



# THE VISIONEER

*A Project Update for Our New Vision Campaign Partners*

February 2012



**CONSTRUCTION UPDATE**  
 The trusses are nearly finished on Building "B." Building "A" is nearly ready for trusses. Many people comment that things are "moving fast out there." Once the buildings are under roof, it will be hard to see the progress, but we can rest assured that work is still being done behind the walls! Rain and snow, wind and sleet have caused some delays. We are now projecting completion of construction about the first week of July, with opening about the first week of November 2012. -Laura Voth

Perhaps, with a bit of imagination, you can see a few rocking chairs, a cool pitcher of lemonade on a table and a willow tree shading the front porch.

*Follow construction progress at [mmhliving.org/news](http://mmhliving.org/news) or go to our Facebook page.*

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Signs of Progress: The trusses are up on House "B." Trusses on House "A" will go up soon. (Photos by Kris Reese)



*Convivium* is a term used often in the Green House to describe the fellowship and community interaction that takes place around the dining room table. This photo, taken at Jarman House in Tupelo, MS (one of the first Green House homes, built in 2003) shows the elders enjoying a meal around the table. *Convivium* literally means “with life.” A recent study which identifies some of the positive outcomes associated with Green House living is that there is increased engagement with elders. Specifically, the study found “more than a four-fold increase in staff time spent engaging with elders in Green House settings.” Green House homes allow for strong relationships between staff, elders, family and community.

## **Myth of the Month**

*“Only the rich will be able to live there!”*

The philosophy of MHCO and of the Green House Project® is to make skilled nursing care available to all, regardless of ability to pay privately. Like Mennonite Memorial Home, the Green House homes will serve residents who pay privately as well as those receiving Medicaid. The current percentage at MMH is about 50% Medicaid. Willow Ridge will have a similar ratio of private pay and Medicaid residents.

## *Did you know:*

- *18 out of 20 bedrooms will have two windows each. The other two will have large bay windows.*
- *Heather Clum, RN, will be the Director of Nursing at Willow Ridge.*
- *Rhonda Wolpert, Tricia Herrmann and Peg Sautter are being trained to educate other staff members, elders, families, and visitors on the Green House philosophy.*
- *Each private bedroom/bathroom provides 324 sq. ft. of space.*