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**Unique Partnership Bringing Fine Dining, Taste of
Local Restaurants to Area Seniors**

***Bishop Spencer Place Partners with PB&J Restaurants
To Create Distinctive Dining Experience***

KANSAS CITY, Mo.: Even though the Country Club Plaza is nearby, Mary Barnard says she often invites friends to join her and her husband, John, for dinner in their community because she feels they won't encounter better service or food anywhere else. In fact, Barnard says Bishop Spencer Place, a distinctive continuing care retirement community located in the heart of Kansas City, has a dinner menu you have to see to believe.

"I tell people I live at the Taj Mahal because of the fine dining and fine living I experience every day. I've never had food that even approaches this quality at anywhere else like this," said Barnard. "It's like going to a nice restaurant, but the best part is we don't have to drive anywhere. We have wonderful, made-to-order food here, and there's a lot of flexibility and choice."

Barnard says having a delicious, wonderfully prepared meal is also very convenient for her and her husband. It's part of the maintenance-free lifestyle offered at Bishop Spencer Place. Residents in independent living apartments, such as the Barnards, only have to make a short walk from their front door in order to obtain restaurant-quality cuisine.

The community has a unique partnership with PB&J Restaurants, which provides dining services at the community. PB&J opened its first restaurant more than 20 years ago. The company operates casual-dining restaurants in the Kansas City area such as Coyote Grill and Yia Yia's Euro Bistro. It also operates more than a half-dozen franchised Red Robin Gourmet Burger outlets in Kansas and Missouri.

"PB & J approaches things from a hospitality point of view, instead of a hospital point of view," said Barnard. "I've eaten at a lot of their restaurants, and it's the same experience as we get at Bishop Spencer Place. For me, this is wonderful because when to eat and what to eat is my choice."

Residents can choose to eat at the community's bistro, which offers breakfast, lunch and a light dinner. Or they can enjoy dinner in the formal dining room, where the choices for a typical meal include four appetizers, six salads, up to eight entrees and a "special" every night. Fresh ingredients are a staple in dishes and bought from local grocers.

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Bishop Spencer Place Food Service Director Sarah Lavy and Executive Chef Earl Morgan use their more than 30 years combined experience at PB&J restaurants when crafting menus and preparing meals for both venues. Lavy says having the opportunity to work at Bishop Spencer Place is the best of both worlds.

“It’s great because we offer the same fine dining experience and food that we would at PB&J restaurants,” said Lavy. “But this is also very fulfilling because we get to see our diners every day and build personal relationships with them. As residents of the community, they take great pride in their food here. So we work very hard to accommodate different tastes and dietary restrictions. We also like to mix things up so they can experience different foods.”

“We went with PB&J because we didn’t want to provide the type of institutionalized dining that many people have at senior living communities. Our residents say the staff will do anything for them – they have a ‘can do’ spirit. And it starts with Sarah and Earl,” said Bishop Spencer Place CEO Steve Seggerman. “Being CEO, I don’t have to worry about any complaints about dining, because all we get are raves. It’s a testament to the quality food and service PB&J provides to our community. I truly think we have the best dining in Kansas City.”

Bishop Spencer Place, which opened in 1995, provides older adults with maintenance-free living in an engaging atmosphere, accented by a variety of residential options and available quality health care. Located at 4301 Madison Avenue in Kansas City, Mo., just north of the Country Club Plaza, Bishop Spencer Place has recently expanded to include spacious apartments and new lifestyle features. Residents enjoy a full range of services and amenities, including restaurant-style dining, a newly-renovated pub, a gallery spotlighting local artists, community rooms, a scenic courtyard, scheduled transportation, and many educational and recreational activities. Closely affiliated with the Episcopal Diocese of West Missouri and St. Luke’s Hospital network of providers, the faith-based continuing care retirement community offers residents independent living with a full continuum of quality health care, if ever needed.

More information is available by calling (816) 595-5878 or by visiting www.bishopspencerplace.org.

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