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Retirement Reboot: A Website Redesign

Christina Gillen
chrismg@bgsu.edu

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Retirement Reboot: A Website Redesign

Christina Gillen

Bowling Green State University

Faculty Advisor: Paul Cesarini

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Jerry Schnepf

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Introduction

Over the course of the last two semesters I have designed and created an updated website for the Swanton Health Care & Retirement Home located in Swanton Oh. This site includes an updated, modern design as well as new content and images. It is built in WordPress, a Content Management System that will allow Swanton Health Care to maintain their own site without the assistance of a Web professional. This project required many steps including researching Swanton Health Care's business, different design journals, and multiple software packages and their features; creating a design composition for the site; writing a site map to organize the site architecture; choosing a WordPress theme that closely resembled the design composition; and finally creating the site and adding the content. All of these steps were completed with the client in mind and the result is a website that will help Swanton Health Care better serve their residents, their residents families, and their local community.

Design Composition

Below is the initial design I created for the look and layout of the site. There are some inconsistencies with the final site due to changes requested by the client as well as technical issues with the transparent logo background.



Life gets difficult when your Mom or Dad needs extensive care and is no longer able to safely live at home. You worry about them all of the time. We can help. The Swanton Health Care home has been the solution to thousands of families in your situation for over two decades.

You'll love Swanton's two most important comforts. First, you'll appreciate the peace of mind from our exceptional rehab and 24/7 care. Furthermore, you'll value being treated like family. Most of our new patients are repeat customers to our Health Care home.

Advance Care from Experts

Delicious Food for the stomach and soul is provided daily.

Hear what families have to say about the Swanton Health Care home.

Will you come and visit us?

We can tell you all about the Swanton Health Care home, but, you really need to see it for yourself. Just walk the halls, visit with the staff, and see for yourself how we will help remove your worries and fears.

Call 419-825-1145 and ask for the admissions coach now!

Site Map

The darker blue items represent pages listed on the Main Menu at the top of every page on the site. The lighter blue items represent pages listed on the side menu which appears only on the Catering & Bakery page as well as the pages listed in the menu. The gray Free Pie page is not listed on the main menu or the side menu and is accessible only through an advertisement placed on the home page as well as a few other pages on the site.



Development

Once the design composition and the site map were completed, I began searching for a WordPress theme that closely resembled my design. After reviewing several different themes, I decided to use Dazzling, a WordPress theme that incorporated Bootstrap. Bootstrap is an HTML, CSS, and JavaScript framework that styles a website using a series of CSS classes. After the theme was selected, I added it to a generic WordPress site and edited the theme to reflect the colors and styles specified in my design. Then I added the content and images formatting them to fit into the design of the site. I conducted a usability test where I had different users perform simple tasks on the site while I observed their thought process to ensure that the site was as intuitive and user friendly as possible. As a final step I checked each page in different size browser windows to ensure that the site was fully responsive and would display appropriately on mobile devices.

Finished Site

The final version of the website can be viewed at: www.chrismg.bhstudents.net/shc

Note: This is not the live Swanton Health Care website but the completed site on a development server. This site is not as subject to change in the future as the as the live version of the site.