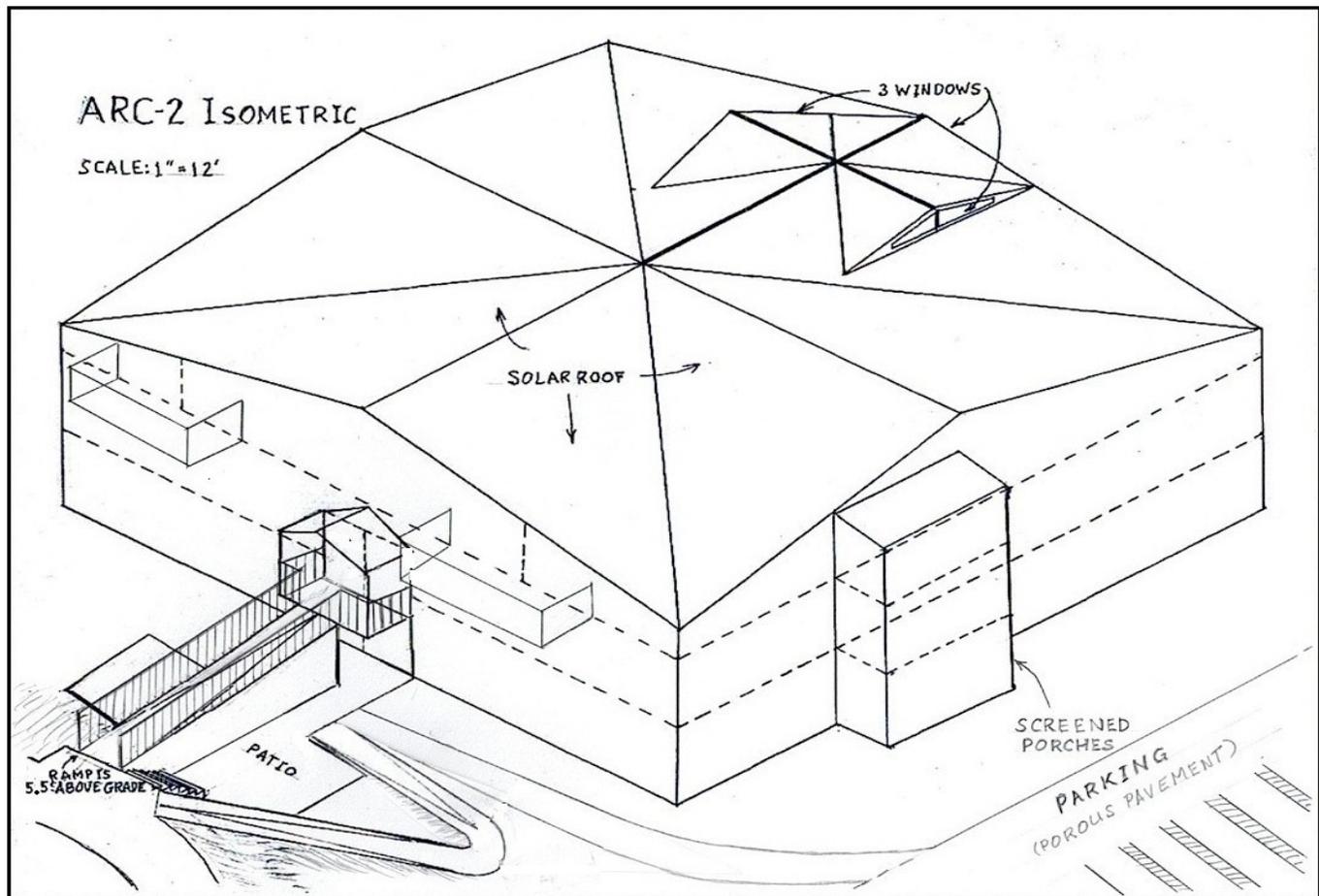


## AGAPE RESTORATION COMMUNITIES – BRIEF OVERVIEW

[www.Agape-Restoration-Society.org/overview.htm](http://www.Agape-Restoration-Society.org/overview.htm)

**Mission Statement:** Agape Restoration Society Inc. is a Christian volunteer ministry that aims to restore orphans, widows, poor and disabled people to fullness of life; to restore this *diakonia*-ministry to the Body of Christ; and to provide a Christian community for independent living in moderation.

