

Scott McAlister, Maplewood Park Place

Question: Why choose a community that has a “continuum of care?”

Answer: The continuum of care concept means that the community provides all levels of health care services as the resident ages in place.

Most prospective residents come to Maplewood Park Place looking for all the bells and whistles of independent living. Maplewood offers a resort type atmosphere with fine dining, concierge services, recreational activities and no-maintenance homes. But as I tell everyone searching for senior living, you need to look into your future. If and when you need care, you will not want the stress of making another move. It just does not make sense to be a healthy 75 or 80 year old and have to move again in a few years because you now need assistance or nursing care.

So take an in-depth look at what health care services the community offers, from independent living to assisted living to skilled nursing. For instance, Maplewood is unique, because in addition to assisted living and skilled nursing, we offer concierge medical services to our independent living residents.

It is somewhat against human nature to think about the future in these terms but seniors owe it to their spouses as well as their adult children to do so.

Question: What type of senior living products should I be looking at today?

Answer: Senior living offers three basic choices: rental homes, the entry-fee model, and condominium/cooperative ownership, which I believe is the best choice with the most long-term advantages.

The majority of senior living communities offer month-to-month rentals. I always ask people to speak with their financial advisors so that they have a better understanding of where their money can best work for them.

If you have the assets, the ownership model allows you to continue to build value in your investment. Where there is home ownership, community residents self govern and create their own vision of what senior living should be. Our community of Maplewood is run by seniors for seniors. Residents have a say in all aspects of life at Maplewood. More than 20 committees and two Boards of Directors create a quality of life that makes us unique.

The fact is, whether the economy is strong or weak, people will continue to age and need senior living. I believe owning at this age if you can is a far wiser investment than renting.

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