Smaller, more comfortable and closer to home

When it comes to memory care, **Family Partners Home** designs its assisted living homes with one idea in mind – people with dementia do best in a small homelike environment.



The result is an intimate, comfortable environment for family members with dementia.

"When you are forgetful, a small environment is better," said Barth Holohan, the company's president. "And it's best to have the environment you're used to, a home with a kitchen, living room and dining room, where people are hanging out in the living areas and only

going to the bedroom at night or when they are sick."

Large retirement communities often overwhelm people with dementia, Holohan said. The idea is to keep the number of people small and give them more attention. Resident to staff ratios average one to four, or one to five. The industry average is one to 15, Holohan said.

"Even if you don't consider the environment, just the ratio itself, it is so much better," he said. "The nice thing about a small home is that it is easier to navigate and there are more people with eyes and ears on your needs. And you can add some meaning to someone's life. That's what really is accomplished by a smaller environment."

The homes, located in Manchester, also have a house doctor, nurse and specialists who regularly visit, along with an activities director and home-style meals.

Families have been happy with the choice, he said.

"We've heard story after story about what a transformation it has been in their lives,"



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