

ALDRSGATE SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY

Purpose:

Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry provides the highest quality of life, and greatest level of independence, in Christian homes, for adults with special needs.

Key moments from the previous year:

Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry was very busy during 2023. God blessed us with a successful Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry Sunday as we tripled giving thanks to our generous supporters. We purchased two homes in Columbia that will be home to 8 adults with special needs. One of the new homes opened in November and is called Tommy's House which is named after Rev. Milton McGuirt's brother, Tommy, who had special needs. We had a groundbreaking for the Sunshine House in Florence at the Methodist Manor which is opening in early 2024. This home was built by funds donated to ASNМ by an anonymous donor. Late in 2023, the ministry was fortunate to purchase home in the same neighborhood at Tommy's House in Columbia. This home should open in late spring of 2024. The ministry had a terrific time in August at Asbury Hills. All of the residents from our homes participated in camp at Asbury Hills as well as several staff members. We were blessed by Jim Hudson Toyota who graciously donated funds so we could purchase a new van for one of our homes. ASNМ published it's first book capturing the first 20 years of the ministry. ASNМ didn't run into many challenges over the past year outside of just trying to keep up with all of the growth and projects, but that is a welcome challenge after the ministry not having any growth with new homes since 2015.

Objectives for the coming year:

ASNМ's objectives for the coming year are the following:

open two more homes in the Columbia area and possibly one home at the Methodist Manor in Florence; maintain the excellent quality of care offered in our homes throughout the growth; expand the scope of the residents we have traditionally served; begin planning a capital campaign for additional homes to be purchased or built; offer lunch to UMC Conference attendees again this year with hopes of serving more folks; participate in more outreach events in the community and within churches in order to inform more people about our ministry; grow our administrative support in order to keep up with the growth of the ministry. We hope to have the opportunity to take our residents on more trips like Asbury Hills and have our residents participate in activities that give back to the community in which they live. Lastly, it is our hope that we can get more churches in the UMC Conference involved with our ministry.

Action(s) required from the 2024 Annual Conference:

If you take away nothing from this report, know this:

Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry is making a positive difference in the lives of adults with special needs in South Carolina. The support of the Churches and the Conference is helping us to further our mission and for that we are grateful. Please know that your prayers are coveted and all donations no matter how big or small are making an impact! We would invite anyone that is interested to come visit our homes as we serve some amazing people.

Narrative:

Respectfully submitted:

Kim Thomas, Executive Director
director@aldersgatesnm.org, 803-924-2946
Kim Thomas - Executive Director
Linda Gifford - Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper
Tiffany Collins - CBCH Administrator
LaVeda Jenkins - Oaks Administrator
Victoria Maple - Residential Manager for Rick's House
and Sunshine House
Kresta Frazier - Residential Manager for Tommy's House

EPWORTH CHILDREN'S HOME

Purpose:

The purpose of Epworth's Children Home is to break the destructive cycle of abuse, neglect, and shame and replace it with an opportunity for each person to live a life of self-respect, responsibility, and productivity.

Key moments from the previous year:

- I. With the support of the UMC, Epworth surpassed our budgeted goal for gifts and contributions in 2023. Through the support of the United Methodists of South Carolina, Epworth is able to offer children and families the support and guidance they need in order to move toward stability and well-being. Last year 92 churches partnered with Epworth and provided much needed support to birth, kin and foster parents.
- II. Epworth continued to expand our footprint into all regions of the state. Overall, Epworth served over 1400 children and families in 2023.
 - i. Epworth's foster care program continues to expand. The foster care staff served 373 children and youth in the program. In addition to serving 373 children in foster care, 20 children were adopted into forever families. Since the inception of foster care in 2017, staff have licensed 286 foster families. Furthermore, we are excited to report that 92% of the children served in foster care in 2023 remained stable and did not experience any moves. Placement stability is recognized as a key factor in increasing attachment and well-being.
 - ii. Epworth also launched our newest Center for Counseling in Anderson, SC in April 2023. The center treated 53 clients in its first year. This center provides in-person and telehealth treatment services to children, youth, and families. The Columbia Center for Counseling continues to provide much needed mental health services to Richland County. The center provided services to 430 clients.

