



FALL 2017

soaring

A PUBLICATION OF MENNONITE HOME COMMUNITIES





VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT *Behind the Scenes* >

From the outside looking in, Christmas in July looks like a fun event to help local students. While that is true, it is also a collaborative effort involving more than 40 residents working on all aspects of the project from the kick-off event to promotion, sales, inventory and more. Barbara Smith and Judy Grobengieser are co-facilitators who work with other residents on various ad hoc committees to make sure all the details are taken care of. Peggy Hanzelman coordinates decorations to add a festive atmosphere everywhere you turn. Paul and Judy Westcott manage the inventory and tracking of all the supplies and cash donations. This year Laura Shaida directed the kick-off event. Other sub-group leaders included Janice Schlimm, treasurer; Joan Masten, sales staff leader and Suzanne Burger, publicity leader. And as Barbara and Judy said, it would almost be impossible to mention everyone who helped because so many people gave of their hearts, finances and minds.



Christmas in July

Helping the Greater Community

When visitors walk into Woodcrest Villa during the middle of July, it may look like we have some seasonal mix-ups as Christmas decorations abound. However, this holiday handiwork is actually the work of the Christmas in July committee and is part of a far greater purpose than making people smile on a hot summer day.

Started in 2012, Christmas in July is a resident-run initiative designed to “give back” to the larger community within which we live. For a 10-day timeframe every July, residents, staff and friends are encouraged to donate school supplies to students in school districts throughout Lancaster County.

The committee hosts times where people can buy supplies but some enjoy shopping on their own using the list of suggested items and returning with a treasure trove of crayons, pencils, paper, binders, glue sticks, erasers, scissors, personal hygiene items, backpacks and more. Others prefer to donate funds that the committee uses to buy supplies or to put toward school uniforms.

(Far left photo) Christmas trees with back-to-school decorations helped remind residents and visitors about Christmas in July's purpose. (Middle photo) Irene Kimball (left) and Jean Witmer (right) serve donuts with a smile at the Koffee Klatch celebration of the event's success. (Far right photo) (Left to right) Barbara Smith, Paul Westcott, Judy Grobengieser and Peggy Hanzelman.

This year the committee kicked off Christmas in July with an entertaining and uplifting program in Gamber Auditorium on Friday, July 14. Residents, staff and even staff family members joined in the fun by dressing up in holiday costumes and sharing the joy of music and theatre. Jasmyne King-Smith from the School District of Lancaster, was on hand to share how much the district and students appreciated Woodcrest Villa's generosity and initiative in helping students. To top it all off, volunteers baked Christmas cookies, which decorated every table. To say it was a success is an understatement—even with more than 200 seats, it was standing-room only!

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Off to an auspicious start, it was clear that this year's campaign was going to be exceptional—and indeed it was. At the end of the drive, more than 10,000 items were donated—more than twice the amount of supplies from two years ago and far more than when the program began in 2012. An additional \$3,405 in cash was contributed toward school uniforms and a \$500 donation was earmarked for the Hempfield School District, which is the district where Woodcrest Villa is located.

Not to rest on their laurels, shortly after the project ended on July 24, committee members started thinking of ideas for next year.

Celebrating the Joy of Giving

There's a popular riddle—which came first, the chicken or the egg? While the answer to that question may not be clear, there is an answer to the question of which came first at Mennonite Home—giving or caring?

A Century Plus of Giving and Caring at Mennonite Home Communities

One look at the title of our history wall will give you the answer. “Over a Century of Giving and Caring” represents the amazing gifts of time, organizational talent, leadership, labor, land and money needed to start this amazing legacy of caring. Before the true work of caring could begin, the selfless giving occurred.

Giving is foundational to our origin story. Giving remains extremely important to allow us to care for those who experience significant and costly health challenges. Last year there was a \$3.3 million shortfall between government funding and the true cost of care. Your support helps to bridge that gap and ensure that we can continue to provide the high quality of care that is our trademark.

Our Judeo-Christian heritage emphasizes the importance of giving to meet the needs of the less fortunate.

