

Pilgrim Towers

Pilgrim Towers is an affordable independent senior housing facility in downtown Stamford built in 1967 by the Fairfield County Congregational Churches including Darien. In 1961 twelve churches, including ours identified affordable senior housing as a priority need in our area. The need is now greater than ever.

The residence has 74 units, housing singles and couples in modest, but well maintained apartments with kitchen facilities. Residents must be able to care for themselves, but some receive assistance from social services. There is an active resident association that plans events, classes, and activities, and in general, Pilgrim Towers provides not only housing, but also a wonderful sense of community.

The rents are kept below market value, but rental income must cover the maintenance of the facility. In 1993, the building had a complete exterior facelift including new windows, but the 40-year old facility continues to need many capital improvements.

From its inception, funding for Pilgrim Towers came mainly from Fairfield County Congregational Churches. Financial needs are outpacing those resources, particularly in the face of challenges from external forces. In addition to the rise in energy costs, the adjacent Mill River flooded in June 2007 causing expensive water damage.

Pilgrim Towers is a unique non-governmental senior residence that has housed over 1,500 people since it opened its doors. These are people who would have lost their independence. It is an important community resource that deserves our continued support.