

# soaring

A PUBLICATION OF MENNONITE HOME COMMUNITIES



*Walking into Boyers Run at Mennonite Home is a completely new experience for personal care residents, visitors and staff.*



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SUMMER 2017

*“Our hope is to be able to better allow our residents the opportunity to age in place within personal care.”*



## Personal Care Undergoes Transformation

Walking into Boyers Run at Mennonite Home is a completely new experience for personal care residents, visitors and staff. Completed earlier this spring, this recently renovated household now features 19 private rooms—six with small kitchenettes. The common areas showcase inviting décor and colors, which makes everyone living there quite happy to have a cozy new gathering spot.

Contributing to the new look and feel is the revamping of the hallways. Previously, staff, residents and visitors would walk by resident rooms to go to and from the Juniata Building.

Now Boyers Run residents enjoy a higher degree of privacy as traffic was redirected. Several staff offices are now in the hallway connecting the Susquehanna Building to Juniata.

The design concept matches the renovations that also took place in the two personal care dining rooms. Beautiful new dining room chairs and tables complement the redesigned dining areas decorated with warm, welcoming hues and enhanced lighting to create a brighter eating space.

With the changes in design have come changes in personal care, including open seating in

the dining rooms. Residents previously sat in the same place at each meal, but now they can change seats from meal to meal or day to day. Of course, many residents still enjoy eating with a particular group of friends; however, others like the flexibility the new plan offers.

Additionally, personal care is adding two levels of care—Level 4 and Level 5. Over the last few years, we have seen an increase in the level of services residents are requesting. We are now taking an additional step in allowing our residents to “age in place” by adding these new levels.

There are multiple goals in making this change. The first refers back to the concept of “aging in place.” In adding these levels to the existing ones of Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3, it allows our residents to continue to reside in their home environment within personal care. Having five levels allows us to better bridge the gap in the care provided between personal care and skilled nursing within Mennonite Home. Level 5 is designed as a transition level for residents who may be declining physically and cognitively, and while our goal is to allow

them to “age in place”, they may soon need to transfer to skilled nursing. Alternatively, these residents may have just moved to personal care from skilled nursing and may need additional help as they adjust to a more independent setting. The aim for these residents is to continue in their growth toward additional independence. Their goal may be to either stay within personal care at Mennonite Home or to return to their home at Woodcrest Villa or within the community.

As Josh Bashore-Steury, Director of personal care notes, “Our hope is to be able to better allow our residents the opportunity to age in place within personal care. This change is designed to meet these additional needs that come with “aging in place.”

*Boyers Run underwent extensive renovations to create a more modern and cozy environment for personal care residents.*

*With the changes in design have come changes in personal care, including open seating in the dining rooms.*





VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

# Madeleine Meldrum

*Madeleine has helped with everything from regular activities, crafts and bingo to wheelchair transport and visiting residents.*

**Even as a freshman in High School, Madeleine Meldrum knew she wanted to volunteer at Mennonite Home (MH).** Four years and more than 100 volunteer hours later, it is with great pleasure that we are able to offer her our Volunteer Service Scholarship. When asked why she wanted to volunteer, she simply answered, “I love to serve.”

And serve, she did. Madeleine has helped with everything from regular activities, crafts and bingo to wheelchair transport and visiting residents. She will be the first to tell you that her decision to volunteer was a wonderful one and that she has treasured her time with MH. She was always an incredible asset to staff and a friend to many residents.

*When asked why she wanted to volunteer, she simply answered, “I love to serve.”*

Madeleine is the second of four children and her father once worked for the United States Air Force. Like many military families, they moved a great deal. Her father, Kent, is now a physician at Lancaster General Health Women’s and Babies’ hospital while her mother, Alyson, takes care of the entire family’s needs at home. They have lived in Michigan, California, Maryland and England before settling in Lancaster County. Madeleine is an extremely active student both in and out of school. She loves reading, writing, playing the piano and flute. Yet she still finds time for herself and loves being outdoors, whether it’s walking, running, hiking, biking, or just sitting outside and enjoying nature!

