

## Wesley Enhanced living hosts a groundbreaking celebration

Last Wednesday, Wesley Enhanced Living (WEL) at Evangelical Manor hosted a groundbreaking ceremony to celebrate renovations to the Philadelphia retirement community, which is located in the Northeast section of the city. This project reflects a \$23 million community-wide upgrade and modernization to ensure that residents have access to a comprehensive continuum of quality retirement living options.

The groundbreaking coincided with the kick off of the public phase of Wesley Enhanced Living's \$3.1 million Manor Capital Campaign. This is the first official fundraising capital campaign undertaken by Wesley Enhanced Living in its 120 year history. To date, Wesley Enhanced Living Foundation has raised \$2.1 million for the Capital Campaign in leadership gifts and will now focus on raising an additional \$1 million over the next 10-20 months from the broader community to fulfill the campaign's goal and complete the extensive transformation.

Elected officials, local business leaders, Wesley Enhanced Living at Evangelical Manor residents, employees and their families came together for a celebratory wall breaking ceremony at the retirement community. Attendees will don hardhats and knock down the wall using sledgehammers. Wesley Enhanced Living President and CEO Jeff Petty, Pennsylvania Senator Mike Stack, Representative John Perzel and Al Taubenberger, president of the Greater Northeast Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, were all in attendance.

The event also featured a resident-led, "Past to the Future" tour during which participants viewed an exhibit that includes past photographs and artifacts since Wesley Enhanced Living at Evangelical Manor opened its doors 78 years ago. The tour will also take a look into the future that includes a video exhibit along with architectural renderings of what the community will look like when the construction is completed in 2010.

The full renovation of Wesley Enhanced Living at Evangelical Manor, which will encompass more than 155,000 square feet, is being managed by J.J. DeLuca Company, Inc. of Springfield, PA.

The renovations, which are expected to be completed in early 2010, will include new one and two bedroom apartments, a new dining area and lounge, a new fitness center, a new bistro, enhanced outdoor living spaces, and improvements to the physical plant that promote health and well-being.

"Since the 1930's Wesley Enhanced Living has established deep roots in the Northeast Philadelphia community by contributing to area greening efforts, creating jobs and filling the community's need for affordable, quality retirement living.

Indeed, the transformation of Evangelical Manor—which will markedly enrich and expand upon the care and services we deliver—is a tangible demonstration of our enduring commitment to meaningfully contribute to the health and well-being of area seniors," remarked Jeff Petty, President and CEO, Wesley Enhanced Living.

