

VF SUNSHINE SERVICE

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Sunshine Service outgrows space, building planned

A new headquarters for Sunshine Service, Inc., which will more than double its present size, will be constructed by the Del E. Webb Development Co. on Santa Fe Drive just east of 103rd Avenue.

Rev. E. Duane Thistlethwaite, founder and president of the service which for more than a decade has provided nearly

any type of sickroom equipment to Sun Citizens free of charge, said he expects to be in the new building by Oct. 1.

In addition to more storage space for the equipment, which has cost more than \$80,000 since the service began in 1961, there will be parking space for 27 cars.

THE PRESENT building,

located at 10307 Coggins Dr., was enlarged from its original size in 1963, but the increasing population of Sun City has made an inventory of more equipment necessary. "Our equipment is used constantly," said Rev. Thistlethwaite, who, with his wife, operated the service out of his home for several years until there was no space left.

Right now, more than 800 homes have sick room equipment, ranging from wheelchairs and crutches to hydraulic lifts, traction units, mattress raisers, and hospital beds. The equipment is used for as long as the person needs it," he said, noting that one home has been using a wheelchair for nine years.

"WE HAVE 260 wheelchairs, but 230 of them are being used at the present time," he said. He estimated that last year alone Sunshine Service saved Sun City residents more than \$100,000 because they did not have to pay any rental fees on the equipment they used.

The new building will be built at cost by the Webb company, which will take over the present building at its present valuation and apply that amount on the cost of the headquarters.

"However, it will still be necessary to raise an additional \$20,000 to \$25,000," he said. Letters have gone to all local clubs and organizations asking for

financial aid, and donations from individuals will be accepted at the present office.

SUNSHINE Service's availability of equipment to residents is unique in itself, but the service has other aspects.

Rev. Thistlethwaite, who is known to many simply as "Reverend T," visits Sun Citizens who are hospitalized both here and in Phoenix and takes a personal interest in persons who are ill at home. District and neighborhood committee helpers also visit and even help residents arrange for household or nursing aid.

A card, with emergency telephone numbers and a section for personal emergency medical information is given to every resident. The back of the card has a large red "X" on it, and anyone who needs help can put the card in his window in an attempt to summon help.

In addition, the service makes baby cribs and roll-away beds available to residents with visiting grandchildren or newcomers whose furniture hasn't yet been delivered.

ALL THE work is accomplished by Rev. Thistlethwaite and an office staff of three persons. All the funds come from free-will donations by persons who have used the service, from Sun City organizations and clubs, and from bequests in wills.

New Sunshine Service Building To Be Dedicated

Dedication and open house at the new Sunshine Service building, 9980 Santa Fe Dr., will be at 11 a.m., Monday, January 7.

Participating in the ceremony will be the Rev. E. Duane Thistlethwaite, president, and Homer Ling, vice president, of Sunshine Service and John W. Meeker, president, and Owen Childress, executive vice president, of the Del E. Webb Development Co.

Following the dedication, which will include the deed transfer, the new facility will be open until 5 p.m. for

resident inspection and refreshments will be served.

The slump block structure provides over 6,000 sq. ft. of warehouse storage space, and another 1,130 sq. ft. of office and reception area.

The services supplied by Sunshine Service were originated by Rev. Thistlethwaite in the early days of Sun City. Recognizing the need for a ready and reasonable supply of sick room equipment, he started storing crutches, wheel chairs, and other such invalid aides in his carport.

Much of the equipment was donated and some

purchased with donated funds. Soon the carport was overflowing and a drive was started to construct a building.

Over the years, a pattern has been formed. Sunshine Service loans out everything from hospital beds to heat lamps at no cost. Sun City's charity-oriented clubs and organizations and many individuals donate both time and money to its support.

Today, services even include loaner cribs, highchairs, play pens, other juvenile equipment for grandchildren visiting on vacations.

Sunshine Service is

often called upon to assist in finding household or nursing help for people incapacitated by accident or illness. The "red cross" emergency cards they distribute are now commonplace and supply vital emergency information.

It has been estimated

that Sunshine Service saved Sun Citizens over \$100,000 last year in medical equipment rental costs.

One of the lesser known services is sick room visits personally handled by the Rev. Thistlethwaite. He averages around 800 of these

hospital and home calls each month.

Sunshine Service is a non-profit corporation, has a Board of 25 directors, and a volunteer group of district and neighborhood chairmen. Any money donated to its operation is tax deductible.

Jan. 8 - 1974 Sickroom supplies on loan

Sunshine building dedicated

By THELMA HEATWOLE
SUN CITY — The new Sunshine Service headquarters, a 7,130 - square-foot block building valued at about \$110,000, was dedicated here Monday.

An open house followed. Spectators huddled from the cold under the red-roofed porch as the Rev. Duane Thistlethwaite, Sunshine president, spoke about the non-profit organization that provides sickroom equipment here for residents.

"We dedicate this building to God, for the purpose for which it stands in Sun City — to help those in need of its service," he said.

The minister who is referred to as "The Rev. T" said that last year the organization saved Sun Citizens more

than \$100,000 in medical equipment rental costs.

He said the building was free of debt — thanks to clubs, organizations and individuals in Sun City.

John W. Meeker, president of the Del E. Webb Development Co., said the event was more than the dedication of a building. "It is the culmination of a goal reached by many hard-working people and organizations," said he.

The Webb firm came in for a share of praise. The firm donated the site for the building at 9980 Santa Fe Drive, constructed the building at cost, and then purchased the former Sunshine building.

The services supplied by Sunshine Service were inspired by Mr. Thistlethwaite

back in the early days of the community. Recognizing the need for a ready supply of sickroom equipment he started storing crutches, wheelchairs and other invalid aids in his carport.

Much of the equipment was donated or purchased from donated funds.

Sunshine Service lends out everything from hospital beds to heat lamps at no cost. It has equipment valued at \$90,000. The service is often called upon to assist in finding household or nursing help for people incapacitated by accident or illness.

Many Sun Citizens volunteer service to the organization. Mr. Thistlethwaite makes several hundred calls a month visiting the sick in hospitals and homes.