

KATHERINE SMITH CENTER FOR SPECIAL NEEDS

During the 2009 International Conference held in Chicago, Illinois, Grand Chancellor Barbara McPherson requested that each Chapter donate an amount equal to six dollars and fifty cents per member over the next two years to Moose Charities for the Katherine Smith Center for Special Needs. The new Katherine Smith Center will provide specialized services to our Moosehaven residents suffering from age-related dementia illness, primarily Alzheimer's Disease.

Just 30 short years ago, the Women of the Moose collected over two hundred fifty thousand dollars for the Katherine Smith Memorial Residence Hall. That residence hall was to be renovated however, the toils of the Florida weather and insects made it virtually cost prohibitive. The building has since been demolished to make way for the new Brandon Place homes.

The design of the new Katherine Smith Center encourages residents to spend their days in stimulating activities designed to encourage memory and independence. Included in the design are secure outdoor spaces, an activities room, television room, dining area with views to the interior courtyard, and a kitchen that can be used for meals as well as food related activities.

This project is in essence two fold. While the main purpose is to provide a secure and stimulating environment for 16 residents who suffer from the debilitating effects of dementia and Alzheimer's, this beautiful facility it will open up 24 single rooms in Peeler One Assisted Living.

Each Chapter meeting their assigned donation request will be sent a Certificate of Appreciation as well as have their name engraved on the donor plaque to be placed in the front entryway of the Katherine Smith Center.

Our First Director General James J. Davis once said "Our intention is to organize the residents so that they might help each other and help themselves, and provide from their own energy the major part of the cost of their keep."

Over the past year, our Chapters have been very generous with their donations to ensure that this project, which is fully funded by the Women of the Moose, is completed. We know that each and every Chapter will do their part to support this endeavor. Thank you for making this dream a reality.