



SOARING

A Publication of Mennonite Home Communities



BECOMING FAMILY

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On the Cover



Seated on Floor: **Heidi Bennett**, Resident Services Coordinator and **Kate Daniels**, Marketing Retirement Counselor, Seated on Chair: **Ed Brown**, Assistant Director of Maintenance, **Nan Rush**, VP Residential Living, **Louise Franze**, resident and **Sandy Hess**, Community Life Coordinator, Standing: **Bill Anderson**, resident and Chair of the Marketing Committee, **Shaun Metzler**, Dining Services Director and **Jennifer Walters**, Marketing Retirement Counselor discuss ways to introduce new residents into the Woodcrest Villa family.

Family is defined not only by biology, but also as:

"A group of people who are generally not blood relations but who share common attitudes, interests, or goals and, frequently live together."

At Woodcrest Villa, we strive to create this sense of family for all residents.

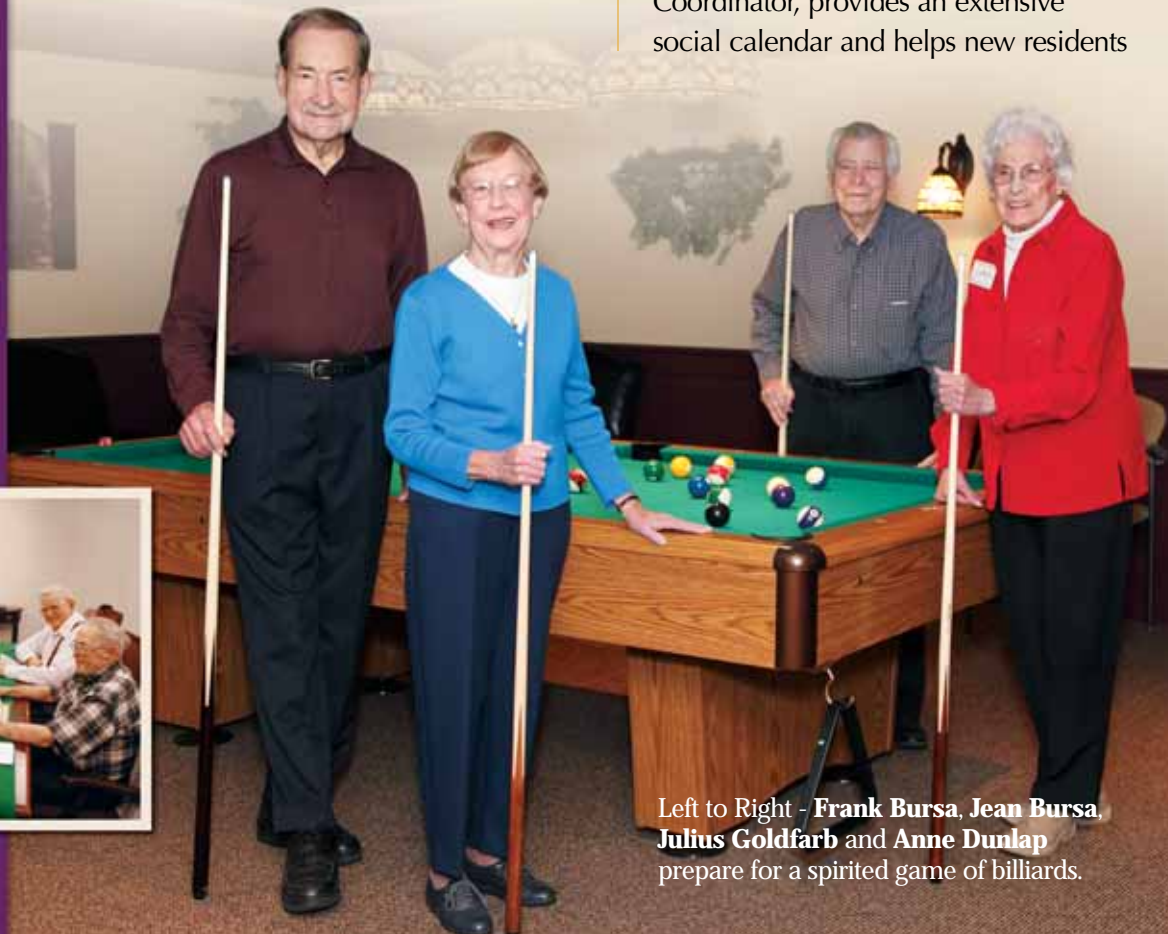
The process begins during our marketing luncheons, where various residents share their stories, open their homes and mingle with the wonderful people who are considering joining our community. Sometimes residents take prospects to dinner for an intimate glimpse of life at Woodcrest Villa.

