



SERVING SENIORS

McGregor provides a wide spectrum of care and services. BY JOANNE CAHILL

THE SCENARIO IS BECOMING ALL TOO FAMILIAR. Mom or dad are not able to live safely in their home anymore. Their financial resources are running thin. Adult children are juggling the demands of their own lives while trying to help. It's often a stressful endeavor that most people do not expect and are not prepared to manage.

The U.S. Census projects that by 2034, there will be more individuals in the U.S. who are 65 or older than there will be children under 18. Nearly 30% of Cuyahoga County's total population will be over 60 by 2030.

"It can be hard for families to know where to begin," says Lee Ann O'Brien, chief marketing officer at the McGregor Foundation. "We help them take those initial steps."

A unique nonprofit senior care organization nestled on a wooded 45-acre campus in East Cleveland, McGregor provides a wide spectrum of services for

seniors. Thanks to an endowment dating back to 1877 established by Cleveland capitalist and philanthropist Amasa Stone and his wife, Julia, McGregor operates unencumbered by the demands of fundraising typically required for nonprofit survival.

McGregor provides services, and its sister organization, McGregor Foundation, funds an array of senior-focused programs in the community.

McGregor's mission is to improve the experience of aging, and it does it in a variety of ways — primarily affordable housing and home-based care. It operates a spectrum of brick-and-mortar senior living options, from independent and assisted living to nursing care, rehabilitation and hospice.

The park-like campus accommodates low-income residents, as well as those who are able to pay privately. In addition to 26 existing independent living apartments, plans are underway to break ground on 54 new construction

apartments. The campus, with its Tudor-style architecture, looks nothing like an institution.

"We reside in the Forest Hill and Rockefeller neighborhoods in East Cleveland, so we try to make our architecture fit into the community," says Ann Conn, McGregor's president and CEO. "We want people to feel comfortable and feel at home."

Among its 90 assisted living facilities, 50 are low income and the rest are private pay.

"When you look around the grounds, there is no distinction between affordable and private pay housing," she says. "Everyone deserves a beautiful home and quality care."

But, much of McGregor's work is done beyond the grounds of its campus. Its Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly — commonly known as PACE — is a nursing home alternative that enables older adults to receive care while living at home.