



# SOARING

*A Publication of Mennonite Home Communities*



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# **PROMOTE INTERGENERATIONAL UNDERSTANDING**



AT MENNONITE HOME COMMUNITIES, IT IS EASY TO SEE HOW DIFFERENT GENERATIONS CAN LEARN AND BENEFIT FROM ONE ANOTHER. FOR STUDENTS FROM MANHEIM CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL, THIS TRUTH TAKES SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE AFTER VISITING WITH MENNONITE HOME RESIDENTS FOR A DAY.

# Connecting Generations

## On the Cover

From the left: **Kathy Maule**, MHC Volunteer Coordinator, **Cora Kaylor**, MHC Community Life Coordinator, **Erica Hendrickson**, student, **Austin Good**, student, **Debra Strickler**, teacher.



Every marking period (four times a year) high school juniors from the Family & Consumer Sciences program plan a trip to Mennonite Home and spend a morning with the residents assisting with special activities. The day is a special one for both the students and the residents as everyone comes away from the experience enriched and happy.

According to Debra Strickler, a Family and Consumer Sciences teacher with Manheim Central School District, the program has been taking place since 1998 and about 220 students participate in the program annually.

“We desire our students to become more empathetic to others,” she says. “We also want them to see the value of volunteerism and the rewards that come from serving others. The Mennonite Home community is beautiful and helps our students remove some of their previous stereotypical thinking of what a ‘nursing home’ and the residents are like.”

To prepare for the visit, the students participate in a unit of study called “Relating to Older Adults,” which connects to the Family Life Cycle part of the curriculum. A section of the study talks about the importance of reminiscing and the students also learn about Alzheimer’s disease and other considerations about age-related physical, social, emotional and intellectual changes.

When students arrive at Mennonite Home, they meet with the Community Life and Activity Coordinators who take the students to the different households and floors. Students are given direction on what activity they will be assisting with and may help to set up the room, decorate and invite guests to the event. Throughout the years, the Manheim Central students have helped from everything small to large – including volunteer appreciation, fairs, dances and decorating.

“I really enjoy hearing the stories of the connections our students make with some of the residents,” Debra shares. “The students appreciate hearing of a resident’s background, wisdom and sense of humor.”

Cora Kaylor, Community Life Coordinator at Mennonite Home, helps coordinate the visits and knows the residents appreciate them. “With the Manheim Central students, the residents are often paired with one student, so there is a lot of interaction between them,” Cora says. “It is a good time for the residents to share and reminisce with the younger adults. I love seeing the generations connect with each other when I see a resident and student sitting side-by-side talking and laughing.”

The students also clearly take something away from the experience. After their visit, they are asked to write a “Covenant for Change,” which talks about actions the students will start, stop and continue as a result of the experience.

For instance, some of the remarks by the students include:

- I will start... Listening to my parents. Being more patient. Living in a way that I will be proud to talk about when I am older. Respecting my elders more.
- I will stop... Letting moments go by in my life. Spending money on stuff I don't need. Complaining about minor afflictions that are only temporary.
- I will keep... Trying my hardest. Loving older people because I know it will be me one day. Trying to have an open mind for change.

The entire experience is an uplifting one for all involved and one that everyone looks forward to – at Manheim Central and at Mennonite Home Communities.



Mennonite Home resident **Gene Hamill** teaches Manheim Central student **Megan Strait** the basics of billiards.



Manheim Central student **Cammie Johanning** feeds the fish while Mennonite Home resident **Phyllis Newton** looks on.



# Around Our Town

## Long's Park in the Summer

When you think of Long's Park, many folks think of playgrounds, the pond, the free summer music series, while others think of the Arts and Craft Festival. Recently, residents of Woodcrest Villa were asked what they enjoy the most when they go to Long's Park. Several residents eagerly responded with phone calls, emails and written notes! Most commented that it is the memories they have experienced and made when visiting the Park.



In 1900, Judge Henry Grimly Long, and his daughter Catherine Long bequeathed 80 acres to the City of Lancaster. This park is practically next door to Mennonite Home Communities. As a result, many of our residents are among the hundreds of thousands of families who now enjoy the use of this park!

Nancy Henry, a Woodcrest Villa resident, enjoys taking her granddaughter to Long's Park when she comes to visit. They enjoy seeing the ducks and using the playground. Together they have so much fun at the park!

Burnell Wagaman used to live off of the Manheim Pike and as a kid ran joyfully through a corn field and a meadow to climb up to the railroad tracks. After checking carefully, he would cross the tracks and easily walk down the convenient wooden steps. When the Wagaman family journeys there today, they always check that spot to see if it is still fenced off.

Many Woodcrest Villa residents enjoy watching the fireworks held at Long's Park from the comfort of their patios and balconies, rather than facing the crowds. Beverly Wagaman shared that it is traditional for their family to go to the 4th of July celebration, which is at the top of their favorite ventures.

