

# Special Care Unit will Surround Residents with Comforts of Home

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*Editor's Note: This is the first of a series of articles highlighting important features of a proposed re-building of the Rose Blumkin Jewish Home. Watch for next week's article for details about a new facility for short-term care and rehabilitation services.*

A capital campaign on behalf of Jewish Senior Services (JSS) and the Rose Blumkin Jewish Home is an opportunity for donors to help fund a Special Care Unit dedicated to the unique needs of individuals with diseases that cause memory loss. Along with improved, separate facilities for short-term Residents, and a third unit for extended stays of Residents who primarily need skilled nursing care, staff will be able to further customize the care that they provide.

“There still is a great deal we do not know about causes and treatments of these progressive, degenerative disorders, including whether a cure will ever be found,” said Mike Silverman, Executive Director of JSS and the Home. “But what we do know is that research increasingly makes a strong connection between whether a facility captures the spirit and comfort of ‘home,’ and the well-being of the residents.”

Plans call for a 20-bed Special Care Unit of private rooms, bathrooms and bedrooms with the ambience of home, family-style dining rooms and areas for group activities involving two to five people at a time.

Special Care Unit Residents can look forward to such normal everyday activities as waking up with the morning paper and coffee. Their rooms will be connected to a secure

garden with paths, benches and shade for wandering, resting, or visiting.

“They can enjoy freedom of movement as they go about their days in a safe, secure environment. Schedules will focus on activities Residents are still able to enjoy, Silverman said.

All details, including floor coverings, color schemes, furnishings and lighting, will be designed to meet the specific needs of Special



Staying connected...A new special care unit will be designed to better support Residents with dementia and their families while providing care adapted to individual needs.

Care Residents. This will include a setting that is secure without being restrictive, indoor and outdoor walking paths, and activities geared to the abilities of each individual.

“We know that a carefully designed physical and

social environment, along with features that enhance function and quality of life, can assist and support residents and their families throughout the course of illnesses such as Alzheimer’s,” Silverman added. “The facility we are proposing will allow us to better incorporate this increasing knowledge into the daily care that we provide.”

As research continues to evolve into the best way to meet the individual needs of people with dementia, Omaha’s Jewish community can count on increasingly state-of-the-art care, he added.

“We’re catching up with the present, as well as preparing for a bright future,” Silverman said.