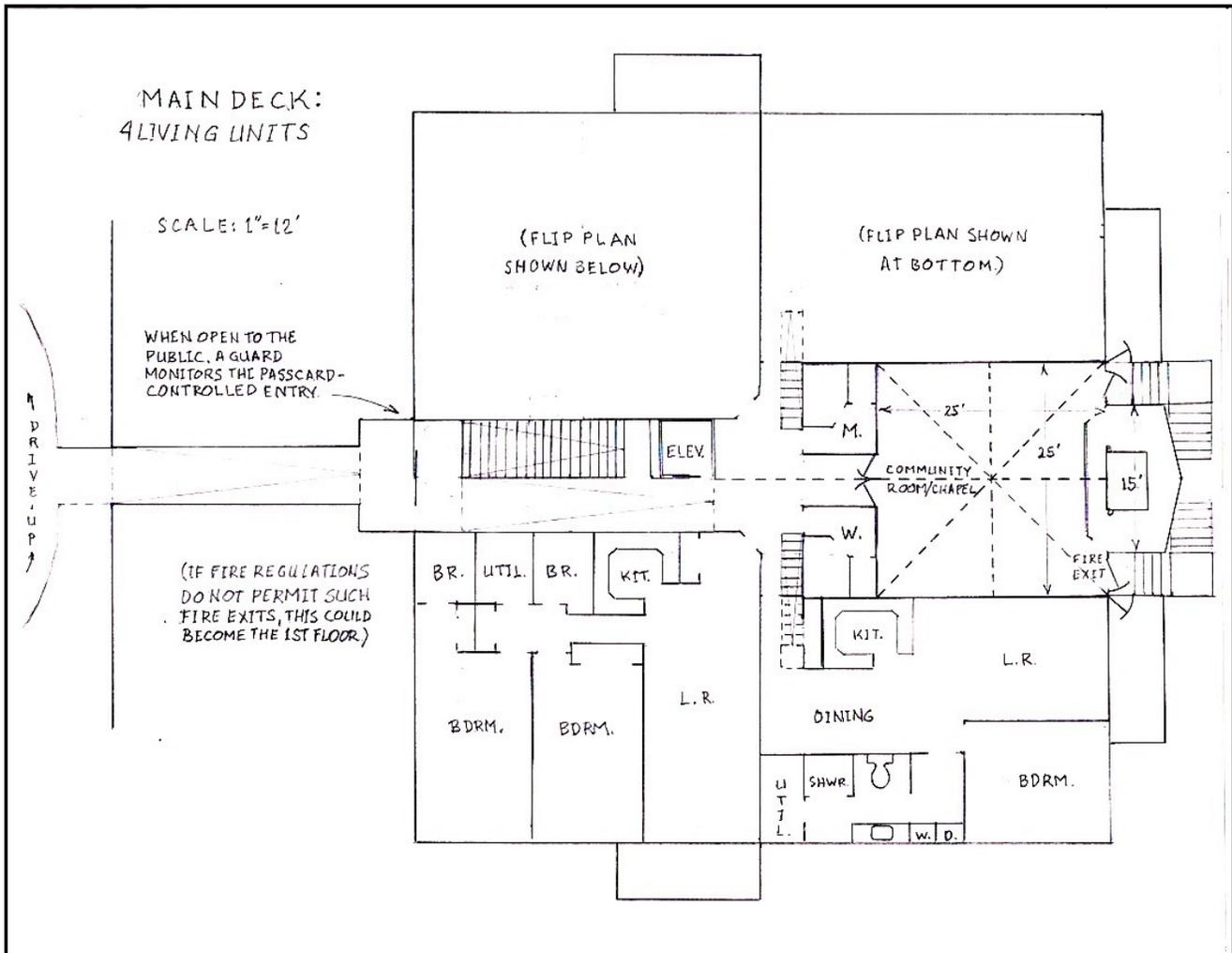
Agape Restoration Society has been functioning since 1998 in the U.S. as a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. We have worked in Russia for 10 years with disabled children and adults in their homes in the provinces and in the Moscow area providing rehabilitation, care and equipment. Since 2002 we have also trained hundreds of Americans and Russians to perform the *diakonia* social ministry that Jesus, the Apostles and the Early Church performed to “the poor, lame, maimed and blind” and to “widows and orphans,” using six courses of our one-year “[Social Ministry of the Church](#)” program in English and in Russian. This is an online interactive program we have also taught on-site in Russian at a Christian university and two seminaries in Moscow.



The ARS concept consists of training a team of workers from local churches to do *diakonia* social ministry together with evangelism and church planting. When our workers demonstrate the *agape*-love of Christ to a disabled or elderly person, this establishes credibility: they are able to pray and share the Gospel with that person, his/her family, relatives, neighbors and friends, invite them to the church and share with them the next phase:

Building Agape Restoration Communities (ARCs). These communities are self-funding, non-profit “housing cooperatives.” An [ARC #2](#), where zoning requires fewer living units per building, is about 1/4 the size built on 1/2 acre with 12 to 18 living units and a community room / chapel. Not all church members must be members of the co-op: most of the church members should be healthy and able to serve. All members of the co-op, however, must also be members in good standing of the church in a given ARC. To be members of the co-op, they must **either** 1) be in missions or volunteer [including students] to work at least 3-4 hrs/wk in the community or

in local outreach; **or 2)** have a resident family member including an adopted or foster child who has a disability, **or is 3)** at least 55 years old. We will create a subsidiary non-profit ARC housing co-op which will sell “shares” giving individuals or families a perpetual right to reside in their living units. “Shares” will be sold on **six-year-loans** (Deut. 15:2) to minimize interest. The church will own shares for the multipurpose hall / chapel. Below is the second-floor plan for an **ARC #2**:



The steps toward starting a new Agape Restoration Community are as follows:

- Teach a team of *diakonia*-workers our 1-yr. program; begin caring for elderly, disabled, widows and orphans.
- While ministering to Christ's target audience and ours, begin inviting their families and friends to church.
- Hold meetings to explain the restoration community and organize an ARS branch, a non-profit housing co-op.
- Gather **reservations**: \$1000 refundable deposits held in escrow to determine priority of home selection.
- With a bank or financial supporters, set up a construction fund to purchase land and finance construction.
- When we have enough reservations, gather **subscriptions**: \$9000 down payment to select size of living unit.
- When construction is completed, subscribers sell or rent out their old homes to **pay for shares** for their units.

This concept is feasible: we borrowed the above steps of gathering reservations, subscriptions and selling shares from **Realife, Inc.**, which has built over 25 similar housing cooperatives in the U.S. upper Midwest. You can find many other Christian independent living communities in the U.S. by searching on the Internet. At our website **[Agape-Restoration-Society.org](http://Agape-Restoration-Society.org)** more information is available, including a 12-page article in PDF format with larger scale drawings of the ARCs, and our social ministry courses. You can also get my book ***The Ministry Driven Church*** as an e-book for free by joining our Forum: **[Agape-Restoration-Society.org/forum.htm](http://Agape-Restoration-Society.org/forum.htm)**.