Be openhanded and provide whatever they need.
Deut 15:8

Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. *2 Cor. 9:7*

Giving remains extremely important to allow us to care for those who experience significant and costly health challenges.

We must help the weak and remember the words of Jesus, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’ *Acts 20:35*

The Board of Directors and Executive Leadership Team are committed to celebrating the joy of giving. The Development Department will continue to share stories of donors and beneficiaries. Stories are the way people discuss and remember important events. Storytelling transmits and reinforces our shared values. Stories are critical to effectively communicate the Joy of Giving. Expect fabulous stories!

All residents—regardless of their financial circumstances—appreciate knowing that they have a “home for life,” which is made possible only through thoughtful donors. More and more people are joining in the joy of giving as evidenced

by the record \$150,000 in donations to the annual campaign and \$72,00 raised at this year’s golf outing, as well as substantial gifts from those who have passed on.

The frequent opportunities for memorial and honor gifts are also important. It is a blessing when people request memorial gifts to MHC in their obituaries. When a resident requests memorial gifts for benevolent care it helps to ensure that their spouses and friends are taken care of if the need arises.

To make it easier to participate in the joy of giving, the Development Department is also creating new programs and educating donors about easy ways to make their donation go further. For instance, retirees of organizations like Pfizer and Amex may not realize that those companies offer matching gift programs. Others may be surprised to know Amazon.com’s Amazon Smiles program donates .5% of qualifying purchases back to non-profits like Mennonite Home Communities. Our development team will be working to help people understand these wonderful avenues for giving.

One program we are especially excited about is our first-ever Women’s Giving Circle. Donors and prospective donors will get to learn all about this and more in our new newsletter that will provide insights into the hearts of benevolent care recipients and the motivations of our donors. Videos will be shared at community forums, posted on the Mennonite Home website, and delivered through email to donors and prospects.

As you listen to the stories with an open mind and a generous heart, we hope that you will find that the Joy of Giving is well within your reach.

YOUR GIFTS MATTER!



In 2007, Elmer Shertzer’s wife Janet was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease and they moved into Mennonite Home. Jane passed away a few years ago and Elmer continues to live in Personal Care.



“My dad couldn’t be here without the Benevolent Care program. To anyone who has contributed, you have made a difference in all of our lives.” – Mickey Williams, daughter of Elmer and Jane Shertzer



Development Team (pictured left to right): Greg Pierce, Director of Development; Kim Peters, Development Coordinator; Kris Hess, Development Assistant.

Trail Update

The Woodcrest Villa Grounds team and resident volunteers continued their trailblazing efforts and finalized more details of the on-campus hiking trail (see photo). This trail is a beautiful and shady respite which many residents, family members and staff enjoy using throughout the year.



Mennonite Home Communities Welcomes Dan Mortensen

Dan Mortensen is the new Vice President of Operations at Mennonite Home Communities (MHC). He takes the place of John Sauder, who was chosen by the MHC Board in December 2016 to serve as President and CEO. Before joining MHC, Dan worked for 13 years at the University of Valley Forge (UVF) in Phoenixville, most recently as the Executive Vice President. During his time at UVF, Dan served in various Vice President roles including Student Life, Finance and Development. He oversaw many departments at the University, including the same departments where he provides leadership at MHC, such as Facilities, Housekeeping and Laundry, Marketing, Residential Living and Dining Services.



Dan has an extensive background in higher education operations, having served for more than 30 years at three different universities located in Pennsylvania, Florida and California. He earned a Ph.D. in Education from Claremont Graduate University. Dan's leadership experience in higher education provides him with a unique perspective that is valuable in his current role.

Dan grew up in San Diego, California but relocated to Juneau, Alaska immediately after his freshman year in high school when his father retired from the Navy. His family operated a commercial salmon business in the summer. Dan went to college in California but returned each summer to Alaska and fished to earn the funds he needed to pay his college expenses. Dan is married to Shelli and they have two married daughters, two sons-in-law and three grandsons. He and Shelli live in East Hempfield Township.

We are excited to have Dan on our team!

