



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TREASURE VALLEY SELECTED AS GRANT RECIPIENT

MERIDIAN, Idaho — According to the National Eye Institute, macular degeneration and various diseases affect the vision of millions of Americans. To help address this problem, the Touchmark Foundation is funding a pilot program to provide reading magnification systems to seniors.

The special equipment will be installed at Meadow Lake Village, a retirement resort in Meridian, and will be available for use by people throughout the Treasure Valley area. Meadow Lake Village will collaborate with the Idaho Commission for the Blind to design and implement the program.

The Foundation has ordered an Optelec ClearView+ Desktop Video Magnification System, which is being installed in the new Grand Lodge library. The public is invited to look at the new equipment and attend a training workshop Wednesday, March 14 at 1:30 p.m. at Touchmark, 4037 E. Clocktower Lane in Meridian. People can contact Michelle Swantek at (208) 888-2277 if they have questions about the equipment, its use or upcoming programming.

According to Touchmark Foundation Executive Director Janet Plummer, the low-vision project is a top priority of the Foundation in its ongoing efforts to improve the physical, social, intellectual and spiritual lives of seniors. “Not being able to read causes many seniors to feel

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isolated, frustrated and dependent on others,” she says, adding, “Having access to this magnification equipment truly will improve the lives of seniors with low vision.”

“We are excited to have been chosen for this valuable project,” says Touchmark at Meadow Lake Village Life Enrichment/Wellness Coordinator Michelle Swantek, who is heading the project locally. “We are looking forward to working with the Foundation and our community partners to educate the senior population about ways to improve their reading, whether for pleasure or business.”

Meadow Lake Village retirement resort is a 135-plus-acre planned development for active adults that includes the Grand Lodge, Sun Valley Lodge, future lodge buildings as well as single and duplex homes, 35 acres of retail and commercial services, a nine-hole, par 3 irons golf course, lake and walking paths.

The Touchmark Foundation is devoted to finding ways to help seniors receive support and services. This includes offering scholarships to those pursuing a career in nursing as well as working to give grants to nonprofit organizations focused on improving the physical, social, spiritual and intellectual lives of older adults.

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