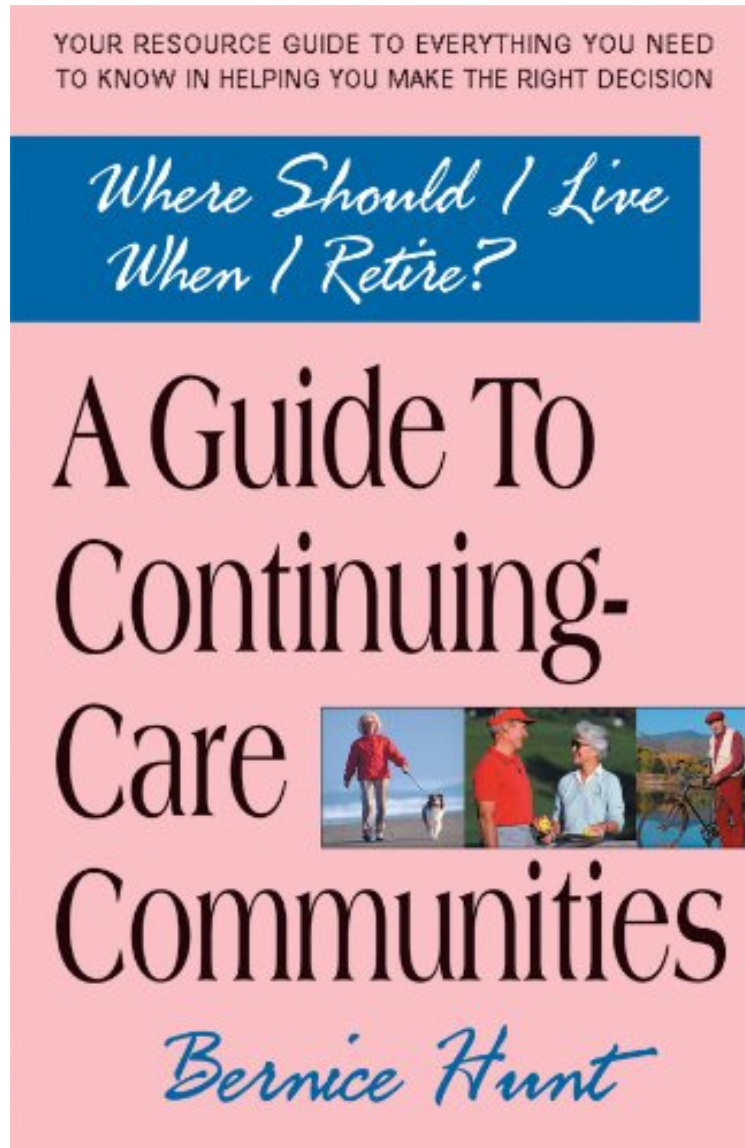


# Where Should I Live When I Retire?: A Guide to Continuing-Care Communities

*Bernice Hunt*

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**Bernice Hunt : Where Should I Live When I Retire?: A Guide to Continuing-Care Communities** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Where Should I Live When I Retire?: A Guide to Continuing-Care Communities:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. "Every CCRC (retirement community type) has its own distinct

