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Bringing Them Back Home—Middle Stage

This week's update describes our plan for the households for our middle-stage residents. Our residents who have progressed beyond the early stages of dementia really respond to the feeling of being comfortable as a "family" group, surrounded by familiar things and people. This area is where the return to a normal home look and feel will make a big impact on the relationship-building between residents and staff that is so important at this level.

In contrast to the early-stage household focus on independence, this level will enhance each household's opportunities to do things together. Features include opportunities to enjoy normal home activities, like smells of food cooking in the kitchens, simple daily chores, pets, music, and family-style meals. Small, but well-equipped, nurse work rooms ensure privacy for medical team conferences or private conversations with family members.

Comfort and style: we selected a sophisticated "Texas" style for this level to build in color contrasts that make for a safer and more easily-navigated space, with art that will be easily recognizable, i.e. elements of nature, historical photos of Fort Worth, etc. Designed with natural woods and soothing blues with bright pops of color, the fabric and furniture selections on this floor are styled like home, but custom-crafted to meet the needs of our residents. Firmer cushions and slightly higher seats allow for easier rising. Inner cushions are wrapped to ensure they are waterproof. Timeless-style fabrics have new technology finishes applied to be easily cleanable and resistant to fluids and stains. Residents will enjoy being wrapped in warmed towels after bathing, and dropping off to sleep with blankets.

Best Wishes,

Susan Farris, Executive Director