



# The Morrison Set To Build Senior Living Community

Sep 13, 2016

WHITEFIELD — The Morrison will break ground this month on a \$25.6 million continuum of care facility for seniors that will include independent living cottages and apartments, assisted living studios and apartments, and memory care units, along with common spaces and supportive services. The senior living complex will be located on 25 acres at 65 Littleton Road (Route 116) in Whitefield. The ground-breaking ceremony is scheduled for 11 a.m. on Monday, September 19.

The project has been in the planning stages for almost three years, prompted by a community needs assessment and feasibility study commissioned by The Morrison that indicated the need for a facility in the North Country that would offer a supportive living environment for moderate income seniors as they age. Currently, the nearest senior living communities are located 60 to 100 miles away forcing seniors to make the hard choice to move away from their families and friends and familiar surroundings to take advantage of the supported living options those facilities offer.

Funding for the 106,486 square foot complex is being provided by two low interest loans, totaling \$24,973,788, from the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Community Facilities Direct Loan Program, which provides affordable funding to develop essential community facilities in rural areas, \$144,216 in Morrison funds, and will be applying for a Community Development Block Grant in the amount of \$475,000.

“We are thrilled that our vision for a senior living community in Whitefield will soon be a reality,” said Dave Haas, Chair of The Morrison’s Board of Trustees. “The Morrison has accomplished so much in its more than 100-year history, transitioning from a hospital to a nursing home providing long-term skilled nursing, assisted living and rehabilitative care at its 6 Terrace Street location. However, as a Board we are entrusted with planning for the future. New Hampshire has one of the highest growth rates of elderly in the nation, and our current facility, with 24 assisted living units, is already finding it difficult to keep up with the demand. Our new senior living community will provide housing options for moderate income seniors, who want to remain in the North Country and are looking for a variety of services to help them to age well.”

The senior living community will feature 33 independent living apartments, 14 cottages, 24 assisted living apartments, and 12 memory care/Alzheimer’s units, along with spacious indoor and outdoor community areas. Residents will be able to choose from an array of services such as wellness and preventative health programs and activities, transportation, medication management, meal service, bathing and personal care, laundry and housekeeping, nursing, and social and recreational activities. Residents will have access to nursing services 24 hours a day.

In continuum of care facilities like this one, seniors generally begin their residency in an independent cottage or apartment, transitioning to assisted living as their needs change and with services as needed.

Seniors are not the only ones to benefit from this project. New jobs will be created at the facility, and the project will boost the economic vitality of the region by employing several hundred contractors, tradesmen and local businesses during the 15 months of construction.

“A project of this magnitude will have a tremendous effect on the construction industry for the entire North Country, said Chris Hebert of Daniel Hebert, Inc. of Colebrook, which has been hired as the project’s Construction Manager.

“I have quickly counted over 75 different companies that would be performing some kind of a service to the project,” he said. “These services include building materials, tool rental, temporary facilities, debris disposal, building trades, mechanical trades, construction testing, engineering, consultation, advertising, and design. Many of our employees are residents of Whitefield and its surrounding towns and so are many of our subcontractors. The workforce that will physically be constructing the facility will also indirectly boost the local economy through room/home rental, groceries, restaurants, and fuel.”

“It has been our pleasure to work side by side with CEO Roxie Severance, her assistant Shannon Lynch and the board to develop a financial model through to an actual funding solution,” said Jon Freeman, President of Northern Community Investment Corp. (NCIC). “It is an extraordinary project that brings much needed and wonderful options for the seniors of the region and it also brings 33 new jobs to the community of Whitefield. It is exciting to see the project move into the construction phase. We look forward to the day we meet the many people it will help in their beautiful new home that features a high quality continuum of care.”

“USDA Rural Development is responsible for ensuring that rural areas, like the North Country, are not only great places to live, work, and raise a family, but also great places to age surrounded by the love and support of tight-knit communities,” said New Hampshire and Vermont State Director for USDA Rural Development Ted Brady. “By providing a home for senior Granite Staters, the Morrison’s expansion will play a critical role in maintaining the strong local community that defines the North Country.”

For more information about the new Senior Living Community or about the ground breaking ceremony, please contact Shannon Lynch at the Morrison, 603-837-2541, ext. 227.

The senior living community is expected to open in late fall of 2017.

[http://www.caledonianrecord.com/news/local/the-morrison-set-to-build-senior-living-community/article\\_2a0fce8b-282c-5667-a9b8-33ccd00538ee.html](http://www.caledonianrecord.com/news/local/the-morrison-set-to-build-senior-living-community/article_2a0fce8b-282c-5667-a9b8-33ccd00538ee.html)