Many residents shared memories posed as questions. Did you know there was a golf course at Long's Park in the 1940's? Did you ever walk under Route 30 from Park City to get to the park? Have you ever visited the petting farm? Did you know that the Guinness Book of Records certifies the annual Sertoma Chicken Barbeque as the World's Largest?

Residents agree, they love being so close to a beloved Lancaster landmark, and are elated when they see it being used by so many people.



Woodcrest Villa Residents **Bev & Burnell Wagaman** take time out to enjoy the scenic Long's Park accommodations.



# Volunteer Scholarship



Mennonite Home Communities Volunteer Scholarship recipient **Krystal Dobbs** is surrounded by **Kathy Maule**, MHC Volunteer Coordinator and **Nelson Kling**, MHC President and CEO.

Each year Mennonite Home Communities offers a \$750.00 scholarship to any student who has volunteered more than 100 hours by March 30th of their high school senior year. This year we are excited to award this scholarship to Krystal Dobbs.

We have a policy that all volunteers must be a least 13 years old to start volunteering. But, Krystal was only a baby in diapers when she first started creating smiles with our residents during our “baby parades.” Since then, she has been a constant visitor at Mennonite Home and has accompanied her aunt Deb to a multitude of activities. Basically, Krystal grew up at Mennonite Home.

When she turned 13, she became an “official volunteer” and has organized many parties, put together PowerPoint presentations, played games, helped at many events and even helped teach residents and staff how to play Wii. She also has assisted with many “behind the scene tasks” such as sorting cards & pictures, cleaning out drawers & closets and helping to set up, then tear down, decorations, signs and games for events.

Krystal also volunteers to raise funds for other non-profit organizations. She is very active at her high school, raising money for pediatric cancer research through a special dance marathon called “THON”. She is a member of a Relay for Life team and also helps plan and teach children’s Sunday School.

Krystal is planning on studying Criminal Justice at Kutztown University this fall. Mennonite Home has had the pleasure of this young woman’s time and talents for many years, and we truly wish her the best as she is about to embark on new adventures in college.

SOARING  
COMMITTEE  
MEMBERS:

**Greg Pierce**; Editor, **Connie Buckwalter**,  
**Nelson Kling**, **Jennifer Murr**, **Denise Paterson**,  
**Nan Rush**, **Betty Ann Smith**, **Jennifer Walters**



## Dining Goes Wild for Fresh Vegetables and Seasonings

The buzz started in December at the monthly Woodcrest Villa Resident Council Dining Committee. Fresh cucumbers! Fresh basil! When can we start? How can we help?

Shaun Metzler, Director of Dining, and Mike Glath, Assistant Director of Dining, began planning our first-ever resident/staff garden for enhanced dining. The meetings are starting and collectively we will partner to provide fresh produce from the “back forty.”

Residents will be involved every step of the way: from selecting the produce to helping to work the ground to delivery to the Woodcrest Villa kitchens.

*Viva la garden!*

Giving Care Scholarship recipient **Jen Murr** (right) expresses her gratitude to resident **Gennie Diller** for her vision and commitment to education.



## Giving Care Scholarship Update

Just last year the family of Paul Diller created the Giving Care Scholarships for employees of Mennonite Home Communities who wish to pursue LPN, RN or BSN degrees.

The scholarship committee has selected the first two scholarship recipients.

Susan Malloy, LPN, is the first shift Clinical Coordinator with responsibility for the health care needs of the 140 residents of Personal Care. She has been employed with Mennonite Home for five years. Susan is taking classes at Harrisburg Area Community College.

"As a Giving Care Scholarship recipient, I have been able to pursue my dream of becoming a Registered Nurse much sooner than I had anticipated" Susan said. "Receiving the scholarship has impacted me greatly, and has helped me meet my educational goals. I am truly appreciative for the scholarship and look forward to advancing my nursing career."

Jennifer Murr, LPN, is the second shift Clinical Coordinator for Personal Care. She has worked for Mennonite Home for 4 years and enjoys the opportunity of helping residents as they face health challenges. "I love working at Mennonite Home. Pursuing my RN degree will allow me to give back

even more to the community that I care deeply about," Jennifer explains. "I am greatly appreciative of this opportunity and consider it a great honor. I am excited to be able to further develop my skills." Jennifer also provides leadership by serving on various committees.

Dana Aldinger, Director of Personal Care, explained: "Our Personal Care residents are aging in place. Their need for independence is accommodated by having highly skilled staff to manage their more complex health-care needs. Our residents and their families expect high quality care at every level of Mennonite Home Communities, not solely skilled nursing. In order to meet these expectations, continued education for our licensed professionals is a must."

Greg Pierce, Director of Development, encourages other supporters of Mennonite Home Communities to donate in support of the Giving Care Scholarship Fund. Greg says, "This is a great way for educators, health care workers or anyone who wants the best-trained possible workforce at Mennonite Home to help us reach that goal." Donations can be done from cash, stock, your will or trust document or even Charitable Gift Annuities (see page 8). Call Greg at 717.390.4903 for more information.



