

*Employee Anniversaries
Call for Annual Celebration*



soaring

A PUBLICATION OF MENNONITE HOME COMMUNITIES

Cartoonist Shares Smiles
COVID Vaccines Come to MHC
Around MHC

p4
p6
p7

CELEBRATING *Employee Anniversaries*



One of the most anticipated traditions at Mennonite Home Communities (MHC), every year, is the Employee Anniversary Luncheon. This annual event, held in January, brings together all staff members who are celebrating a work

anniversary in 5-year intervals (5, 10, 15, 20, 25 and so on) for a delicious lunch in their honor. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's luncheon was not held, but staff members were celebrated in other ways.

Although she's not celebrating a 5-year increment anniversary this year, Ann White has been at Mennonite Home (MH) for 47 years and is the longest-serving employee at MHC. Ann began her career at MHC in 1973 as a dining room waitress for about 4-5 years before becoming a dining room supervisor for the next five years.

Of her first role as a waitress, Ann shared: "Much to my surprise, this also included other jobs such as helping in the vegetable garden, cleaning the dining room and doing dishes."

She then became a tray line supervisor for 12 years before entering her current role as nutrition specialist for the past 25 years. During her time here, Ann also attended Harrisburg Area Community College's manager program. She is a certified dietary manager, and member of the Association of Nutrition and Foodservice Professionals.

"I really enjoy working with the residents and their families," Ann shares. "I want to make a difference in the lives of residents and do all I can to help make living at Mennonite Home a good experience for them. This is not just a job, but a way of serving others and God."



Ann White shares a few moments from her earlier days at MHC.



Having been here for such an impressive amount of time, Ann has seen many changes. She said the biggest one was the change from an institutional model of care to person centered care, creating a more homelike environment for the residents.

One of her favorite memories involves her early years and residents. "The first several years I worked here, some of the residents used to do some light work to give them something to do and to earn a little bit of extra money," she said. "We had several residents who helped in the dining room and I have good memories of working with them and getting to know them on a more personal level."

She also enjoyed the annual Farmer's Breakfast, which was a huge breakfast buffet with many of the residents' favorite breakfast foods such as bacon, sausage, pancakes, potatoes, eggs—the works! To make it more festive, residents and staff could dress in farmer attire.

Ann has stayed loyal to MHC her entire career largely due to "the commitment to provide excellent care for the residents who live here. I also appreciate the relationships that I have formed with residents over the years and also my coworkers. I have felt their support and caring during some stressful times in my life."

It's strange to think of MHC without Ann, but the day will eventually come when she retires. At that time, Ann looks forward to doing volunteer work, travelling and taking time to engage in her hobbies like reading, walking, flower gardening, bird watching, cooking and baking. But, perhaps, what she looks forward to the most is sleeping in: "I'm not a morning person, so I will enjoy not having to get up early to work!"

On behalf of everyone at MHC—both residents and staff – thanks to Ann and all employees celebrating work anniversaries this year. Your hard work, dedication and commitment are noted and appreciated.

Celebrating 25 Years

Douglas Allen, Food Service Worker-MH
Stacie Landis, Unit Assistant
Dalynn Miller, LPN- Documentation Coordinator & PC Scheduler

Celebrating 20 Years

Dan Barthold, Security WCV
Cathy Mellinger, Accounting Manager
Janet Myers, Office Manager

Celebrating 15 Years

Denise Bowers, Director of Housekeeping/Laundry
Sheila Butscher, LPN
Monica Dibbs, CNA POOL
Randy Hilt, General Maintenance-WCV
Shaun Metzler, Director of Dining Services-WCV
Linda Myers, Food Service Worker Mentor-MH
Denise Sanchez, Housekeeping Aide-MH
Debra Simon, Resident Assistant
Meselesh Woldekidan, CNA

Celebrating 10 Years

Jason Brown, Floor Care Technician
Connie Buckwalter, Director of Marketing
Latoya Jackson-Santz, CNA
Edna Leinbach, Housekeeping/Custodian Mentor
Georgina Rodriguez, Housekeeping Aide-MH
Denise Rossi, Administrative Assistant-MH
Marthude Saint Felix, CNA