Woodcrest Villa Scholarships Announced

Each year, Woodcrest Villa (WCV) residents generously support the educational efforts of the young men and women who work in the dining rooms. This summer, the WCV Employee Scholarship Committee awarded scholarships of \$1,000 each to 34 dining services employees.

Scholarship recipients and their schools include:

Jackson Andrus/Harrisburg Area Community College
Cole Bachman/Cabrini University
Thomas Biondolillo/Clemson University
Courtney Braas/Harrisburg Area Community College
Nick Buchwalder/Villanova University
Charlotte Couch/University of Pittsburgh
Lewis Diaz De Leon/Willow Street Career & Technology
Evan Devitry/University of Pittsburgh
Aryn Dubosky/Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Steffanie Eichelberger/Bloomsburg University
Max Grove/University of Pennsylvania
Matt Hamers/University of Maryland (College Park)
Nicole Heth/Montclair State University
Madison High/Temple University
Lauren Hockley/West Chester University
Erin Hollis/Harrisburg Area Community College
Gretchen Hopkirk/University of Notre Dame

Michael Hostetter/The Pennsylvania State University
Kaylee Kong/University of Delaware
Jessica Lund/West Chester University
Julia Messina/University of Pittsburgh
Victoria Mollitor/Arcadia University
Hillary Moss/Lancaster County Career & Technology Center
Makenzie Nolt/The Pennsylvania State University-York
Nicholas Oleksa/The Pennsylvania State University
Emmett Orgass/Hamilton College
Katherine Pham/The Pennsylvania State University
Emily Pohle/Lancaster Bible College
Kurtis Rineer/Lebanon Valley College
Jonathan Sager/Millersville University
Megan Santiago/Millersville University
Kylie Shreiner/Pennsylvania College of Technology
Alena Wickstrom/Millersville University
Erin Wiegand/Harrisburg Area Community College



Ken Beard, Committee Chairperson, congratulates a few of the scholarship winners: (left to right) Erin Wiegand, Jackson Andrus and Makenzie Nolt.



Saturday, October 21, 2017 - 8 a.m.
VIVA Centre

Open to residents, employees
 and the general public

Register online at:
WoodcrestVilla.org/vivalamile

Mennonite Home Communities

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“SOARING” is a quarterly publication of Mennonite Home Communities, 1520 Harrisburg Pike, Lancaster, PA 17601. Mennonite Home Communities is a Pennsylvania non-profit organization. A copy of the official registration and financial information of Mennonite Home Communities of Lancaster may be obtained from the PA Department of State by calling toll free within Pennsylvania 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement. Please note: A donation or contribution to Mennonite Home Communities is purely voluntary. A contribution is in no way a requirement for the institution or continuation of any business relationship with Mennonite Home Communities. Also, a contribution is in no way a requirement for admission or continued stay at the facility. Residents of Mennonite Home Communities will receive the same standard of quality care, the provision of which is not conditioned on any contributions.



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Featured on the cover: Woodcrest Villa residents, staff, and family members all joined in to make this year's Christmas in July the best ever!

SOARING COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Connie Buckwalter, Jane Gamble, Kathleen Maule, Dan Mortensen, Kim Peters, Greg Pierce, John Sauder, 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 Kris at 717.735.2647.

ANNUAL GOLF OUTING 2017



Golf Raises Record-Setting Amount!

A warm thanks to the many golfers and sponsors who joined our major sponsors, M & T Bank and Warfel Construction on Thursday, July 13 to raise more than \$72,000 for the Benevolent Care program at Mennonite Home Communities. This is the largest amount that has ever been raised in our 22 years of hosting this event. We are grateful for the generosity of our community!

Over 200 golfers enjoyed a beautiful day on the links at Royal Oaks Golf Club in Lebanon. Wonderful Woodcrest Villa residents sponsored rounds of golf for 24 first responders - local fire, police and EMT groups. This was a great opportunity to say thank you to these individuals who keep us safe.

Next year's outing will be Thursday, July 12 at Royal Oaks.

We look forward to another day of fun and fellowship. Watch for email and web announcements in March 2018 or call Kim Peters at 717-390-4105 for more information.