



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 10, 2023

Harmony Hill Watertown
S. Barbara Younger, OSB
Vice President, The Village of Harmony Hill
605.882.6646 vp@villagewatertown.org

Watertown, SD—The Village of Harmony Hill held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the grand opening of South Dakota’s newest Senior Care Community, located south of Watertown off of Hwy 81 at 2533 Prairie Park Trail SE.

More than 1,200 residents, chamber members, community leaders and legislators were on hand to celebrate the grand opening of The Village of Harmony Hill. In attendance was South Dakota Secretary of Health, Melissa Magstadt, who was the keynote speaker for the dedication, and Speaker of the House, Representative Hugh Bartels, as well as The Village Board of Directors.

The unique design of The Village and the extensive grounds, gives this new continuum of senior care an unparalleled setting for seniors in independent living, assisted living, and memory care. What sets us apart is our commitment to providing holistic living that promotes the dignity, freedom, and wellness of all residents that call The Village home. Our core values of dignity, hospitality, community, mutuality, and quality permeate in all aspects of the care we provide. The Village is a community in which residents and staff live and flourish together in harmony as they pursue a life of meaning.

“The Village at Harmony Hill is a vision for what dignified care of our precious generation of elders should be,” said Secretary Magstadt. “It sets the standard for other residential living across not only our state, but for the nation. It will be not only a place where love, honor and respect are its key foundations, but also a place where those who would go into healthcare will learn what quality healthcare for elders must look like.”

The exceptional design of The Village allows the Good Samaritan Society healthcare team to offer high acuity care to residents in assisted living and memory care. Additionally, in-depth staff training, digital healthcare and the use of telemedicine bring cutting-edge tools right into a resident’s apartment.

“We are well positioned to provide the best care and support to residents thanks to the support, clinical resources and infrastructure we have as part of an integrated health system with Sanford Health,” said Phil Samuelson, Good Samaritan Society executive director. “We have been serving seniors for more than 100 years and are dedicated to sharing God’s love through the work of health, healing and comfort. We are humbled to partner with the Benedictine Sisters of Watertown.”

The Village is the initial element to come to fruition on the Benedictine Sisters’ land, known as Harmony Hill. The sisters’ vision for their 485-acre Harmony Hill project, is to create an intergenerational, synergistic community that transforms the lives of the people who live there. Many housing options will be built, from affordable and student housing, to single and multi family with the monastery building being renovated to become the “Commons of Harmony Hill.” Future plans for the Hill also include veteran and workforce housing, as well as a new independent living community.

With a mile and a half of frontage along two busy thoroughfares, there are multiple opportunities for light industrial and commercial endeavors such as childcare, retail, and dining. In addition to housing, Harmony Hill becomes a unique destination, as the Sisters have donated land to build the Challenger Learning Center of South Dakota. The Challenger Learning Center provides a unique hands-on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) learning experience for students K-12 as well as highlighting STEM related businesses in South Dakota.

Michael Klatt, serving as a strategic advisor to the Sisters since 2020, stated that visioning first started as the Sisters needed to find a solution to the care needs of the monastery. The efforts of the Sisters today is creating a destination campus for retirement, a place where employees are inspired and respected, and a setting where collaboration and innovation will endure. What started as a potential closure of a monastery and sale has evolved into leaving a model for future religious communities and church.

It has truly taken a “village” to build The Village. Our partners at Catalyst Construction were elemental in the successful build out of The Village of Harmony Hill and Plunkett Raysich Architects, LLP delivered a design that considered our imagination and was beyond expectations. There are so many thank yous to be said for the work of multitudes.

For media inquiries or to learn more about the Harmony Hill project, please contact S. Barb at 605.882.6646.

About The Village of Harmony Hill

Founded in 2023 by the Benedictine Sisters of Watertown, The Village serves northeast South Dakota and the surrounding regions. It provides innovative, person-centered Independent Senior Living, as well as high-acuity Assisted Living and Memory Care with integrated digital healthcare.

Learn more:

Harmony Hill project
Harmonyhillwatertown.com/

The Village of Harmony Hill
villagewatertown.org/

Good Samaritan Society
good-sam.com/

Catalyst Construction
catalystbuilds.com/

Plunkett Raysich Architects, LLP
prarch.com/