

NEWS RELEASE



For immediate release

March 3, 2016

For further information:

Leanne Gugenheimer

780-577-5000

LRG@Touchmark.com

Touchmark celebrates grand opening of new memory care service and completion of expansion

Edmonton, AB – The public is invited to the grand opening of Touchmark at Wedgewood’s new addition March 15 at 2 p.m. The 62,000-square-foot expansion adds private memory care services as well as additional suites and common areas for independent and assisted living. With the new memory care service, Touchmark now provides a full continuum of care that includes bungalows and long-term care offering a variety of lifestyle options.

David Troxel will be the guest speaker at the event and will talk about the Best Friends™ Approach, which is a groundbreaking method of care for individuals living with dementia. The approach focuses on building meaningful relationships and encouraging respect, empathy, support and trust. Michelle Mulder, CEO of the Alzheimer’s Society for Alberta and Northwest Territories, also will participate in the celebration.

Following the presentations, the public will be able to tour the expansion and talk with staff. Refreshments will be provided. To accommodate everyone, Touchmark requests people call 780-577-5000 to RSVP.

An internationally renowned speaker, Troxel is cofounder of the Best Friends Approach. He has written several books discussing the positive effects the approach can have for those living with a dementia disease as well as family members and caregivers.

Private memory care now available

The new service is located on the first floor and is designed specifically for people living with Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias. Thirty-two private studios with ensuites are now available.

To provide a homelike setting, the suites are divided between two wings — each with its own kitchen, living room and areas for dining, activities, music and art. The two wings share a hair salon, spa bath, family meeting room and outdoor courtyard.

The design draws on the latest research for providing a comfortable and secure environment for people experiencing memory loss. The warm, comfortable setting is designed in an open plan that includes electric fireplaces, bookcases, carefully selected artwork and other touches that evoke the familiarity and comfort of home. Bright, landscape paintings and fun, tactile knickknacks are positioned throughout the neighborhoods.

“These are intentionally placed for residents to pick up and explore,” says Touchmark

-more-

TOUCHMARK AT WEDGEWOOD

Full-service Retirement Community

18333 Lessard Road NW • Edmonton, AB T6M 2Y5

780-577-5000 • Touchmark.com

Executive Director Leanne Gugenheimer. “They may trigger a memory or story; some are placed strategically to guide residents to spaces or away from exits.”

She adds the suites support people’s dignity and encourage their creativity. “With completion of these suites and the new memory care service, Touchmark now is a full-service retirement community,” noting Touchmark’s continuum of care is unique in the area.

The suites in the new addition are private and not affiliated with Alberta Health Services (AHS). All include around-the-clock staffing and Touchmark’s award-winning Full Life Wellness & Life Enrichment Program™. All caregiving staff working in memory care have received training in the Best Friends Approach.

New independent and assisted living options, too

The new three-story building also includes additional suites offering independent and assisted living services:

- The top floor offers 19 suites. Each suite includes a full kitchen with refrigerator, range and microwave. There are also common activity and conversation areas as well as a social room and laundry.
- The second floor is designed to provide assisted living services and offers 20 suites, a dining room, activity and conversation areas and laundry rooms. Suite options include a choice of one bedroom or one bedroom with den. Each includes a kitchenette with refrigerator and microwave.

The \$18.4-million project provided work for approximately 150 people during construction, and about 36 staff positions will be added.

Architects on this project were Allan Partridge, AAA, Principal with Group2 Architecture Interior Design Ltd., and Joseph Billig, AIA, Senior Vice president of Architecture with Touchmark Development & Construction. Chandos was the general contractor. Rick Wessell, Senior Vice President and Director of Construction for Touchmark Development & Construction, oversaw the expansion. An award-winning company, Touchmark has been serving the needs of adults 55-plus and their families since 1980.

Only few select homesites remain

If people prefer, they can opt to build and own a well-appointed bungalow. Only a few lots remain. The homes are situated in a park-like setting that includes water features and easy access to the city’s walking paths and bike trails.

The single-family bungalows feature spacious great rooms, master suites, hardwood floors, granite countertops and other exceptional finishes. Designed and built by Randy Ettinger’s Celebration Homes, they are easily accessed with no steps at the front door or garage. Ettinger has twice won awards for his universal design (2015 and 2013). More information about the bungalows is available by calling 780-920-0703.

About Touchmark at Wedgewood

A full-service retirement community, Touchmark at Wedgewood offers people 55-plus years a wide range of homes and lifestyle options. For more information, visit TouchmarkEdmonton.com.

-end-