Swope Health Begins Construction of PACE KC Adult Wellness Center

Swope Health held a ceremonial groundbreaking on June 9 to inaugurate construction of the new PACE KC Adult Wellness Center, a state-of-the-art health and wellness facility at 4141 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard in Kansas City, MO 64130.

The PACE KC Adult Wellness Center, located adjacent to the Swope Health Central campus, will serve as the central hub for Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) services. PACE is a national program offering a full range of health and wellness services for people age 55 and over to help them age gracefully in their home communities.

“This is a historic moment for Swope Health and a first for the region,” said Jeron Ravin, JD, president and CEO of Swope Health. “We are expanding our mission to provide services designed for the needs of older adults with this, our largest capital investment since the development of the Swope Health Central campus in 1995. This development signals our commitment to growing our presence to serve the community in new ways.”

The PACE KC Adult Wellness Center will be the first and only PACE program in Jackson County.

The $14 million facility is scheduled to open in 2023 with clinical spaces to provide primary care, medical services and other therapies, as well as a day center, rehabilitation gym, computer lab, library, arts and crafts room, bathing suite, low-stimulation memory care area, outdoor recreation space and meeting rooms.

“Access to quality health care is a vital component in any strong community, and the new PACE KC Adult Wellness Center is going to be a tremendous community asset,” said Stephen Westbrooks, executive director of the southern region of IFF, the independent not-for-profit managing the construction project. “Not only will the center ensure that seniors are able to receive holistic care that supports all aspects of health and well-being, but it will contribute to the overall development of the neighborhood.”

IFF, which supports nonprofits and community-based organizations with development initiatives, works closely with McCownGordon Construction, a Kansas City-based construction firm and the general contractor for the project. McCownGordon has completed more than 1,100 projects in its 20-plus years in business, including a wide range of health care projects such as hospitals, medical office buildings, imaging centers and pharmacies.

The PACE KC development is funded in part via a capital campaign, led by Wesley Fields, partner in charge of the Kansas City office of Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP. The development recently received a $1.4 million challenge grant from the Mabee Foundation, headquartered in Midland, TX, which has assisted nonprofit organizations with funding of new construction, building renovations, and the purchase of major medical equipment since 1948. The challenge grant means Swope Health must raise an additional $1,066,649 by Jan. 11, 2023, to receive the Mabee Foundation funds.

“Today we’re one step closer to offering the PACE model of an entire continuum of care to older adults,” said Heath Rath, executive director of PACE KC. “PACE KC will offer a proactive, hands-on approach to addressing whole-person care for physical, emotional and psychological needs. This model helps older adults live their best life, safely and with dignity, at home.”