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Expressions, INC.

Memory Care Home

Expressions Specialized Memory Care Home

By Sydney Jordt
Advertising Writer

Expressions Specialized Memory Care Home is the beautiful centerpiece of 12 scenic acres resting just outside of Columbia Falls.

Designed and built by R Porch Construction, the newly completed Expressions is a warm, welcoming place dedicated to the care and comfort of residents living with Alzheimer's disease or dementia. Once the site of a Benedictine monastery (with a very similar purpose), Expressions is a blend of new construction and renovation.

From the project's inception Roger Porch, owner of R Porch Construction, worked closely with husband and wife team Pat Zinke and Ed Blackwell, the founders and owners of Expressions.

"We're a design-build company; many contractors bid on the design

after its completion, but we're there through the whole process," says Roger. "We helped Pat and Ed look at different options and locations, providing them with cost-analysis and conceptual models along the way. When they decided on this site, we sat down and developed a site plan for the entire project. We also helped put together a finance package with Mountain West Bank — we really worked hard to understand Pat and Ed's needs and requirements for Expressions."

R Porch Construction used computer modeling techniques to create a 3D rendering of the Expressions building. Roger feels that modeling is an excellent communication tool, one that can be used throughout the entire building process.

Models allow the client to do a virtual walk through of the building, as well as pre-construction reviews with sub-trades and crews.

"When we got started on Expressions I sketched out my thoughts for the building's design and gave a rough draft to Roger," says Ed Blackwell. "[R Porch] did all of the finite work to make sure the dimensions were correct, and we worked together to make sure all of the components could be put together properly ... it was such an incredible help to have their advice and direction from the beginning."

The Expressions Specialized Memory Care Home took around a year to complete, with a little under 10 months spent on actual construction. Once designs were complete the project progressed smoothly and, says Ed, "R Porch did a wonderful job — absolutely amazing work."

As with every project, contractors must be prepared to jump a few construction hurdles, such as inclement weather or a complex installation. Expressions was no exception.

"One of the biggest challenges we had to face was developing a public water and sewer system for the site," says Roger.

Putting in such a system involved an arduous permitting process, but with diligence and engineering support the water and sewer hurdle was quickly cleared.

In addition to the engineers, Roger found support in the expertise of his subcontractors and in the members of his talented R Porch team.

"I'd really like to mention our superintendent, Adam Becker. He did a great job of managing this project," says Roger, who continues on to say that "our crew did a great job as well. They are all conscientious and hard-working — very quality-driven."

A 26-bed facility, Expressions was designed solely with the comfort of its residents in mind.

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"My wife and I really wanted this to be a home for our residents; all of the external and internal components had to represent a warm, home-like feel," explains Ed.

"Roger and his crew were able to understand and cater to all of our needs. They stayed well within the plan and time frame, and the workmanship is simply excellent."

Expressions is a cozy memory care home with heart, and it's also a dream realized for Pat.

"Expressions is Pat's ministry and passion, and it was wonderful to work with people whose primary focus was on the purpose of the building: caring for the elderly," says Roger.

"It was a pleasure to help put their dream together."



