

Camarillo adult day care program hosts open house for renovated space

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JOSEPH A. GARCIA/THE STAR Dr. Joe Cabaret (left), with Spanish Hills Interventional Pain Specialists, chats with Dorothy Reed (seated at right) and her daughter Wanda Derley (center) during Wednesday's open house to show off the newly renovated Building Hope Adult Day Center in Camarillo.

CAMARILLO, Calif. - The Camarillo Health Care District's newly renovated Building Hope Adult Day Center features a "man cave" with a poker table and an "imaginarium" for access to technology.

A commercial-grade kitchen with wheelchair-height countertops is also part of the new center, which was unveiled Wednesday during a daylong open house.

"It's gorgeous," said Dorothy Reed, 90, a member of the district's adult day program since 2006. "I think it's really pretty, and I really enjoy the kitchen."

The district was one of several sites offering an open house as part of the city of Camarillo's 50th anniversary celebration. Other locations included City Hall, the library, the sheriff's station, the Camarillo Ranch House, and the Pleasant Valley Historical Society and Museum.

Reed was among a crowd, including city dignitaries, donors, participants and caregivers, who gathered for the Camarillo Health Care District celebration. The upgrade, which involved an additional 1,200 square feet, cost \$600,000, district officials said.

Reed's daughter and caregiver, Wanda Derley, said she appreciates newly implemented technology that features mini-cameras in four rooms that are part of a system that lets her track her mom at all times through a smartphone.

"On the days that I'm a little concerned about her, it's a good idea," said Derley, of Camarillo, adding that the district's adult day program overall is "a blessing."

"I have peace of mind. You can't buy that," she said. "And we're so appreciative of everyone that was willing to give so much of their time and money to make this place warm for our mom to come."

Not many communities have a special health care district, Mayor Kevin Kildee said.

"It really helps our citizens with a lot of services that a lot of other cities can't provide," he said.

The renovation also includes a wellness room for customized care including blood pressure screenings and an activity room filled with tables to enable numerous simultaneous activities.

"Traditional adult-day programs involve a big group where everyone sits in a circle and does one activity," said Ann Springer, business development manager for the district.

The renovation took two years of tangible planning and many years of thinking, she said.

"At the end of the day when they leave here, they're happy all day," she said. "They've been nourished inside and out. They go home, and they're happy and ready to be a family."

Samson Ghaffari, chairman of the Camarillo Chamber of Commerce, said the growing population of seniors is an issue nationally and locally.

"With what's happening in our country, this is a good reflection of what we need to do," he said. "This is as valuable to the primary caregiver and the person who's receiving the care."

Brock Travis, who presents workshops with the district, praised the agency's leaders for their vision of Building Hope.

"The whole idea of proposed longevity is brilliant," Travis said. "There's meaning throughout the whole journey."

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