

# Jewish Home cottages give residents more privacy

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The sitting area outside is lovely, and the living room and den inside are inviting. The aides work in teams and the care has been seamless.

But having a room to himself — with a private shower, no less — has Ted Donsky still shaking his head in disbelief a week after moving into one of the new Green House homes, part of Jewish Senior Life in Brighton.

"All I have to do is step from one room to the next and there is the shower," he said. "... No idea it would be that beautiful and that accessible. Jump in the shower, you're right there. You're through, press a button, the water goes off.... It's incredible. I can't get over it."

Donsky was among the first residents to move a few hundred feet from the Jewish Home into the Green House Cottages, which are as much a concept in senior care as they are a physical location on the South Winton Road campus.

The Green House Project is a national accreditation program that works to change long-term care from an institutional model to a homey setting. St. John's Home also is part of the Green House movement and several years ago built two 10-person homes in Penfield.

Facilities don't have to be part of the Green House Project to adopt a culture that puts the needs of the resident first, and the progressive outlook can happen in existing buildings. But this way of thinking and doing lends itself to smaller facilities.

"I have to say that once you change the environment and put a design in that fosters the kind of culture change that



Each resident in the Green House Cottages has a private room with a wardrobe and flat-screen TV. The rooms have their own bathroom with shower. PATTI SINGER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

makes it more of a home, more of a person-centered environment, it pushes some of the other culture change activities," said Ann Marie Cook, chief executive officer of Lifespan of Greater Rochester. The organization provides non-medical advice to seniors and their caregivers, and houses the nursing home ombudsman program for Monroe and nearby counties.

Over the next couple of weeks, a total of 108 residents will move from the Jewish Home tower into the three, three-story buildings. The structures are part of an \$83 million project that started in June 2016. The Jewish Home also will be renovated to include all private rooms.

Jewish Senior Life has set up each floor in the Green House Cottages as its own home, complete with cooking and laundry facilities. Each of the 12 residents per floor has his or her own room. Meals are served family style, and residents can help cook. With laundry also readily accessible, residents who are able do some of their washing.

In addition to performing personal care, certi-

fied nursing assistants are trained to prepare meals, do light housekeeping and laundry and run activities.

The Green House format also gives residents more control over their day.

"Within a couple of days, one of the first things we noticed was people were sleeping in longer," said Michael King, president and chief executive officer of Jewish Senior Life. "Instead of waking up at 7 o'clock because that's when we serve breakfast over at the tower, we're now able to provide breakfast and meals whenever they want it. It's been a great change."

The Green House Cottages provide the same skilled nursing as the Jewish Home and they are subject to the same regulations and inspection by the state Department of Health. King said that residents will be assessed when they move in, and staff can monitor how they are adapting to their new surroundings and way of life.

King said that as turnover occurs, the cottages will be available for people new to the Jewish Home. They will be open

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ANN MARIE COOK  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF LIFESPAN OF GREATER ROCHESTER

to private-pay residents as well as those receiving Medicaid. King said the state has not changed reimbursement for those rooms.

The Green House style could be more attractive to families who are paying for the care of their loved one.

"If you're going to pay all that money, and there isn't a big difference between the worst home and the best home in terms of private pay, you're going to go to a home that quite frankly has what you want and has more culture change principles," Cook said. "I do think a part of it is market share in the private-pay market. I do think it puts pressure on other homes."

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American Pickers co-host Mike Wolfe visited the Genesee Country Village & Museum last week. PROVIDED

## 'American Pickers' TV show films in Mumford

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has been filming throughout New York, having stopped in Albany and Syracuse the day before their time in Monroe County. The show was next headed to Buffalo, she said.

Crews spent much of Sept. 18 at the museum, which is not open to the public on Mondays. After filming wrapped, Wolfe visited with museum staffers and sipped some beer made from the museum's 19th-century recipes.

Wehle said the staff was able to "fill him in on the history of the museum" during the visit. "He was very nice and I can see why people love him," she said.

The duo is rather familiar with the region. In recent years, *American Pickers* visited a Genesee musician who collected hundreds of instruments and a Hilton couple with an eclectic collection that included antique toys and military items.

Wolfe and Fritz, however, were not looking to rummage for items at the museum. Instead, they used the museum as a backdrop while speaking about items they'd recently purchased elsewhere, Wehle said.

The footage is to be used for several upcoming episodes, she said.

This month, the pair

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