On the day folks move in, they are greeted by a member of the Welcoming Committee with a basket of goodies. The Marketing Department takes new residents to lunch along with Heidi Bennett and a current Woodcrest Villa

resident. Informally, a network of caring residents will look for new neighbors in the dining rooms and give them a warm welcome. Dining presents an opportunity to mix with new people, particularly at the five and six person tables.

Heidi facilitates **New Beginnings** seminars to introduce new residents to each other, major staff departments, and available services. This helps folks understand all of the services provided and how to get any help they need.

Sandy Hess, Community Life Coordinator, provides an extensive social calendar and helps new residents



Left to Right - **Frank Bursa**, **Jean Bursa**, **Julius Goldfarb** and **Anne Dunlap** prepare for a spirited game of billiards.

TO FAMILY

get involved in their favorite hobbies, sports and activities. Frequent game nights, movies, concerts and other events provide an opportunity to build new relationships. The in-house television channel continually informs residents of social activities and frequent bus trips. The on-site wellness clinic, audiologist, podiatrist and massage therapist minimize the need to travel.

Louise Franze became part of the Woodcrest Villa family very quickly and easily. At move in, she was comforted



Mary Rolinc prepares an order for **Toni Sawatzky** to deliver to a neighbor.

by her familiar belongings arranged in an interesting and beautiful new space. Within two years, Louise gave heartfelt testimony reflecting on the Woodcrest Villa family spirit to an enthralled group of prospective residents at a marketing luncheon.

Bill and Leona Anderson's children claim that moving to Woodcrest Villa is the best gift their parents could give them. Their children realize that Bill

and Leona never wanted to become a burden to their family, and with their new Woodcrest Villa family, that will never happen. Woodcrest Villa provides the blessings of aging together and comfort in challenging times.

As residents become more familiar with our community services, many find the truest expression of "family" is through the caring work of volunteering. This is a great way to meet nice people and help others at Mennonite Home Communities. Neighbors also support others with special needs, as when returning from the hospital, or dealing with illness. Our caring residents frequently see a need and reach out with friendship and caring support.

Our family members are often seen playing the piano in the library, or pitching in with the gardening. Louise has entertained her bridge club and the Iris Club at Woodcrest Villa. In the spring she looks forward to showing off the many hidden garden delights at Woodcrest Villa to the Garden Club. Private dining rooms, incredible catering and large meeting spaces are available for resident use.

Both Woodcrest Villa and Mennonite Home boast several unique interest groups. There are faith communities who worship, study the Bible and participate in hymn sings. Other groups revolve around activities, such as; swimming, computers, bridge, tai chi and the fitness centers.

Keeping the Family Green



Left to Right - **Lucy Eyster**, **Connie McMullin** and **Beth Rogers** collect a car load of styrofoam for recycling.

Beth Rogers has a passion for recycling. She started collecting styrofoam in 2003 and the project grew dramatically. Connie McMullin helped to further organize volunteers to spread the work. To date they have recycled nearly 7,400 pounds to Dart Container Corporation! Our community has also initiated a hazardous material program.

Co-chairing the "Going Green" initiative are resident Lucy Eyster and Nan Rush, VP of Residential Living at Woodcrest Villa. Lucy started a junk mail elimination program and is also editor of a quarterly Woodcrest Villa newsletter that informs residents and staff of our green accomplishments.

Congratulations to all residents and staff for keeping us green at Woodcrest Villa!

The Family Matures

Mennonite Home

The family feeling is only enhanced for people who live at Mennonite Home. Their decrease in mobility causes more of their lives to revolve around the people, facilities and functions at Mennonite Home, complimented by family, friends and volunteers. Our new Person Centered Care philosophy has strengthened the sense of family that develops within each unique household.

Wissler Run, our newest household, opened in January and immediately new friendships started developing. The residents who previously stayed in their rooms for most of the day are now coming to the dining room for meals. Once they arrive, they are looking for their “new friends” so they can sit together. It is inspiring to see residents interact and form bonds as they enjoy a meal together.

Since Wissler Run is the rehab unit, the dynamics are constantly changing with people coming and going. As the residents gather for a Community Circle, they develop a sense of family as they share life experiences. Residents and staff welcome new members into our Wissler Run family and make them feel at home.

The senior staff of Mennonite Home presents a monthly program called **Friends & Family** for all new residents. This program combines new and existing residents who share an informative DVD about their home and spend time getting to know one another. This is a great way for new residents to feel “in the know” and a part of the family.

Special locations invite gathering for discussions and fellowship. The Main Street Café attracts those with a sweet tooth while the front porches attract those who appreciate the outdoors and gardens. Shaded paths wind through gardens to a pleasant stream right behind Mennonite Home.

