



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (Dec. 12, 2013)**

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## Innovative Piedmont Health SeniorCare program opens its newest location

**Pittsboro, NC** – The Pittsboro facility of Piedmont Health SeniorCare, an innovative program for senior citizens that has won praise and growing popularity, is officially open.

More than 100 people gathered at the new building, located at 163 Chatham Business Drive, for a grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony on Dec. 12.

Speakers at the event included Pittsboro Mayor Bill Terry, in one of his first public appearances as mayor. “We welcome Piedmont Health SeniorCare services, particularly because it fills such an important niche,” Terry said. “I know how important a facility like this is to give folks options that they might not otherwise have.”

The site will serve up to 150 senior residents of Chatham, Orange and Lee counties.

Piedmont Health SeniorCare is a Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE), a growing model of care as the nation seeks to contain health-care costs while maximizing quality of care. Similar to goals of the Affordable Care Act, PACE assigns accountability to the provider, and offers coordination of care and medical homes to the patient (“participant”).

PACE programs offer comprehensive services designed to allow seniors (55 years and older) who might ordinarily move to a nursing facility to remain at home instead. The care is coordinated by an interdisciplinary team from 12 disciplines, who together address the individual medical needs of each participant, with an emphasis on wellness and prevention.

Program participants attend the Day Health Center on a regular basis where they receive the majority of services (including recreational activities), but additional services are provided at home or by contracted community providers.

Mary Douglas and her 85-year-old uncle, Walter Foushee, toured the new SeniorCare facility during the grand opening event in Pittsboro. Douglas is her uncle’s caregiver and they live in Sanford, N.C.

Douglas said the new Pittsboro location offers various benefits for her family. The new site is closer to their Sanford home, compared to driving to Piedmont Health’s Community Health Center in Moncure, N.C., for Foushee’s medication and checkups.

Douglas and Foushee are also looking forward to getting to know the staff and other participants at the newest SeniorCare location.

“We hope to interact with other people,” Douglas said. “This (facility) is really nice and I believe it will be a good addition to the Moncure clinic in helping the elderly.”

The region’s medical leaders and officials hope the new SeniorCare site in Pittsboro will also serve as a training site for nursing students and physical therapy students and geriatricians, according to Dennis Streets, director of the North Carolina Division of Aging and Adult Services.

Also, UNC Department of Family Medicine has partnered with PHSC to establish a teaching and training component to this site.

Dr. Jane Hollingsworth is the medical director for Pittsboro's new SeniorCare location and for another SeniorCare site in Burlington, N.C. She said the new Pittsboro center will offer a unique learning experience for medical professionals, since staff members have more time to provide care and connect with participants.

"We really get to know our participants and get very attached and really understand every part of the hardships that they're facing as they're aging," Hollingsworth said.

Piedmont Health SeniorCare is not alone in establishing this site and is grateful to its many partners for their support of the PACE model. The Chapel Hill-based Carol Woods Retirement Community has provided substantial support of this new facility, including a van, piano, and a recent \$10,000 gift to support transportation of the program's seniors. Carol Woods has provided strategic direction and community engagement in the program's development.

The Duke Endowment recently awarded a \$300,000 grant to the Carol Woods Retirement Community in order to support the start-up of the new Piedmont Health SeniorCare facility in Pittsboro. Based in Charlotte and established in 1924 by industrialist and philanthropist James B. Duke, The Duke Endowment is a private foundation that strengthens communities in North Carolina and South Carolina by nurturing children, promoting health, educating minds and enriching spirits. Since its founding, it has distributed more than \$3 billion in grants. The endowment shares a name with Duke University and Duke Energy, but all are separate organizations.

Carolina Meadows, a continuing care retirement community in southern Chatham County, has also assisted in the establishment of this site, including generous donations of equipment and furnishings, as well as two quilts made by their residents that hang on display in the Pittsboro Day Center.

The State Employees Credit Union Foundation provided financing via a low-interest loan.

Piedmont Health also received a \$262,374 grant earlier this year from the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust for the new SeniorCare facility in Pittsboro. The Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust works to improve the quality of health care for North Carolina residents in financial need. The organization is located in Winston-Salem, N.C.

Pittsboro is Piedmont's second PACE site. Its first PACE site was opened in 2008 in Burlington. There are currently eight operational PACE programs in the state, a number that is rapidly growing. The Pittsboro site is the state's ninth PACE site and the first expansion site from an existing PACE provider.

Piedmont Health SeniorCare is nonprofit and part of Piedmont Health Services, Inc., which also operates seven community health centers in North Carolina including the Moncure and Siler City Community Health Centers in Chatham County.

*Piedmont Health SeniorCare-Pittsboro is located at 163 Chatham Business Drive. For more information, call (919) 545-7337 or visit [www.piedmonthhealthseniorcare.org](http://www.piedmonthhealthseniorcare.org)*