

Clare House DUBUQUE, IOWA
Hoffman LLC APPLETON, WISCONSIN



PROJECT CATEGORY: New Construction
CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR: Geri Eitter, Administrator of Mount St. Francis Center
FIRM: Hoffman LLC, (800) 236-2370
DESIGN TEAM: Pat Del Ponte, Project Principal; Catherine Cruickshank, Senior Project Designer; Gary Boehlke, Project Architect; Chris Sievert, Project Manager; Mike McGregor, Project Superintendent (Hoffman LLC); Amy Nichols, Interior Designer (DesignWorks Studio, LLC)
PHOTOGRAPHY: Hoffman LLC
RESIDENT/CLIENT CAPACITY: 76
TOTAL AREA (SQ. FT.): 93,202
TOTAL CONSTRUCTION COST (EXCLUDING LAND): \$16,306,075
CONSTRUCTION COST/SQ. FT.: \$175
COMPLETION: September 2011

Several years ago, the Sisters of St. Francis of Dubuque embarked on a process to right-size their facilities and reduce operating costs while enhancing the care of their elderly and infirm residents. Moving from a medical to a home model of care was grounded in the congregation's mission and values. Their new unlicensed facility, Clare House, was designed to comply with the codes for skilled care.

The building was sited so it could be attached to the Motherhouse and constructed while the original infirmary retained its connection, remaining fully operational until the Sisters moved into their new home.

The entry level and upper floor each have two households consisting of 38 bedrooms with private bathrooms; a centrally located kitchenette, dining, living and activity areas; and

an identifying accent color to help with wayfinding. One-third of the rooms have views into a secure, landscaped courtyard with a walking path, while the rest have vistas of Dubuque. The layout provides the flexibility to reserve separate households for different levels of care, including dementia.

Taking advantage of a steep slope, the southern part of the lower level is fully exposed and has a large kitchen, dining room, multipurpose room, offices and service areas. Franciscan in its simplicity and contemporary in its expression, the chapel is richly symbolic and full of meaning. Living "in right relationship with all creation," the Sisters incorporated numerous sustainable features in their new building, including abundant natural light and a ground-sourced heat pump system.