



# Help Build the Memory Care Unit of the Future

## **Memory Care with a Difference**

We believe that care for elders with memory challenges must encompass mind, body and spirit. Holistic, integrated care is at the heart of our Catholic health mission. Our dedicated, secure unit is staffed by a specially trained team, delivering skilled care that enhances wellbeing, enables meaningful interactions and respects the dignity of each resident.

## **Steadfast in Our Ambitions**

We are proud of the high quality, compassionate care we deliver and we want our physical environment to be reflective of the excellent care we provide to residents. We recognize that through years of use and dedication, our Memory Care unit needs some TLC.

It is our commitment to those we serve and our dedication to being at the forefront of memory care that has lead us to the vision of creating a truly innovative memory care unit.



Mary Immaculate  
Health/Care Services

A Member of Covenant Health



### A long and proud history of service

Founded in 1868 by the Sisters of Charity of Montreal the Grey Nuns Mary Immaculate has spent more than 150 years caring for those in need. It is one of New England's largest and most advanced healthcare campuses for the care of older adults.



**Your gift will help create a cutting-edge, evidence-based, truly memory-friendly environment for the residents, families and staff of Mary Immaculate.**

## Phase I – Breathing New Life into Mary Immaculate

Our 41-bed Memory Unit was last refurbished in 2006. With over a decade of daily wear and tear, refreshing our residents' rooms and our communal spaces is our first step.

New furniture in all our rooms and the addition of bedroom closets will give our residents a warm and comforting 'home' that they are proud of.

A fresh coat of paint on the walls will breathe new life into the unit and replacing damaged flooring will lessen the risk of tripping. A redesigned Nurses Station will be opened up and more approachable for residents.

The estimated cost of Phase I of our vision is \$240,000

## Phase II – Leading the Way in Memory Care

In the half century that Mary Immaculate has cared for memory patients, there have been many advances in how to improve the quality of life and dignity of residents. While our compassionate care has kept up with these changes, we now have the exciting opportunity to enhance our physical space to better serve our residents.

These additions and improvements will increase quality of life and engagement for our residents, their families and our staff.

- We will create a full 'wander loop' for residents – research shows that persons with memory function best when they don't meet obstacles such as dead-end hallways; these barriers frustrate and upset them.  
A full loop around our unit will allow residents to wander repeatedly without interruption.
- To help residents find their way, we will add colorful 'front doors' and a 'window box' to each room, so residents will have visual cues to better recognize 'home'.
- Many of our female residents still show their nurturing side and enjoy caring for life-like 'babies.' A new 'nursery' where residents can change, bath and dress their 'babies' will build self-esteem and pride.
- Our 'spa room' helps agitated residents to relax. Enhanced with a 360° beach theme, using wallpaper and ceiling tiles, the spa room will give residents a dedicated space to lower their stress.



The most exciting upgrade is adding an artificial sky in our day room. Research shows that natural, circadian light is beneficial to persons with memory. Lit ceiling tiles move through dawn, daylight, dusk and dark –helping improve residents' moods, keeping their body clock in sync and giving them the sense of being outdoors while keeping them safe. The artificial sky can even give residents a bright sunny day, when it's grey and rainy outside! Our artificial sky will be a first for memory units in the region.

Other updates include adding sound-proof doors to the unit, to lessen outside disturbances; creating a comfortable 'living room' so families can visit with loved ones in a home-like setting; and making a multi-purpose activity space suitable for a wide range of activities from 'folding the laundry' to woodworking - to keep our residents active, engaged and stimulated.

The estimated cost of Phase II of our vision is \$187,000

The overall projected cost is \$427,000.



## Your Gift

We know this is an ambitious project, and we are committed to creating a cutting-edge, evidence-based, caring environment for the residents, families and staff of Mary Immaculate. ***But we cannot do it without your support.***

You can donate by check to Mary Immaculate Health/Care Services or credit card at the Administration Office, or online at [mihcs.com](http://mihcs.com).

If you would like to talk further about our vision for Mary Immaculate's Memory Unit, please call Joanne Sheehan on 978.629.1402, email [joanne\\_sheehan@mihcs.com](mailto:joanne_sheehan@mihcs.com) or visit our Administration Office at 172 Lawrence Street, Lawrence, MA 01841.

With your gift we can build a truly innovative, state-of-the-art facility and continue our rich tradition of caring and compassion for all in our community.

### Our Mission

We are a Catholic health ministry, providing healing and care for the whole person, in service to all in our communities

### Our Heritage

Trusting in the Providence of God, the Sisters of Charity of Montreal Grey Nuns founded Mary Immaculate in Lawrence, MA in 1868. We provide dignified, compassionate care within a diverse, loving family community and respond to the changing needs of society in the spirit of St. Marguerite d'Youville.

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978.685.6321 [mihcs.com](http://mihcs.com)



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