

## **Karina Ramírez: New senior center celebrates groundbreaking**

10:54 PM CST on Saturday, January 29, 2011

Officials with an assisted living center planned for Denton say their goal is to celebrate seniors' lives and provide them with enriching activities.



**Karina Ramirez**

“We don’t call it a facility,” said Steven Vick, co-founder and owner of Willow Bend. “We call it a community.”

The Denton Chamber of Commerce held a groundbreaking event Tuesday at the community’s future site, 2125 Brinker Road, which Vick expects will open in about nine months. Lunch for about 100 guests followed at Hilton Garden Inn.

Vick said Denton is the perfect location for the new community.

“It is truly integrating with the environment that Denton already has — the hospitals, the nursing homes, home health and hospice,” Vick said. The planned location will “allow the residents that chose Denton as their home to continue without having to move out and go somewhere else. There is tremendous demand for long-term care settings here.”



Courtesy photo

Members of the Denton Chamber of Commerce join officials with Willow Bend senior center at a groundbreaking ceremony Tuesday. Shown in the front row, from left, are Debbie Perry, Jana Cockrell, Susan Vick, Steven Vick, Weston Thaggard, Mariella Cudd,

Jacee Jones, Gina Atkinson, Larry Parker, Linda Naylor and Missy Bueltel; back row, Mike Pope, Courtney Kennedy, Josh Ashford, David Layton, Courtney Gibbs, Monty Naylor, Roger Cox, Zach Tucker and Tim Fogarty.

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The 54,000-square-foot community will feature 400-to-800-square-foot rooms with full baths and kitchenettes, in addition to other amenities such as a barbershop/salon.

Registered nurse Debbie Perry, the community's executive director, said she's looking forward to working with Denton seniors and building on that relationship.

"I wanted to honor the people in the community," Perry said. "These people are my parents' friends, the people I have known and treasured, and they are also my friends' parents — a part of my life."

Vick said Willow Bend will bring 40 new jobs to the Denton area, including maintenance workers, nursing staff and other facility personnel.

During the lunch reception, Willow Bend officials presented a donation to representatives from the Denton Police Department, and local community members were thanked for their support of the new facility.

"Our signature is our promise," Vick said, quoting the slogan of Willow Bend's parent company, Signature Senior Living.

For more information, call 940-381-3000 or visit [www.signatureseniorliving.com](http://www.signatureseniorliving.com)