Celebrating 5 Years

Nechel Agee-Plowden, RN Supervisor
Jackson Andrus, Food Service Worker Mentor-WCV
Ashlynn Baldwin, Restorative CNA
Shanan Cook, Cook's Assistant-WCV
Andrew Cunningham, Cafe Attendant-WCV
Heidi Eldredge, Laundry Aide
Jacqueline Garber, Laundry Aide
Evan Hanzelman, Food Service Worker-WCV
Angela Henderson, CNA
Catherine McBride, Move-In Coordinator-WCV
Elaine Mullineaux, Assistant Director of Dining Services-WCV (retired)
Katherine Pham, Food Service Worker Mentor-WCV
Destiney Rodgers, Life Enrichment Aide
Anastasia Ruzsak, Food Service Worker-MH
Martina Saltos Rodriguez, Floor Care Technician
Angela Swartz, Central Supply Coordinator
Trisha Towles, LPN
Jennifer Townsley, LPN
Michele Tyson, Cafe Supervisor
Celestino Yanez, Housekeeping Aide-MH



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Dick Weidman Resident Cartoonist Creates Smiles During Tough Times

While many volunteer opportunities have been on pause at Mennonite Home (MH) due to the COVID-19 pandemic, people are still finding ways to share their gifts to brighten the lives of others. Dick Weidman, MH resident, is a lifelong artist who has used his gift to draw cartoons for residents and staff members to enjoy—especially during this past holiday season.

Art has always been a part of Dick's life. He grew up reading the funnies with his father during the Depression. He recalled declaring to his parents, when he was seven years old, that he was going to be a cartoonist so he could give people something to laugh about.



Between 1952-1955, Dick served as a cartographer in the Army. During his tenure, he was the first person ever to map the islands in the Pacific. He also mapped Alcatraz, Alaska and Southern California (including Burbank). As he was standing outside Disney Studios, he saw Walt Disney. When he said hello to Dick, Dick answered and said, "I'm so excited I think I'm gonna pass out." He told Walt that as a young boy, he and his father enjoyed reading Mickey Mouse together. It inspired him to become a cartoonist, and he has been drawing ever since.

After his discharge from the Army, he fulfilled his childhood dream by going to art school in Chicago. Upon graduation, he was hired as a cartoonist for WGAL television station. It was there that he met his future wife, Joan Klein, who also started her career there as a writer.

He spent the next 41 years working as a cartoonist, graphic artist and art director for WGAL. His career spanned decades of innovation and change. In describing his love for his art, he shared, "Cartoonists are simply people who add humor to your lives."

Dick continues to draw cartoons, living out his calling to "make people laugh." If you walk by his room, you can see rotating pieces of art hanging on his door. Each piece brings a smile and a laugh to all who see.

His characteristically whimsical creations have brightened many days. When asked if it is difficult to come up with ideas, Dick responded: "It never is. All I do is set my mind to it when I go to bed. I usually have a sketch pad right next to me for any ideas. Then in the morning, if I decide that I still like my sketch idea, I go with it."

Dick's cartoons are as unique as he is. Each day he continues to see his life's dream come true, as those who see one of his cartoons smiles and forgets about everything else – even for just a moment.

Golf Sponsors Share the Joy of Giving

As we gear up for this year's golf outing on July 8 at the beautiful Meadia Heights Golf Club, we'd like to take a look back at our 25th Anniversary Golf Outing, last October. An important landmark year in our history, it also was the first time that we held the outing at Meadia Heights. COVID-related concerns pushed back our traditional July date to October, but sponsors and golfers responded just as enthusiastically. We are especially grateful for our generous sponsors, several of which have been with us for years. We asked them what it is about our outing that keeps them coming back. What follows are some of their inspiring responses!

M&T Bank has been honored to support the truly inspiring work of Mennonite Home Communities for more than two decades and its golf event for the past six years. As a bank for all communities, M&T understands the value of the services Mennonite Home Communities provides all its residents who need the important care delivered by its staff members.

—**Jim Fowler, Administrative Vice President M&T Bank**

EGStoltzfus is honored to be a longtime sponsor of Mennonite Home Communities' annual golf tournament, which supports the Benevolent Care Program. Even before my personal involvement over the last 10 years, the event has been a popular family tradition, with my cousin and uncles participating since the outing's inception 25 years ago.

