

## Local Family Donates \$300,000 to Build New Chapel at Friendship Village Chesterfield

*Stand-alone chapel is part of senior living community expansion  
set to be completed in 2020.*

St. Louis, MO. (August 19, 2019) – Friendship Village resident Leroy Amen and his family recently donated \$300,000 to launch the fundraising campaign for a new \$1.4 million chapel at Friendship Village’s senior living community in Chesterfield.

The donation represents a commitment by the Amen family to Friendship Village’s current and future residents and supports Friendship Village’s mission to build the future of senior living. Construction at the campus in Chesterfield will bring a host of new amenities to the community including expanded dining rooms and outdoor activity spaces, new apartments and state-of-the-art assisted living and skilled nursing care facilities.



Amen makes this donation in tribute to his late wife, Dr. Virginia ‘Ginny’ Leibner-Amen. The couple moved to a villa at Friendship Village Chesterfield 14 years ago. As Leibner-Amen’s health declined in recent years, the couple’s faith grew—and their appreciation for the chapel setting grew as well.

“We spent a lot of time in the current chapel,” said Amen. “It was part of me being with her and it brought peace to her mind, and I want to bring that peace of mind to others with the new chapel. It’s just something I feel like I need to do. I’m blessed and I want to make a contribution.”

Spiritual wellness has proven to be one of the core elements of a healthy lifestyle for seniors. A recent independent study by Northwestern University comparing the health of seniors living in Life Care communities like Friendship Village to the older adult population at-large concluded that older adults who score higher on measures of spirituality tend to report higher overall health. \*



As a faith-based senior living community, ensuring that residents have the option to worship within the community is a top priority. Between bible study, worship services and even group trips to notable destinations such as Israel, residents are afforded ample opportunity to express and

explore their faith.

“We’re grateful to the Amen family for their generous contribution toward building a beautiful new worship center on campus,” said Burt Campbell, Chaplain at Friendship Village Chesterfield. “We’re looking forward to worshipping in a beautiful new building that’s easily accessible to our residents, their families and our caring staff members.”

Friendship Village welcomes contributions toward the new chapel’s construction in their quest to honor God’s grace by offering a place of sanctuary and worship for their residents. For more information or to make a donation, please contact Wilma Searcy at (636) 733-0149 or [searcywilma@fvstl.com](mailto:searcywilma@fvstl.com).

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*\*The Age Well Study: Comparing Wellness Outcomes in Life Plan Communities vs. the Community-at-Large.” Mather LifeWays Institute on Aging, Northwestern University, Year 1 Report*

**Friendship Village Senior Services** is a faith-based, not-for-profit organization devoted to providing a full range of senior living options. As the only provider of the Life Care program in the St. Louis metro area, Friendship Village guarantees residents access to all levels of health care—all on one campus—at a predictable cost for life. Friendship Village continually invests in wellness programs and technology to keep residents living well and independent, longer. From independent living, to assisted living, memory care, skilled nursing and in-home care, Friendship Village continues to build the future of senior living.

**Friendship Village at Home** brings the extensive experience and quality care of Friendship Village services to the homes of area seniors and includes Medicare home health and private duty care. Our mission-driven board of directors and highly experienced staff encourage a culture of friendship and loving care through the highest quality services and a focus on residents’ spiritual, emotional, physical and social wellbeing. For more information about **Friendship Village Senior Services** please visit [www.FriendshipVillageSTL.com](http://www.FriendshipVillageSTL.com).

*PHOTO CAPTION: Resident Donor Leroy Amen with his late wife, Dr. Virginia “Ginny” Leibner-Amen. Architectural rendering of new chapel. Photos courtesy of Friendship Village Chesterfield.*