



## ***Choosing a Retirement Community***

### **Why consider a retirement community?**

- Just for the fun of it! Simplify your life.
- Let someone else manage the usual chores of home ownership.
- Enjoy having the time to do the things you like most.
- Live easier – fewer stairs, handier storage, security systems, services.
- Secure your future in case you ever need assistance or health care.

### **What's important to you?**

- Stay local, move near family, or return to your roots
- Metropolitan area, college town, or small city
- On the water; in the mountains; change of seasons
- Close enough to shopping, theaters, libraries, museums, hospitals
- Outdoor fun nearby – golf course, good fishing spots, walking trails
- On-site services – dining venues, entertainment, health care
- For-profit or non-profit, Christian philosophy

### **What opportunities do you want?**

- Educational and cultural events
- Fitness equipment; swimming pools; walking trails; other
- Volunteering – being valued for your know-how and special talents
- Pets – can you bring yours?

### **What do your instincts tell you?**

- First impression
- Age and maintenance of buildings
- Quality of materials and workmanship
- Cleanliness; attractiveness ; welcoming

### **Safety**

- Building security; outdoor lighting; safe walkways
- Response system for personal emergency assistance

### **The neighborhood**

- Traffic patterns and noise levels
- The view – water, nature, city streets, people, activity

### **Reputation**

- History of the facility
- Mission and vision of the organization
- Resident involvement
- Local, state, and national reputations

- Partnerships with schools, businesses, organizations
- Results of satisfaction surveys and state surveys

**Your new neighbors** – talk to residents!

- Backgrounds, interests, values similar to yours
- Mix of men and women, couples and singles
- What do residents say? Do they look and act happy?

**Costs**

- Monthly fees and extra charges
- Choice of payment options
- Charges fair and affordable
- Wait List benefits and usual waiting time
- Procedure for leaving the community

**Listen to your heart**

- How do you feel? How does your spouse feel?
- Will you have the balance of community and independence that is right for you?

**Plan ahead** - Be pleasantly surprised to see the options that are available in retirement communities today!