

# Tabitha Breaks Ground on Revolutionary Approach for Long-Term Skilled Care

Tabitha Health Care Services broke ground September 6 for the Tabitha Green House Project™, a revolutionary new approach in long-term care. The Green House concept allows individuals who require skilled nursing services to live in a neighborhood home designed, equipped and staffed to deliver long-term care. The 5,300 square-foot home, scheduled to open next spring (2006), is designed around a hearth strategically placed to evoke the spirit of warmth and convivial living. The plan includes nine private living spaces, each with its own private bath. The Green House model is a shift away from the traditional nursing home model. It is an intentional community built to a residential scale and situating necessary clinical care within a social model that gives primacy to the older person's quality of life.

The Tabitha Green House is one of four pilot projects in the United States developed by William H. Thomas, M.D., Harvard-trained geriatrician and founder of the Center for Growing and Becoming, Inc. The first Green House opened in May 2003 in Tupelo, Mississippi. The Project in Tupelo has produced remarkable results including an overall improvement in quality of life indicated by an increase in appetites, mobility and socialization. Preliminary results also indicate an increase in family involvement and staff satisfaction with a reduction in employee turnover.

Major corporate support for The Tabitha Green House Project™ has been provided by Lutheran Services for the Elderly Endowment; Federal Home Loan Bank of Topeka; Lincoln Community Foundation; Immanuel Health Systems; City of Lincoln,

*"Green House sets the bar in Elder health care services higher than ever before. We should not rest until we can assure every Elder needing this kind of care has the opportunity to live in a Green House environment."*

Joyce Ebmeier, Administrator, Tabitha Nursing & Rehabilitation Center.



Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, and STANLEY Senior Technologies.

Tabitha Health Care Services is the premiere provider of Elder health care services promoting the dignity, independence and health of older adults in Lincoln and 29 counties in southeast Nebraska. Tabitha offers Hospice, Meals on Wheels, Home Care Specialties, Home Health Care, Intergenerational Care for adults and children, Independent Living, inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation in Tabitha LifeQuest Center and long-term care in its nursing center.

## Neighborhood-Wide Garage Sales

By Erin Schmidt

The Witherbee Neighborhood Association had their neighborhood-wide garage sales again this year from June 9-12<sup>th</sup>. There were 47 locations on this year's list, 45 within the WNA area and 2 outside the WNA area. A \$3.00 registration fee was collected to add your location to the list that also included days, hours, and short description of what was being sold. This list was posted on our web site, as well as in advertisements in the Lincoln Journal Star and Thrifty Nickel. A flyer was printed to hand out at locations and this list appeared in our summer newsletter as well. The turnout seemed to be a little less than last year because of rainy weather. A volunteer 10% profit donation was proposed to all who participated which brought around \$45.00. Thank you to all who participated!!

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