



# THE WELLNESS COMMUNITY OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA



SINCE 1996, The Wellness Community of Southwest Florida (TWC) has provided support, education, and hope to people affected by cancer. Today over 1800 people participate in TWC's free programs and services.

In 2006, TWC reviewed an innovative plan created by interior design students from Ringling College of Art and Design and decided to build an expanded facility to better serve 40,000-plus people affected by cancer in the region. Critical to the plan was green design and a natural setting that, according to research, promotes healing and recovery.

Slated to open summer 2009, the 11,000 square-foot complex is situated on five acres nestled amidst a six hundred acre nature preserve in Lakewood Ranch. "A primary consideration for our new home was a centralized destination for our participants. We are thrilled with the amenities and beauty contained in the Lakewood Ranch site," said Jay Lockaby, Executive Director for The Wellness Community.

The gold-registered LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) facility includes two energy efficient buildings that offer a technologically advanced home-like setting. Housed inside are an Internet café, an "Ask the Doctor" living room, a library, a teaching kitchen, a Children's Expressive Arts studio, expanded counseling rooms, two art galleries, a mind/body studio for yoga and Tai Chi, and a community room that accommodates one hundred seventy people. Outdoors will feature a dining terrace, a wildlife lake, wellness trails, a spiritual labyrinth, and a children's garden, as well as gardens for therapy, meditation, and exercise.

With unparalleled support from the design community, the project has been a collaborative effort by cancer patients, Ringling

College students, TWC's staff and trustees, Sarasota County, and an integrated design team that includes Carlson Studio Architecture, DWY Landscape Architecture, Wilson Miller Engineering, Stewart Engineering, Hess & Associates, TRO | Jung Brannnen, and Willis A. Smith Construction.

Most notably, the complex is the prototype for twenty-six Wellness Communities worldwide, offering a collaborative process that engaged multiple partners to change the face of psychosocial care. "The Wellness Community brings to Lakewood Ranch the distinction of becoming an international model of healing that will serve thousands more people locally," comments Project Director Johnette Isham, "and sets a standard for organizations that wish to create a compelling human experience using green architecture and an inspired combination of the arts, interior design, technology, and nature."

If you are interested in learning more visit [www.helpus-buildhope.com](http://www.helpus-buildhope.com).



BUILDING HOPE



The Wellness Community  
Cancer Support,  
Education and Hope  
5481 Communications Parkway  
Lakewood Ranch 34240  
941-924-5539  
[www.wellness-sufl.org](http://www.wellness-sufl.org)