



Gateway Center's New Intermediate Care Facility Increases Quality of Life For Adults With Developmental Disabilities

Wald, Ruhnke & Dost Architects and Gateway Center Team on Monterey County's First Facility To Offer Individual Life Skills and Health Service Plans

Monterey, CA – April 25, 2011 – Gateway Center's life-enhancing Intermediate Care Facility (ICF) opens this week in Pacific Grove, representing an advanced and compassionate step forward in the care and treatment of adults with developmental disabilities. This unique facility, a first for Monterey County, is specifically designed to increase or maintain clients' abilities in everyday life skills, while providing medical treatment that is tailored to accommodate each client's individual needs.

"The Intermediate Care Facility for the physically and developmentally disabled is an addition to Gateway Center's programs. This new environment will allow individuals to participate in all aspects of daily living through individually developed physical treatment and training plans that increase their abilities in life skills or help them maintain their current standard of living," said Stephanie Lyon, Executive Director, Gateway Center.

Activities that most people take for granted – preparing meals, personal care and hygiene, participation in arts and crafts projects, socialization – are taught and reinforced so that Gateway Center's clients are able to experience the highest quality of life possible. Some clients are ambulatory, some navigate in wheelchairs, but all are given the same degree of customized care through the new services offered at the ICF. For more information or to provide funding support, visit www.gatewaycenter.org.

Gateway Center teamed with Wald, Ruhnke & Dost Architects to bring this facility to life. "Our firm has been working with Gateway Center for more than 45 years, and originally designed the building that Gateway occupies as a psychiatric hospital. We have now collaborated closely with Gateway Center to modify the building's design into a care facility that promotes increased participation in daily life activities, as well as provides medical treatment designed to accommodate special needs," said Henry Ruhnke, principal, Wald, Ruhnke & Dost Architects.

The medical treatment and therapy center within the ICF enables medical staff to treat as well as accommodate adults with moderate to severe physical as well as developmental disabilities. A facility that serves individuals with disabilities must be meticulously designed according to state and federal Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility requirements, and the ICF's design meets those compliance requirements, ensuring the best possible experience for Gateway Center's clients.

Gateway Center promotes a philosophy that is person-centered, and assists individuals by utilizing resources that help them lead productive and fulfilling lives. The ICF staff believes that each individual must be welcomed, celebrated and listened to, and also challenged and supported in every environment to develop his or her talents. Each individual's contributions are facilitated and supported through encouragement and self-awareness.

About Gateway Center

Gateway Center of Monterey County, Inc. (Gateway Center) is a private, not-for-profit community-based organization which provides a wide range of services, including residential care, developmental training, and activity programs, for adults aged 18 and over with developmental disabilities. For 56 years, Gateway Center's mission has been to create a caring and stimulating environment where adults with developmental disabilities can live in our community, in surroundings compatible with their ability to live and work at the highest level possible. For more information, visit www.gatewaycenter.org.

About WR&D Architects

Wald, Ruhnke & Dost Architects, LLP is a full-service architecture firm with an extensive portfolio of commercial, agricultural, healthcare, education, public works, residential, construction management and interior design projects developed over 48 years. As a leader in green construction and sustainable practices, WR&D creates buildings that are designed to enhance productivity and well-being while making positive impacts on the larger community. For more information, visit www.wrdarch.com.

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