

THE ALDRSGATE SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The mission of Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry is to develop and provide homes and services that will enable adults with developmental disabilities to live as independently as possible in a communal setting that ensures security, dignity, and a stable environment of physical, emotional and spiritual well-being. Aldersgate moved closer to the realization of this mission with the completion and opening of two homes over the past year.

The year has presented many challenges for the ASNM Board of Trustees, which along with meeting the many requirements for licensing of the homes, also included a change in our consultant and management organizations, and being certified by the state as a Qualified Licensed Provider of services. Many Board members gave considerable time to address these challenges, and were assisted by dedicated parents of our approved residents, as well as many friends of Aldersgate. Our accomplishments would not have occurred without the direct help of the Rev. James McGee (The Oaks), Mr. Ron Lofts (Orangeburg County Special Needs and Disabilities Board), Mr. Harris Davis (Housing Help Inc. of Orangeburg), and Mr. Scott Middleton (Agape Senior Services).

One major step in our progress was the hiring of our first Project Coordinator, Mrs. Edwina Jackson. Mrs. Jackson has guided us through regulatory requirements, hired and trained staff for the Columbia home, and will provide direct oversight of the Columbia Home. Mrs. Jackson established an office for ASNM at 731 Sims Avenue, Columbia, SC 29205.

A ribbon cutting was held on December 15, 2008, for the Builder's Care Home in Columbia, on a lot leased from the Epworth Children's Home. The construction of this home was a gift of the Home Builder's Association of Greater Columbia. Six female residents moved into the home in March of 2009.

The Aldersgate at the Oaks Home, located on the campus of The Oaks, a United Methodist Retirement Center in Orangeburg, was constructed through a grant received from HUD. Several individuals and churches in the Orangeburg area assisted with the furnishing of the home. This home for male residents will be managed by Mr. Ron Lofts. A ribbon cutting was held March 12, 2009 with the first residents moving in shortly thereafter.

The Aldersgate Ministry depends on the support of individuals and churches in order to provide quality services for adults with disabilities. Churches are asked to receive a special offering for Aldersgate on the second Sunday of August. New offering brochures, provided through a grant from the Central Carolina Foundation, are available to highlight the ministry of Aldersgate. The Board also gratefully acknowledges grants from the Ray Tanner Foundation, The Arkwright Foundation, and the SC State Housing and Development Authority.

Interest continues to develop concerning future sites for Aldersgate homes in Columbia, Greenville, Rock Hill and Florence, SC. With increased awareness of our unique ministry, continued support from many individuals and churches and definitely with the blessings of God, we will work to ensure that God's children with disabilities may "rest securely in safe dwellings."

Rev. Stephen P. Taylor, Chairperson