Special events add spice to our lives. The major group activities of the year; Walk of Ages, June Fest and Farmers Breakfast instill a sense of family relaxing and enjoying themselves together. **Breakfast Bell** is a monthly program where Therapeutic Recreation (TR) staff cooks a special breakfast featuring food items that are not usually on the menu. Residents greatly appreciate the change of pace and new faces as the TR folks take over from Dining Services for this meal.

Residents and staff participate in a Community Circle to discuss an upcoming special event.



MHC Earns 5 Stars

The Center for Medicare/Medicaid Services (CMS) recently implemented a new 5-star rating system for nursing homes. The system helps consumers, their families, and caregivers compare nursing homes more easily. CMS used three criteria to develop the overall rating.

Mennonite Home Communities received a 5 star rating out of a possible 5 stars.



Quality Measures
This includes 10 different physical and clinical measurements. An example would be the prevalence of pressure sores or a resident's change in mobility. This rating clearly indicates how well the nursing home fulfills residents' physical & clinical needs.

Staffing
This rating measures the average daily hours of care the nursing staff provides each resident. A nursing home that provides for residents with a higher level of acuity should have more nursing staff.

Health Inspections
This rating summarizes information from the last 3 years of on-site inspections. Inspectors base this rating on information gathered during on-site visits to the facility.

Before making a decision on a nursing home, consumers should visit and observe how care is provided. Location is important to promote family visits. Checking with local advocacy groups and the State Ombudsman program are other ways to garner information on a nursing home.

We remain convinced that people who visit us will like what they see!

Person Centered Care Update

On January 6, 2009, we opened Wissler Run, our new short-term rehabilitation household. First impressions are important, and the first view greeting our visitors is through two beautiful wooden doors. Four large skylights filter light into this interior space. Bright colors and an interesting ceiling design complete this impressive room.

Wall light fixtures create a warm atmosphere enhanced by natural stained woods on the resident doors. Archways placed in the dining area help to soften the overall feel.

The nurses' station as we know it is history. In its place is a round table with chairs that invites friends to sit down and have a conversation. The nurses'

area is a dedicated room, which houses all the computers, procedure books and important papers for the staff.

The kitchen is designed to receive food in larger pans from the main kitchen. Staff uses attractive dishware to serve the residents. This new service allows residents to hear the sounds and smell the aromas associated with a real kitchen.

The hallways and rooms have an inviting feel. Beautiful pictures adorn the corridors while the rooms have soft lighting and a clever window that separates the semi-private room. European showers in every room complete the amenities.

Both residents and staff are delighted with this new household.



Residents fellowship in the newly completed and spacious Wissler Run facilities.

