

Pleasant View Home addition new concept in living space

Fuqua Construction was the contractor of choice for the recently completed Pleasant View Home Traditions addition, a two-story, person-centered skilled care unit providing a “household” model for elders. The project is one of several that Fuqua Construction has completed on the Pleasant View campus, according to Pleasant View CEO Kevin Reimer.

“When Max (Fuqua) gets done on a project you know you will have a good product and good follow-up,” Reimer said in explaining why Fuqua Construction was selected for the \$3.1 million dollar design-build project. “Everything is warranted for a year and he stands behind his work. If there are any issues that develop, he gets back with you. We have never been disappointed in a finished project.”

As a design-build project, Fuqua Construction became involved in the early stages of the process, participating in meetings with Pleasant View staff and the project architect, Landmark Architects of Hutchinson, Kan., as the Traditions facility plan was developed. This team approach reflected the culture change transition at Pleasant View, which flattens the hierarchy of authority and involves all staff in the daily decision making process for resident care in their unit — or neighborhood as it is called by Pleasant View staff.

“Max had to work with the architects, management and people at the committee level as we worked through the process of what we wanted,” Reimer said. “He has a good understanding of culture change and what we were looking for, and he can also build a medical model. He worked with us to achieve what we wanted.”

The Traditions facility includes rooms for 22 resi-



PROJECT PROFILE

PVH Tradition Homes

Owner: Pleasant View Home
Location: Inman, Kansas
Project Scope: Two-story addition
Project Type: Skilled nursing
Square footage: 14,940
Design Build Team: Fuqua Construction & Kelly McMurphy, Landmark Architects

dents, 11 on each floor, along with communal living, dining and kitchen spaces and a spa bath. The attractive and comfortable facility has been popular with residents and families, maintaining a waiting list since it was completed. The design is a hybrid unique to Pleasant View Home, which draws on the Green House concept developed by Dr. Bill Thomas, but incorporates features



Hardwood floors, oak cabinetry and family-style seating provide a relaxed and home-like atmosphere to the dining area on each floor.

accommodating the facility to the goals of the home’s staff and administration. One of those goals was that the new construction would be connected to the existing facility, unlike a typical Green House model, which is a stand-alone structure.

That presented some special challenges when it came to

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resident safety, according to Jalane White, Pleasant View Home administrator. Because the new construction was close to a special care unit for residents with memory loss, Fuqua Construction built a barrier wall, rather than the more typical fence barricade, to ensure that residents could not wander into the construction site. That decision was one made by the company, not requested by Pleasant View staff, and was indicative of the care shown during work on the project.

“The crew was very courteous and considerate of resident safety,” White said.

Resident safety and compliance with state licensing regulations were a central part of the construction process, according to White. Fuqua made it a practice to be onsite during inspections by various state regulatory agencies to answer any questions inspectors might have and worked with the health care facility to ensure that all regulations were met. Because of the company’s experience with building residential facilities, Fuqua Construction superintendents and subcontractors are aware of the importance of meeting state fire and safety codes and take that responsibility seriously, White said.

Fuqua’s attention to and knowledge of the regulatory demands on a nursing home facility during the construction process led to a smooth final inspection. Al Guiteriz, inspector for the Kansas Department of Aging, has inspected numerous facility renovations and new construction projects -- including Pleasant View’s.

“(Max) has a very good working relationship with our agency,” Guiteriz said. “We spoke over the phone during the project to answer any questions as well as during the onsite inspections. Max would be one of the top contractors that we have worked with. He’s very thorough and did a very competent job on the project.”

When the final inspection was completed, Guiteriz found only three or four minor items that needed correc-

tion before the final approval was given and of those, none were directly related to the construction. Licensure was given within four days of the inspection from both the state fire marshal and the Department of Aging.



The congregate living area features a fireplace and television available to all residents and their guests.

Throughout the construction process, Fuqua Construction worked at Pleasant View’s pace to ensure that the project was completed as desired. Communication with the owner is one of Fuqua’s strong points, according to Reimer.

“He wanted to learn about the concepts (of the person-centered household model) and would listen to what we were saying we wanted and then respond,” Reimer said. “He wanted to know what we were trying to achieve. He also was available to answer questions as the project progressed.”

The project came in on time and on budget despite some changes made during the building process, which didn’t surprise either Reimer or White after their previous experiences with Fuqua Construction’s work. They noted that the work flowed smoothly regardless of which subcontractor crew was on site and the workers were friendly and wanting to help. They attributed that to the work ethic modeled by Fuqua Construction employees.

“On a personal level, we see (Fuqua) as someone we can trust. That is so important when you are talking about a project of this scope. The final product has exceeded our expectations,” White said. “Staff members have been very pleased with the way the building has lent itself to the homelike, person-centered care model we were striving for.”

And the facility? White said the response from the residents has been very positive with, in many cases, improvements in their physical and mental health. It has also attracted interest and been visited by representatives from a number of other facilities across the state, who are interested in how Pleasant View Home is approaching resident care.

written by Cindy Baldwin, Baldwin Creative Services



Kitchen facilities are open and available for the residents use.