



Contact Us

Providence | ElderPlace Newsletter



Housing our Elders

Not only does Providence ElderPlace provide an innovative model of care, it also offers an innovative model of housing for its participants.

Summer 2006

Providence ElderPlace

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Driving Directions

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Chihuly glass tree at O'Christmas Trees

Renowned internationally acclaimed glass artist Dale Chihuly will be the Presenting Artist of the 2006 Providence O'Christmas Trees series of events – which will raise money for Providence ElderPlace and other Providence programs in King County.

Chihuly will donate a magnificent original glass and neon

Called supportive housing, ElderPlace contracts with the Seattle Housing Authority (SHA) to control 32 units in two of the housing agency's senior apartment buildings. With the main goal of keeping our elders in their own homes for as long as possible, supportive housing – which includes invaluable round-the-clock home care staff - provides a large safety net to meet participants' immediate needs.

"We're able to keep people in their home and out of a nursing home longer," says Tom Rutter, ElderPlace's homecare coordinator.

ElderPlace has been offering supportive housing at Columbia Place in the Rainier Valley since 1999 and at Westwood Heights in West Seattle since 2002. The agreement with SHA means ElderPlace participants who meet the housing agency's age and income requirements will not have to go on its waiting list when the ElderPlace care team decides they are eligible for one of the units. That can shorten the wait time by a year or so.

The homecare staff will help ElderPlace participants with everything from showering and housecleaning to meal preparation, laundry and grocery shopping. Although the personal care assistants cannot administer medications, they can keep a close eye on how that is going for a participant. And the home care worker can contact our ElderPlace interdisciplinary team to report any changes or needs, including concerns about medications.

"Our response is very fast. It's responsive, it's preventative," Rutter says. All on-duty homecare staff members carry a cell phone so they can be reached at any time. And supportive housing participants wear Lifeline medical alarms to help them in an emergency. The call goes to the homecare team and the response is quick.

Services provided to ElderPlace participants change as their situation changes. For example, if participants need additional help taking medications, a visiting nurse will be called to administer the medication. All the while the ElderPlace team continually assesses if supportive housing best meets the participant's needs.



Meet our OTs and PTs

You could say ElderPlace Occupational

“tree” to be auctioned at the Nov. 29, 2006 dinner auction and gala. His tree – along with 20 live uniquely decorated evergreens - will be displayed at the Westin Seattle during the three-day event.

The event features the free public Treeview on Nov. 27, the Silver Bells Lunch on Nov. 28 and the gala the following day.

For more information please [click here](#) or contact Patricia Szabo at 206-938-2788.

Cooking with Class

Mark Sept. 21 on your calendar to join us for Cooking with Class, a truly a fun fundraiser that features live cooking demonstrations by many of the area’s top chefs.

Half of the proceeds benefit ElderPlace. The event is Thursday, Sept. 21 from 6 to 9 p.m. at Salty’s on Alki, 1936 Harbor Ave SW in Seattle. Tickets are \$75 each. You must reserve in advance as the event sells out fast! For reservations, contact Connie Adams at 206-283-9067.

Providence ElderPlace

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Therapist Joy Pope is part of an unconventional – but vital – welcome committee.

Pope is part of a team of caregivers that meet all new ElderPlace participants. The physical and occupational therapy group checks each new member’s physical mobility, to see how they manage with daily activities.

“We are looking at what is or potentially could interfere with a client’s ability to function as independently and safely as possible,” says Pope. “Then we can decide what we can do to improve their independence and safety.”

That initial physical and occupational therapy checkup, followed by an annual assessment, is one key characteristic of ElderPlace’s model of care, called PACE, for Program of All Inclusive Care for the Elderly. The rehabilitation group includes two physical therapists, two occupational therapists and two rehabilitation aides. They are part of a larger ElderPlace family that provides comprehensive care for all ElderPlace participants.

Other team members include those who provide medical and social services, speech therapy, nutrition counseling, spiritual care, dentistry, optometry, lab tests, prescriptions, X-rays, home services and more. While there is often overlap between physical and occupational therapy, physical therapy focuses more on a person’s ability to move around (their mobility), while occupational therapy generally works on the activities of daily living.

It’s not unusual for the elderly to have balance issues and need routine rehabilitative therapy, says Louise Goldman, ElderPlace’s rehabilitation manager. And sometimes a patient will need therapy following a stroke or after they’ve broken a hip, or following a bout with a serious illness, such as pneumonia.

In addition to the initial and annual visits, ElderPlace participants will see a physical or occupational therapist as often as needed, based on their situation. Such therapy takes place at ElderPlace, where there is a modified gym, or at a participant’s residence. While the goals for participants can change, Goldman says, “Our ultimate goal is to help participants remain independent and safe in their mobility.”



Meet our participants: Mary Taylor

Mary Taylor entered the world a fragile 2-pound baby, born decades before the advent of high-tech hospital wards that give frail infants a fighting chance at life. She

wasn’t expected to survive the week, much less the 87 years she has lived.

It’s little surprise, then, that Taylor savors every birthday with an unusual and memorable flourish. “The helicopter ride was the first,” says Taylor, who has been a participant with Providence Elderplace since September.

That was followed by a trip on a blimp and then a hot air balloon. She continued her birthday tradition after moving in September from Silver Spring, Md., to Westwood Heights senior apartments in West Seattle.

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This year's birthday was commemorated aboard a Harley Davidson! Climbing on that motorcycle and having her picture taken "was one of the happiest days of my life," Taylor says.

Taylor is one of 15 Westwood Heights residents who are ElderPlace participants. ElderPlace has an agreement with the Seattle Housing Authority, which owns Westwood Heights, to control 16 units - in addition to controlling another 16 units in the Seattle Housing Authority's Columbia Place facility in the Rainier Valley. That partnership allows ElderPlace's team of care providers to decide when a participant can move into one of the designated units, provided they meet the housing authority's income, age and other limits.

ElderPlace provides a 24-hour personal-care staff that helps members with the chores of daily living, such as bathing and housekeeping. It's an arrangement that agrees with Taylor. "I'm one who struggled with a home," she says. "It just got to be too much for me."

Taylor's nephew persuaded her to move to Westwood Heights, where his mother lived. It's a decision Taylor is glad she made. A homecare member makes Taylor breakfast every morning, does her laundry and makes her bed, among other things. "The care that the caregivers give you is very nice," she says. "This is a wonderful place for all seniors like me."



Medicare Part D at ElderPlace

By Ellen Garcia

January 2006 brought one of the most significant changes to Medicare since its inception - Medicare Part D coverage of prescription drugs.

There has been a great deal of media coverage on the challenges that Medicare beneficiaries faced as this important benefit was rolled out. For seniors, it meant navigating a very complex array of drug plans. Once enrolled, there were deductibles and co-pays to contend with at the pharmacy.

Part D also excludes coverage of over-the-counter medications and certain drugs. For those enrolled at Providence ElderPlace, or with any other PACE (Program of All Inclusive Care for the Elderly), the move to Part D was seamless. As a PACE program, we become the individual's Part D drug plan. ElderPlace continues to provide all over-the-counter and prescription medications that an individual's physician has prescribed. There are no separate premiums or co-pays to pay at a pharmacy.

In fact, our enrollees have most of their medications delivered to them in their homes. For new enrollees, coverage through our Part D plan is immediately effective on the enrollment date. Our medication nurse, clinical pharmacist and physicians are also frequently reviewing participant medication profiles. This added medication oversight is a hallmark of PACE.

To learn more about how enrollment in Providence ElderPlace will provide Part D benefits, please contact Intake at 206-320-5325.

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