



Fellowship Square

Residents of Fellowship Square's Senior Housing Communities in Reston & Woodbridge Get First Shot of COVID-19 Vaccinations

With its low-income, older adult residents worried about long waits in the cold, senior housing nonprofit Fellowship Square brings COVID-19 vaccinations to each resident's door via a mobile health collaboration with local pharmacies.

Jan. 18, 2021 — The 700+ seniors living in Fellowship Square's three affordable housing communities in Reston and Woodbridge will start to receive the COVID-19 vaccine as the state opens phase 1B of vaccinations. The first dose was provided today to residents at Lake Anne Fellowship House.

Fellowship Square provides affordable housing to qualifying older adults who live on extremely limited fixed incomes. The senior housing nonprofit is now offering voluntary COVID-19 vaccines onsite to residents at its Lake Anne Fellowship House (Reston), Hunters Woods Fellowship House (Reston) and Lake Ridge Fellowship House (Woodbridge) through partnerships with mobile health units of local CVS and Walgreens. With an average resident age of 78, Fellowship Square residents are in the high-risk category for COVID. Most residents live on Social Security or Supplemental Security Income alone, with an average annual income of \$10,000/year and a tenuous safety net. Mobile health teams will go door to door in each building, enabling residents to wait in their homes for their vaccination.

"We are so happy and appreciate this so much," said Jin Liu, 84, who lives at Lake Anne Fellowship House with his wife. "We were so worried how we were going to be able to get the vaccine. There are long waits, long lines, and it is so cold outside. Fellowship Square is taking care of us by bringing the vaccine to us."

Fellowship Square communities have minimized outbreaks and exposures with proactive safety, social distancing and sanitation measures. Fellowship Square has shared regular educational updates in the 9+ languages that are spoken across its communities; organized a "Check In and Chat" initiative where volunteers call residents to check-in on them as part of efforts to avoid social isolation; and, with the help of donations from local businesses and volunteers, delivered meals, groceries and fresh produce directly to residents' front doors.

"Thank you for coming to our home to get us the vaccine," said Vajiheh Rohani, 85, who has regularly assisted with contactless food deliveries to the front doors of her fellow residents at Lake Anne, despite her advanced age and the stroke she suffered a year ago that she is still working to fully recover from. Helping fellow residents when she could – particularly those in the Farsi-speaking community like her – has given her some purpose amid the pandemic, she said.

"Fellowship Square has always served not only as a provider of much-needed affordable housing for seniors, but as a resource for the community. We've put strict safety precautions in place to protect the health of our residents and closing the communal spaces and preventing social gatherings has been tough on residents and staff alike. While we will continue to keep safety precautions in place, we now at least can offer our residents the additional level of health, safety and security that being vaccinated against COVID-19 brings. There is a lot of excitement among our residents and staff – they have been looking forward to this day for many months," said Christy Zeitz, CEO of Fellowship Square.

Fellowship Square is a nonprofit organization that provides secure and affordable housing and an array of supportive services for a diverse population of low-income seniors. Fellowship Square operates three communities in Virginia (Lake Anne Fellowship House, Hunters Woods Fellowship House Woodbridge (Lake Ridge Fellowship House) and one community in Upper Marlboro, MD (Largo Landing Fellowship House). The vaccinations at the Virginia communities begin today and are now being arranged for Largo Landing in February. Additional vaccination clinics will be held across all locations for follow-up doses moving forward.

Contact & Photos: For more information or to be forwarded higher resolution photos, contact: Shelley Ducker, sduckercommunications@gmail.com or 202.255.0561



Suggested caption: Lake Anne Fellowship House resident Steve McAvoy, 71, receives his long-awaited dose of the COVID-19 vaccine from a mobile health team with CVS pharmacy. Residents were confused how to get the vaccine and were worried about long waits in the cold. Following many weeks of planning with health departments and local pharmacies, Fellowship Square is bringing the COVID-19 vaccines directly to the doors of the 700+ senior residents of its three affordable housing communities in Reston and Woodbridge.



Suggested caption: Geeta (71) and Prakash Chumble (75) were the very first residents at Lake Anne Fellowship House in Reston to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Over the next month, senior housing nonprofit Fellowship Square is bringing the COVID-19 vaccines to the doors of the 700+ residents in its affordable housing communities in Reston and Woodbridge.