Mennonite Home Communities Presents

June Fest

June 27, 2009

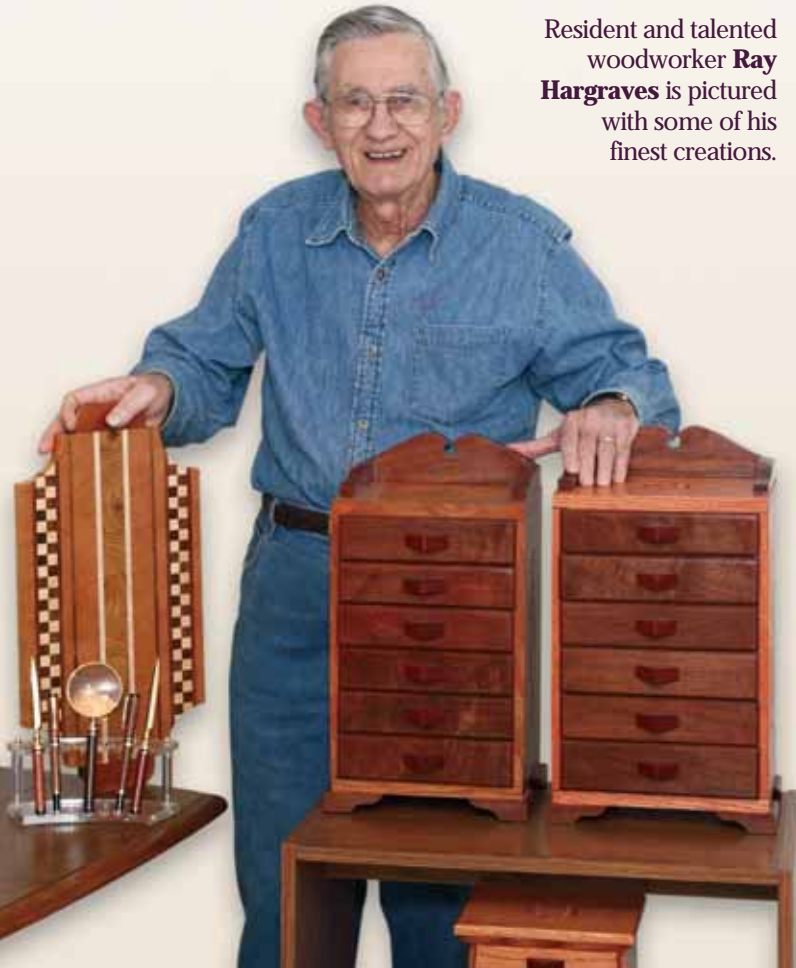
10:30 am until 3:00 pm

Our annual June Fest fundraising day is back and better than ever! Yes, this year we will be bringing back the delicious barbequed chicken so many of you have grown to love. Mark your calendars for June 27th - a spectacular day of delicious food, wonderful family fun, games, entertainment, music, bake sales, craft sales, flea markets... and of course our fantastic silent auction.

Each year we feature amazing themed-gift baskets. Many baskets offer everything from gift certificates for lodging, dinners, family entertainment, shows, golf, museums, sports memorabilia, art work, antiques, children's toys, games and so much more. We even have an antique quilt frame.



Resident and talented woodworker **Ray Hargraves** is pictured with some of his finest creations.



This year, we are so excited to feature the most incredible wooden items made by Woodcrest Villa resident **Ray Hargraves**. He is truly a woodworking artist and has graciously donated approximately 50 fabulous items. These items include exquisite men's and ladies jewelry boxes with inlaid cloverleaf joints, a spectacular chess set, kaleidoscopes, coaster sets, inlaid serving trays and intricate folding trinket boxes. Ray is a self-taught craftsman. He uses many different types of wood from all over the world to give each piece that extra special "look".

June Fest is a major fundraiser for our Mennonite Home residents, and we need your help to make it successful. Please consider donating to our silent auction or volunteering. The most important thing you can do for us is to simply mark your calendars and join us for a wonderful family day. We can guarantee a day full of laughter, fun and memories!

Please call Volunteer Coordinator Kathy Maule at 717.390.7971 with any questions or to offer your donations or services. We greatly appreciate your support.



Mennonite Home Communities Shining Stars

Recognizing employees for the dedication and hard work that is done each and every day to make Mennonite Home and Woodcrest Villa a wonderful place for residents to live.



Left to Right: **Brandon Hoffstead, Adelis Rivera and BJ Benson**
(Missing from Photo is **Camilo Lopez**)

Front Row: **Nancy Parmer, Susan Waters, Randy Hilt,**
Back Row: **Kate Daniels, Dan Barthold, Jane Hooks, Jennifer Walters and B.A. Smith**



Front Row: **Charlotte White, Dianne Coons and Cindy Martin,** Back Row: **Sandina Kovacic, Tina Westman, Peggy Jones, Jennifer Mondal, Jim Oberholtzer, Susan Malloy, Meg Vanaskie, Alicia Zink-Nelson**

(Missing from Photo is **Karen Hollis, Sharon Honberger, Kim Reed, Karen Pearson and Dana McComsey**)

Mennonite Home Communities

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*Mennonite Home Communities Marketing Department,
2001 Harrisburg Pike, Lancaster, PA 17601.*

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Facing Financial Reality

Mennonite Home Communities

14th Annual Golf Outing



FRIDAY, JULY 10, 2009

Par Line Golf Course
Elizabethtown, PA

Morning & Afternoon
Shotgun Starts at
7:30 am and 1:00 pm

Cost: \$80 Per Person

By now we are all sick of hearing about the financial crisis. It was the focus of the presidential election campaign and the first several months of President Obama's administration. Most of us have the sinking feeling of reviewing a diminished retirement account statement.

And yet life must go on. Mennonite Home continues to serve the same number of residents, even though more folks may need benevolent care as their resources are exhausted. So the need is greater than ever.

The reality is that we are all learning to reduce our expenses. If the local unemployment rate is 7%, doesn't that mean that 93% of the local population is still blessed with an income?

How can people support those charities that have always been so important to their families and friends, like Mennonite Home Communities?

Fortunately, we have two easy options! Both June Fest and our Golf Outing provide support for programs

and benevolent care at MHC. June Fest offers a fun day with many cost effective gifts available from the Silent Auction. The Golf Outing provides a wonderful day on the course followed by a hearty and delicious meal. Both activities give the area residents a chance to connect with Mennonite Home Communities.

Please join us for these two fun-filled events. For more information please call B.A. Smith in the Development office at 717.390.4105.



Mennonite Home Communities Presents

June Fest

June 27, 2009, 10:30 am - 3:00 pm