# Why You Can Afford to Move to Woodcrest Villa!

Many residents find that after moving to Woodcrest Villa, they are actually spending LESS each month than when owning their home. We are also part of Mennonite Home Communities, a continuing care retirement community, providing you with priority access to skilled nursing, rehabilitative care and personal care at Mennonite Home.

Compare for yourself and see!

Monthly Expense	At Your Home	At Woodcrest Villa
Mortgage/Rent	\$ _____	Included
Property insurance (excludes personal property and possessions)	\$ _____	Included
Property taxes	\$ _____	Included
Snow removal	\$ _____	Included
Landscaping, mowing	\$ _____	Included
On-campus security – 24-hour emergency response	\$ _____	Included
Garbage removal	\$ _____	Included
Water/sewer	\$ _____	Included
Heating & Cooling	\$ _____	Included
Electricity	\$ _____	Included
Meals (included for apartments; additional for villas)	\$ _____	Included
Wellness Center & Pool	\$ _____	Included
Redecorating interior every 10 years	\$ _____	Included
Maintenance on home & appliances	\$ _____	Included
Local Trips (some trips do have a fee)	\$ _____	Included
Activities and Clubs	\$ _____	Included
Cable television	\$ _____	Discounted Rate
Telephone	\$ _____	Discounted Rate
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>	<b>\$1,100-\$2,000 (single occupancy)</b>

Plus, who can put a price on the friendships, security, safety and convenience of living in a continuing care retirement community?

Call Linda Groff at 717.390.4103 to learn more and set up your personal tour!





## Mennonite Home Communities

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Lancaster, PA 17601

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

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

If you wish to have your name removed from our mailing list, call Betty Ann at 717.390.4105.

## New Higher Rates Effective July 1 Increasing your Income

In these times of flat Social Security payments, extremely low interest rates on Certificates of Deposit, and reduced stock dividends, many retirees need more income.

Charitable Gift Annuities (CGAs) safely provide donors with three great benefits:

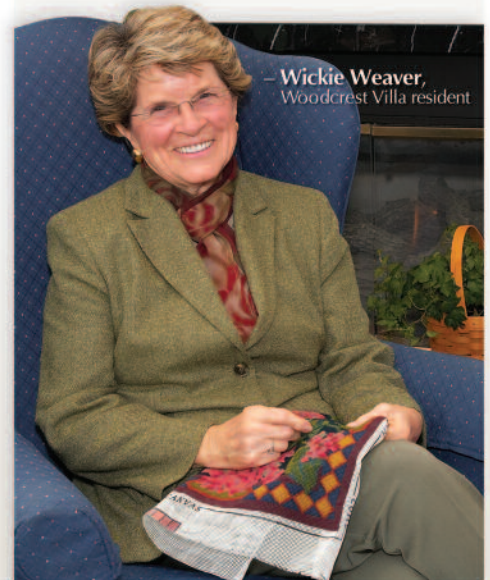
1. A much higher rate of payment than CDs, locked in for life
2. Decreased income taxes
3. Support for a favorite charity, such as Mennonite Home Communities

The Development office partners with the Mennonite Foundation to offer CGAs. We have helped 36 families to place 48 CGAs. Isn't it interesting that so many families decide to place a second or even third gift annuity?

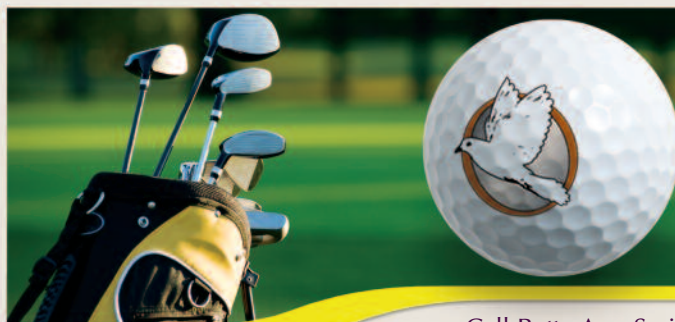
CGAs can be funded with stock, partially eliminating capital gains taxes. They can cover the lives of two people: usually a husband and wife, but it could also be a parent and child or two siblings. Deferred CGAs can help Boomers reduce current taxes and create retirement income.

Call Greg Pierce at 717.390.4903 for a confidential discussion.

"Thank goodness I never have to worry about my charitable gift annuity. Unlike stocks, the payment can never be reduced or eliminated. The best part is that I'm helping others at Mennonite Home Communities."



— Wickie Weaver,  
Woodcrest Villa resident



**New Day. New Course. Same Great Cause!**

## Mennonite Home Communities

16th Annual Golf Outing  
**THURSDAY, JULY 14, 2011**  
Royal Oaks Golf Club • Lebanon, PA

Call Betty Ann Smith at 717.735.2594 or see [mennonitehome.org/golf](http://mennonitehome.org/golf) to register.