

Christamore Court Apartments is a 34-unit senior apartment building located at the corner of Tremont and W. Michigan Streets in the heart of Haughville. The project was initially conceived by the near-Westside neighborhood over ten years ago, when the Westside Community Development Corporation (WCDC) began to assemble the land. After a decade of work, the project was completed in December 2005. It immediately began making a positive impact on the revitalization efforts to the existing West Michigan Street commercial corridor.

Going on their 20th year of commercial and residential development on the near-Westside, WCDC has always pushed for a long-term plan to incorporate retail stores, commercial storefronts, restaurants, multi-family housing, social services, religious establishments, and specialized housing programs such as Christamore Court into the West Michigan Street corridor. The new apartment building does justice to the ideas and philosophies of WCDC by providing a solid example for new development in building utilization as well as design aesthetic.

Directly across the street from Christamore Court Apartments is Christamore House, which is a multi-service center that has served the neighborhood for over 100 years. The purpose of the project was not only to provide senior housing but for Christamore House to move its senior neighborhood program to Christamore Court Apartments with a dedicated space for senior programs and activities.

Christamore Court is equipped with multi-functional interior spaces utilized for housing, programs and community events. Set back from Michigan Street to accommodate a landscaped, buffered parking lot and an axial relationship with Christamore House, the first floor was designed such that the Western portion of the building became a transition between the apartments and the adjacent Christamore House. This transitional space contains a large multi-purpose community room, dining room and kitchen, richly detailed with dark stained wood wainscoting, decorative columns, antique style lighting and a gas fireplace with a full height limestone mantle. The Western and Southern entrance to the community room opens onto a community garden and covered patio, respectively. This creates the feeling of a courtyard between Christamore Court and Christamore House, while emphasizing the axial relationship and

indoor / outdoor space made available by the flexibility in design. The main entrance consists of a central foyer where residents and community members can interact with both, the community space in the building as well as the apartments. In addition to residential units, both upper floors have a community lounge, which serves as an engaging, private space for building residents to entertain themselves with a book, take a short walk on a treadmill, or visit with friends over a card game. These components result in a communal, campus-like feel as opposed to what is typically offered in the traditional, isolated apartment building block.

While the form of the building was derived primarily by its function and relationship with the adjacent Christamore House, its aesthetic was borrowed from both, existing local and historical examples, and creatively applied with modern products to keep the cost affordable. The elevations of the building provide a simulated rusticated base designed with charcoal colored ground face masonry units that 'anchor' the building to the ground. Red face brick, with matching, dark red mortar, wraps the entire building. Finally, light grey split-face masonry units create limestone-like waterable, building banding, and window sill and head details. A defining component of the building's Michigan Street presence is a hip-roofed tower, which contains features such as eyebrow transom windows and four-foot overhangs that accentuate the significance of the tower element. Marching symmetrically along the building and wrapping the Southeastern corner are shallow façade bump-outs with half-round soffit barrel vaults, each framing a three-foot diameter limestone medallion that serves as the building's identity and logo. The comprehensive building aesthetic is one that blends historical components and dynamic, efficient form with fresh and vibrant modern materials to create a long needed focal point the Haughville area. Christamore Court is a shining example of how one building can become the catalyst to developing a strong focal point for community development while paying homage to the rich traditions of a neighborhoods past, present and future.