



Geriatric Care Management Journal

VOLUME 16

NUMBER 3

**FALL
2006**

*Published by the
National
Association of
Professional
Geriatric Care
Managers*

1604 North Country
Club Road

Tucson, Arizona
85716-3102

520.881.8008 / phone

520.325.7925 / fax

www.caremanager.org

Alternative Housing Issues

- | | |
|--|----|
| Beyond Independence: Designing Care Settings for Community
<i>Stefani Danes, AIA</i> | 2 |
| Community for the Second 50 Years
<i>Joy Silver, MA</i> | 8 |
| Future Models and Responses for a Changing Global Community
<i>Maria B. Dwight, MA</i> | 11 |
| Assisted Living: Good News, Bad News
<i>Keren Brown Wilson, Ph.D.</i> | 16 |



Community for the Second 50 Years

Joy Silver, MA

RainbowVision Properties, Inc., headquartered in Santa Fe, New Mexico has created and opened the doors to RainbowVision Santa Fe, a community designed for the over- 50 GLBT (gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered) population and their friends. The property sits on approximately 13 acres directly in the city of Santa Fe at 500 Rodeo Rd. As of this writing, RainbowVision is the first to develop, own, operate and manage (RainbowVision Management Group) a hybrid community for this population. The following options are available at RainbowVision: 60 condominiums, with residential maintenance, dining and fitness center/spa membership included (similar to amenities found in "Active Adult" communities in the industry), 60 Chelsea Village leased units (following the residential and maintenance services of Independent Living models), and 26 units in the Castro (Assisted Living services, providing five ADL's). Our amenities, services and Assisted Living residences are housed in our 45,000 sq ft El Centro building. We became fully operational June 10th, 2006, and celebrated our Grand Opening Ribbon Cutting with the Governor of New Mexico as well as with the Mayor of Santa Fe.

Our second community, RainbowVision Palm Springs, Palm Springs, California, is in pre-development and design, on 13 acres, with similar programming to Santa Fe for approximately 200+ residential units, and a Grand Central building for amenities and services. We look to a late spring-early summer of 2007 for start of construction.

Current Status

Communities for this population have been envisioned for more than

35 years. Most are still in the planning stage, few have become operational. We find that the differences occur in the provision of housing, residential services, and assisted living services in the planning and projected operation of each project. To discuss the available options we start from an historical perspective, beginning with, The "Mother of Them All" located in Apache Junction, at Superstition Mountain, Arizona.

The concept originated with the nucleus for this community, RV'ing Women, who decided that retirement was travel in recreational vehicles. Two women, no longer connected to this project, took on the responsibility to create a community where RV's could be docked or modular homes could be placed. They built a community center in this park-like atmosphere and expanded to an additional site directly across from the original site.

Building on this concept, two women developed "Resort on Carefree Blvd", with Private Women's Club, in Ft Myers, Florida for 278 modular homes and a clubhouse. They have since opened "Carefree Cove", a second property

close to Blowing Rock, North Carolina for men and women. The community offers home sites to be built by individual builders as desired and clubhouse amenities. Carefree will be developing the infrastructure for the property. Similar to this concept, without an identified construction date for the clubhouse, is "Birds of Feather Resort Community", in Pecos, New Mexico, primarily designed for women. Lots are available for pre-designed homes,

and construction is proposed to begin summer of 2006. All these projects are for-profit ventures

GAYCARE, a Residential Care Facility specializing in the care of Gay males over sixty and those under sixty with like needs has been in existence since 1981 in Daley City, California. It is the oldest residential facility that exists for the care of the elder gay population and is run by a non-profit organization. The staff to client ratio is more than double that of most facilities. They have a wireless call system for each client that

operates anywhere on the grounds with a licensing capacity of five. Licensure is for both ambulatory and non-ambulatory clients. Both Administrators live in the facility and

To discuss the available options we start from an historical perspective, beginning with, The "Mother of Them All" located in Apache Junction, at Superstition Mountain, Arizona.

actively participate in the daily care of clients.

The Palms of Manasota, Palmetto, Florida, a for-profit company, bills itself as "America's first gay and lesbian retirement community". POMCA consists of 21 homes in the Phase I section, completed in 1999, with Phase II villas now in construction. Currently, residents are living there and there is talk that the community has plans for Assisted Living and a clubhouse.

GLEH (Gay Lesbian Elder Housing), West Hollywood, CA is the acronym for Gay & Lesbian Elder Housing, a non-profit organization that has broken ground and expects project completion winter/spring 2007. The project is a housing development, containing 104 housing units, with a public community center and retail shops. Health services are to be separately contracted out.

Stonewall Communities has purchased the properties at 23 and 9 Miner Street in the Fenway/Audubon Circle neighborhood of Boston, Massachusetts. It is expected to be a residential community of 66 homes targeted to older lesbians, gay men, their friends, and families with common dining room, communal library fitness and wellness center. Stonewall also expects to contract out for health and social services.

Aegis, Fountaingrove Lodge, outside Santa Rosa, CA, follows the traditional CCRC (Continuing Care Retirement Community) model of senior residential services and, although not owned by the population it intends to serve, is designed to provide LGBT people with traditional retirement community services, following a mainstream model.

