

From the Wichita Business Journal:

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Wichita firms land contracts to build \$2.9M assisted living facility in Satanta

Premium content from Wichita Business Journal - by Josh Heck

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[Hutton Construction Corp.](#) and [Howard + Helmer Architecture](#) are partnering to build a \$2.9 million assisted living facility in western Kansas.

Work on the 16,800-square-foot Satanta facility, which will include 14 units, is expected to start this month.

The project is part of a \$3.5 million bond voters there approved in August 2009. Those involved say it will help fill a void for senior-living services in rural Satanta and Haskell County.

The assisted living facility is another example of local companies seeking work outside the Wichita area as a way to offset a slow commercial construction market.

"When the economy changes you have to spread out a little further," says **David Riffel**, a partner with Howard + Helmer.

Hutton will manage the project from its Garden City office.

Work on Satanta's assisted living facility is expected to be completed by December.

Darwin McClung, Hutton's western Kansas division manager, says he anticipates more senior living projects like Satanta's coming on line because rural areas are underserved.

"There seems to be a need for assisted living in western Kansas," he says. "I think in the future that's going to be a big thing out here."

The Satanta facility is the latest in a long line of projects Hutton Construction and Howard + Helmer have worked on together.

Riffel estimates that the two companies have collaborated on about \$50 million in projects over the years.

Needed Service

The Satanta assisted living facility will have 10 one-bedroom and four studio apartments set up in two houses.

Each house will be linked by a central kitchen and activities area. A commons area also will link the apartments to the [Satanta District Hospital](#), which will allow the facility to operate under the hospital's license.

The assisted living facility adds a senior care option in Satanta, says **Ron Baker**, the hospital's administrator. Satanta, about 40 miles southwest of Garden City, already has a nursing home.

"This is a project that (the city) has been working with for quite some time to bring the whole continuum of care into the community," Baker says.

Satanta voters approved the bond issue in 2009. The \$3.5 million includes land-acquisition costs.

He says the facility wouldn't be possible without the support of Satanta's residents.

"It had overwhelming support of the community," Baker says.

Satanta assisted living facility Cost: \$2.9 million. Size: 16,800 square feet. Targeted construction start: Week of Feb. 21. Construction manager: Hutton Construction Corp. Architect: Howard + Helmer Architecture.

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