

March 6, 1967

Mrs. Eliza Paschall, Executive Director
Community Relations Commission
City Hall, 68 Mitchell Street, S. W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Mrs. Paschall:


This is a reply to your recent letter concerning the problem of nursing home services for negroes brought to the attention of the Community Relations Commission by Mrs. A. J. Dempsey. From its inception Wesley Homes, Inc. has always offered its facilities and services to persons without regard to race, color, creed or national origin. As a Methodist sponsored institution, Wesley Woods operates under policies consistent with the tenets of the Methodist Church.

We hope that Mrs. Dempsey's statement to the Community Relations Commission did not intend to imply that anyone at Wesley Woods had said to her that we would not admit her mother as a patient in our Health Center because she is a negro. Apparently Mrs. Dempsey experienced difficulty in gaining admittance for her mother to a suitable nursing facility, but from the first inquiry about Wesley Woods on her behalf by Dr. W. S. Jackson of Atlanta University and continuing through contacts with Mrs. Dempsey herself, we have indicated that Mrs. Dempsey's mother is eligible for admission provided a physician on our staff feels that the Health Center can offer the type of care needed and if such physician will admit the patient and assume responsibility for medical supervision during the period in which the patient is in the Health Center. All admissions to the Center are made by physicians. This is required by federal regulations.

At the moment the primary limitation on admission of any patients is the availability of nurses. We have additional bed capacity for patients but we cannot admit patients without the necessary nursing personnel to provide adequate care.

Since our Health Center functions more as a convalescent hospital than as a traditional nursing home, we do have a higher percentage of turnover in our beds than a regular nursing home. This usually enables us to accommodate patients without long periods of waiting. We anticipate that in the future our waiting list will grow however.

Sincerely yours,


Scott Houston, Jr.
Executive Director