Serving as a partner along with many other organizations for this important fundraising event helps ensure that the critical mission of the program carries on—and that all residents at Mennonite Homes can continue to receive the generous ongoing care and support services they need, regardless of their financial resources.

—**Andy Brubaker, Vice President, EGStoltzfus**

When you find an organization with a true mission of caring, it doesn't feel like work to partner with them to see that mission through. Our relationship with Mennonite Home Communities has been very rewarding as we watch your vision manifest itself in the services provided to residents. It has really been our pleasure to support programs that transform the lives of all those Mennonite Home Communities serves. The golf event is always well run. And we appreciate that it allows us to help others while chasing golf balls and enjoying a sunny day.

—**Daniel R. Godfrey Jr., AIA, LEED AP, RLPS Partner**

We support the Mennonite Home Communities Golf Tournament which is a wonderful way to raise funds for benevolent care, which helps residents who need financial assistance. Since the pandemic, all charitable organizations have had difficulties raising money with their fundraising events and we are happy to support this one.

—**Bill & Kitt Gamber, Dutch Gold**

Warfel supports the golf outing for two main reasons. One—it's a great day of fellowship and fun! But more importantly, it's knowing that the funds go to helping residents through the benevolent care fund.

—**Matt Hartzler, President, Warfel Construction**

DHFunk & Sons has been privileged and proud to support Mennonite Home Communities for almost 20 years. One of our core values is "Neighborly"—being stewards to the community with what God has trusted us with.

By supporting the Mennonite Home Golf Outing, we are investing in their future and their impact in the community. We believe in their mission and values and have seen their success as a leader in their industry. Congratulations to Mennonite Home Communities for what you have accomplished.

—**Jordan Funk, President, DHFunk & Sons**

In 1903, two unacquainted organizations were founded on similar principles and visions; the Mennonite Home Communities and Kinney Drugs (parent company of HealthDirect Pharmacy Services) were both established on a core value of compassionate service to the communities we provide for. For over 117 years, this unwavering passion, to give back to the those that have given so much to us, continues to serve as the backbone of HealthDirect's mission. We know that the charitable support we provide to Mennonite Home Communities, their staff members, and most importantly, their residents, helps to enhance the lives of so many individuals, and we are extremely grateful for that opportunity.

HealthDirect Pharmacy Services is proud to call Mennonite Home Communities a partner in providing exceptional community care.

—**Adam Eldredge, Director of Marketing and Client Services, HealthDirect Pharmacy Services**

We at KeyNet Technologies look forward to the Mennonite Home golf outing every year. It is not only a fun day out of the office spending time with some of the wonderful employees and our friends at Mennonite Home, but it is also knowing that we are supporting people in our local community and a great cause as well.

—**Kevin Eisenberger, President, KeyNet Technologies**

Residents & Staff

Express Appreciation for COVID-19 Vaccine

This past winter, residents and staff members at Mennonite Home Communities (MHC) had a reason to celebrate! The COVID-19 vaccine became available and was quickly embraced by residents and many staff members.

“Our residents have done so much for us in their lifetime and they have sacrificed a lot—they deserve us taking the vaccine,” says Jennifer Rohrer, Staff Development Manager, who helped lead the charge to encourage residents and staff at MHC to trust in science and get the vaccine, “I trust the science. mRNA therapy was discovered in 1961. It has been used in cancer treatments for 10 years and is the new way of making vaccines. Making vaccines this way will actually make them safer for more people because they do not contain eggs, thimerosal or any part of the disease (alive or inactivated).”

By vaccinating as many residents and staff members as possible and also continuing with masking and social distancing precautions, the hope is that

we will increase our likelihood of keeping everyone safe.

“We had the vaccine delivered to our community – we couldn’t ask for anything more.”

Jenny speaks from the heart and as someone who knows the impact of the disease. Like many staff members, she has been saddened to see, firsthand, COVID’s impact on residents and the loss of life to the disease. And, in March 2020, Jenny even contracted it. While she is okay, it has taken her months to rebuild her stamina. She has committed herself to putting all she has into educating others and doing what she can to make Mennonite Home Communities safer for all.

