A STORY OF INNOVATION:
THE ALEXIAN VILLAGE HEALTH CENTER, MILWAUKEE

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and
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Institute on Aging and Environment
Center for Architecture and Urban Planning Research
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Abstract
This monograph is the result of a study at the Alexian Village of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, a Continuing Care Retirement Community, which shows how the quality of its Health Center residents life was improved through manipulation of the physical environment. This monograph set out to achieve four major goals: i) Communicate that an institutional setting for older persons is the result of interaction of the three dimension of the organization, the individuals and the setting; ii) Demonstrate the role of the physical environment as a therapeutic tool; iii) Demonstrate the importance of the preparatory process in creating a facility for older persons; iv) Demonstrate the rewards of ongoing analysis and evaluation. It is hoped that this story of innovation center will encourage others to consider all the factors and be prepared to make a commitment to provide a true therapeutic environment for the elderly.

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