Madeleine is passionate in her thirst for knowledge. Every day at 6 a.m., she is at church participating in scripture studies before heading off to school. In her “spare time,” she has participated in cross country, track and the Varsity Club; served as a buddy for special needs students; been a member of the Environmental Club, Spanish Club and school magazine. She feels honored to be a National Merit Finalist and her team won the Lancaster County Envirothon Competition this year.

In addition to volunteering at MH, this summer she volunteered with Church World Services and is currently volunteering at Dramability Works, a performing arts class for people with cognitive disabilities.

She is very excited to start her freshman year at Brigham Young University this fall. It is with extreme pleasure that MH is awarding this year’s Volunteer Service Scholarship to Madeleine.

**Lucy Eyster, a 15-year resident of Bluebird in Woodcrest Villa (WCV), is deeply involved in community life.** She lives on the fifth floor, sometimes referred to as the “penthouse or attic” because it is the top floor and contains a very close-knit group of residents. As the unofficial social director, Lucy arranges outings and get-togethers such as lunches to welcome new residents at local restaurants.

That loving kindness shows itself in other ways too. A quick review of the Mennonite Home Communities (MHC) Annual Reports over the past years illustrates how Lucy has developed a very special way to remember friends who have passed on. Through the years, she has made an astounding 72 memorial gifts. What’s more, she does it without even realizing the impact. As she notes: “That’s amazing. I guess a few dollars now and again does add up.”

“This is simply my way of honoring those people whom I have come to know,” Lucy explains. “Memorial gifts are my way of telling their families that their loved one was important and had a positive impact on my life. I appreciate that these people were at Woodcrest Villa and our lives overlapped. The people here, staff and residents alike, have enriched my life.”

Greg Pierce, Director of Development, says that MHC uses memorial gifts exclusively for Benevolent Care for residents who outlive their resources.

Memorial gifts are also a great way for WCV residents to honor friends and support neighbors who might require a prolonged stay in skilled nursing. Greg encourages every resident to

consider suggesting memorial gifts to MHC as part of their legacy.

Memorial gifts support MHC’s tradition of generosity and the community taking care of each of its members.

Family members

are always appreciative to receive notification of these gifts, and very often send warm thank you notes to Lucy.

Depending upon the total amount of gifts donated in memory or in honor of an individual or couple, they may be eligible to have a leaf placed on the MHC Tree of Life on display at Mennonite Home. This is a wonderful permanent tribute.

Greg is grateful to Lucy for setting such a positive example for other residents through her thoughtful and generous acts of remembrance.

*“This is simply my way of honoring those people whom I have come to know.”*

# Lucy Eyster: Paying Tribute to Special People

*“Memorial gifts are my way of telling their families that their loved one was important and had a positive impact on my life.”*



## Woodcrest Villa Pilots Student Ambassador Program

This past spring, Woodcrest Villa and Lancaster Bible College teamed up to create a new opportunity for a student that mutually benefits all involved—the Student Ambassador Program. With this new program, MHC provides free lodging in an efficiency-sized apartment at Woodcrest Villa (WCV) for the student. The student, in exchange, provided 15 hours a week of volunteer service/interaction with residents in all levels of care.



The two organizations developed the concept as a way to provide more intergenerational programming for residents while also helping students learn more about working with older adults, building professional skills and helping the student financially through the free housing.

Rachel Ford, a Lancaster Bible College junior majoring in social work, was the first Student Ambassador. She lived in a Cardinal Wing apartment from January to April. During her time here, Rachel enhanced the lives of the residents with whom she interacted. Residents remarked that they loved to see her youthful face around the community.

Rachel also enjoyed the experience: “I think this program is beneficial to both the residents and to me as a college student,” said Ford. “Every time I walk out my door, there is a smiling face to greet me and tell me to have a great day!”

## Moving and Grooving at WCV

Woodcrest Villa is growing and changing to make way for new residents and improved services with new construction and renovation projects, including:

- **Our newest villa neighborhoods are starting to take shape!** Construction dust is disappearing, landscaping is blooming, and grass is sprouting in Foxglove Place and Gardenia Place. The project was blessed with a mild winter and the good weather allowed the contractors (EG Stoltzfus) to stay on target with the construction timeline.

