House with dedication, compassion and a deep belief in the difference senior living can make. During National Assisted Living Week, that commitment earned her the Hometown Hero Award, presented by WSPC and WZKY Radio at Stanly Community College.

The recognition celebrates a leader whose work reaches far beyond daily operations. Ginger leads 22 team members and oversees care for up to 28 residents with a hands-on style and clear purpose.

"I can see how we help people here," she said. "You can put your hands on it, it's very tangible." Ginger understands that moving into assisted living can be a major transition. The Taylor House team helps each resident adjust, build connections and discover a fulfilling new chapter.



Ginger's leadership reflects what makes Taylor House special: a close-knit team, personalized support and a commitment to accessible care. More than half of residents receive discounted rates subsidized monthly by the Baptist Retirement Homes Foundation. Ginger is quick to credit the team around her. "I like that we mesh so well together here," she said. Together, they make Taylor House a place where residents feel at home and team members find support. Built a century ago as a hospital, Taylor House continues its legacy of caring.

"I feel like this is still a place of healing," Ginger said. "Every day is different, and we're always helping people."







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Meanwhile, the care partner can remain close while also gaining time to rest, attend appointments or enjoy activities with greater peace of mind.

The seed of the project was planted when ThriveMore President and CEO Reed VanderSlik attended a dementia care partner support group years ago. He was told that the traditional model of care at Life Plan Communities didn't allow their partners to continue their lifelong routines. One man said for decades he's always eaten dinner with his wife and fallen asleep holding hands – something they could no longer do now his wife lived in Memory Care.

Developed with dementia-care experts and architects at CJMW Architecture, EverTogether reflects years of planning and listening. Its distinctive design received a patent this year and won the LeadingAge North Carolina Excellence in Innovation Award, affirming the originality and value of an environment created to balance safety, independence and connection.

Construction continues at Brookridge, and EverTogether is estimated to welcome its first residents in January 2027. As the residence takes shape, it represents ThriveMore's commitment to listening carefully, challenging traditional models and creating better ways for older adults and the people they love to move forward together.

Brice Pointe

MOVES CLOSER TO REALITY

Plans for Brice Pointe, ThriveMore's new Life Plan Community in New Bern, continue to move forward with several milestones that bring the vision closer to reality.

Located on a scenic 70-acre site overlooking Carolina Lake in the Carolina Colours neighborhood, Brice Pointe will be New Bern's first Life Plan Community and ThriveMore's first in Eastern North Carolina.

Brice Pointe is designed for older adults who want an active, maintenance-free lifestyle with the reassurance of future care. Plans include 152 independent living apartments, 52 villas and cottages and 18 healthcare apartments offering assisted living, memory care and long-term nursing care. Residents will also enjoy trails, gathering spaces, wellness and learning opportunities, plus access to Carolina Colours amenities.

This summer, the ThriveMore Board of Trustees approved Brice Pointe to advance into its next phase of design and development, reflecting continued confidence in the project and its growing momentum.

The North Carolina Department of Insurance also authorized Brice Pointe to move to the next stage of the reservation process. Priority List members can now reserve their future residences with a 10 percent deposit. Kip and Janet Peregoy became the first future residents to make a reservation, marking an exciting moment for everyone who has followed the project's progress.

ThriveMore's Board of Trustees recently gathered in New Bern and visited the future site. Members walked the new footbridge connecting Carolina Colours Golf Club to Brice Pointe, seeing firsthand where the community will take shape.

Brice Pointe is expected to welcome its first residents in 2030. Planning, design and reservation efforts will continue as future residents begin choosing the homes and lifestyle they envision.



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Shining
YEARS




75









