



Arkansas Methodist Medical Center

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**ARKANSAS METHODIST RECEIVES APPROVAL TO BEGIN FIRST PHASE OF
STATE-OF-THE-ART RETIREMENT COMMUNITY**

PARAGOULD, AR -- Arkansas Methodist Medical Center announced today its plans to construct a retirement community on a proposed 54-acre site located on Carroll Road in Paragould. AMMC has received approval from the Arkansas Health Services Permit Agency to develop a 59-bed assisted living facility, initiating the first phase of a planned retirement community bringing premier senior living amenities and services to residents of Northeast Arkansas and Southeast Missouri.

“We see this development as an extension of our commitment to providing first-class healthcare to people throughout the region,” AMMC President and CEO Ron Rooney said. “We will be fulfilling a growing need in our area for a residential community such as the one we have envisioned.”

An exploratory committee including Paragould businessmen Bill Block, Bill Fisher, Moud Gazaway, Alvin Samuel and Fred Swindle has been established to form the vision for the new community. The exploratory committee has been researching and will be traveling to retirement communities across the country to bring the best and most up-to-date innovations in retirement living amenities and services to the region.

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“The committee has spent a great deal of time and effort in the planning of this new community that will provide seniors with options here instead of having to relocate outside the area,” Rooney added.

AMMC has secured HomeLife Companies, Inc. of Delaware, Ohio to develop the project. HomeLife specializes in senior living facilities and has developed more than 400 similar projects across the United States.

Arkansas Methodist expects to enlist an architectural firm to design the development in the near future.

AMMC initiated a market study last fall to gather suggestions and recommendations from area residents as to what they might like to see included in the development. The findings indicated a strong need for spacious, well-appointed senior living and services in the region.

“Working hand in hand with the communities we serve, our hope, our vision and our commitment is to bring the best in senior living services and amenities to the people of this region,” Rooney said. “We believe that what we have planned for this state-of-the-art community is crucial to the continued economic vitality and growth of the region, and will play a vital role in enhancing and enriching the quality of life for our region’s seniors.”

Construction could be completed as early as summer 2010 on the nearly \$10 million first phase of the retirement community. The Foundation at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center is planning to develop a capital campaign to raise a portion of funds needed to build the community.

A recognized leader, Arkansas Methodist Medical Center in Paragould is a state-of-the-art nonprofit institution providing world-class, compassionate healthcare to residents throughout Northeast Arkansas and Southeast Missouri. Additional information about AMMC is available at: www.arkansasmethodist.org.