- **Most of the 12 villas in Foxglove place were occupied by mid-June.** Gardenia Place residents will start to move-in this summer with plans for all 10 villas to be occupied before fall.

- **The remodeling of the Bluebird Dining Room and Bluebird Café is underway.** The upstairs dining area, which is used for dinner only, was the first phase of the project and was closed to residents in early spring and will be reopened this summer. Residents used the Garden Café for all three meals (as well as continuing to use the Hummingbird Inn for dinner) during construction. With the completion of the Bluebird Dining Room, residents will enjoy additional seating as well as a bright and open design. The second phase of the project includes the renovation of the Garden Café and the MarketPlace. The estimated project timeline is for completion of this project is in late October.

- **Sports-minded residents are excited about the addition of an outdoor tennis/pickleball court.** Construction will begin this summer. The court will be located on the edge of the community along Harrisburg Pike.



- **Our latest apartment wing, Pheasant Pointe, is on its way to a sell-out!**

This wing offers four different floor plans of two-bedroom apartments named Lilac, Lotus, Zinnia and Marigold. Pheasant Pointe will connect to the Bluebird Wing and will have 39 units. Construction is slated to begin in March 2018 with occupancy planned beginning in March 2019.

## Woodcrest Villa Residents Forge New Trail

Several Woodcrest Villa (WCV) residents combined their love of the outdoors with their skills to create a new trail on campus. The charming “Woodcrest Villa Nature Trail” is half-mile long with two access points. Lew Kauffman, Dave Fatora and Jim McCoy are three of the key forces behind this enjoyable addition. The route is surrounded by nature’s beauty and it is completely cleared and protected with wood chips. It is currently completely walkable, but its creators still say it is a work in progress.

Since moving to WCV in 2013, Lew has been working on the trail. He loves to spend time hiking on it and, when the weather cooperates, does things to keep improving it! He grew up on a farm and loves being out in the woods. He explains that at a young age it was always his job to collect chestnut tree branches for the morning fire. He has marked the “Woodcrest Villa Nature Trail” with white blazes and plans to install signs at the trailheads.

Soon after moving to WCV, Dave got involved helping with the trail. He is a frequent hiker who also enjoys wildlife photography. He has years of outdoor field experience in the construction industry as well as taking weather measurements.

Jim’s passion for backpacking and hiking led him to volunteer his time to the project as well. He has done trail maintenance and building for about 20 years with the York Hiking Club on the Appalachian Trail and the Mason-Dixon Trail in York County.

“We want to install signs, provide hiking sticks for people to use and are also considering adding additional markings along the trail,” Lew shares, indicating future goals for the trail.

This summer, WCV will install a footbridge over a gully, partway through the trail so that hikers will not have to walk onto the maintenance road. These three gentlemen are encouraged by the number of staff and residents who currently use the trail and they are dedicated to improving the path!

*Top photo: Lew Kauffman, Dave Fatora and Jim McCoy (left to right) take a stroll on the trail using walking sticks Lew made. Bottom photo: Dave Fatora, Lew Kauffman and Jim McCoy (left to right) put hours of work into building a lovely walking trail.*



## Mennonite Home Communities

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## soaring

**Featured on the cover:** A new gathering area on Boyers Run and an updated dining room are two of the many improvements recently made to Personal Care at Mennonite Home.

### SOARING COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Connie Buckwalter, John Sauder,  
Kim Peters, Greg Pierce, 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.

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.



# 70% reserved apartments are going fast!

*Spacious, Modern Design | Fantastic Amenities | Ideal Location*

Now reserving **Pheasant Pointe**, new apartments at Woodcrest Villa.

Enjoy the open design of four new floor plans, including a balcony or patio with every apartment. Plus, enjoy convenient access to wonderful cultural and recreational opportunities – whether on-campus or within the local community.

## OPENING MARCH 2019



2016 Nathan Cox Photography

## PHEASANT POINTE

Opening March 2019

## Woodcrest Villa

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