

# Assisted Living Healthcare Option

In recent years we have seen many changes in our healthcare system. The focus has shifted from traditional institution based services such as hospitals and skilled nursing homes to home based care and assisted living communities. All provide an important part of the healthcare continuum. One part of that continuum is Assisted Living Communities.

Assisted Living is a relatively new concept in this area with most communities being developed in the last twenty years. They are in response to the increasing population of the "Baby Boomer" generation that is starting to hit their Golden Years and needing healthcare options. While many people are familiar with the term Assisted Living, fewer people are knowledgeable of their services.

Each state in our country sets the guidelines for the services provided in their Assisted Living Communities.

**Kentucky chose the non-medical model.** This concept is closer to senior living communities where each person has their own private apartment but share common areas such as dining, activity and social areas. Communities typically provide support services to assist an individual to remain as independent as

possible. Assisted Living Communities Typically provides the following services; around the clock staffing, assistance transferring, dressing, grooming, medication reminders and assistance with showers. Also provided is weekly housekeeping and Laundry services, meals and scheduled transportation to medical appointments.

Since in our state they are a non – medical provider, Assisted Living Communities are typically private pay. Neither Medicare nor Medicaid will pay for assisted living. However, there are private long term care insurance policies that will pay this benefit. More importantly there is a benefit program under the Veterans Administration that may provide resources to a Veteran or a surviving spouse. It is the Aide and Attendance Benefit. It may financially assist a person that wishes to move to an assisted living community.

The best way to get more information on the services your local assisted living provides is to contact your local community and arrange a tour. All will be glad to give you information and answer any questions that you may have.

Article provided by; Timothy Dempsey, Executive Director, Heritage Place



## Assisted Living A gracious setting

■ Heritage Place Assisted Living is a center devoted to your well-being and personal style. Many amenities, including dining facilities, common areas and courtyards enhance the opportunities for socialization, while our beautifully designed apartments offer a delightful retreat.

■ We are located close to shopping, churches, and medical services...not only for your convenience, but so you can stay as active as you choose.

■ We invite you to call us for more information, and let us share with you our dedication to service that has become our hallmark.

3362 Buckland Square, Owensboro, KY 42301

**270-689-0930**

### Apartments include:

- Microwave & refrigerator
- Individual temperature controls
- TV with cable
- Handicap accessible shower
- Assistance with bathing & dressing
- Emergency response program
- All meals & snacks
- Laundry services & Housekeeping
- Recreation opportunities
- Scheduled transportation

## Veterans Benefits for Assistance

One of the better-known veteran benefits is the VA Pension. According to VA.gov, in order for a veteran to qualify for a pension, they must meet these minimum requirements: Generally, a veteran must have at least 90 days of active duty service, with at least one day during a wartime period to qualify for a VA Pension. If you entered active duty after September 7, 1980, generally you must have served at least 24 months or the full period for which you were called or ordered to active duty (with some exceptions), with at least one day during a wartime period. In addition to meeting minimum service requirements, the Veteran must be: Age 65 or older, or totally and permanently disabled or a patient in a nursing home receiving skilled nursing care, receiving Social Security Disability Insurance, or receiving Supplemental Security Income

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