

Handsel Art
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For Immediate Release
Contact: J.R. Few at
(870) 427-1365 or email
handselart@marioncounty.com

Good Samaritan Now Tobacco Free.

With little fanfare, but much planning, Good Samaritan Society - Mountain Home became a tobacco free campus December 1st. Good Samaritan is part of the Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society, the nation's largest not-for-profit, long-term care organization. In operation since 1979, Good Samaritan Society - Mountain Home is a Christian community of care for older persons, meeting their needs for Christian fellowship, security, and comfort.

“Going tobacco free is consistent with providing a healthy, caring environment,” says Good Samaritan Chaplain and Marketing Director Jerry Strobel. “We also know that our staff will be healthier and more productive.”

In preparation, Good Samaritan has provided smoking employees with every opportunity to quit, including support for medications and counseling opportunities. The most effective cessation aid is a tobacco free workplace according Tobacco Free Marion County consultant Dr. James Wise. “Employers need to realize that providing people with an opportunity to smoke is not doing a favor for anyone. A tobacco free campus is first line support for those overcoming a nicotine addiction.”

Language in Arkansas' Clean Indoor Air Act of 2006 unintentionally exempted nursing homes from clean indoor air requirements. A bill sponsored by Senator Tracy Steele in 2007 to clarify that the exemption could only apply to residents died in committee.

TFMC coordinator Julie Andersen adds, “Smokers often do not realize that the odors remain on their clothes as aromatic hydrocarbons. They can easily trigger respiratory distress for those with breathing difficulties. There is no place for tobacco on any facility concerned with health or wellbeing.”

All hospital campuses in Arkansas have been tobacco free since 2005.

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