

# Franciscan Villa

In 1891 the Sisters of Mercy (from St. Louis, Missouri) were asked to run a local Springfield hospital on Chestnut Street and Washington Avenue. The building had previously been a four room private residence that accommodated twenty people. With the outbreak of the typhoid epidemic at the turn of the century, it was evident that the Sisters of Mercy needed a larger facility to help a growing population. In 1905 the cornerstone of St. John's Hospital was laid on Nichols and Main streets by Governor Joseph Folk. The Sisters of Mercy founded the endeavor which was completed through the aid of generous donors. The building was dedicated the following year on Washington's Birthday, February 22, 1906.

In 1952 St. John's moved to their new facility on Cherokee Street and National Avenue. They converted their previous residence and named it Mercy Villa. In 1975, Assembly of God Headquarters purchased the building to house missionaries and provide a meeting place where they could conduct their conferences.

Purchased in 1987 by The Kitchen, Inc., the building was renamed Franciscan Villa and converted into an independent senior living community that welcomed elderly individuals with limited financial resources. The building is still owned by The Kitchen, Inc. but is now operated by Mid America Management. During 2004, the Franciscan Villa underwent a \$9 million Historical Preservation renovation. In February 2005, the Villa was presented the Beautification Award from the North Springfield Betterment Association in recognition of the recent remodel.

Located in the heart of Midtown, the newly renovated Franciscan Villa still offers Seniors affordable, independent living. We accept residents over the age of 55 and those who are disabled. Apartments are priced from \$299 to \$460 per month, which includes all utilities, basic cable, a miniature refrigerator, and a microwave. We gladly accept Housing Assistance Vouchers. The maximum annual income limit to qualify for our apartments is \$18,000. We know how important nurturing relationships can be between the elderly and their pets so we accept pets under 30lbs. with a pet fee.

In addition to our cozy renovated apartments, we offer a wonderful optional service package for \$300 a month which includes weekly laundry and housekeeping services, transportation within the city limits of Springfield, and three hot (many would say delicious) meals a day. Would you like to stock up for a late night snack? We are within walking distance of a locally owned and operated grocery store. Need to do some shopping? We are within walking distance of many bus stops.

Good health is important to our residents in order to remain active and independent, and we are fortunate to have ACCESS Home Health Agency located in our building.



# Senior Independent Living

The friendly ACCESS Home Health staff provides monthly foot care, as well as blood pressure and blood sugar checks. This past fall we were fortunate to have flu shots administered in our building thanks to the gracious ACCESS staff.

We provide several organized activities for residents to enjoy, such as weekly bingo games, parties to celebrate each holiday, craft time, nail day, game day, movies and popcorn in the afternoon, and monthly entertainment. Believing that every person is special, we also celebrate each resident's birthday. In addition to activities at the Villa, this past December our residents were

invited to attend Dixie Stampede for the holidays. At the Villa, our residents have an activity room complete with a pool table and a sunroom for reading library books and playing card games. Residents can also relax in our beautifully landscaped courtyard.



Be sure to visit the Franciscan Villa booth at the SWMOA Foundation's 4th Annual Wellness Fair on Friday, April 1 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Springfield Expo Center.

Knowing how important a spiritual life is to some of our residents, our ecumenical Chapel is open for any resident to come and worship. We have daily Roman Catholic Mass and Rosary, as well as weekly Protestant non-denominational services and Bible studies.

Whether you are searching for a place to call home or you are interested in the preservation of historic buildings in Springfield, please feel free to call us at 869-5417 for a guided tour of our facility. We are available from 8-5:30pm Monday through Friday, and from 10-2pm on Saturdays.

