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MAGNOLIA MANOR REPORTS POSITIVE CASE

Magnolia Manor Home Office, Americus, GA, March 30, 2020 – Despite extensive efforts to limit the spread of coronavirus to its facilities, Magnolia Manor Senior Living is sad to report one resident has tested positive. The Americus Nursing Center resident was taken to Phoebe Sumter Medical Center, is improving and is likely to be discharged later this week. Four other residents have been isolated and are also awaiting test results. Two staff have self-quarantined at home while awaiting test results. The Americus campus is feeling the full effects of being in the Southwest Georgia hot zone, but all other campuses are clear at this time.

Each presumptive case has been isolated from others who might be at risk. However, President and CEO Mark R. Todd reports that all currently available space has now been utilized for isolation. Staff is working to create a new isolation area for future cases on Unit 6 of the Nursing Center building to try and prevent a complete building lockdown. This recently renovated space has heating and air conditioning units uniquely suited to create the negative air pressure required for isolation units. Campus maintenance and environmental services staff worked throughout the weekend to prepare the space. They also constructed vestibules outside each isolation room so staff could change personal protective equipment (PPE) between residents. Current Unit 6 residents who are capable of being discharged will be sent home. Others not ready for discharge will be moved to another location.

Because of the nature of coronavirus infections, Manor staff is preparing for more cases. Todd said, *“This has quickly become a very real and personal thing, and it is becoming more and more personal. Things are changing so quickly. As much as we prepared, the inevitable has happened. We will do all we can to keep our residents and staff safe.”*

While Magnolia Manor is already using its inventory of PPE supplies, they have requested more from state resources. *“We are in constant communication with state authorities, as well as the CDC and CMS. We need their help because our staff is under siege,”* stated Todd. *“Phoebe Sumter Hospital is full, so we*

must serve our own patients until hospitalization becomes absolutely necessary. I understand the stress this puts on our staff, both personally and professionally.”

He reported that on Saturday, four Nursing Center employees quit via text and others are considering doing the same. *“It is disappointing that during these unprecedented times anyone who has chosen to make a career in nursing would quit so suddenly and put an extraordinary burden on their coworkers, the residents and the families who have entrusted us with their loved one’s care.”*

Mr. Todd also stated, *“We want to recognize the sacrifices our employees are making, so we have implemented hazard pay for those who are working on the isolation units. We are effectively doubling their salaries. Meanwhile, we continue to take every precaution to keep them safe.”*

Todd indicated that donations through the organization’s charitable arm, The League of the Good Samaritan, are urgently needed to offset the expenses associated with addressing the pandemic. *“Despite the cost, we’re going to do everything we can to do what is right for our residents and staff.”*

Donations can be made by check, or by credit card on the organization’s website at <https://www.magnoliamanor.com/donate/>. *“We will communicate as we are able, and we really appreciate your prayers and understanding during this difficult time,”* said Todd.

Headquartered in Americus, Georgia, Magnolia Manor is a faith-based, tax-exempt, not-for-profit organization affiliated by covenant with the South Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church. Magnolia Manor was established in 1959 and serves more than 1,500 senior adults daily throughout South Georgia. Services at our nine locations are open to all persons, regardless of denominational affiliation. We provide various levels of care, including Independent Living, Catered Care, Personal Care, Assisted Living, Skilled Nursing, Rehabilitative Therapy and specialized Memory Care.

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