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SPRING 2020



# A Family Tradition

**Mennonite Home Communities is home** to more than 800 men and women and we like to think of ourselves as one big family. It's interesting to note that for some residents, that's actually the case! Through the years, we have been home to multiple generations as well as siblings, cousins and others. To us—that's a wonderful compliment and we are thrilled to see that the concept of family is alive and well here – in multiple ways.

## Bev & Shirley

One example is sisters Bev Trauger and Shirley Harms. Bev and Shirley's mom,

Pearl Miller, was the first in the family to move to Woodcrest Villa a few years ago. Although she has since passed away, they were able to see how much she enjoyed life at Woodcrest Villa and the fantastic care she received later at Mennonite Home.

Bev moved here in 2018—after spending 40 years living and working near Seattle, WA. Shirley and her husband, Ned, moved in a few months later in early 2019. And so far, they are all having fun. Bev's apartment is in Eagle Wing and Shirley and Ned's is in Bluebird, but

typically they see each other at least once a day either at a meal or an activity. For them the hardest part is saying “no” to all of the cool things they'd like to get involved with and simply focusing on a few.

Both sisters are members of the Flower Factory—a group of residents who create flower arrangements displayed throughout the community using gorgeous flowers grown here on the Woodcrest Villa campus. Likewise, they also enjoy working in the greenhouse.



*(Above, left to right) Sisters Bev Trauger and Shirley Harms enjoy spending time in the greenhouse working on terrariums and other fun projects.*



*Brothers Jim, Ken and Norman Kreider are a fraternal force as all three call Woodcrest Villa home.*

Their contagious smiles and friendly natures have instantly made them a welcome part of Woodcrest Villa, where they both hope to live life to its fullest for many years to come!

## Norman, Ken & Jim

Norman, Ken and Jim Kreider grew up just down the road from Woodcrest Villa in Ironville, West Hempfield Township. The brothers mostly lived in Lancaster County through the years and enjoyed professions that kept them intertwined through the real estate and building industries as well as other careers.

Jim was the first of the brothers to decide to move to Woodcrest. He and his wife Liz started to research communities a few years ago and announced they found their new home. Because the couple had selected an apartment in the beautiful Pheasant Pointe building (which was under construction), Ken actually moved

into his apartment in Bluebird first. Norman says he's the smart one because he let his brothers do all of the hard work and research in finding the perfect community. He plans to move into Cardinal Wing this spring.

*Norman, Ken and Jim Kreider grew up just down the road from Woodcrest Villa in Ironville, West Hempfield Township.*

The trio shares similar smiles, blue eyes, some mannerisms and all agree that their mom sure had some stories to tell! They have other siblings (another brother and two sisters) who do not reside here but Ken says that talking them into it is on his to-do list when he visits them this year.

Norman is looking forward to making new friends and Ken quickly interjected that he will be surprised at how many people he will already know who live here. As for Jim, he said he's still waiting for the first snowstorm that he won't have to shovel!

Their family connection to Woodcrest Villa and Mennonite Home Communities predates the three of them. Actually, their great grandfather Landis Hershey was an original member of the Board of Trustees from 1903-1944. Their grandfather Harry Hershey lived here and years later their mother Rosanna Hershey Kreider also made the community her home.

“Our children are glad we decided to move to Woodcrest Villa and we were happy to tell all our friends our new address,” Jim shares. “We look forward to enjoying all that Woodcrest has to offer.”





# Love of Books

*Continues in Volunteer Work*

**When Jerry Bruce thinks back on his past**, he knows it was his destiny to become a librarian.

**He was about 7 years old** when one of his grandparents gave him a subscription to Double Day's Book of the Month "Children's Classics" series. These were great books, but the vocabulary was a bit challenging. So, he read the books with a dictionary by his side and developed an abiding love for reading.

**In fifth grade**, his class took a field trip to tour the local public library where he became fascinated with the card catalog. After that trip, the library became a great resource and familiar destination for him. At one point, a member of his family was struggling with a medical challenge. The librarian must have known about it because she brought him a special resource book to help him understand the intricacies of that challenge. He was really touched by that act of kindness.

**Jerry is musically talented** and graduated from Mansfield University with a degree in Music Education. After a few years of teaching at Chenango Bridge School District, a suburb of Binghamton, NY, Jerry realized that was not his true calling and resigned.

