



*Franciscan Woods*  
An Assisted Living Community of St. Francis 



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**Media Opportunity**

July 12, 2007  
Ribbon Cutting: 4 p.m.  
Open House: 4 – 7 p.m.  
VistaCare Center at Franciscan Woods  
2425 Williams Road  
Columbus, GA 31909

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**VistaCare Center at Franciscan Woods Slated to Open Mid July**  
***Preview Open House and Ribbon-Cutting Event is July 12, 4-7 p.m.***

**(Columbus, Ga. – June 27, 2007)** – The VistaCare Center at Franciscan Woods, slated to open in mid-July, will hold a ribbon cutting at 4 p.m. and an open house from 4 – 7 p.m. on Thursday, July 12. The 12-bed inpatient hospice unit will have a dedicated wing on the second floor of Franciscan Woods, an assisted living community, located at 2425 Williams Road in Columbus.

According to Patrick Watson, Executive Director of Franciscan Woods, the relationship between VistaCare and Franciscan Woods will provide an extension of the services available to residents of the Franciscan Woods community, as well as a way to better serve the needs of families throughout the region.

Kevin S. Henning, MD, Medical Director for the VistaCare Center at Franciscan Woods and Area Medical Director for VistaCare, agreed. “When you look at our community, it’s clear that we need additional palliative care resources to better serve the acute needs of our patients,” he said.

Franciscan Woods will provide ancillary services, such as patient dietary and housekeeping, allowing VistaCare to focus on the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of the patient and family. The Franciscan Woods campus also is ideally located in close proximity to major hospitals in Columbus, which will facilitate patient access to the inpatient unit and easily accommodate visits by family members.

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“This collaboration makes good clinical sense,” said Henning. “When I consider the needs of our community and the ways in which we can make a real difference in the lives we touch, I am confident that this is the right thing to do.”

VistaCare is one of the leading hospice providers in Georgia, with nine program locations, including Columbus. VistaCare’s Phenix City, Ala., program will also use the VistaCare Center at Franciscan Woods for their patients. VistaCare has another inpatient unit, The VistaCare Center at Wesley Woods, located on the Emory Healthcare campus in Atlanta. VistaCare also operates programs in 13 other states.

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### ***About VistaCare***

Founded in 1995, VistaCare has built a national reputation for excellence and compassion in end-of-life care. VistaCare is one of the country’s leading hospice providers, caring for thousands of patients and families each day throughout programs in 14 states, ***including nine locations throughout Georgia***. VistaCare believes in providing care wherever a patient calls home – whether it’s a personal residence, nursing home, assisted living community, hospital, or other residence of choice – and VistaCare prides itself on a philosophy of care that provides exceptional end-of-life care to all eligible patients. For more information, visit [www.VistaCare.com](http://www.VistaCare.com).

### ***About Franciscan Woods***

Franciscan Woods is a premier personal care home that offers high quality, compassionate care in a home-like setting. It sits on 100 acres of land on Williams Road in Columbus. The 60-unit personal care facility caters to the needs of residents by assisting them with activities of family living, such as eating, bathing, dressing and ambulating. With an unmatched array of amenities, including a 24-hour staff of caring professionals, dining, and a beautiful and stimulating environment, you can rest assured that those most dear to your heart are receiving the care they need and the independence they deserve. Caring for our residents extends beyond providing help with life's daily activities. Our concern is for the whole person - body, mind and spirit. [www.wecareforlife.com](http://www.wecareforlife.com)