

Our 30th Anniversary

Today honors a milestone event in the history of Life Care Centers of America. It is our 30th birthday anniversary. It was on January 6, 1976, that Life Care Centers of America was incorporated to be the management company of six facilities developed by Forrest Preston – and any others that might be built or acquired.

On Wednesday of this week, the 36th anniversary of the first facility, Garden Terrace Convalescent Center in Cleveland, Tennessee, occurred. It opened on January 4, 1970, becoming the first nursing center to be developed by Preston. Others came in rather quick order:

- The Meadows in Tullahoma, Tennessee, now Life Care Center of Tullahoma, opened on September 14, 1970.
- The Village Greene in Greeneville, Tennessee, now Life Care Center of Greeneville, opened on January 10, 1972.
- Hallmark Center in Morristown, Tennessee, now Life Care Center of Morristown, opened on June 11, 1973.
- The Heritage Center in Altamonte Springs, Florida, now Life Care Center of Altamonte Springs, opened on January 10, 1975.
- The Village Center in East Ridge, Tennessee, now Life Care Center of East Ridge, opened on June 1, 1975.

Many others would follow these and the incorporation of their management company. Today, in fact, Life Care operates 265 skilled nursing, independent and assisted living centers in 28 states.

Writing about the original six centers in the Fall 2005/Winter 2006 edition of the *Life Care Leader* magazine, Preston observed: "As proud as I am of these buildings and the great start they gave to our mission of service, Life Care is not about bricks and mortar. It is, and always has been, about serving people. Our reputation has been built every hour of every day by associates whose obedience to God is best measured by their service to others, as our Mission and Values statement proclaims.

"As I reflect on the passage – the very quick passage, I might add – of 36 and 30 years, I am aware of the many miracles that have occurred and the showers of blessings that God has bestowed upon Life Care for us to reach these points in time. We are grateful for His leadership and grace. My life has been enriched by every encounter with every resident I have met along the way. And I am inspired daily by the selflessness, the sacrifice and the extraordinary demonstration of love by our associates."

Each of our Life Care and American Lifestyles centers should have received by now a package of materials and suggestions for celebrating this landmark year in Life Care's history. Let's make plans to share with our residents, families, associates, volunteers and the communities at large of the all-consuming, persevering commitment to serving our residents that has sustained and extended Life Care Centers of America's helping hand for 30 years.

Happy anniversary, everyone!

--Beecher Hunter