

Spotlight on Senior Living

Cambridge House offers help in transition to assisted lifestyle

By DENNIS GRUBAUGH

Everyone who walks into Cambridge House of Swansea is unique, Lori Schwartz says. The staff is prepared to welcome everyone and help each of them make the adjustment to the assisted living lifestyle.

Cambridge House of Swansea is located at 3900 Sullivan Drive Swansea, in a largely residential area amid the cornfields, between Frank Scott Parkway and Illinois Route 161. The three-story, brick building houses 103 individual apartments.

Unique to Illinois, Cambridge House is a SLF, a Supportive Living Facility, licensed by the Illinois Department of Health and Human Services to offer financial assistance to individuals who may need it. Seniors over 65, and any income level are welcome. Features required making it distinctive are the aforementioned financial assistance, requirement of certified nursing assistants and regulated square footage for individual apartments.

Cambridge House is an affordable, assisted-lifestyle community for older adults. It was developed by Halloran Development Co. and is managed by Gardant Management Solutions, based in Bourbonnais, Ill. The site in Swansea opened in 2009 and residents come from the local area as well as from out of state. Representatives under the watch of former Illinois Gov. Jim Edgar saw the need for affordable assisted living because at the

time the only alternative was nursing home care, an expensive alternative.

Services offered to residents include assistance with dressing, bathing and grooming plus medication reminders. Laundry service and housekeeping are provided. Residents enjoy a full-service dining room offering restaurant-style meals cooked on the premises. Celebration blossomed as the dining room reopened last month after being closed during COVID. During the interim, residents were receiving all their services — and meals — in their apartments.

A full array of activities addressing the physical, social, intellectual and spiritual needs of all residents are offered daily with direction from a Resident Services Director. Residents freely get together on their own as well to garden and play cards or scrabble. Visitors are now welcome after the covid restriction and life is looking brighter for many. The exercise room, family room, library and living room are now fully open as well. A rehab company, HealthPro, leases space at the facility and provides related therapy and wellness programs for numerous residents.

Everything is geared as much as possible to residents and their families, Schwartz said, to foster a sense of normalcy. Residents come from all backgrounds — nurses, real estate, teachers, mechanics. Lasting friendships are made and residents support and care for each other under the watchful eye of compassionate staff.

Infection control technology installed by Clinton Manor

Clinton Manor Living Center in New Baden recently installed a Needlepoint Bipolar Ionization clear air system and negative pressure machines within their buildings to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and to protect residents, employees and visitors.

These infection control improvements were purchased through federal and state government funding received during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The ionization technology cleans the air inside of buildings by using the existing HVAC system. Ions are safely released in the air, removing contaminants such as pathogens, mold and allergens. This improves overall air quality, especially for those with asthma and respiratory conditions. The system also helps eliminate odors, creating a fresh scented environment.

Clinton Manor also purchased negative pressure machines to improve isolation spaces. These portable machines can be moved wherever necessary to prevent contaminated air from escaping the isolation space and spreading to other areas of the building.

Michael Brave, CEO/president at Clinton Manor, expressed why it is so important to be investing in this technology.

“This equipment will allow us to make any space a negative pressure room without having to move an individual into a special care room,” Brave said. “It will help

maintain some stability in their life during a difficult time. This will help support everyone’s overall wellbeing.”

In addition to the technology advancements, the team at Clinton Manor continually improves their infection control procedures to combat COVID-19. One example of this is by having a designated, full-time infection preventionist and two additional nurses with this training. The three infection preventionists received their training in 2020 and are all qualified to run a comprehensive infection prevention and control program.

Infection control is said to be essential at Clinton Manor and continuously improving. The team at Clinton Manor has put in place the proper resources, both in technology and qualified caregivers, to provide exceptional care during COVID-19 and beyond.

Clinton Manor Living Center has a mission to passionately support each person in living a meaningful and satisfying life. Clinton Manor provides long-term care through skilled nursing that accommodates seniors or individuals with high medical needs. A team of skilled RNs, LPNs and CNAs deliver person-centered, direct care for individuals recuperating from surgery, stroke or illness. Clinton Manor also offers an in-house rehabilitation department that provides occupational, physical, and speech therapy. For more information, go to: www.ClintonManorLivingCenter.com.

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