

ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

South County Adult Day opens in new Laguna Woods location

By [MARIE EKBERG PADILLA](#)

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South County Adult Day Services will open the doors to its new 11,500-square-foot facility at 24260 El Toro Road on Monday.

The former Morgan Stanley building, renovated to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, offers expanded space for the growing need of services for this group of seniors, said Jim McAleer, president of Alzheimer's Orange County.

"I hope this will change lives," McAleer said about the move. "They are going to come here and feel energy, enthusiasm and light as opposed to dark corners in the old building. It will make an obvious impact."

Alzheimer's Orange County and South County Adult Day Services joined forces earlier this year to expand services. They launched a grand opening celebration Nov. 16 to show local vendors and future participants the updated building.

The facelift included removing office walls to provide a larger, open activity room and dining area for the participants, small group meeting and activity areas, a quiet room, an occupational and physical therapy gym, nurses' office, a 1,000-square-foot covered patio and a kitchen service area.

The big windows of the two-story building allow natural light to brighten the rooms.

The owners installed a fire sprinkler system, perimeter and interior closed-circuit camera system and a Wander Guard system in the building to keep participants safe. Wander Guard sets off a signal when a participant wearing a special bracelet or pendant gets too close to an exit.

"It's going to be a breath of fresh air," said Glen Goldsmith, program director of South County Adult Day Services. "People can explore the outdoor space in a safe environment."

The adult day center is open to individuals with cognitive disorders such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases as well as those who have had strokes. The new building, licensed for 80, will be the second location in the county and offer two models of service – a social model and a health model, said Carol Ann Tryon, director of family services for Alzheimer's Orange County.

The social program is offered five days a week for seniors who benefit from socialization and participation in activities.

"We want to make sure to help these people stay connected to the community," Tryon said.

The health program offers rehabilitation, medication management, physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy. The location will also offer resources and classes for caregivers and be a hub and meeting place for support groups.

Residents may be eligible for services through the county's CalOptima program or by private pay. To sign up for tours or programs, call 949-855-9444.

Contact the writer: marieek@hotmail.com

