

**WESTMINSTER CARE of ORLANDO'S
GRANDMA'S HOUSE
CHOSEN AS NATIONAL FINALIST
FOR**

2008 Intergenerational Shared Site Best Practices Awards Program

ORLANDO, Fla. (March xx, 2008)—Washington D.C. based Generations United and the MetLife Foundation have been searching for the best practices in shared site work around the country. Shared site projects focus on facilities that offer multigenerational services and housing that build mutually beneficial relationships among the generations. While shared sites significantly vary in facility structure, all are composed of two program components: serving older adults and serving children or youth.

Grandma's House at Westminster Care of Orlando was chosen along with nine other organizations from across the nation to compete for grand prize awards. All finalists are guaranteed an award. Grand prize recipients will receive a cash award of \$2,500 and honorable mentions will receive a cash award of \$1,000. All winning organizations will be highlighted in a report released during the Generations United recognition event in Washington, D.C. on Thursday, June 5, 2008.

About Grandma's House At Westminster Care Of Orlando

Grandma's House is an intergenerational program at Westminster Care of Orlando, a 420-bed skilled nursing community near downtown Orlando. Grandma's House grew from the need for long-term pediatric care for children who could benefit from skilled, intermediate or medically fragile care services.

While staff members provide the medical care and therapy services for the children, volunteer "grandmas and grandpas" live in the same area with the children. Our staff makes sure that the potential adult residents are medically appropriate and that they express a desire to live with the children and play an active role in their lives as mentors, caretakers and "grandparents." The adults benefit from the interaction and sense of purpose they get from helping. Intergenerational programs offer an opportunity for personal connections and help reduce loneliness, depression and boredom—symptoms often associated with nursing home living.

In addition to the nurturing atmosphere, Grandma's House has a school located on the campus, Westminster Academy Charter School. Westminster Academy admits residential children of Grandma's House and day students from the community whose medical needs are clinically appropriate for the school program. The school operates on the same schedule as Orange County Public Schools.

In October of 2007, in a project called the “Extreme Playground Makeover,” we built an intergenerational handicap accessible playground in about four days with the help of more than 30 local businesses, and countless individuals and volunteers.

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