

Guardian Angels/Pullman Place

Pullman Place: A new senior housing cooperative

Co-op is just one of many ways Guardian Angels serves area senior citizens



An artist's rendering of what Pullman Place will look like. The senior housing cooperative will be built in Elk River.

A new dimension has been added to Guardian Angels' list of services.

Pullman Place is a 65-unit senior living cooperative coming soon to Elk River. Units are being sold now and construction on the three-story building is scheduled to begin in the spring.

Pullman Place will be located in the heart of Elk River Station, a new neighborhood near the park and ride lot in southeast Elk River.

Pullman Place is intended for active adults 55 and older.

Among the amenities will be underground heated parking, a community room, an exercise area, elevators, a hobby room, a library, a car wash, a wood workshop and a guest suite. Pets will be allowed at Pullman Place and it will be a non-smoking environment.

Barbara Martin, the cooperative's marketing director, said Pullman Place offers a secure environment, maintenance-free living and a community-oriented atmosphere.

There are nine types of units to choose from, ranging from one bedroom/one bath to two bedroom, two bath with a den.

Pullman Place will be resident-owned.

An initial down payment for each unit buys a share in the cooperative. The share cost ranges from \$39,100 to \$84,600. There also is a monthly fee ranging from \$610 to \$1,320,



which covers principal, interest, taxes and other costs.

"It's a concept that people really like because they're the owner," Martin said.

Serving seniors in many ways

Pullman Place is just one of a host of services and facilities offered by Guardian Angels of Elk River, a non-profit organization.

Dan Dixon, president and chief executive officer of Guardian Angels, likens it to the hub of a wheel with many spokes extending from it.

The hub is Guardian Angels' main campus in Elk River, anchored by the 120-bed Guardian Angels Care Center.

The spokes are a variety of senior housing facilities and programs including congregate dining sites, mobile meals, assisted living services, adult day care, a senior center and 237 senior apartment units in the surrounding areas in Elk River, Zimmerman and Becker. Guardian Angels also offers home care services in Elk River, Cambridge, Princeton and Buffalo.

All told, Guardian Angels provides services to about 1,100 area seniors each month. The organization's mission statement says: "Guardian Angels of Elk River shares Christ's love by serving seniors through health care, housing and support services."

Dixon said Guardian Angels hopes to one day expand services to other communities such as Dayton, Otsego, Big Lake and St.

Francis.

Guardian Angels recently expanded its respite care offerings and is looking at staff and facility development to provide more care for people with dementia.

Guardian Angels also has a vision to launch its own hospice program and possibly one day have a hospice cottage for eight to 10 people.

Dixon said Guardian Angels provides exceptional care from a dedicated staff of employees, many of whom have worked for Guardian Angels for many years.

"Across the board our staffing levels exceed state norms," Dixon said. "We're proud of that and are not going to change it."

Guardian Angels was founded in 1962 under the sponsorship of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church on Elk River in cooperation with business leaders and the medical community.

It has been embraced by the community ever since.

"Guardian Angels certainly has enjoyed broad community support over the years," Dixon said. "It's been marvelous."

For more information about Guardian Angels, call Campus Information at 241-4438.

For information about Pullman Place, call 763-633-0999.

Guardian Angels through the years

- 1962: Guardian Angels founded
- 1965: A 60-bed nursing care facility was built in Elk River.
- 1966: A 24-unit senior apartment complex was built in Elk River.
- 1973: The Care Center was expanded to 120 beds.
- 1980: Three apartment buildings providing housing for low income seniors were built in Elk River, Becker and Zimmerman.
- 1986: A 36-unit apartment building in Elk River was constructed for moderate income seniors.
- Guardian Angels Home Health Care began providing skilled nursing, home health aides, homemakers and therapy services to the elderly.
- 1993: A 53-unit apartment building opened in Elk River for the very low income elderly.
- Angels On Main Adult Day Services began providing daytime support and socialization for older adults.
- 1995: The Care Center was expanded.
- 1998: Little Angels Child Care Center opened at the Care Center.
- 1999: A 21-unit addition to the senior apartment facility in Zimmerman opened.
- 1999: Guardian Angels by the Lake opened in Elk River.
- 2001: Twenty town homes along Lake Orono were completed.

