



FULL CIRCLE

Gally Circle will be a community that brings past Gallaudet students full circle back to the University they love and have enjoyed for so many years. Each year, as freshmen enter GU for the first time, they will not only be students of a university, they will join a family of friends and colleagues for the rest of their lives. One that will always be there for them to provide support in reaching their goals and maximizing their lives, from being a student to their professional career and now, even through their retirement years.

Gally Circle will tap into the energy, resources, and experiences of the University: One that encourages multi-generational involvement through educational programs, recreational and physical activities, intellectual stimulation and cultural opportunities provided by a university setting. It also sets the stage for a positive-aging approach based on the belief that retirement should be a time of growth, creativity and life enrichment.

Senior living communities have been seeking the “next generation” model capable of delivering a unique competitive advantage in a crowded and increasingly generic market. By accessing the resources of established universities, providers can offer a broader, more rewarding experience. Better yet, they can do so at little to no cost while tapping into a market whose brand loyalty was established up to 50 years prior, and whose supply will never end as long as the University exists. Institutions are realizing the opportunity to bring back their loyal alumni while gaining potential philanthropic benefits.

In addition, the University’s involvement should also be “inbound” to the Community; opportunities in the form of student internships, paid and volunteer work opportunities, and potential research related to senior housing environments are just a few examples. This dual programming component is crucial to making Gally Circle literally intergenerational, as opposed to focusing solely on retirees. This formalized programming will ensure integration between Community residents and University students, faculty, and staff and provide retirees assurance of receiving the active and intellectually stimulating quality of life they desire from a university retirement community.

The Development Group envisions a truly symbiotic relationship where Gallaudet students conduct fitness classes, present theatre programs, sorority members sponsor social events like fashion shows, and students are comfortable simply dropping by to play cards or have discussion groups. The residents, in turn, will offer their lifelong experience and expertise, teach a course or

be a guest speaker in classes, attend University events, provide leadership role models, offer volunteer services, and participate in research studies.

Learning is not a chore or task, or even a specified activity. Rather, it is a way of being -- an approach to life in which we pursue interests and new experiences that enrich our lives, no matter what age. And coming back to Gallaudet University, or even experiencing it for the first time, will bring their lives full circle.