Objectives for the coming year:

Epworth will continue the expansion of the Institute for Child and Family Wellbeing by introducing Kinship Navigation programs in two regions of the state. The South Carolina Department of Social Services awarded Epworth with kinship navigation grants for the Midlands and Pee Dee region. Kinship navigation is a program designed to assist kin caregivers with legal capacity, financial sustainability, parenting

and child community connection, and caregiver emotional support. Research has shown that children and youth experience better outcomes with self-esteem and stability when placed with a relative. We are excited to be able to provide support to the many grandparents taking care of their grandchildren in South Carolina.

Action(s) required from the 2024 Annual Conference:

If you take away nothing from this report, know this:

Epworth Children's Home has a long tradition of assessing the needs of underserved children and their families and of offering new services and programs that meet the changing needs of South Carolina's families. The centers of excellence under the umbrella of the Institute for Child and Family Wellbeing reflect Epworth's recognition of the demands that the 21st century places on abused children and the families from which they come. Whether Epworth is serving children and families through the traditional group home, foster family programs, kinship care initiatives, counseling programs, family care programs or services for older, disengaged youth, the mission of healing hurts and nurturing hope through Christian communities continues. Epworth is a community where unconditional love and grace are modeled to all persons regardless of gender, race, national origin, or religious preference.

Narrative:

Continued from key moments.

- iii. Epworth launched our Intensive In-home Family Preservation program in Columbia. This program serves birth and kin parents who need treatment services to increase family stabilization and safety. During the initial year, Epworth served 47 families. This program differs from the Homebuilders® crisis stabilization program in that staff remain engaged with families for 4 to 6 months. In addition to our Intensive In-home program, our Homebuilders® prevention programs served 112 families during 2023. Both programs aim to keep children from entering state supported care and increase family stability.
 - iv. Although South Carolina continues to minimize the use of residential care, Epworth continues to serve youth with quality residential services. The Independent Living Center served 22 youth ages 18-23 years of age. This center prepares youth who are aging out of care with the necessary tools to be successful in life. Epworth's Family Care Center served 28 mothers and children during 2023. This program provides a safe space for mothers and their children while going through substance use treatment. Mothers are taught life skills so that the family unit is preserved upon discharge from the program. The traditional residential program served 101 youth.
 - v. Epworth's Early Intervention Center serves children with special needs through a preschool on campus and home-based services. The home-based program served over 135 clients through its programming.
- III. Epworth maintained the coveted 4-star rating from Charity Navigator for sound financial management, and its commitment to accountability, and transparency for the 12th year in a row.

Respectfully submitted:

Beth Williams, President, CEO
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UNITED METHODIST MANOR OF THE PEE DEE

Purpose:

Methodist Manor mission is to provide an extraordinary Continuing Care Community offering varied selection of living option and personalized services. We want to provide a lifestyle that enhances the quality of life for each person. We continually strive to create an environment that encourages enriching and fulfilling lives.

Key moments from the previous year:

Completed an outdoor Gazebo area with gas fireplace, lighting, music, a walking path surrounding a large pond with water feature, sitting inside a 3-acre park with extensive landscaping.

Remodeling a 12 bed Alzheimer's/Dementia unit, increasing our room capacity from 19 to 31 apartments, creating in addition a new dining area and common area's and additional nurse's station.

Created a Serenity Suite in our Health Care Unit for residents at end of life, enabling them to share time with family in private, compassionate, peaceful and serene environment.

Continue to work on re-staffing The Manor after post Covid years. Challenging and competitive in the Florence market for Certified Nursing Assistants, LPN's, Cooks and dining service staff.

Objectives for the coming year:

Adding play park for Residents grandchildren.

Expansion to our Clubhouse in the form of enclosing a patio area, allowing us to increase the number of people the Club house can hold for various activities and events. A separate storage area that will allow us to store catering equipment, such as tables, chairs, catering dishes, and golf carts for the Club House.