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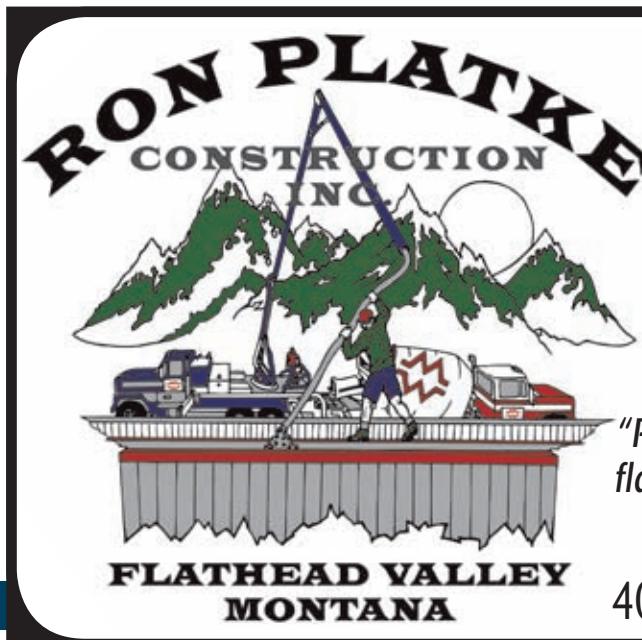
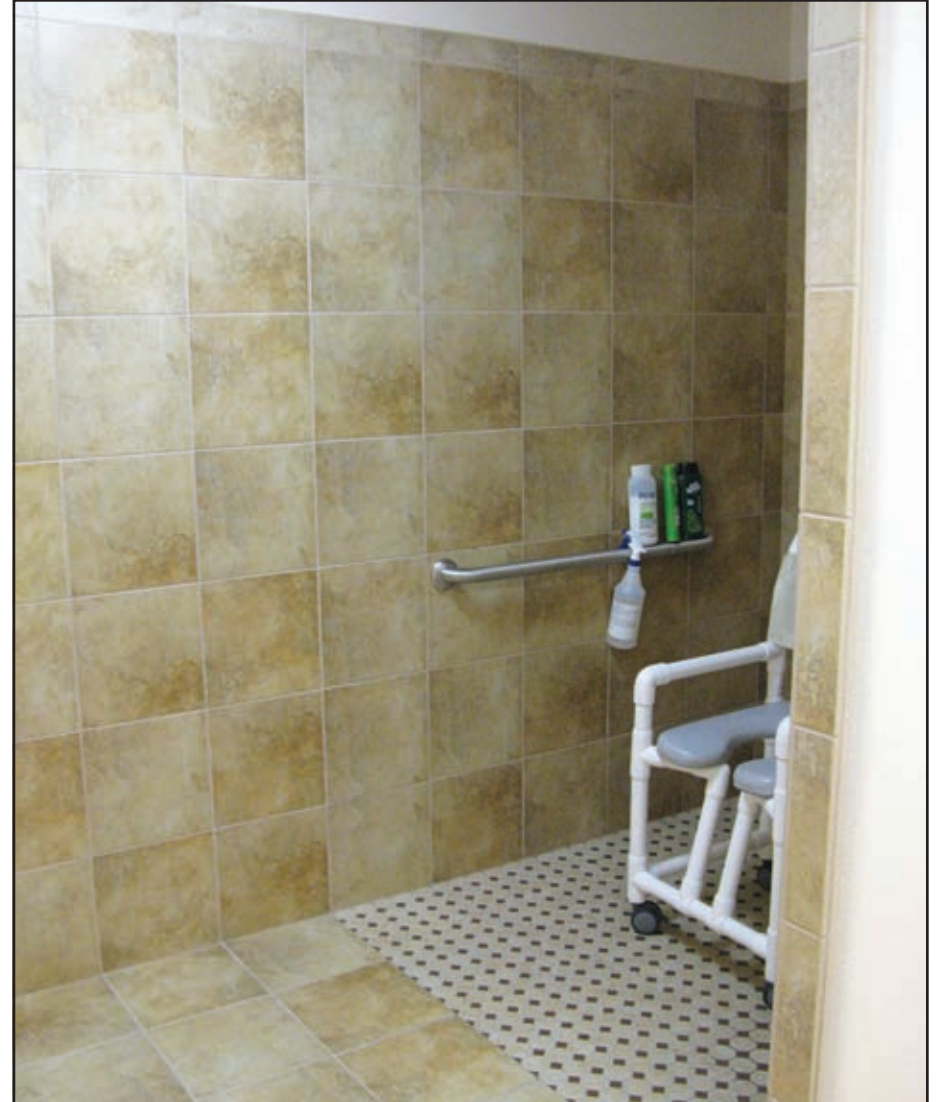
Ed and Pat

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