

“Near Heaven”

A Resident's Words to Describe Snyder Village Assisted Living

By Susan Grebner

Angie Watkins, left, director of Assisted Living at Snyder Village, visits with resident Margaret Schertz in the courtyard. Margaret enjoys the helpful and caring staff available to help her out when needed. Margaret and her late husband, Deryl, moved to a cottage at Snyder Village in 2002.

“It’s as near to Heaven as I’ll get,” is how Margaret Schertz describes living at Snyder Village in her assisted-living apartment. “I get excellent care here. The girls are so good to help you with anything you ask for,” she says referring to the staff of caregivers who check on her throughout the day and night and give her the extra hand she might need. “They take us anywhere we need to go, so that’s a plus. They take us any place in town, and they will take me to my doctor’s appointments.”

“There’s always somebody to help you,” Margaret adds. “That’s the wonderful part about Snyder Village.”

She and her husband Deryl moved from Henry to a cottage at Snyder Village in 2002. They were active residents who volunteered in many different capacities around the Snyder Village campus, from the annual benefit auction to delivering meals to shut-ins. In 2015, the couple moved from their cottage to an assisted-living apartment at Snyder Village.

After a hospitalization and rehabilitation stay, Margaret and Deryl, with the input of their five children, made the choice to move to assisted living. “We have two nurses and a doctor in the family, so they had a lot to say. This is where they thought we needed to be,” Margaret explains.

She appreciates having three meals a day prepared for her. “The meals are excellent,” she says. Margaret shares a challenging, but memorable day when her husband was having health challenges. “Deryl was having trouble, and I asked for someone to help him,” she says. “A caregiver got him a wheelchair, called an ambulance, and never left us. She stayed at his side until the ambulance arrived.”

While the activities calendar at assisted living offers plenty to choose from, most days Margaret prefers her own private activities, like reading *Leadership in Turbulent Times* by Doris Kearnes Goodwin, which sits within reach of her favorite chair or the scarf she is knitting. She has knitted numerous scarves for the annual benefit auction as well as for gifts for friends and family.

Convenience and peace of mind are two of the main qualities Snyder Village assisted living provides for Norma Probasco. “Now that I’m on oxygen full-time, the fact that there is a generator back-up here is a relief and that I’ll always have the help I need,” Norma says.

“The three meals a day is so convenient. I got to the point where I didn’t care if I ate or not. I wasn’t really hungry, and I didn’t want to worry about the trouble of preparing food. Now, the food is ready for me at each meal, and there are no dishes to worry about after I eat,” she adds.

“There is great entertainment and different activities for you to do, and it’s all right here,” she says. “It is so much of a hassle to go and do things with the oxygen. By the time I got it all ready, I was too tired to go.” But, Snyder Village Assisted Living provides activities and entertainment, and all Norma needs to do is go down the hall from her one-bedroom apartment.

Norma relocated to Snyder Village from Mackinaw about six years ago, after her husband had passed away. “First, I moved into a cottage,” Norma says, referring to Snyder Village’s retirement community (independent living). “Before moving to Snyder Village, I had a hospitalization that required a three-week stay in a nursing home after. That led me to think that I should really be somewhere that I didn’t have to rely on my kids so much,” she says. “The progression of care was the appeal of Snyder Village.”

Laure Adams, Metamora, turned to Snyder Village Assisted Living for her mom who needed an extra hand after a few months of rehabilitation and physical therapy. “When we looked at home and the steps down to the laundry and the carpet, we knew it just was not safe enough for a walker,” Laure says.

“Assisted living was a good option. Mom could bring her own furniture, and it was all on one level. There was no carpeting, so she was safe with her walker. She had a private bathroom, and it was just the right solution. We knew Mom would be safe,” she adds.

Socially, assisted living was a good move for her mom too. “Mom made new friends. She had been active in church and was very social.



Lynette Hougland, a Snyder Village caregiver, visits with resident Margaret Schertz. Margaret appreciates the wide range of activities and entertainment offered to Snyder Village Assisted Living residents, but also enjoys time on her own to read or work on her own knitting projects.

While at assisted living, she was doing things she never would have done at home as far as the activities and outings. She had three friends who played cards all the time. She formed new friendships,” Laure said.

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~ Laure Adams

The personal care and attention may have been what Laure appreciated most about her Mom’s experience at Snyder Village Assisted Living. “The staff and caregivers provide consistent care. They know and understand what is normal for their residents. It is more of a ‘family’ ... they really do care,” she says.

Assisted living refers to a type of care that provides housing and personal care help to individuals who might need a little assistance with daily activities yet who still want as much independence as possible. Snyder Village Assisted Living features private apartments and efficiencies with one wing devoted to memory care for those residents who have early to mid-stages of dementia. Staff is on-site 24 hours a day, seven days a week and provide routine resident checks as well as assistance and support. Residents enjoy three meals a day and a full calendar with entertainment, Bible study, outings, and a wide variety of interesting and engaging activities.

Families and residents who have selected assisted living at Snyder Village share these common benefits that influenced their decisions:

- **Safety** — Apartments are all one level and accessible to those with a walker or other assistive device. The bathrooms feature sturdy handrails and built-in shower seats, and all residents have the peace of mind of a medical alert system. With just a touch of the button, an on-site staff member is alerted if help is needed.

- **Helping hands** — The staff of caregivers at Snyder Village Assisted Living can provide a helping hand with “activities of daily living.” Whether an extra hand is needed with bathing and dressing, light housekeeping, or medication reminders, staff is on-hand and ready to help, 24 hours a day.

- **Transportation** — Snyder Village Assisted Living provides local transportation at no additional cost. Courtesy transportation covers trips to the grocery store, bank or post office, or even a local doctor’s appointment.

- **Social activity and stimulation** — Seniors who live alone can feel isolated. Being a part of an assisted living community provides opportunities to socialize and enjoy relationships with peers and the caregiving team. The calendar of activities also offers plenty of opportunities for learning, creativity, and enjoyment to keep seniors engaged and their mind active.

- **Nutritious meals** — Cooking can be a daunting task for seniors who live alone, and family members can find it difficult to gauge appetite and monitor what has been eaten. At Snyder Village Assisted Living, residents are served three meals a day with choices tailored to the tastes and needs of seniors.

- **Life plan community** — As a life plan community, Snyder Village offers a full range of senior living options, from independent living to assisted living to the health center, which offers short term rehabilitation to long-term care. Residents of Snyder Village have access to level of care they need. Assisted living residents who may have an illness or injury frequently turn to the health center and its rehabilitation therapy program. There, they can recover and regain their strength before returning to their assisted-living apartment. That is additional peace of mind for not only the residents, but also their families, to have various levels of care available on the same campus.

- **Memory care** — Snyder Village Assisted Living also includes a devoted memory care wing that focuses on compassionate and dignified care as well as a safe and comfortable home environment for those residents with early to mid-stages of dementia. The memory care area features additional staffing as well as engaging activities and entertainment that focuses on the wellbeing and comfort of residents with dementia.



Snyder Village is a life plan community in Metamora that offers a variety of living options for seniors, including independent living in its retirement community, assisted living apartments and efficiencies, and rehabilitation and skilled nursing care in its health center. Its home care division provides an extra hand to residents in their own homes and serves Woodford, Marshall, Tazewell, and Peoria counties.

For more information or to schedule a tour of assisted living at Snyder Village, phone 309-367-2500, or go to www.SnyderVillage.com.