

# *St. Michael's Home*

*Quality Care for the Elderly Since 1958*

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## **45th Clergy-Laity Congress Virtual – September 2020**

During these times when our nation has been dramatically impacted by a virus, many have been especially saddened by so many deaths because of covid in elder care facilities. In some states such as NY, over one-half of those deaths were in these institutions. So it is with much humility and heartfelt thankfulness that St. Michael's can report as of this Congress that there were no losses to the virus amongst our elderly residents. This is an exceptional testament to the quality care offered by the dedicated staff of the Home and also we believe the heavenly protection of the Archangel.

As an Archdiocesan institution, St. Michael's has for over 62 years provided this same quality care to the elderly of our community, many from the NY/NJ/CT metropolitan area but also individuals from other states who came to the Home because of the unique environment it offers. To respond to this ever-increasing needs of the elderly which is the fastest growing segment of the American population, the facility has embarked upon an aggressive expansion which will dramatically enhance the lives of our seniors as well as their families who entrust their loved ones to St. Michael's. Having outgrown its current location which does not provide possibility for expanding, the Home purchased an 11-acre property in Uniondale (NY) on which to expand into a state-of the art continuum care facility. This new site with its existing 92,000 square foot building will enable the facility to increase not only its capacity from 60 residents to approximately 150, but more importantly its one level of care, to four progressively higher levels of "licensed" care as well as independent living. Moreover, the new site provides more than enough ancillary space needed for the appropriate care of the elderly and to assure a beautiful and gratifying environment along with adequate space for future expansion.

A Capital Campaign is underway to raise the estimated \$40,000,000 needed to totally gut and rebuild the interior of the building so as to be able to provide this beautiful facility with all modern conveniences. It will include: **independent living one-bedroom apartments; independent and "enhanced-living" studio-bedrooms, each with private bath; and, a secure dementia unit** so that any resident entering

the Home will remain till they leave this world. The present complex already includes a **Chapel** which can easily be converted into a Greek Orthodox house of worship. In addition, plans call for the inclusion of **Occupational and Physical Therapy Rooms, Medical Office, TV/Game Room, Entertainment Lounge, Exercise Room, Beauty Salon, Atrium Library, Resident Computer Room** and other spaces needed to provide a pleasant and enjoyable living environment for our residents. Most importantly, there are major medical facilities, Winthrop University Hospital and Mercy Medical Center, nearby.

To date, over \$20,000,000 has been pledged (the overwhelming majority of it already collected) and there is a tentative grant of an additional \$10,000,000. Efforts to collect the balance have been “stymied” by the pandemic. Based on the great excitement which exists within the community for this project and its ever-increasing appreciation for the need of such a Greek Orthodox facility, the Board of Trustees is confident that efforts to raise the balance will be successful especially once construction starts.

Plans were to embark upon construction this past Spring but unfortunately the virus forced a shut-down. Not only has fund-raising been hindered but also the staff of the New York State Department of Health which is processing the Home’s applications for the various levels of care as well as the one to begin construction has been absent because of the pandemic. Hopefully as things improve in the State, they will return to work and issue the necessary licenses as well as approve the start of the construction as soon as possible.



Artist rendering of the Dining Room

**Throughout the majority of its history, the Home has been financially self-sustaining and DOES NOT receive subsidies from the Archdiocese.** Annually our costs for operating the Home average approximately \$1,800,000. Of that amount, the facility usually collects about three-quarters in boarding fees, while the balance is covered by donations from our very dedicated and generous donor base. One can only imagine how different life would be at the Home without these contributions.

Truly, St. Michael's is a jewel of our Archdiocese and of the Greek American community and brings much honor to both, providing the elderly with the quality care they so deserve. Certainly, few facilities in the United States can claim that they weathered the pandemic so far without loss of life to covid. Cognizant of this unrivaled accomplishment, the Home is hopeful that the faithful across this nation will step forward to help with the expansion of the facility. With the magnanimous and generous support of the entire Greek Orthodox community, the completion of this expansion will be quickly realized. For all those who wish to help make this dream a reality please be assured that all donations, large and small, are greatly appreciated and will be acknowledged either on a Major Donor Wall (in addition to individual naming plaques for major gifts ) or in a special computer ledger which can be accessed by visitors to the new facility.



Artist rendering of a seating lounge

For more information and/or to receive our **Capital Campaign Brochure** and a **Pledge Form**, please contact the Home. Also available is a **Business Plan** which substantiates the financial feasibility of an expanded facility.