

Spirit of Grace Lutheran Church/ Sunshine Club

1,904-Square-Foot SAGE
Sunshine Club

Located in Hood River, OR



Project Overview:

When Spirit of Grace Lutheran Church needed to replace an aging, deteriorating facility used by the Sunshine Club, the organization sought a solution that could be delivered quickly while providing a healthy, comfortable environment for the individuals it serves. The Sunshine Club offers daytime respite care and activities for people experiencing dementia, making occupant well-being a key priority throughout the project.

After learning about Pacific Mobile Structures' SAGE (Smart Academic Green Environment) building program, the Sunshine Club selected a 1,904 sq. ft. facility comprised of two modules manufactured by Blazer Industries. Developed in collaboration with Portland State University, the SAGE program incorporates research-informed design strategies focused on natural daylight, indoor environmental quality, energy efficiency, and occupant well-being. The decision was driven by the speed and cost-effectiveness of modular construction, combined with the health-focused features of the SAGE design.

The new building provides a bright, welcoming environment that supports daily activities, social interaction, meal preparation, and caregiver services. Large windows fill the interior with natural daylight, creating comfortable spaces for participants and staff. According to Sunshine Club Director Deborah Chenoweth, one unexpected benefit of the building has been the positive impact natural sunlight has had on members' mood and cognitive performance. Participants are thriving in the bright, highly functional space, further demonstrating the value of a building designed around occupant health and wellness.

Designed to meet the unique needs of the program, the facility includes a full kitchen, private office space, and multi-use restrooms with shower and laundry facilities. Additional SAGE features, including energy-efficient LED lighting, low-VOC finishes, enhanced indoor air quality, operable windows for natural ventilation, and high-performance insulation, contribute to a healthier, more comfortable environment for participants, caregivers, and staff.

Installed on a pit-set concrete stem wall foundation, the building complements the surrounding church campus while providing a durable, long-term solution for the growing community need it serves. Today, the Sunshine Club has a modern facility that supports individuals living with dementia and provides valuable respite resources for their families and caregivers.

Highlights:

- SAGE (Smart Academic Green Environment) building design
- Bright, daylight-filled interior spaces
- Full kitchen for meal preparation and daily activities
- Multiuse restrooms with shower and laundry facilities
- Private office space
- Enhanced indoor air quality and natural ventilation
- Energy-efficient building systems
- Pit-set concrete stem wall foundation
- Purpose-built space supporting dementia care participants and caregivers



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We are so happy with the building, and our participants are thriving in the new bright, highly functional space. One unexpected benefit of the building is how the exposure to the natural sunlight significantly helps members' mood and cognitive performance. It is a real gift to our community to have this resource available as a day respite care program for the growing number of people experiencing dementia.

- Deborah Chenoweth, Sunshine Club Director

