

Seeing Stars

Written by Douglas Geyer



As any astronomer or dedicated stargazer can tell you, many of the lights in the night sky are merely the past presence of stars that are no longer there. They burned out long ago. But as any current resident or family member can tell you, the stars that are shining at Madonna Manor are real and glowing brighter than ever.

Nestled on rolling hills overlooking the Ohio River in Villa Hills, Kentucky, Madonna Manor recently received five stars from the government's Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). This is the highest possible score and is awarded to only the top 10 percent of nursing homes in each state.

"We are honored that CMS has recognized Madonna Manor for its quality of care," says executive director Nancy Phillips. "This is a true statement to the staff's commitment to providing a standard of excellence in care that exceeds the expectations of our residents."

The decision of where loved ones should live as they grow older is a critical yet too often confusing one. There are many options and issues to consider with each community touting their facility's benefits as well as the professionalism and compassion of their staff. That's why it's so helpful and reassuring when an independent organization like the CMS helps consumers make informed choices based on research into essential elements of care and comfort.

The stars are awarded (or not awarded) based on three dimensions of quality: health inspection results, staffing data and quality measure data. What this translates into is a senior living community where residents can enjoy the golden years with health and happiness.

Maureen Loebker, director of marketing and admissions, points to the Manor's mission when asked what is the heart of their success.

"I recently ran across an original admissions book in the form of a hand-written ledger from 1965," she says. "I don't believe you can sustain 50 years of service unless a solid foundation was laid those many years ago by people who lived their passion of service to others

and were committed to passing that legacy on to the next generation of caregivers."

Although the current staff is proud of their rich history, Madonna Manor is eager and able to build for the future. In August, they celebrated the fifth anniversary of the new building that anchors the neighborhood-like setting that includes 60 skilled nursing beds, 40 assisted living apartments, 24 memory support rooms and 12 independent living cottages.

Another fresh face on the 28-acre campus is the Adelaide Community Center. With a state-of-the-art fitness facility, full-service and bistro-style dining and a multi-purpose room with media equipment, it will be the hub for a variety of future housing options. There's an on-site physician's clinic to meet some of the health and medical needs of the residents.

Madonna Manor provides five levels of care including skilled nursing, assisted living, memory care, rehabilitation and independent living with a wide variety of activities and programs to keep residents engaged and active. As a member of Catholic Health Initiatives (CHI) and Franciscan Living Communities (FLC), the long-term care ministry of CHI, Madonna Manor is supported by the nation's second-largest non-profit health system. The long list of amenities also testifies to the mission of providing a home within a spiritual atmosphere.

Dottie is thankful that she found her way to Madonna Manor. "The therapists were on top of their game. What a comfort they were to me at a time of fear and pain. They went over and above their job description to prepare me for my return home. There isn't enough room to sing their accolades individually,"

If you or a loved one is looking for a vibrant community of seniors who are lavished with love and attention, look to Madonna Manor for a history of award-winning care. ❖



Photo by Greg Grupenhof

Madonna Manor is located at 2344 Amsterdam Road, Villa Hills, KY 41017. For more information, call 859.426.6400 or visit madonnamanor.org.