
Wood Glen Marks 65-Year Anniversary

Wood Glen is the brainchild of Aileen and Adrian Wood, who opened the senior living community with the intention of providing men and women with an ideal, non-institutional home at minimum cost."



L to R: Senator Monique Limón, Mary Jean Vignone, board member, Congressman Salud Carbajal, and John Blankenship (of Pierre Claeysens Veterans Foundation) all came to speak in honor of Wood Glen's milestone celebration (Wood Glen Hall photo)

In 1957, the average home price was \$12,200, minimum hourly rate was \$1 and gas was 24 cents a gallon. American Bandstand made its national TV debut, the Frisbee was invented and Russia launched its first satellite Sputnik 1, inaugurating the Space Age and Space Race.

It's also the year Wood Glen Hall, a non-profit retirement residence situated in the quiet foothills of Santa Barbara, was established.

Wood Glen is the brainchild of Aileen and Adrian Wood, who opened the senior living community with the intention of providing "elderly men and women with an ideal, non-institutional home at minimum cost." If only the Woods could see their establishment today. They would be proud to know Wood Glen and their legacy continue to flourish.

Kellam de Forest researched and wrote about the founding of Wood Glen. The story is featured on its website <https://woodglenhall.org>. De Forest writes: "After the end of World War II, the need to provide for the growing population of senior citizens became evident. Having the elderly live with their children and grandchildren was becoming less feasible as the children moved away to obtain employment. Housing for seniors had become more expensive. At a national conference on the problems of the aging in 1951, the late California governor Earl Warren stated that the goal was 'to see that our senior citizens may live through their later years in dignity, security and usefulness.'"

That was a call to action for the Woods. They spent three years studying ways in which they could help. After speaking with gerontologists, they decided to provide a place for seniors at a reasonable cost. In particular, the couple had a soft spot for senior residents of Santa Barbara County who had fallen on hard times.

According to de Forest's research, in April 1955 the Woods purchased the five-acre property at the corner of Alamar and Foothill Road, originally part of the Willowbrook dairy farm, and in November they established their not-for-profit Wood Glen Corporation.

The Woods worked with a San Francisco-based architectural firm that designed a “one-story Spanish Revival building with modern touches”. The facility was completed by October 1957, featuring shade trees, badminton court, shuffleboard, horseshoe court, wood-working shop, arts-and-crafts room and a large dining room doubled as an entertainment hall with a small stage.

The official dedication was November 3, 1957.

Today Wood Glen, which is in the process of updating its name to “Wood Glen Senior Living”, continues to live up to its wonderful reputation within the Santa Barbara community. At Wood Glen Senior Living, the emphasis is on maintaining residents’ health, wellness, dignity and independence. Every apartment boasts a beautiful garden view. Residents rave about the food being delicious and the variety of activities offered daily. The full-time Activities Director, Michelle Hardin, ensures there is a full schedule of programs on site, including exciting theme dinners, chair volleyball, root beer floats, SBCC “Vitality” classes, live music, and art classes. Outings, shopping trips, and a wide variety of special presentations are also offered. There have been many beneficial changes within the community over the last six-and-a-half decades. The committed board of directors and staff of Wood Glen are proud to carry on the legacy of its founders, evolving the community to meet the changing needs of



Resident Jack C. (Wood Glen photo)

seniors in Santa Barbara while still maintaining its traditional charm and non-institutional setting.

An exciting new development at Wood Glen is the growth of the care staff and services offerings, under the direction of Wood Glen’s Wellness Director, Diane Bieza. Diane is a Registered Nurse with over a decade of dedication to Wood Glen. The goal is for Wood Glen’s residents to be able to age-in-place in their beautiful new home. There is still a very active vibe within the community, and many residents are independent. However, items from a “menu” of over ten different care services can be added as a resident ages and naturally develops the need for more care. These services include bathing assistance, dressing assistance, and medication management, to name a few. While Wood Glen does not have a memory care unit, many residents with mild cognitive impairment thrive in this community.

One family member stated: “My mother is so happy with the staff, food, and the lovely facility. It is wonderful to see her thrive and grow while participating in their varied mind and body activities. The atmosphere feels more like a home than a residential care facility. I feel confident that they are keeping a close eye on her well-being and feel very in the loop with their excellent communication. I look forward to my regular visits and feel at home myself.”

For more information or a tour of the community, contact Sales Manager, Holly Walling at (805) 687-7771. Wood Glen Senior Living is located at 3010 Foothill Road in Santa Barbara, at the intersection of Foothill and Alamar Roads.



WOOD GLEN HALL

805-687-7771

3010 Foothill Road • Santa Barbara, CA
www.woodglenhall.org