

\$11M Mary Wade expansion unveiled



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NEW HAVEN — Dozens of friends, supporters and relatives of residents of the Mary Wade Home Thursday celebrated the unveiling of an \$11 million expansion to the five-star nursing home that began in 1866 as the "Home for the Friendless."

Renovations to the 118 Clinton Ave. facility's skilled nursing center, which was added to the site in 1989, and to the Adult Day Center began in January 2010.

The expansion added 34 beds to the facility, and the day center's capacity doubled, to 100.

"I'm very happy here," said

Joan Lafaille, who is from Massachusetts. "I lost all my family. My brother's wife put me here so I wouldn't be alone."

Lafaille was excited about the improvements to the day center, a highlight of her days. "I'm here all the time," she said. "We play bingo and ... do exercises."

Barr & Barr Inc. Builders, which has offices in New Haven and seven other Northeast locations, was the construction manager for the project, financed through People's United Bank of Bridgeport. Kenneth Boroson was the architect.

Mayor John DeStefano Jr., whose mother-in-law lives at Mary Wade, called the campus "a wonderful, caring community," during the grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony.

"It is literally and figuratively a special place that heals parts of people's lives," the mayor said.

Mary Wade also provides assisted living, short-term care and outpatient rehabilitation.

"There is a real need for the Greater New Haven region to have five-star, quality health care services for our elders," said Chief Executive Officer David Hunter.

Guests were served appetizers and champagne, and were led on tours of the three-story building by Rosanne Mondrone, director of community relations.

Mondrone told tour groups that the facility began as a sanctuary for women widowed by the Civil War, some with children. "By the turn of the century, it was a home for aged women," she said.



Mary Wade Home Executive Director David Hunter cuts the ribbon at the entrance to the fire room of the home's Adult Day Center. This room is part of an \$11 million expansion at the home.

Brad Horrigan/
Register

As time went on, the doors of Mary Wade opened to men and couples. The building also has a beauty salon and interfaith chapel.

Mondrone said part of the home's role in the community is that of a landlord. Mary Wade purchased about 20 properties in the

Fair Haven neighborhood. Some are rented to tenants, while others are used as office space.

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