



SANTA MARIA WISDOM CENTER

LIFE STEPS FOUNDATION, INC.

Santa Maria Wisdom Center Breaks Ground on New Facility

April 14, 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SANTA MARIA, CA - The Life Steps Foundation began a new chapter in its history with a formal groundbreaking ceremony for the new Santa Maria Wisdom Center located at 2255 S. Depot Street. The Santa Maria Wisdom Center provides comprehensive adult day health care services to the medically frail elderly, adults living with disabilities and those with a diagnosis of dementia and/or Alzheimer's disease.

Despite the wind and rain, supporters of the Santa Maria Wisdom Center turned out to witness this momentous day. "We are very excited that construction has begun," exclaimed Linda Gadbois, Program Director for the Santa Maria Wisdom Center, who sincerely thanked all those in attendance for their faithful support. "As the only licensed Community Based Adult Services program in two counties, we currently have a waiting list of more than 30 people. We will soon be able to meet this need and expand our dedicated Alzheimer's program."

The new 9,500 square foot Center will have a full service kitchen, 6,000 sq.ft. day/activity room, physical therapy room, support offices and treatment rooms. As an added amenity, a secure outdoor patio/recreational area has been designed for participants that offers a total of 1,000 sq.ft. with 500 sq. ft. of it covered for use in inclement weather.

"For more than 15 years, the Santa Maria Wisdom Center has served a growing and vital need in our community; one that the City has identified as a top priority for the last two consecutive years" said Mayor Alice Patino. "The new Center will allow the Life Steps Foundation to nearly double the number of participants served. We're fortunate to have this resource at home here in Santa Maria."

Virginia Franco, CEO of Life Steps, stated, "We are very appreciative of the City of Santa Maria for the consistent support for our Santa Maria Wisdom Center programs since inception, over 15 years ago, when we operated out of space made available to us by the Department of Parks and Recreation. Just last year the City approved our application and awarded us nearly \$200,000 in the form of a Community Block Development Grant that will assist with the construction of the new Center."

"We understand the urgent need for Life Steps to occupy the new Center as soon as possible," explained architect Vivek Harris. "The design of the new Center employs a Pre Engineered Metal Building system that reduces cost, utilizes recycled materials and expedites the construction schedule."

The architect for the project is Vivek Harris, Inc. The construction company is Dan Blough Construction, Inc.



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About the SMWC

The Santa Maria Wisdom Center (SMWC), operated by Life Steps Foundation, is the only licensed Community Based Adult Services program within Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties. The mission of the SMWC is to prevent, delay and reduce the premature institutionalization of low income, frail elderly and adults with disabilities allowing them to remain at home long as possible. The SMWC provides comprehensive adult day health care services including door-to-door transportation to and from the Center, on-site nursing care and medication management, physical and occupational therapy and rehabilitation, stimulating social and recreational activities, breakfast and a hot noon meal. In 2015, the SMWC launched a dedicated Alzheimer's program that will be expanded at the new Center.

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