

Friends Homes' beginnings can be traced to March 24, 1954 to the Minutes of the North Carolina Yearly Meeting of Friends and the Board now known as the Representative Body. At that time, NCYM Executive Secretary, Seth B. Hinshaw, expressed a concern and a need for a Home for Aged Friends. Several Friends members echoed interest in the idea and a committee was appointed to investigate and report to the Representative Body. On December 12, 1958, the Articles of Incorporation for Friends Homes, Inc. were signed by the Trustees of the Yearly Meeting.

During the Yearly Meeting sessions of August 1960, it was shared that three-acres of land, adjoining a tract donated by the New Garden Meeting, had been purchased and master plans were being drawn for rent-based apartments as well as nursing care units.

Plans for a 24-unit apartment building were presented and approved at the NCYM in August 1965. By August of 1968 Friends Homes' first senior adult residents, Stephen and Stella Dow, moved into one of the apartments, in what would later be called the original Lyndon Hobbs Hall. Thus began the first of thousands of residents who would eventually call Friends Homes, home.

Over the years, Friends Homes has been ever expanding to accommodate more senior adults:

- 1974, the seven-story John Woolman Hall with 106 independent living apartments, and the 50-bed skilled nursing center, called John Greenleaf Whittier.
- 1978, a four-story building named George Fox Hall was added with 64 additional independent living apartments.
- 1982, the 60-unit assisted living building, now called Elizabeth Fry Hall was opened.
- 1994, the West campus was completed with 171 Independent Living apartments, 40 Assisted Living rooms and 40 Skilled Nursing rooms.

Today, Friends Homes serves 609 residents throughout all levels of care – 308 residents on the Guilford campus and 301 residents on the West campus. Quakers comprise approximately 15% of the resident population. There are 421 devoted team members who are employed across the two campuses.

Four years ago, Friends Homes' Board of Trustees began a strategic community planning process with a commitment to engage residents and staff. Planning has been intentional and strategic, with a commitment to the Quaker testimonies. Central to the vision is the imperative to update the Guilford campus, expand access for residents of the future by building new residential accommodations and improve community spaces– all without placing a financial burden on current residents.

Phase One of the Community Plan outlined the addition of 20 new residential homes and modifications to the entrance of the Friends Homes Guilford campus. The West campus will see 73 new residential homes and villa apartments, a brand-new Wellness Center, a renovated dining room, and the establishment of a bridge connector designed to unify – physically and culturally – the two campuses. Other enhancements include: an integrative health clinic, a bistro, an expanded fitness center and new pool, upgraded locker rooms, a sports court, a life enrichment center, a conference room with audio-visual equipment, an art in motion room, a residents' lounge, and an additional campus salon. The Guilford Townhomes are the first to complete and should all be finished by October. Residents began moving into the Townhouses in late July, as units were finished. Living units on the West campus and other enhancements are scheduled to complete at various times throughout 2022.

The total estimated cost of Phase One is \$71 million with funding coming from entrance fees related to the new construction as well as through bond financing. To maintain Friends Homes' solid financial position and not spend valuable investment resources, Friends Homes has launched a \$1.2 million Capital Campaign to raise private dollars to support the building of the Bridge Connector and to establish a permanent endowment for Resident Financial Assistance.

Affordability remains a focus for the Board of Trustees, and residential offerings range from an economical one-room studio to the coming villa apartments which will feature up to 1,872 square feet of living space with views on two sides.