



*The new VIVA Centre
offers something
for everyone!*

soaring

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A PUBLICATION OF MENNONITE HOME COMMUNITIES



Spring 2016

VIVA Centre Opens!



VIVA the Good Life at Woodcrest Villa!

Woodcrest Villa is thrilled to introduce its brand new community, cultural and wellness center! The VIVA

Centre features uniquely designed spaces for performing arts, swimming, watching movies, eating, pampering, exercising and more! Opening day was January 11, and residents were overjoyed and speechless when they saw this beautiful new part of campus the first time. They were so excited about the new facility, equipment and swimming pool, that some residents were jumping in the pool and doing laps as soon as they could!

Ronnie Meyer, a current resident, remarks, "The VIVA Centre exceeded any expectation I had and so much more!" On opening day, some folks shared that they felt it was a gift to current and future residents. They loved the vibrant colors and impeccable decor! Nan Rush, Vice of President Residential Living, said she received numerous calls

from people who wanted to show off the new centre to their friends and family.

Residents who are medically cleared and oriented to the new exercise equipment can use it 24 hours a day by using their name badge to enter. Currently pool hours are during the week while staff are on hand for safety.

Key features of the VIVA Centre include:

- Fitness Center
- Swimming Pool
- Performing arts center
- Roof-top plaza with fire pit, outdoor seating and grill area
- VIVA Bistro
- VIVA Salon
- Fitness Studio
- Movie theatre
- Creative Arts room
- Billiards area
- Sales & Marketing suite
- Renovated library

Sandy and Jake Hoover enjoy a yogurt parfait and specialty coffee in the VIVA Bistro.



Newlyweds Love New VIVA Centre

Audrey Ackerman and Lloyd Frey met and fell in love at Woodcrest Villa and they were married on campus Saturday, February 6! They love the new VIVA Centre and think it's brilliant! "It's like living in a resort with all the luxuries," Audrey shares. They absolutely love the pool, game room, exercise equipment, bistro and library! The day of their wedding, their hors d'oeuvres and punch were served in the Derstine Library located just beside the VIVA Centre.

When Audrey moved in about two years ago, Lloyd occasionally saw Audrey walking by his apartment and decided to ask her to join him for breakfast. She told him she was busy and leaving for a cruise. He left her a note outside of her apartment that said he missed her smiling face and talking with her and that they should do breakfast when she got back from her trip. She was impressed with his note and told him yes!

Audrey said she's so glad she met her partner at Woodcrest Villa! They have a lot in common and they enjoy doing various activities on campus with their friends. They appreciate the friendships they've made at



Woodcrest, love the location and being involved with various groups. Lloyd is Chairman of the Woodshop and Audrey is a Resident Ambassador. She also volunteers in The MarketPlace and at Mennonite Home doing wheelchair transportation. The two lovebirds were excited for their wedding day and are glad to be able to use the new VIVA Centre almost daily!



Introducing Foxglove Place & Gardenia Place: 22 Spectacular New Villas

Woodcrest is also happy to announce that we will be building 22 more villas! This spectacular addition will include two new cul-de-sacs that will be built toward Harrisburg Pike. Phase I in Foxglove Place will have 12 villas and Phase II Gardenia Place will have 10 villas. As with Romarin and Rubia Place, they will include a mixture of Cameron and Fulton models. Reservations will begin this spring. Construction is slated to begin this summer with the potential for our first residents to be moving in by December 2016. Upon completion, Woodcrest Villa will have a total of 122 villas on campus!

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT
Natalie Hough
 Blessed be the Humble

Volunteers, like everyone else, have many different personality traits. Some are gregarious and enjoy the limelight. Others are quiet and unassuming. Most are somewhere in-between. Natalie Hough is one of our quiet and unassuming volunteers. She is always willing to help where needed, but does so without expecting any recognition in return.

Natalie grew up in New York. After graduating from college with a degree in Elementary Education, she and a friend decided to be adventurous and moved to California where she taught school for three years. Natalie then learned of teaching opportunities in foreign countries through the Department of Defense. Looking to see the world, she took a teaching position in Germany where she taught for two years. After Germany she transferred to Japan where she taught for two years. It was while in Japan that Natalie met her future husband, Dean Hough. Dean, from Nebraska, was also a teacher with the Department of Defense.

Natalie and Dean moved back to New York and were married in August 1966. This summer they will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. They are the parents of three children: two daughters and a son.

While their children were young, Dean took an administrative librarian position in Germany, again through the Department of Defense. This time they stayed in Germany for 10 years where Natalie did some substitute teaching.

Eventually Natalie and Dean moved back to the Hudson Valley. While their children were young, Natalie was mostly a stay-at-home mother.

She worked in a day care center for a few years after her children moved away.

