

OSCEOLA NEWS-GAZETTE

Nemours, Harmony Institute partnering on nature-healing study

Nemours, one of the nation's largest children's health systems, recently announced a community partnership between Nemours and The Harmony Institute to study the significant impact that nature, in the form of therapeutic gardens and animals, can have on children's health, wellness and the overall healing process.

"We are very pleased to begin this evidence-based scientific work studying the impact that nature can have on children's health," Dr. David Bailey, president and chief executive officer for Nemours, stated in a press release. "Our work with Harmony defines the type of innovative thinking and work that our new, free-standing children's hospital and health care campus will bring to Central Florida. This partnership allows us to more broadly explore the

true meaning of integrated care for children with long-term and complex illnesses."

Martha Lentz, The Harmony Institute founder and president said, the institute is extremely gratified to have established this working relationship with Nemours.

"We look forward to improving the quality of health care for children in Central Florida and beyond by demonstrating the values of human-animal-nature interactions as part of their whole recovery," Lentz said. "The missions of our organizations are so similar in their long-term commitment to innovative public health solutions that it seemed only natural for us to work together."

The results of this work that is being led by members of the institute's Center Advisory Board from Texas A&M, Purdue University and Florida Insti-

tute of Technology could significantly help promote Central Florida as a leading health care region in the United States, Nemours officials stated.

Nemours announced in early December that it had signed a contract to purchase approximately 118 acres in the Lake Nona area off Boggy Creek Road and south of State Road 417, on which to build an integrated pediatric health care system. The study will also look at the potential shared programs between Nemours' Boggy Creek site and the Harmony Institute's 100 acres within the community of Harmony, which is east of St. Cloud off U.S. Highway 192.

"Synergies achieved by community partnerships like the one with The Harmony Institute, as well as others in the proposed medical and bio medical research community, can

be truly revolutionary in the way they shape children's health care and the future of the region," Bailey said. "These are building blocks for the future."

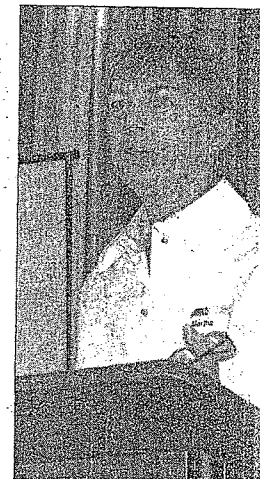
The Agency for Healthcare Administration preliminarily approved Nemours' application in June that set forth a comprehensive plan for conducting clinical research, graduate medical education, allied health training and specialty clinical services delivered through a pediatric hospital, comprehensive specialty clinic and ambulatory diagnostic services center at Lake Nona.

The Harmony Institute is a non-profit foundation started in 1996. Lentz, a former director of the Orlando Humane Society, formed the institute to promote the public health value of living in close proximity to animals and natural wildlife eco-

gies. The Institute was named in memory of Margaret Harmony Eastman, the mother of the founder.

Nemours, one of the nation's largest pediatric health systems, offers an integrated spectrum of clinical treatment coupled with research, advocacy, and educational health and prevention services extending to all families in the communities it serves. Starting with Alfred I. DuPont's bequest more than 70 years ago, Nemours has grown into a multi-dimensional organization offering personalized clinical and preventive care focused on children.

Nemours owns and operates the Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children in Wilmington, Del., along with children's specialty clinics in both Wilmington and in Jacksonville, Orlando and Pensacola.



Photo/Doverwood Communications
Martha Lentz, founder of The Harmony Institute, at a recent meeting of the institute.