**In search of a new job**, he went to the Binghamton Public Library to inquire about a position as a clerk. Jerry got more than an application that day! Upon hearing of his interest, the receptionist introduced him to the director who interviewed him and immediately offered to train him to become the junior librarian. He describes leaving there feeling "as if he was on cloud 9". And thus began his career as a librarian.

**After a year of training**, the library granted him a scholarship to attend Syracuse University to pursue his master's degree in Library Science. After a few more years of working in Binghamton, Jerry relocated to the Lancaster area and spent most of his career working as a Reference Librarian at the Lancaster County Library.

**Jerry met his beautiful wife**, Sandy, while they were in college. They have been married for 54 years and have four lovely daughters, including a set of twins.

**Eighteen months ago**, he and Sandy moved into Woodcrest Villa. Shortly thereafter, he began volunteering in the Margaret Derstine Library on campus because, as he explains, "I wanted to pay it forward and work as a librarian at Woodcrest because the library has been so great to me over the years."

**It is such an honor to recognize Jerry** for all he is doing for our Woodcrest community, and to thank him for doing an incredible job!

*Jerry Bruce spends several hours a week volunteering in the Woodcrest Villa library.*

**There are varied reasons** why each resident, including myself, chooses to make Mennonite Home Communities (MHC) their home. Often, the common thread is the desire to enjoy a simpler way to do life. Our beautiful, faith-based community offers a secure and caring environment, countless opportunities to socialize—whether it be educational, entertaining, personal growth—and opportunities to share our time and resources.

**Another major reason** many residents chose MHC is access to excellent nursing care if and when necessary. Some of the residents who need this care have outlived their financial resources or experienced unexpected circumstances that make them unable to pay for this care. Our Benevolent Care program assures that residents who face either of those types of situations will continue to receive the wonderful blessing of being able to live in a quality environment.

**Personally, participating in Hearts and Hands Women's Connection** has been one method I chose to contribute to the sacred tradition of Benevolent Care. Hearts and Hands was born out of a desire to celebrate the joy of helping others. This growing group of members meets three times a year offering both social and educational opportunities. Each member makes a minimum annual contribution of \$500, and every dollar supports Benevolent Care.

**When initially asked** if I would be willing to share why I contribute to MHC Benevolent Care, my first reaction was one of great reluctance.

**In Matthew 5:16a**, we are commanded to "let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works". Then in Matthew 6:3-4, it is written "But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret." These two verses seem to contradict each other, and therein was the source of my reluctance. In studying these passages and further reading, I really think that the need to check our motives for our giving are at the heart of these verses. Hebrews 10:24 instructs us "to spur one another on toward love and good deeds."

**Ultimately, I choose to contribute** to Benevolent Care to make a difference in the lives of my neighbors who outlive their resources. My humble desire is to "spur" (or encourage—if you prefer) others to help MHC maintain their tradition of providing care for life to all residents.

**It is not the amount you contribute that matters.** What matters is a heart of awareness to offer love, assistance and compassion for our neighbors who live right next door.

*Reba Buckwalter-Kreider encourages others to prayerfully consider supporting Benevolent Care at Mennonite Home Communities.*



# Why I Donate

*By Reba Buckwalter-Kreider*



## Welcome New Team Members!



**Pammi Henry, RN**, is the new Director of Nursing at Mennonite Home. She joins the team after spending time with Penn State Health as Director of Nursing. Pammi's nursing career began 16 years ago as a certified nursing assistant. She worked her way through nursing school, earning her associate's degree from Harrisburg Area Community College and her bachelor's degree in nursing from Millersville University. She believes that developing strong relationships is the foundation of everything she does, both personally and professionally. Married with six children, Pammi enjoys traveling and exploring new destinations with her family. They live in Palmyra.



**Greg Fulmer, CPA**, has joined Mennonite Home Communities as the new Vice President of Finance and Chief Financial Officer. Greg comes to MHC from Albright College where he served as the Vice President of Administrative and Financial Services since 2014. Prior to that, Greg held roles in a variety of industry sectors. Married with one child, Greg enjoys tennis, swimming, and spending time with his family.



