

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lakewood Residential Treatment Center Breaks Ground on Innovative Assisted Living Facility for Adults with Chronic Mental Illness

Fern Park, Florida - January 3, 2024 - Lakewood Residential Treatment Center, a leading not for profit mental health residential program in Fern Park, Florida, proudly announces a groundbreaking renovation project that will revolutionize mental health care. The project aims to transform eight existing beds into Assisted Living Facility (ALF) licensed beds with a limited mental health licensure, catering specifically to adults with serious mental illnesses, including Schizophrenia and Schizoaffective Disorder.

Lakewood Residential Treatment Center is renowned for its Extended Care Model, allowing residents to call Lakewood Center home for as long as needed, with no maximum length of stay. Some residents have been part of our community for over 30 years. In light of the harsh realities faced by adults with chronic mental illness, such as the risk of incarceration, suicide, substance abuse, homelessness, and repeated admissions to psychiatric facilities (affecting roughly 42% of adults per NIMH.gov), Lakewood Center strives to enhance their quality of life.

Lakewood Center's mission is to create a community of independence and dignity, providing a beautiful campus and therapeutic programs that enable residents to enjoy jobs, hobbies, community engagement, friendships, and a purposeful life. Unfortunately, as our residents age, our current program cannot meet their growing medical and physical needs. To address this gap, Lakewood Center is expanding to offer an Assisted Living Facility (ALF) that caters to the specific needs of individuals with serious mental illness.

This groundbreaking initiative will bridge the medical and physical care gap for aging residents, allowing them to continue calling Lakewood home. Unlike traditional assisted living facilities, Lakewood Center's ALF, in combination with evidence-based psychiatric modalities, will address the "whole person" needs of individuals with serious mental illness. Lakewood Center is proud to be one of the few programs in the entire country that encompasses these comprehensive levels of care under one umbrella.

The groundbreaking ceremony for this pioneering program is scheduled to take place at Lakewood Center on January 10, 2024, at 11 am, located at 8400 LaAmistad Cove, Fern Park, Florida, 32730.

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