

In February 2012, I visited Good Samaritan Care Center in Cole Camp. Good Samaritan is a 66-resident, Medicare/Medicaid certified, not-for-profit, community owned, skilled nursing home.

They have wonderful community support and a large group of volunteers. 13 churches rotate holding services there. Their new van was paid for with donations from community members and the previous van was donated by a community member. There is a community member who provides a pizza lunch for the residents and staff every month. They also receive quite a bit of funding from memorials and received an entire estate last year.

The Original home was built in 1967. Additions were made in 1981 and 2004. They have had a 97% occupancy rate for the past couple years and were able to increase their license capacity by six residents with a new addition. They moved into their most recent addition just three weeks before my visit. The addition includes 13 private rooms. In addition to the usual furnishings, the new private rooms are equipped with showers, medication storage, and comfortable reclining chairs.



*Private bathroom*



*Medication storage in private room*

They added a small kitchen for short-order cooking. The kitchen is open and accessible 24 hours per day and the neighborhood's universal workers can fix something for residents at anytime. They also added sun porches and patios, a living room, an equipment storage nook, a small nurses' work area, and a new therapy department, which now also provides outpatient therapy services for the community.



*New neighborhood kitchen and dining area*



*New nurses' work area*



*New living room*



*New sun porch and patio*



*New therapy department*



*New therapy kitchen*

They also made renovations to the older portion of the building as well. The new addition allowed them to convert several semi-private rooms to private rooms. They previously had four private rooms, now they have 20. They updated the old nursing station, created a resident lounge, and renovated a bathing room.



*Renovated nurses' work area*

At Good Samaritan they are serious about culture change. I attended their Culture Change Team meeting and provided an in-service training session on culture change for their staff members. They are also involved with Missouri's culture change coalition, [MC5](#).

They have consistent staffing assignments. They use I-Care Plans and their aides attend the care planning meetings. They eliminated overhead paging several years ago and have almost completely eliminated personal alarms. There are no alarms in the new addition. Residents get out of bed when they wish and take the type of bath they wish, when they want it.

There are no restrictions on personal furnishings or decorations and residents can have personal refrigerators in their rooms if they wish. They have expanded dining choices. There is a kitchen available for resident/family use and there are several refrigerators available for residents' use. Snacks and sandwiches are available at all times at no extra cost. There are community computers with internet access and wifi throughout. There is also a guest room for residents' visitors. Some of their future plans include naming the units, updating lighting in the older portion of the building, adding medication storage to the existing rooms, and adding a resident store.