The dream to build The Norse Home began in 1928 within the Sons of Norway, Leif Erickson Lodge. The idea was brought up again in 1931 and a group was organized to establish a retirement home in the Pacific Northwest. At that time it was to be known as The Sons of Norway Home. First incorporated in 1934 as The Sons of Norway Home, the idea gained wide support as Guilds were formed in Seattle, Everett, Spokane and Grays Harbor. By 1937, more groups were involved and the expanded organization adopted the name, Norse Home, Inc. Hard work was necessary to bring the dream to reality. The Great Depression was in progress, yet enough money was raised to proceed with plans for an outstanding retirement home. On August 26, 1934, the burnt down Woodland Amusement Park on 5311 Phinney Avenue North was selected as the site. It was acquired from the estate of Paul Noglebert on January 23, 1938 on a real estate contract for $7,405.93 by the Sons of Norway, Leif Erickson Lodge. A deed was issued on September 6, 1939, to the Norse Home, Inc. By 1950, the corporation had raised $200,000 in assets and authorized architect, Edward Mahlum to proceed with a building plan, which he completed that year. For various reasons, construction was postponed, but assets were increased during the next five years to approximately $365,000. The 1955 Board of Trustees appointed a building committee and instructed them to proceed on the project without delay. The architect redrew the plan to meet changes in the city building and zoning codes and ground was broken for the first stage on December 10, 1955. This consisted of a basement and two floors, including a complete kitchen and dining room. By May, 1958 the sale of rooms and donations had progressed so well that the second stage was begun with the addition of floors three, four, five and six. With the support of Washington State Senators Warren G. Magnuson, Henry M. Jackson and Governor Arthur B. Langlie, the Board of Trustees applied for an FHA guaranteed loan of $750,000 to complete the building. It was the first retirement home of its type in the United States to receive such a loan. The $1,200,000 building was opened to the first residents on June 15, 1957 and was one of the finest facilities of its kind. In 1979, the FHA guaranteed loan was paid in full. The Norse Home dream, once deferred, had now become a reality.

Linda Kvalheim Overlie Norse Home Life Member October 6, 2025