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OAKWOOD VILLAGE

Continuing Care Retirement Communities

*Oakwood Foundation, Inc.
Oakwood Lutheran Homes Association, Inc.
Oakwood Village Apartments, Inc.
Oakwood Village East Lutheran Homes, Inc.
Oakwood Village East Apartment Homes, Inc.*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Skilled Nursing and Assisted Living Residents Donate Handmade Blankets to Charity

(February 23, 2010 – Madison, WI) Residents of Oakwood Seasons, Oakwood Knoll and the Oakwood Village East Health and Rehabilitation Center have spent much time and energy creating fleece hand-tied blankets for children in need. This Friday the group, which calls themselves “Thimbles and Threads,” will bring their project to fruition, as the residents hand over nearly 40 children’s blankets to the Rainbow Project.

Creating the blankets has been a weekly morning activity for anywhere from 5 – 10 residents per week for the past year and a half. While the gathering is a social opportunity for the residents, Activity Therapist Heather Ries shares that it’s the opportunity to help area children that really motivates residents to participate.

“Of all the activities at Oakwood, its typically the activities where residents interact with children’s groups that residents enjoy the most,” shares Heather. “Knowing they are contributing to Oakwood’s social outreach and creating something that children will appreciate it what ultimately causes residents to participate.”

On Friday, February 26, 2010 at 10:00am the group will hold a small ceremony in which Thimbles and Threads, led by Oakwood Village East Chaplain Doug Locken, will bless the blankets and then formally donate the blankets to Darren LeCount, Clinical Manager and Child and Adult Family Therapist of the Rainbow Project. The Rainbow Project provides services to children and families experiencing stress related to trauma, neglect, domestic violence and many other biological and environmental issues.

“On behalf of the children and families served by The Rainbow Project, I’d like to acknowledge our appreciation for this generous donation,” says LeCount. “The blankets will be used to aide in providing comfort to children involved in our programming, to assist during transitions and other times of need.”

“I enjoyed helping create the blankets” shares Oakwood Village East Health and Rehabilitation Center resident Pat McCormick. “It’s a nice social opportunity and a good way to get to know other people living here – particularly people here for short-term rehab. It’s also a good activity for maintaining dexterity. I appreciate knowing the blankets are going to young children. I raised two girls, and if they ever needed support I would hope someone would donate to a program like this to help them.”

Oakwood Village is a locally-operated, not-for-profit, benevolent organization serving the health and wellness needs of seniors in Madison for over 60 years. Supported by 37 Lutheran congregations, Oakwood Village East and Oakwood Village West offer a full continuum of care including independent living, assisted living, memory care, and rehabilitation facilities.

Oakwood is a Lutheran church-sponsored organization whose mission is to serve older persons through loving, caring Christian communities, responding to their physical, social, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual needs, and to encourage a sense of independence, individuality, dignity, and worth throughout life.

Oakwood Village is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities—Continuing Care Accreditation Commission.