Their children now live in Maryland, Long Island and North Carolina. They are also the proud grandparents of 14, ranging in age from almost one year old to 17 years old. One of their daughters recently adopted a 3-year-old boy from China, just as they had adopted their son from Korea.



After retirement, Natalie and Dean decided they wanted to live closer to their grandchildren and made the decision to move into Woodcrest Villa. September will mark their 10th anniversary of WCV life.

Natalie first became involved in volunteering at Mennonite Home Communities in 2007 as a wheelchair transporter for the therapy department. She enjoys this particular volunteer opportunity because she feels that she is helping the residents and staff. She enjoys talking to the residents as they are being transported and hopes she

offers encouragement to them during their therapy.

For several years Natalie was involved on the Food Committee at WCV. Currently she volunteers as a cashier at The MarketPlace once a month. She also helps in clerical positions at WCV, such as envelope stuffing for large mailings.

Recently Natalie joined the ranks of WCV's brand new Hummingbird Center volunteers. With the Welcome Center moving to VIVA Centre, there was a need to continue with some of the services WCV residents were accustomed to at the former Welcome Center. The Hummingbird Center opened on January 11. Volunteers offer a gracious greeting to all residents and business associates, support administration work, and offer directions to various locations on campus and the Lancaster Community. One of the largest responsibilities the volunteers have is to accept resident and staff packages from FedEx and UPS. The packages are logged and residents notified that their packages are available for pickup. This has been such an important facet of the Hummingbird Center's tasks that the volunteers themselves suggested adding Saturday hours for package pick-up.

In addition to her volunteer responsibilities at Mennonite Home Communities, Natalie also volunteers in her church's office, Grace Baptist in Lancaster, and sings in the choir. She and Dean enjoy visiting with homebound church members. In her spare time Natalie enjoys reading, walking, water aerobics in the new pool, and working out in the new fitness center!

News & Updates

Celebrating Connie Stichter, Servant Leader

At the end of 2015, Connie Stichter concluded 12 years of faithful service with the Mennonite Home Communities Board of Trustees. Connie came to the Board with a very diverse background that included a college degree in home economics, early years of teaching home economics, raising an active family of three boys, working in a retail business and serving on the staff of her church.



Connie counts this as the greatest achievement during her Board service. "We have created a place where I would be proud to have my mother as a resident. Mennonite Home has become an active, vibrant community with many activities and opportunities for residents to get involved," she says.

Connie served on the Human Resources, Development and Landis Trust committees of the Board. Nelson Kling appreciated

her stewardship, good insights and quiet words of wisdom.

Connie and her husband Denny are faithful stewards committed to the mission of MHC. Director of Development Greg Pierce remembers checking the online giving totals of the Extra Give one night around 11:30 p.m. He was amazed the next morning to see that the Mennonite Home total had jumped considerably. It happened that Connie and Denny were traveling out of state, but remembered the Extra Give and made their generous gift shortly before the midnight deadline.

In her retirement, Connie hopes to enjoy more travel, including time with their three sons and possibly a mission service project to a foreign country. Any mission would be blessed to have Connie's caring heart and quiet wisdom helping their cause.



Meet the Mennonite Home Social Work Team

Pictured (left to right) are: Margaret Murry, Brandi Rager, Christy Rhoades, Michelle Becker and Lisa Morgan.

Mennonite Home Communities Hires Wellness Manager



Mennonite Home Communities recently hired Michele Stipe as Wellness Manager. In her newly created role, she will oversee the growth and development of enhanced wellness programming at

Woodcrest Villa with the VIVA Centre, part of the Woodcrest Villa residential retirement living campus in Lancaster.

Stipe is a graduate of Gettysburg College. She previously worked as Wellness Director at Brethren Village Retirement Community and also at the Lititz RecCenter as a Fitness Instructor, Wellness Coach and Personal Trainer.

Stipe and her husband David have four children. Outside of work she enjoys spending time with her family, reading, walking with her dog, running or watching movies.

Mennonite Home Communities Announces New Vice President



Kimberly Blessing has been named Vice President of Human Resources and Organizational Development. She joined Mennonite Home Communities in May 2011 as the Director of Human Resources. Prior to joining

Mennonite Home, she was Director of Career Services at YTI Career Institute. Blessing is a graduate of Johnson & Wales University in Rhode Island and a Lancaster resident.

SNAZZY SNACK CARTS Make Splash at Fulton Theatre

Next time you are at the Fulton Theatre, take note of the beautiful new snack stands used in the lobby and during intermission on the theatre's first and second floors. It's the handiwork of Woodcrest Villa resident Dave Serfass! Dave was approached by a member of the Fulton Guild who was looking for an upgraded and stylish way to distribute drinks and snacks. As a member of the Woodcrest Villa



Wood Shop, he said yes to the challenge and designed two portable carts that each hold a small refrigerator on the bottom and display shelves on the top.

