

The Foundation of Wesley Woods Announces Michael A. Watson as President

The Board of the Foundation of Wesley Woods is pleased to announce the selection of Michael A. Watson as President. Mr. Watson took over the reins as President and CEO on Sept. 22, 2008.

After conducting an extensive search, the Foundation of Wesley Woods Board of Directors believes it has chosen an excellent leader to guide the Foundation's efforts. "Michael's past success and strong connections in the Atlanta area will allow The Foundation to continue its mission of helping people age in healthy, ethical and affordable ways," says Al Blackwelder, COO Wesley Woods Center. "We're excited about the future."

Mr. Watson has 35 years of experience and a successful track record at both BellSouth Corporation and Auburn University. Most recently he served as the Co-chair, Atlanta Campaign for Auburn University's "It Begins at Auburn" Capital Campaign. Prior to that, he was responsible for the operations, management and giving strategy of the BellSouth Corporation's Corporate Foundation and for a volunteer corps of 100,000 employees and retirees from nine Southeastern states. He earned his B.A. in History with a minor in Economics and Political Science from Auburn University. Mr. Watson also served four years as a Supply Corps Officer in the United States Navy.

"I'm excited about leading the Foundation of Wesley Woods into the future," says Mr. Watson. "We are on the cusp of an exciting and challenging time for seniors. The looming baby boomer bubble will provide challenges for the Foundation of Wesley Woods we have not yet experienced. I am confident we can meet those challenges and along with Wesley Woods Senior Living, Wesley Woods Center and Emory Healthcare continue as the leader in senior care in Atlanta and the Southeast."

Michael is also a member of Smyrna First United Methodist Church where he has been involved in a variety of activities and leadership positions. "Michael's experience as a fundraiser and President & CEO of the Bellsouth Corporate Foundations, along with his commitment to the ministries of Wesley Woods, places him in the perfect position to continue the tremendous work of the Foundation's support of those elderly served," said Ken Weber, President & CEO of Wesley Woods Senior Living. Mr. Weber served as the Interim President & CEO of the Foundation during the search for the new president.

"Michael was a good choice by The Foundation Board," says Merritt Bond, chairman of the Foundation of Wesley Woods Board. "His past experience and passion for fundraising will allow The Foundation to continue to serve seniors in Georgia."

About the Foundation of Wesley Woods

Founded in 1954 by leaders of the [North Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church](#) and [Emory University](#), Wesley Woods partners with [Emory Healthcare](#) to help people age in healthy, affordable and ethical ways through a program of service, education, and research in seven facilities in North Georgia and the residential-medical complex on Clifton Road in Atlanta.

The Foundation of Wesley Woods is the connection point between the generosity of supporters in the community, and the practical, life-changing work for which Wesley Woods is respected and renowned.

Through the Foundation of Wesley Woods, significant charitable care is extended to those whose assets have been consumed by medical bills or by simply outliving their savings. Millions of dollars a year are contributed for unreimbursed and charitable care. Just as importantly, the Foundation provides vital support for specific Wesley Woods programs, including some of the most consequential research initiatives underway anywhere in the world on geriatric health issues.

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