Will update and have one Nurse Call System throughout the Manor, a portion of the Nurse call system was updated 4 years ago, this will allow the all the systems to be unified throughout the campus.

Continue to provide financial assistance to currently 5 residents receiving benevolence from our Resident Assistance Program and Fund. The amount that is being provided to these 5 residents is \$11,000.00 monthly. This number can change depending on how many residents may apply for assistance and meet the criteria and how residents that no longer need assistance once they have left the Manor (deceased).

Action(s) required from the 2024 Annual Conference:

If you take away nothing from this report, know this:

The funding that is granted to The Residents Assistance Program, enables residents to finish out their lives at The Manor and not move from the place they chose to make their home in their Retirement years, whether they need Independent Living, Assisted Living, Alzheimer's/Dementia Care or Skilled Nursing Care. Residents should not have to move from the environment they have come to cherish and call home to another Facility at the end of their life, due to exhausting their life savings.

Narrative:

Respectfully submitted:

Teressa L. Reich, President & CEO
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Board of Trustee Member of The Manor
Reverend Terry Fleming, District Superintendent
Reverend Meg Jiunnies
Reverend Marty Nason
United Methodist Manor Chaplain – Jeanie Swanson

WESLEY COMMONS

Purpose:

Wesley Commons exists to enrich lives by providing innovative living opportunities in accord with Christian principles. Wesley Commons is a master-planned, full-service Life Plan Community.

Key moments from the previous year:

While we continued to recover from the global pandemic, none were immune to the inflationary forces that created excessive drag on our economic recovery. As these financial storms wreaked havoc on the greater economy; the tumultuous impacts on our residents, staff and the community at large were deeply felt. That being said, I remain grateful and proud to be a part of such a wonderful team of caregivers at Wesley Commons. A team that provided shelter to our Wesley Commons' family, as we worked together to be a shelter from the storm. The impacts of COVID 19 were devastating on so many fronts and touched the lives of every member of our Wesley Commons family in some fashion.... we continue to feel the pain of those wounds. Likewise, the impacts of the dramatic inflationary elements within our economy continue to claw at the wellbeing of all, but we remain a robust community. Our mission of care is resilient and our drive is never diminished. Not only have we remained at high alert protocols for several years, we have also navigated through the correlating financial impacts related to those safety efforts and other legislative missteps. While taxing, we are grateful to have traversed through this awful storm and now see the hint of clear skies ahead... as we accelerate towards a brighter future.

Objectives for the coming year:

As of this writing, Wesley Commons is mapping out several phases of community enhancements that are intended to carry us forward as the community of choice for those seeking exceptional hospitality and healthcare of value. Wesley Commons looks forward to engaging in our plans that have reimagined our campus amenities for our diverse and evolving consumer. Our plans remain heavily focused on forward-looking investments in our hospitality services areas, as well as potential offerings that reflect the demographic shifts ahead.

Action(s) required from the 2024 Annual Conference:

If you take away nothing from this report, know this:

We are a grateful and blessed community that continues to fulfill our mission and growth through both, the good and the bad, times. We are only able to do this through God's Grace and our acknowledgment of such. Our employees, residents and greater community have all coalesced around our common bond of service to one another. Over this past year, Wesley Commons has poignantly lived out its mission to enrich lives by providing innovative living opportunities in accord with Christian principles.

Narrative:

We are located on more than 165 beautiful wooded acres in Greenwood, South Carolina, a charming Southern city offering the warm appeal of small-town living with ready access to major metropolitan areas. Benefiting from a rich legacy of continuous reinvention, our residents enjoy an active lifestyle in neighborhoods of wonderful homes enhanced by exceptional services, sumptuous culinary creations and spectacular amenities – all coordinated by a trained, attentive staff that truly cares. In addition to its several active adult neighborhoods of single-family homes and apartments, Wesley Commons provides the finest in wellness, assisted living, skilled nursing care, specialized care for Alzheimer’s and dementia-related illnesses, as well as critical therapy and post-acute programs. Recognized as a destination community, Wesley Commons’ reputation and market reach attracts consumers from across the US.

Respectfully submitted:

David Buckshorn, CEO

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