

COLUMBIA HEALTHCARE



New Vibrant Senior Living Options

Locally owned, faith-based nonprofit Lutheran Homes of South Carolina provides innovative senior solutions for every stage of aging.

In an industry dominated by for-profit companies, Lutheran Homes of South Carolina stands apart. The senior solutions organization focuses on six dimensions of wellness to keep members active and engaged throughout life's later years. Being locally owned, with the support office centrally located, its staff hails from the communities it serves. Neighbors take care of neighbors at Lutheran Homes, creating strong bonds between caretakers and senior residents.

"On our campuses, home is more than a place to live," says Denise Dickinsen, vice president of planned growth and

development. "It's the people who live and work there, and the relationships they share."

Support at Every Stage

For more than 100 years, Lutheran Homes has strived to provide exceptional services within a continuum of care for its residents, whom staff call "Priorities." Its campuses include five different community living experiences: independent homes and apartments, assisted living suites, memory care, and skilled nursing for long-term care and short-term post-acute rehabilitation care.

Lutheran Homes' latest development is an innovative "pocket neighborhood" of 10 apartments encircling a courtyard, each with a private back patio and front porch. Operating on a monthly rental fee, these light-filled apartments offer maintenance-free, independent living in a close-knit microcommunity, all a stone's throw away from campus amenities such as the wellness center, chapel, and bistro. There are currently two pocket neighborhoods at the Heritage at Lowman. Two more are under development with more slated for other locations.

For those who prefer to live at home with support, Lutheran Homes offers BeWell@Home to blend the best parts of a long-term care policy with the benefits of a retirement community. Members are assigned a wellness coordinator who is available 24/7 to connect them with community resources, while also offering advocacy and support. For one predictable monthly fee, BeWell@Home plans may cover many care services needed—including short-term recovery or long-term support at home. Members of BeWell@Home may also enjoy access to Lutheran Homes' campus amenities.

BeWell@Home may be utilized independently or as a supplement to long-term care insurance. Unlike typical claims-based long-term care policies, BeWell@Home focuses on wellness and operates on a one-time membership fee plus a monthly fee. Wellness coordinators focus on members' personalized wellness plans, with the goal of keeping clients healthy at home. Should a member move out of state, the plan can go with them. BeWell@Home is also beneficial to members' families. "I've had people tell me, 'Finally, I just get to be their daughter, with expert help to guide me,' and that's a real relief for them," says Dickinsen.

As Lutheran Homes Priorities quickly discover, this chapter of life can be full of enriching experiences: There is flavorful food at the bistros, organized outings to local attractions, beautiful grounds, and plenty of activities for nourishing the mind, body, and soul.

"We meet folks wherever they are and let them know they are valued," Dickinsen says. "They are our Priorities, and it's our privilege to work in their homes."



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