"The Fulton is so fortunate to have wonderful supporters like Dave and his wife, Beth," says Assistant House Manager Andrea Wright. "His satellite stands are a lovely contribution to the theatre's lobby spaces, allowing our Guild volunteers to serve our guests both quickly and in style. We are excited to put this wonderful donation to use!"

Dave is just one of the many Woodcrest Villa residents who have a special affinity for the Fulton. Ask around the community and you are sure to find residents who cherish this cultural jewel in downtown Lancaster.

"My wife Beth and I have a love for the Fulton Theatre and it was a joy to take on this project for them," says Dave. He notes that he had helpful advice and input from his woodshop buddies along the way. With one cart completed and one to go, Dave is thankful for the woodshop, not only for the equipment and space to make the project, but also for the fellowship of its members. These carts will enhance the intermission experience for Fulton audiences for years to come.

Recognizing the important place the Fulton plays in the Lancaster community, Woodcrest Villa signed on as an Audience Services Sponsor the past two years—support that helps to provide deaf and hard of hearing services for those with hearing impairments. As a thank you, Woodcrest Villa is recognized during the spring show. Last year it was The Wizard of Oz and this year it will be Footloose.



(Left to right, standing) Leslie Weik, Kathy Markward, Cynthia Acosta-Torres and Emily Chronister love having the Music & Memory program as a tool to share with their residents, including (seated, left to right) Bill & Leona Anderson and Dorothy Berrier.

Mennonite Home Community Life team members

Mennonite Home Communities is proud to offer the Music & Memory^(SM) program to residents in our households in healthcare. As a certified provider, Mennonite Home Communities joins a handful of other local organizations who participate.

Music & Memory is a non-profit organization that brings personalized music into the lives of older adults through digital music technology, vastly improving their quality of life. Mennonite Home team members are trained in how to create personalized playlists using iPods shuffles. Through the gift of music, those with Alzheimer's, dementia and other cognitive and physical challenges can reconnect with the world through music-triggered memories.

"With this program, we can provide for individuals who have enjoyed music throughout their lives," explains Kathy Markward, Director of Community Life

at Mennonite Home. "They can listen to their favorite songs that are unique and significant to them.



As I have continued to learn more about dementia, it is amazing how, for many, an area of the brain can still recognize their favorite songs from the past, which is something the disease has not taken away."

The program started with about 10 residents in healthcare households. Mennonite Home is still in the early stages of instituting this program and hopes to continue to grow it into the future. Staff use iPod shuffles to

download playlists, often involving family members in the process. Residents keep the iPod shuffles for as long as they are able to use them and then they are re-used for other residents who could also benefit.

"Ideally we would like to have about 30 more iPod shuffles so we could serve even more of our residents," says Kathy Markward. Initially, the program organizers provided Mennonite Home with enough iPod shuffles to get started with the program in August 2015. However, as the program is taking off, more are needed.

New or used working iPod shuffles may be donated to Mennonite Home, 1520 Harrisburg Pike, Lancaster, PA 17601 to the attention of Kathy Markward. Individuals donating should provide their name and address to be sent a thank you and tax receipt.

Mennonite Home Communities

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Lancaster, PA 17601
www.mennonitehome.org

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If you would like to receive information about **Residential Living at Woodcrest Villa**, call Amy at 717.390.4103

If you would like to receive information about **Personal Care or Health Care at Mennonite Home**, call Cathy at 717.390.7979.

If you wish to have your name removed from our mailing list, call Kim at 717.390.4105.

OPEN HOUSE

VIVA *the Good Life*

We invite you to be our guest and join us on a tour of the VIVA Centre.

You will have a chance to meet other residents, learn about our residency options, ask questions and enjoy light refreshments. You can also learn about the 22 new villas we are building in Foxglove Place and Gardenia Place!

During your visit, you can also set up a time for a more in-depth tour.



Wednesday, May 11 • 2-6 p.m.
2001 Harrisburg Pike, Lancaster, PA
RSVP at WoodcrestVilla.org/VIVA
or 391-3608 by May 4.



This fantastic new centerpiece of our retirement community includes features for everyone:

- VIVA Bistro
 - Swimming pool and whirlpool
 - Performing arts venue
 - Range of exercise/cardiovascular equipment
 - Rooftop plaza
 - Billiards room
 - Salon
 - Movie theatre
- And more!

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Featured on the cover: The new VIVA Centre is truly a community hub where residents enjoy visiting to catch up with friends, exercise, eat and just have fun!

SOARING COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Connie Buckwalter, Nelson Kling, Kim Peters, Greg Pierce, Nan Rush, Kathleen Maule, Jane Gamble, Amy Yoder

Create a lasting legacy by supporting Mennonite Home through your estate and/or your will. Call Greg Pierce at 717-390-4903 to learn more.