



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Wartburg's New Memory Care Center Opens in Mount Vernon

Mount Vernon, NY – May 2, 2024 – Wartburg is excited to announce The Berkemeier Center, a 50,500 square-foot facility dedicated to Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementia care is now open and accepting patients.

The new Memory Care Center features 64 state-of-the-art residences, including 32 private and 32 companion suites, focused on Alzheimer's and dementia care. Wartburg's leadership, design team, business and civic leaders, and the media will attend the ribbon cutting, followed by facility tours. Residences at The Living Center are designed like small households, creating an intimate and comfortable feel. Key features like short walking distances and oversized windows enhance the healing environment, with each household having its living, dining, and kitchen spaces.

The first-floor lobby and gallery showcase Wartburg's history, featuring artifacts from the 158 year history. Additionally, the first level includes event spaces, a music therapy room, and administrative offices. A healing garden in the rear yard provides outdoor seating and community space. The Living Center benefits from nearby nursing and rehabilitation centers on campus. It is LEED-certified, reflecting its energy efficiency and health-conscious design.

The Living Center is named in honor of Wartburg's second President, Reverend Dr. Gottlieb C. Berkemeier, who served for thirty-six years and elevated The Wartburg Orphans' Farm School to a leading institution.

The community came out in force for the Grand Opening on April 30, 2024.

"This building will serve the needs some of this communities most frail and compromised, those suffering from Alzheimer's Disease and related Dementia. The project has been long in development and execution and I want to extend my gratitude to David, the Board, the Executive staff, and most especially the frontline caregivers who dedicate themselves tirelessly every day." Said Robert Ranieri, Chairman of Wartburg Home Board

"Like many of you, I've had personal experiences with family members and Alzheimer's disease so the project is personal to me. The Berkemeier Living Center represents the first step of Wartburg's Vision 2030 Master Plan, and this Living Center will establish a new benchmark for memory care services in lower Westchester and Mount Vernon. My congratulations to David, to the design and development team and to my colleagues on the board of directors." Said Dr. Nicholas Cicchetti, Chairman of Wartburg Foundation

The Institute for Music and Neurologic Function is part of Wartburg, and its Executive Director Dr. Concetta Tomaino will apply music-based therapies with the goal to restore, maintain, and

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enhance physical, emotional, and neurological functioning in individuals affected by conditions such as stroke, trauma, dementia, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's, and other disorders.

Dr. Tomaino's book "Music Has Power in Senior Wellness and Healthcare" was published by Jessica Kingsley Publishers in 2023 is a best practice manual for the application of music therapy in all areas of healthcare.

At the Grand Opening ceremonies, Dr. David Gentner, Wartburg's President & CEO said, "There are many people who need to be recognized this morning but I want to thank our caregiving staff, who day in and day out live the values of this organization, caring for those who are the most frail and compromised in this community. I also want to recognize the Board of directors, who supported this effort through concept, entitlement approval, design, financing, and construction. These projects are not easy, and I can't conceive of this moment without their support."

About Wartburg

Wartburg, located in Westchester County, NY, offers integrated, comprehensive senior residential and healthcare services. Unlike conventional retirement communities, Wartburg provides a wide range of services to both residents living on their beautiful 34-acre campus and people in their own homes. From independent, assisted living, and award-winning nursing home care to inpatient/outpatient rehabilitation, home care, and adult day care services, their continuing care approach has earned them a trusted reputation. Wartburg also provides caregiver support at every stage with various options to find the level of care that considers the whole family. Wartburg was named one of the "Best Nursing Homes in New York State" by *U.S. News & World Report* in 2023, for the 12th consecutive year.

Website: www.wartburg.org

Facebook: facebook.com/thewartburg

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