**Julie Lipisko, RNAC**, has been promoted to Assistant Director of Nursing at Mennonite Home. She originally joined our team in August 2018 as the Lead RNAC. Prior to that, she had worked as an RNAC at Luther Acres Healthcare Center. She earned her bachelor's of science in nursing in 2005 and her RAC-CT (Resident Assessment Coordinator-Certified) in 2015 from the American Association of Nurse Assessment Coordination. Married with two daughters, she lives in Lititz. Julie started her new role on January 1 and is excited to continue to provide exceptional care to residents as she works with the caring nursing staff at Mennonite Home.

## New Villa Update

Woodcrest Villa welcomed the first residents to Hedera Place this fall and more and more have continued to move in during the months and weeks that have followed. Almost 75% of villas have been reserved. While a few villas are still available in both Hedera and Morelle Place, they are expected to sell quickly as interest remains strong. One of the open villas now serves as an unfurnished model and showcases the open design, quality finishes and fine craftsmanship. E.G. Stoltzfus has served as the general contractor for the project. (Pictured below are images from the kitchen and dining areas and exterior of two Jeffersons.)

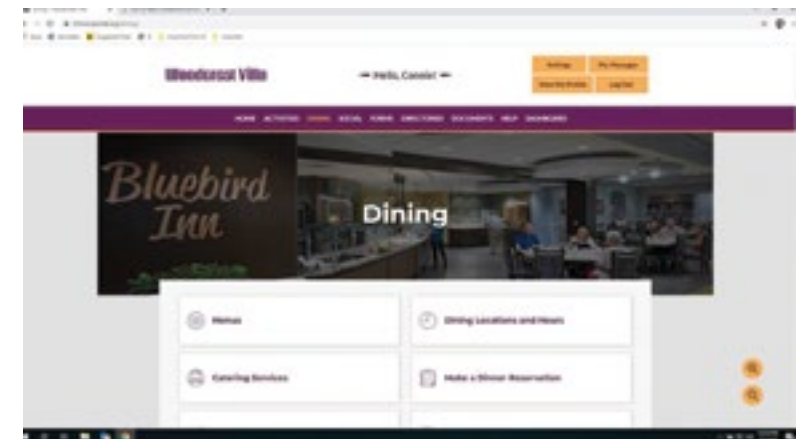


## Gingerbread House Contest WOWS

For the second consecutive year, Mennonite Home Communities departments decorated gingerbread houses in a show of holiday spirit and friendly competition. The designs were truly amazing and showcased themes ranging from classic to contemporary and everything in between. There were even a few houses based on the popular Disney movie, Frozen. The houses were on display in the chapel at Mennonite Home and residents and staff were encouraged to vote for their favorite. The fan favorite was a house decorated by team members from Woodcrest Villa Dining Services.

## New Resident Portal Connects Residents

A new Woodcrest Villa resident portal went live in early December and residents are loving it! The portal includes an online directory, calendar of events, dining menus and more. Residents can also submit work orders, register for trips and make dinner reservations through the system. According to the company who developed the portal (Viibrant), almost 200 residents have logged in at least once. WCV team members have offered training sessions and support as well. Jennifer Bicher, Director of Residential Living, hopes to continue to see usage grow as residents see the many useful benefits of this new service.



## Mennonite Home Communities

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## soaring

### Featured on the cover:

When working in the greenhouse, Bev and Shirley have fun creating different terrariums that they love to share with others.

### SOARING COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Connie Buckwalter, Jane Gamble, Kathleen Maule, Daniel Mortensen,  
Kim Peters, Greg Pierce, John Sauder

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

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

If you wish to have your name removed from our mailing list, call Kris at 717.735.2647.



## You're Invited to “Facts & Snacks”

Join us for a morning or afternoon of fun, learning and treats. You will:

- ◆ Discover the types of villas and apartments available
- ◆ Hear from residents about how and why they chose Woodcrest Villa
- ◆ Tour our model villa and apartment
- ◆ Enjoy light refreshments

CHOOSE YOUR SESSION:

**Wednesday, April 1**

**10 a.m.-12 p.m. or 4-6 p.m.**

Sessions will start with presentations followed by tours.  
Light refreshments available.

Limited space available at each session. Please call 717-390-4103 or visit  
WoodcrestVilla.org/Facts to reserve your seat.

**Please RSVP by March 27.**