There are a number of others with plans in various stages of conceptual design, land acquisition and fund raising, some in major cities like San Francisco, others in small towns like Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. The ones mentioned here are either currently open (Apache

Junction, Gaycare, Carefree, Palms of Manasota and RainbowVision) or have acquired property and are close to construction. To fully understand the challenges of developing and operating communities of this kind, it helps to have a historical context.

forever changed gay and lesbian history.

During this historical time period, and as it remains severely so in many places in the United States today, gays and lesbians could not live without fear of losing jobs, housing, family, beatings, even murder if discovered. To survive, it was critical that GLBT's kept the past hidden and present lives protected. To think of having a future was difficult since so much energy had been devoted towards everyday survival. Stonewall marked the change of all this, and having a future was within the realm of possibility.

"RainbowVision" gets its name from the shared "vision" of the diverse people, now known as the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender population, who have come to identify with the rainbow as a symbol for this diversity.

Envisioning Our Future, Ourselves:

"RainbowVision" gets its name from the shared "vision" of the diverse people, now known as the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender population, who have come to identify with the rainbow as a symbol for this diversity. The history of the "Rainbow Vision" is one that dates back to the Gay Civil Rights Movement. In the 60's, a time when Civil Rights were taking a leap forward for all minorities, June 27th, 1969 saw the advance of Gay Civil Rights with the event of what is now called "The Stonewall Riots", in New York City. Fueled by the funeral of Judy Garland on this same day, she had died a week earlier. Her death, as her life, had great meaning for the gay and lesbian population. Garland served this population as a great icon for many reasons. The straw that broke the camel's back arrived when the New York City vice squad raided Stonewall, a gay bar in Sheridan Square NYC whose patrons included a large percentage of drag queens (men who dress as glamorous women). Heartbroken, and emotionally distraught over Judy's death, the queens stood up to the police and

On the West Coast, the advance was further marked by Armistead Maupin's "Tales of A City", stories about GLBT life in San Francisco, debuting in the San Francisco Chronicle on Monday May 24, 1976. In these stories, the idea of a nursing home was discussed among the characters in Maupin's story, showing that this conversation was gaining momentum among gays. With the advance in civil rights for minorities, the GLBT population, on a whole, began Envisioning Our Future, Ourselves.

Who We Are

So now that a Future has been Envisioned, and in the case of RainbowVision, manifested, lets look at some of the experiences that are taking in place, even in this short time. The experience of living in a community designed to meet the needs of the GLBT population and their friends is relatively new. In doing so within RainbowVision, the stories of shared experience are already beginning to surface. In RainbowVision Santa Fe's SilverLight Lounge, two male residents sat together at the end of the bar and discussed the concept of never moving again. One said to the other that he wasn't moving again

(continued on page 10)

Community for the Second 50 Years

(continued from page 9)

until they shipped him out in a box, and the other remarked how being in the Lounge was like sitting in a gay bar. At lunch and dinner, the residents continue to bring tears into the eyes of the employees as they speak of being a family, all of which illustrates the joy at this place where the GLBT population is in the majority. Some residents have moved in from mainstream senior communities and are having the time of their lives. The oldest lesbian resident, 94 years old, has said that these are the best years of her life, and she never had so much fun, nor felt so close to people. Two other residents, in their early 70's, have discovered that they were in the first grade to together in a small town in Pennsylvania. Stories of the residents being in the same place at the same time, but never meeting until

this moment continue to surprise and delight us. And last weekend, the residents and the employees participated together in Santa Fe's Gay Pride March.

Is It A Panacea? Options Welcome!

Much is left to unfold before we know how this experiment will fully evolve. We are currently into our leasing program, and as residents move in we will observe the way in which community issues are handled.

The fact remains- Americans are not brought up to function in community. Rather, we have been brought up to value individuality over group good, and in a community where the population has lived and continues to live through repression and denial of civil rights in the larger sense, there is much work and learning to arrive at a place of total harmony. The residents are very aware of being pioneers, and it is to their credit they

work with the evolving policies and programs by contributing to them directly. Our heterosexual residents also weigh in, and seem happy with all the possibilities in their future. As a 90 year old female resident says, she may meet a man here at RainbowVision yet- everything is possible!

I have been asked, do I see this as a beginning to more communities designed with the GLBT population and their friends in mind? No doubt we will see a number of projects move forward from the idea stage to next steps. The projects themselves are fairly complex, and we will most likely see more co-venturing or merging take place as challenges are encountered by various groups attempting to create similar communities. It is still too early to predict a trend as to outcomes on experimental communities of this kind. We, at RainbowVision look forward to documenting the information on a social, political, cultural and economic scale.

Much is left to unfold before we know how this experiment will fully evolve. We are currently into our leasing program, and as residents move in we will observe the way in which community issues are handled.

Joy Silver, President for RainbowVision Properties, Inc. is responsible for the creation of the RainbowVision. Creating GLBT communities has been a goal of hers for 27 years- and this year marks the company's success. Ms. Silver holds an MA in Women's Studies, and a BA in Political Science.