The first CVS Pfizer vaccine clinic was held at Mennonite Home on January 3, with the second dose on January 24. A third clinic also was held on February 14 for those who

got their first shot on January 24. Valentine’s Day weekend was made especially sweet for Woodcrest Villa residents, as that Saturday marked the first of their two shots. HersheyCare Pharmacy administered the Moderna vaccine to hundreds of eager residents who were absolutely elated. Many had been struggling to find a location where they could get an appointment, so the news came as a blessing.

Joan Dragon and her husband George were two of the 529 grateful Woodcrest Villa residents and 62 staff members to attend the February 13 vaccine clinic. Nearly 100 other residents arranged to get the vaccine elsewhere.

“It just meant so much to us,” Joan explained. “We had the vaccine delivered to our community—we couldn’t ask for anything more.”

The Dragons realize that they still need to be cautious even after the vaccination, but will be happy to have the extra layer of protection.

All residents are eager for a return to “normal.”

And as Jenny so aptly summarized: “Our residents deserve to spend their days enjoying life to the fullest...They deserve to spend time with their family and friends.”

Hopefully the vaccine will bring everyone one step closer to those days again.

Special thanks to all the staff members who helped the vaccine clinics run smoothly at both locations! We couldn’t have done it without them!

Underneath their masks, Joan and George Dragon are all smiles after receiving their COVID-19 vaccines.



around MHC

New Director of Development

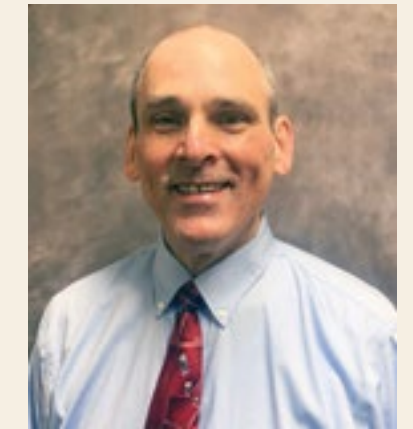


Congratulations to Kim Peters, who was recently promoted to Director of Development. Kim has been an integral part of Mennonite Home Communities since joining as Development team in 2012. Through the years she has been a key part of the annual golf outing, annual appeal and other special projects. Kim also spearheaded the creation of the Hearts & Hands

Women’s Connection, a group of women dedicated to supporting benevolent care at Mennonite Home. Kim succeeds Greg Pierce, previous Director of Development, who retired in the summer. A graduate of Lancaster Bible College, Kim is married with two adult daughters and lives in Mount Joy.

MHC Welcomes New Controller

Rick Melcher joined the Mennonite Home Communities team in December of 2020 as Controller. He most recently worked as Associate Vice President and Controller at Albright College. He is a graduate of Albright College and lives in Wyomissing.



Mennonite Home Announces Two Health Services Promotions

At Mennonite Home, two staff members were promoted in senior leadership in February. Jen Eslinger, Nursing Home Administrator (NHA), is now Vice President of Health Services. Jen joined Mennonite Home in late 2019. She continues to be the NHA of record. Also, Josh Bashore-Steury became the Director of Personal Care/Assistant Administrator. He is working on his NHA and reports to Jen. Josh joined Mennonite Home in 2012 as a social worker before becoming Director of Personal Care in 2016.

Remember to WASH YOUR HANDS!

Keeping hands clean is one of the most important things we can do to stop the spread of germs and stay healthy.



Mennonite Home Communities

1520 Harrisburg Pike
Lancaster, PA 17601
www.mennonitehome.org

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Featured on the cover:

Ann White holds the distinctive honor of being the longest-serving Mennonite Home Communities employee at 47 years and counting.

SOARING COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Connie Buckwalter, Elizabeth Harvey, Kathleen Maule, Daniel Mortensen, Kim Peters, John Sauder

PLEASE NOTE: Soaring will now be published three times a year.

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 717.390.7979.

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



Thursday, July 8, 2021 Meadia Heights Golf Club

Please join us at our 26th Annual Golf Outing for a wonderful day on the greens, supporting benevolent care at Mennonite Home Communities. Register today at www.mennnonitehome.org/golf or call Kris at 717-735-2647.

Join Us!

26th Annual Golf Outing