



Independent Living • Personal Care  
Rehabilitation • Skilled Nursing • Memory Care

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**Contact:** Rachel Carver, 215.968.3878

**Email:** rcarver@pickeringmanor.org

## **Pickering Manor Memory Care Opens Its Home!**

Pickering Manor Memory Care opens its doors to their first residents! On September 12<sup>th</sup> we welcomed our very first Memory Care resident, Elizabeth Kaczur, and on October 3<sup>rd</sup> we were honored to have her cut the ribbon at our grand opening ceremony. Opening Memory Care to the community is a monumental moment for Pickering as this is the first time in its history that a brand-new residency option will be operating within the Pickering Manor Home since its birth in 1963.

Pickering Manor has grown significantly in the past 59 years from a small nursing home of 47 residents to a newly expanded and renovated Life Plan Community offering the full continuum of care, and most recently adding a 21-bed Memory Care neighborhood.

Administrator Meri Luarasi will lead Pickering Manor's Memory Care. Luarasi has 25 years of experience in Gerontology. She is a Certified Dementia Practitioner and Educator and holds the title Certified Dementia Care Manager. Additionally, Ms. Luarasi is Chair/Founder of Dementia Friendly Newtown, Volunteer with Alzheimer's Association, and screener for Alzheimer's Foundation of America.

"My heart is to serve those that have dementia by providing a home graced with agape love, dignity, compassion, respect, and honor for who they are as a human being despite the dementia diagnosis. We focus on the joy of living, quality care by trained staff, sense of normalcy and consistency," says Luarasi.

"Live the life you love and love the life you live" is at the heart of Pickering's Memory Care philosophy. When creating Memory Care the focus was on person centered goals:

1. Creating community engagement through the changes to the physical environment.
2. Incorporating choice for services, and collaboration with care partners to achieve success.
3. Honoring each person's story and weaving their narrative into approaches to care.

When developing our Memory Care neighborhood, it was vital that Pickering Manor residents were involved every step of the way – we believe home is not the space it is the feeling you get when in that space. An example of this can be seen throughout the hallways in Memory Care – Pickering Manor residents Elizabeth Kaczur and SaraJane Dallas exercised their interests, as former designers, and assisted in choosing the paint colors for the entire neighborhood based on the psychology of color and how the colors made them feel. Additionally, Ms. Kaczur assisted Memory Care Activities Coordinator Emma Lambert by sorting through fabric designs together to find ‘just the right one’ for Emma to create clothing protectors for Memory Care residents. From ironing to stitching – these will truly be homemade with a whole lot of heart! This is an example of the true passion Pickering has for caring for their residents.

At Pickering Manor we aim to serve others with the help of innovative compassion and providing individualized attention to everyone’s needs. Various high tech and low-tech solutions are utilized in our memory care home – below are just a few key features of our new Memory Care neighborhood.

**Sky Window:** Brings the dynamic beauty of nature – image, motion, and sound – to our interior. Having the window mimic the time of day and weather will aid in the regulation of our resident’s circadian rhythm.

**True Doors® Decals:** Door decals that simulate types of doors this generation had for their homes helps with the adjustment and orientation. ‘Home’ is a story of who we are and a collection of things we love. By having that familiar front door to go through, you no longer seek to go ‘home.’ The doors we open and close each day define our story.

**Dementia Phones and Clocks:** Dementia friendly phones hold photos of family and caregivers, and the buttons can be programmed to call the person whose picture is placed there – making it easier for residents to keep in touch with their loved ones. Dementia friendly clocks can help those impacted keep track of dates and times and help ease confusion.

**Music & Memory Program:** Pickering Manor is a Music & Memory Certified Care Facility. Music & Memory is a program that taps into each person’s deep-rooted love of music. It’s about bringing joy to the lives of people suffering from Alzheimer’s disease, other forms of dementia, and a wide range of cognitive and physical impairments.

**Secured Outdoor Memory Garden with Walking Path:** Our memory care neighborhood includes a secured looping walking path surrounded by beautiful gardens to allow the residents the freedom to enjoy the outdoors.

We believe with these solutions, along with others, will allow us the ability to reduce the time it takes to acclimate our residents to their new home.

Pickering Manor CEO Michelle Knobloch comments, “I want to thank all of those in our community who helped this dream become a reality, we could not have done it without your love and generous support. She adds, “I am so proud of our Memory Care neighborhood, and I am excited for what lies ahead, Meri is a true talent, caring for people living with dementia is not only her career but it is her passion, and you can feel it.”

**We Are Hiring! Do you have a heart for caring for dementia?** If so, bring your heart to Pickering Manor and we will provide you with the opportunities and skills to grow with us!

Visit and learn more about what our Memory Care Neighborhood has to offer. Should you have interest in more information regarding employment opportunities, tours or donations please contact Pickering Manor at 215-486-3468 or by visiting [www.pickeringmanor.org](http://www.pickeringmanor.org).

Pickering Manor is a 5-star community-owned and operated CCRC (continuing care retirement community) in Pennsylvania serving the community of Bucks County since its opening in 1963, formed by the generosity of Henry Russell Pickering. In 2020, Pickering Manor opened its largest expansion to date, a 26,000-square-foot facility which accommodates 15 new short-term residents, a state-of-the-art rehab unit, 15 personal care private rooms, and a renovated 32-bed skilled unit. Pickering recently added a certified 21-bed Memory Care Unit. Visit [www.pickeringmanor.org](http://www.pickeringmanor.org) for more information.



Photo: Resident Elizabeth Kaczur does the honors of cutting the grand opening ribbon for Pickering Manor's new Memory Care.



Photo: Pickering Manor CEO Michelle Knobloch and Memory Care Administrator Meri Luarasi take a moment to celebrate this monumental moment with a photo.



Emma Lambert (Activities) and Elizabeth Kaczur (Resident) sort through fabrics together to find the perfect clothing protector design for Pickering Manor's new Memory Care Neighborhood.