

# Care from the

## Keowee Place offers assisted living, respite care with

# heart

## independent feel

SPECIAL TO THE JOURNAL

SENECA — Imagine a rocking chair front porch on a home with a large living room, spacious dining area to host friends and family, a courtyard blooming with meticulously maintained springtime flowers and more than 7 acres of land. Is this home sounds like a dream, you're not alone.

But you may have to wait to get in, because Keowee Place in Seneca can only have 43 residents at a time.

Executive director Carrol Carlisle said the homey feel of Keowee Place is what drew her in and keeps her falling in love with her job every day.

"I've been doing skilled nursing for a very long time," Carlisle said. "I was previously the administrator at Seneca Health and Rehab and decided to get into the assisted living field, which I love. I think it's just the family atmosphere, but we're so close here that it feels like home. We've all become family."

The building was constructed in 1999 and functioned as The Inn at Seneca until 2012, when Enlivant bought it and renamed it Keowee Place. Carlisle was hired in September 2016 and hit the ground running as the executive director, staff manager and all-around Keowee Place mom. It's not uncommon to hear her teasing residents on the front porch before offering them a cold glass of tea or checking to make sure someone has their walker before they head out the door.

"I'm just totally impressed with this company and this staff," Carlisle said, noting a staff retention rate near 100 percent. "It's the cleanest, and the people are the most wonderful people you could ask for and have such good vibes."

Carlisle and community relations manager Tim Tompkins were hired around the same time last year and have already formed a bond that makes working as a team feel more like

working with a close friend.

"Carrol has built a good team," Tompkins said. "We haven't been here a year yet and there's already a lot of good things happening here. It's from-the-heart care. A lot of our staff has personal relationships with



Carlisle

the residents, and that's what it takes."

Tompkins echoed the family feel of Keowee Place but knows what he's up against when it comes to the elderly getting ready to enter assisted living facilities.

"Nearly 30 million baby boomers will be requiring care in the next few years, and a lot of places still have the old nursing home stigma attached. But then they come here and find out they can still maintain their

independence, and they really like that," he said. "But here's the catch — if you think you need assisted living, it's already too late."

With 35 of its 43 available spots spoken for, Keowee Place has proven to be popular with its frequent bingo nights, outings and delicious meals. Tompkins is also quick to point out the safety and health of the residents are looked after as well as keeping them active and entertained.

"We have two full-time nurses, and most places are lucky to have one," he said. "They're the two best nurses in the area. I'd put them up against anyone. They take such good care of the residents, and our building has two wings that form a large 'H,' so you can't really get lost, but you can expend a lot of energy getting from one side to the other."

 **KEEP IT LOCAL!**

*Play. Shop. Dine.*

**What:** Keowee Place  
**Where:** 475 Rochester Highway, Seneca  
**Call:** (864) 280-9175  
**For more information:**  
[www.enlivant.com](http://www.enlivant.com)

Tompkins also takes pride in being Wi-Fi equipped and pet-friendly, two things that can set them apart from other facilities. The full schedule of events doesn't hurt, either.

"One of the things that really sets us apart is that we're an assisted living facility, but our focus is on independent living,"

Tompkins said. "We don't want them to just sit in a room and do nothing in isolation, so we promote our activities through involvement. Variety is definitely the spice of life, and there's pretty much something to do here every day for every resident."

Carlisle has almost as much fun as the residents do during activities and outings.

"We have stuff going on all day long," she said. "Whether it's churches coming in and doing services, Elvis coming to perform or our daily exercise class, we do activities all day long. We have a men's club, and they may have a cookout or go out to the airport, or they'll take off and go eat. The women's club will go shopping or to visit Biltmore and come back with these awesome stories and memories. It's so much fun here, I just love it."



UNIT	DESCRIPTION	DATE	AMOUNT	CHECK NO.	REMARKS
	TOTAL COLLECTION		0.00		
	CASH COLLECTED		0.00		
	CHECKS RECEIVED		0.00		
	TOTAL CASH		0.00		
	ACTUAL BALANCE		0.00		
	RECEIPTS		0.00		
	PAID		0.00		
	OPENING BALANCE		0.00		
	CLOSING BALANCE		0.00		



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From the street, Keowee Place looks like any Southern dream home, but inside it's carefully set up to tend to its elderly residents who may need a little extra care, yet want to maintain their independence.