



## CREEKSIDE AT THE VILLAGE

*Your life...Enhanced*



*Offering independent & assisted living*

### **Creekside at the Village: Your Life...Enhanced**

“We were among the first ones here,” said Al Solove of the move he and his wife, Caryl, made to Creekside at the Village in October of 2005.

Snowbirds who spent many winters in Naples, Florida, Al and Caryl’s daughter felt they needed to move from their own home into an environment that required less upkeep, so she did the research and chose Creekside at the Village to meet her parents’ needs.

In 2005, Creekside at the Village opened with more than 70 of its 82 apartments already filled. Branded as an independent living facility, but licensed as an assisted living facility, Creekside was designed to offer the best of both worlds where community members could move in with complete independence and then age-in-place until the environment was no longer safe or suitable to their needs.

“What we found, though, was that many of the people who had pre-leased with us while we were building Creekside came to us with more precarious health situations than we had anticipated,” said David Rosen, President/CEO. “We weren’t quite prepared to offer the staffing and services that people truly needed based on their advancing health needs.”

Though the facility was equipped to offer limited “*a la carte*” services to members, many Members hired private duty caregivers to meet their advancing daily needs. Some caregivers were there merely for companionship and basic support, while others performed more specific health and home care functions, assisting with bathing, dressing, medicine reminders and more.

“We found that, though many of the private duty caregivers were excellent at what they were doing, we had little-to-no ability to hold them accountable to our preferred standards of care,” said Nisha Hammel, VP – Residential Services for WHV.

“As we continued with our strategic planning and assessed the types of inquiries we received from interested community members, we realized that we really should be the ones offering care to those living within our walls,” Hammel continued. “We are highly reputed for our quality of care campus-wide, and owning the standards of care at Creekside at the Village only made sense as a next step as we grew.”

Today, privately hired caregivers are no longer an option for those living at Creekside, which now offers a full menu of services for those needing assistance. However, several of the private duty caregivers have now been hired on by Creekside, ensuring that trust merges with top-quality care.

In 2007, Creekside at the Village hired Terry Atkinson, who was appointed this July as Creekside’s Executive Director. Atkinson brought more than 16 years of direct care and administrative experience in an assisted living setting to the table.

“What Terry has done for our team,” said Hammel, “is to allow us to look at how we can serve our Members better. Her experience as a nurse and as an administrator gave us new perspectives on what types of services would enhance quality of life in this environment. Our team really looked closely at the myriad issues that impacted life at Creekside and we have addressed most of those issues with new solutions that can only strengthen our operations here.”

With the addition of a new Chef, Michael Taylor, just prior to Pesach this year, two tasteful kosher meals a day are offered to members, who have constantly shown a discerning taste palette, which has helped to grow the dining services program within the building for the better.

“Some people will complain about anything,” said Al Solove. “I don’t think you could find 80 people and get the same opinion about anything. But I do think everyone that works here is wonderful. I wouldn’t move; I’m happy here.”

Another positive voice is that of Carole Hochman, who lived in Rochester, New York until her health began to fail. Her daughter lives in Columbus and also suggested a move for her mother to Creekside at the Village, based mostly on its Jewish environment – particularly kosher food.

“I rented sight unseen, based on my daughter’s assessment,” Hochman said. “I was first impressed with the beauty of the place, but I really enjoy it here. I plan to stay forever.”

Starting slowly, services are being enhanced in many of Creekside’s operational areas, such as staffing, dining services, health and wellness, and in overall policy changes. Staffing levels have increased in the building, with a new corps of member service assistants, nurses, and aides at the ready to meet the needs of those who are in need of advancing assistance in their apartments.

With a focus on overall health and wellness, from the physical to the emotional and spiritual, Creekside at the Village offers much more than just an apartment, or an assisted living environment. A full-time social coordinator prepares monthly calendars of events ranging from lectures, to musical entertainment, to shopping excursions.

“Our Members are highly educated people, so we’ve continuously raised the bar for the quality of social and intellectual activities we offer here in the building. Additionally, we have taken Members to many outside activities, from a luncheon and fashion show at Saks Fifth Avenue, to a bus trip to a theater production,” said Leslie Hire, social coordinator.

Yoga classes and a walking club are just two of the activities offered to help Members continue their commitments to personal health and fitness. Creekside at the Village is also mulling an idea to provide each and every member of its community with a full-year membership to the Columbus JCC.

Both Solove and Hochman have similar perspectives on the changes at Creekside at the Village. While Solove worries about the advancing health issues of his wife, he is glad to know that care is available for her in their own apartment as they need it. He is her primary caregiver, and relies on staff at the facility to assist in her care when he is at a class, or enjoying another activity.

“Carmen (*a Member Services Assistant*) has been a tremendous help to us,” he said. “And you’re not going to find a nicer guy than Kay (*a Housekeeper*).”

As for Hochman, she is like many of the independent set living within the building. “Right now I don’t need the services,” she said, “but it’s great to know they’ll be offered when I do.”

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*Nestled between Berwick and Bexley on the campus of Wexner Heritage Village, Creekside at the Village offers a warm and inviting environment that beckons with gracious living spaces, caring staff, and friendly neighbors. With a menu of supportive services at your fingertips as you need them, your lifestyle here begins with peace of mind that is only enhanced by the proximity to our larger campus, which offers highly*

*recognized and reputable programs ranging from short-term rehabilitation to long-term-care.*

*At Creekside at the Village, your life is enhanced through more than just an elegant apartment; we offer a rich environment that you can proudly call home. Call 559-5500 to schedule a tour today.*

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