Residences at Creekside
Lakewood, Colo., Metro West Housing Solutions

Seniors represent the fastest growing demographic in both Jefferson County, Colorado, and the Denver metropolitan area. According to the Jefferson County Department of Human Services, the senior population is poised to double between 2005 and 2020, with the number of people aged 60 and older increasing by 18 percent between 2012 and 2017 alone.

To meet the needs of today’s Lakewood seniors while considering the requirements of tomorrow’s aging population, Residences at Creekside delivers services through a combination of in-house programming and community partnerships, focusing on the three key areas of health and wellness, continuing education, and learning and social interaction.

**A Community of Partners**

Two on-site services coordinators – one employed by Metro West Housing Solutions (MWHS) and one from the City of Lakewood – work closely together to help seniors learn how to acquire health services, enroll in continuing education courses and attend cultural activities. MWHS also partners with the city to offer Lakewood Rides, an affordable transit service for seniors and the disabled.
An accessible community garden promotes exercise and healthy eating, and is supported and maintained with volunteers from the Boy Scouts of America and Denver Urban Gardens, who provide labor, technical expertise and materials. Through a partnership with Cooking Matters, seniors learn how to cook healthy meals, using the fruits, vegetables and herbs from the garden.

Long-standing partnerships with local education institutions bring intergenerational programming to Creekside. A high school choir provides holiday concerts every year. The adjacent Rocky Mountain College of Art and Design uses Creekside as a learning laboratory and art gallery. University of Colorado engineering and design students facilitate sustainability-related surveys, evaluate building performance and work with residents to help limit energy and water usage and enhance thermal comfort.

To nurture individual and community spirit, MWHS carefully designed Creekside to encourage social interaction and provide an umbrella of amenities and services to inspire relationship building. The tenant-elected Residents Council organizes social programming including birthday potlucks, holiday events, movie clubs and exercise activities. A full guest suite for visiting family and friends is available free-of-charge, and a policy allows grandchildren to stay with grandparent residents for up to two weeks for free.

**A Greener, More Vibrant Community**

Creekside serves as a catalytic, visionary development that has spurred neighborhood revitalization in an area that had been in decline for nearly 50 years. The facility exemplifies the best in unique, modern architectural style and in cost-effective sustainable design that provides a healthy living environment.

An infill project on a vacant and underutilized site, Creekside’s location avoided the need for infrastructure and service expansion, preventing the loss of wildlife habitat and open space. The building was strategically oriented southward to take advantage of passive solar heat gain and to allow for solar photovoltaic power. Its 63,220-watt photovoltaic solar collecting system is one of the largest residential solar arrays in Colorado. A heat-recovery system, efficient boilers and the use of recycled building materials further reduce Creekside’s carbon footprint.

**Metro West Housing Solutions**

Metro West Housing Solutions has nearly 40 years of housing management experience and developed its first affordable housing community 10 years ago. MWHS is known as an efficient, transparent, and innovative housing authority that effectively provides housing and human services to a wide range of clients. MWHS’s diverse portfolio includes age-restricted and family properties spanning two cities from 15 unit complexes to communities with more than 130 units.