

GRACE RIDGE HOLDS GROUNDBREAKING FOR FRIENDSHIP GARDEN



The final phase of a two-year fundraising effort culminated with a recent groundbreaking of Grace Ridge Retirement Community's Friendship Garden, located between the memory-care and assisted-living facilities.

"Nature elements like plants, sunshine, water, flowers and birds all help improve our sense of well-being and put us in a good mood. We wanted this area to be inviting for residents and their family members and friends to relax, visit and enjoy the outdoors," said Grace Ridge Executive Director Brenda Yost.

More than \$50,000 was raised in conjunction with the Blue Ridge HealthCare Foundation through memorials and honoraria by and for residents and friends of Grace Ridge.

The initial phase of the project began in August 2014, with the widening the walkway and the addition of a koi pond given to Grace Ridge by resident J. Conley Mitchell to honor his brother and fellow resident, Harold.

The Friendship Garden was designed by Appalachian Nature Escapes to support the mountain-lodge feel of Grace Ridge. Outcroppings will be built with harvested boulders made of Virginia fieldstone, and featured plants and flowers will include maple, conifer, azalea, camellia and hydrangea.