culture and personality." By T. Patrick Killough Methodically highly useful to organized retirement home seekers is Bernice Kohn Hunt's 2006 WHERE SHOULD I LIVE WHEN I RETIRE? A GUIDE TO CONTINUING-CARE COMMUNITIES. The less short form of Continuing-Care Communities is Continuing-Care RETIREMENT Communities -- with ubiquitous acronym CCRCs. Mrs Hunt first defines the CCRC concept, makes a strong sales pitch for readers who can afford to live in a CCRC, describes the experience of her husband Morton and herself in looking for, finding and moving into one fictitiously named Kimberly Hills Retirement Community near Philadelphia and, finally, provides an almost indispensable check-list of steps to take and things to be alert for when searching for your dream retirement castle. That is Appendix A. Checklist for Comparing CCRCs, p. 85. The table of contents is honest and almost self-explanatory. I herewith reproduce it verbatim (including page numbers) -- with a few added comments of my own: Contents Introduction, 11. Crossing the Age Equator, 3 (NOTE = age 65 and Medicare!) 2. Continuing-Care Retirement Communities, 13 (aka CCRCs) 3. The Search for a "Perfect" Community, 294. Looking Over the Information Packet, 375. Visiting the Communities on Your List, 456. Checking Out the Amenities, 59 (e.g. swimming pool, cocktail lounge, exercise room, croquet, etc.) 7. Taking the Plunge, 67 (signing a contract, packing up, moving in) 8. The First Year and Beyond, 75 Conclusion, 83 Appendix A. Checklist for Comparing CCRCs, 85 (NOTE: this may be the single most useful component of the book.) Appendix B. Directive to Heirs, 93 Resources, 95 About the Author, 99 Index, 101 \*\*\*\*\*The more I read and reread Hunt's A GUIDE TO CONTINUING-CARE COMMUNITIES, the more nits I find to pick in what is, nonetheless, a far better than average book. I am, for instance, annoyed by the author's tone that she and her husband are worldly-wise, sophisticated New Yorkers moving in among insular Pennsylvanians who wisely and consciously benefit greatly from the creative presence of the Hunts among them. I too live in a CCRC - Highland Farms Retirement Community in Black Mountain, NC near Asheville -- but I do not hide its name, ever. I also think that Mrs Hunt oversells the indispensability of continuous-life long, paid for in advance minutiae of health services. The CCRC of my wife and me has all the health care we need or will need but much is "fee for service." We do not therefore, as the author, grow upset when our contract does not pay as much of our monthly medicine bills as Mrs Hunt thought that she was buying. It pays none and we do not expect Highland Farms to do so. Finally, I am attracted to but fail to take the thematic relevance of much of what the author writes at the beginning of Chapter 8, ""The First Year and Beyond." We read all about the psychology of life in communities of every variety, but always with CCRCs in mind. Chapter 8's first words are: "Every CCRC (retirement community type) has its own distinct culture and personality; each is different even from the one a mile down the road." That may well be true. But how does she know? Mrs Hunt's book is based on personal visits, if I count correctly, to no more than a dozen retirement communities in Connecticut, New York and Pennsylvania. How, then, can she be sure that her theory holds true for the several CCRCs in mine own distant Buncombe County, North Carolina, including Givens Estates, Deerfield and Highland Farms? Bernice Hunt's certitude seems rooted in her broad readings in the psychology, anthropology and sociology of groups. What is generally true of human face-to-face groups is a fortiori true of retirement communities. Some further quotations from Chapter 8: "The differences in group culture arise from differences in leadership, the physical setting, the idiosyncrasies of the particular individuals who make up the membership, and in cognitive style that comes into being early on in every kind of gathering and may then be perpetuated as a matter of custom. There are innumerable other factors, many of them subtle and arcane. A retirement community is no exception." I find this speculation genuinely attractive but fail to see how it helps the man or woman in the street decide where to live in retirement. -OOO-2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Pretty Good Introduction to Continuing Care Communities By zorba Bernice Hunt does a good job of introducing us to Continuing-Care Communities. Based in great deal upon her personal experience, she tells how she and her husband set their objectives for retirement living, and then systematically went about selecting a continuing-care community. There's a lot to take into consideration in making one's selection and Hunt takes you through the process expertly. Although she is overwhelmingly in favor of this type of retirement living, she also is not hesitant to inject negative opinions where merited and, generally, her opinions are right on target. There's little ground that the author doesn't cover and she gives a very useful guide -- including check-lists -- for conducting your own search for the best community. Very helpful and useful book. 8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. SAME BOOK By sunneshine Both Continuing Care Retirement Communities Where should I live are basically the same book. This book has 1 last page added and a better page layout. I had to send this book back, since I already bought the book. Good book but why 2 dif. isbn numbers?

This is a complete guide to one of the most popular retirement options Continuing Care Retirement Communities (CCRCs) where you can enjoy life to the fullest, knowing that if you become ill, you'll receive all the care you need. It explains what CCRCs are, how they operate, and what they offer. You'll learn what to look for, what to steer clear of, what you have a right to expect, and how you can best make the transition when you move.

"A valuable guide...contains everything you need to know to help you make the right decision." (The Star-Ledger) About the Author Bernice Hunt, MS, started as a writing major at the University of Wisconsin, and wrote

more than seventy books and numerous magazine articles. Later she became an editor, then earned a dual masters degree in mental health counseling and gerontology at Long Island University. Excerpt. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. This book is a complete guide to Continuing Care (also known as Life-care) Retirement Communities. It will tell you what they are, how they operate, what they offer, how they differ from each other, how to find them, how to find out which one is right for you, and how to proceed if you decide you want to live in one. Much more than that, it charts the psychological process one needs to traverse in order to give up the known for the unknown. Make no mistake, it is an emotional and sometimes scary business to leave ones familiar home and move into a new community that may, or may not, be as wonderful as the brochures say it is. So why do it? There are excellent reasons, and you will find them all as you read on. You will learn the advantages and disadvantages of Continuing Care Retirement Communities (CCRCs), you will learn what pitfalls they might entail and how you can avoid them when you make a choice. You will find out what to look for, what to steer clear of, what you have a right to expect, how to discriminate among various kinds of contracts, and how to make the transition when you move. I wrote this book because when my husband and I became interested in the CCRC concept, in 1995, we had no idea how to get information. There was nothing in print that told us what we needed to know, and we spent a huge amount of time and money doing it the hard way. I would have given a great deal for a book like this one. Much of the nitty-gritty information tables, checklists, bibliography, resources, etc. is in the Appendix at the back of the book. The heart of the book is the account of the journey psychological, emotional, and very personal that my husband and I took to get from our happy home in East Hampton, New York, to a Continuing Care Retirement Community in a suburb of Philadelphia. It often felt like a journey to Mars. Your experience will, of course, be different from ours, but much of it will be similar. And I hope that at least some of the difference will have been made by the information you find in this book. I wish you a safe journey, with some fun along the way, and a happy landing.