



SOARING

A Publication of Mennonite Home Communities

'TIS THE SEASON

A Victorian Christmas Lights Up Woodcrest Villa



IN THIS ISSUE.

Christmas at Mennonite Home Communities

Rosevue Reinvention Continues

A Gift that Keeps on Giving

Pros & Cons

2008 Annual Report

Congress Throws you a TARP

CHRISTMAS

at Mennonite Home Communities

Christmas is always a busy time of year, and also a beautiful time for friendship, singing and getting together. There are ample opportunities at both campuses for residents to celebrate the Christmas Season.

Family Gatherings at Woodcrest Villa

Last December, Woodcrest started a new tradition to “Light Up Woodcrest Villa” at a special evening program. Residents dressed in Victorian garb to represent street carolers while others came to sing carols, hang ornaments on trees and enjoy the festive lighting. The turnout was terrific.

The “Light Up Woodcrest Villa” tradition will continue this year on December 4. Residents will perform a play emphasizing the importance of the Christmas Tree to the Christmas Story, sing carols that go with the story, and hang ornaments on the tree. After the dual programs at the Welcome Center and Bluebird Inn, Woodcrest is lit for the Christmas Season.

Woodcrest Villa residents have celebrated Christmas with a party each December for about 14 years.

Residents enjoy a holiday program, refreshments, good fellowship and a gift exchange that benefits a local charity. Each resident brings a new pair of gloves, hat, or scarf to the party. Those items are donated to a charity such as the Water Street Rescue Mission, Salvation Army or Boy’s Club. The residents truly enjoy giving these items more than receiving a gift. This has become an honored tradition at Woodcrest Villa.

Many residents use Woodcrest Villa as their spot for family Christmas gatherings. Ivan and Shirley Sellers love to use Bluebird Commons for family functions throughout the year.

The Sellers family consists of 18 people of all ages. They divide the room so that one half is reserved for children’s games like Dutch Blitz and the



Pictured on the front cover, from left to right are: Thelma Longenecker, Jim Deily, Dorothy Brubaker, Dick Olson, Pat Smith, Harry West and Joan Kulp

other half accommodates the food and dining. The celebration starts with reading the Christmas Story from the King James Version of the Bible, followed by prayer.



The kids enjoy Grandpa Ivan showing old slides of their parents as children in Christmas' past.

Each family brings a crock pot or an ice cream maker! After the feast, the kids exchange gifts. Later, some additional family members join in for dessert. The Sellers are blessed with several piano players and enjoy singing Christmas Carols.

Shirley said, "I don't regret moving to Woodcrest. Our apartment is sized for daily living and Bluebird Commons accommodates family gatherings. It's perfect!"

Family Gatherings at Mennonite Home

My mother and step-father, Norma and Raymond Landis, have resided at Mennonite Home for over five years. Our family celebrates numerous holidays in the Juniata Activity Room. This allows us to continue family traditions, since Mom and Dad cannot easily travel.

Certain traditional foods are "must-haves" for Christmas or Thanksgiving. Family members bring turkey, baked corn, mashed potatoes and Mom's special stuffing. It is always a delicious feast that reminds us of earlier days.

Our gift exchange involves the grandchildren pulling names among themselves. We also do a gag gift exchange of something you already have. This can be really tacky or nice, but it must be something you don't want. These gifts are also wrapped so you don't know what it is. Mom and Dad still get to be a part of the fun.

Mom likes to buy small gifts for the grandchildren. Mennonite Home's Country Store allows her to do that with such cute things at reasonable prices. As a nurse, I appreciate the wonderful care and facilities that



Mennonite Home residents Raymond & Norma Landis are looking forward to the joy that the holidays bring to all ages.

Mennonite Home provides our family.
By Dianne Winters, daughter of Norma.

The King family always looks forward to Christmas with Mother, Grandma and Great Grandma. Agnes' family grew from three children to eight grandchildren and now eleven great-grandchildren. We always enjoy a fabulous meal and then sing some traditional carols. A highlight of our celebration is the great grandchildren opening the presents Great Grandma buys for them. It is wonderful to have such nice facilities, at the Home, to enjoy our family times together.
By Pat King, daughter-in-law.



ROSEVUE

Reinvention Continues

We have reached the halfway point of our health care reinvention. Benchmark completed the facade of the building and residents moved into their new homes at Swarr and Trout Run.

Our open house celebration for Swarr and Trout Run brought 300 guests to our households. The positive comments were overwhelming about both the facilities and the new philosophy of Person Centered Care. This confirms the Board of Trustee's visionary decision to transform our health center philosophy of care.

A bright new employee lunch room now overlooks the Little Conestoga Creek and new campus lighting improved the front parking areas.

Our work continues to transform the Oakvue unit into Wissler Run rehabilitation household. This beautifully appointed area will feature abundant natural lighting through skylights in the dining area, private European showers in every room, and a supportive environment for healing. Wissler Run will open in January 2009.



The new Swarr and Trout Run facilities feature spacious dining areas, open bedroom configurations and relaxing saunas for resident comfort.

Photos courtesy of Larry Lefever Photography

One Family's Perspective on **PERSON CENTERED CARE**

By Andrea Petrillo, daughter of Theresa DeStefano

The Petrillo family

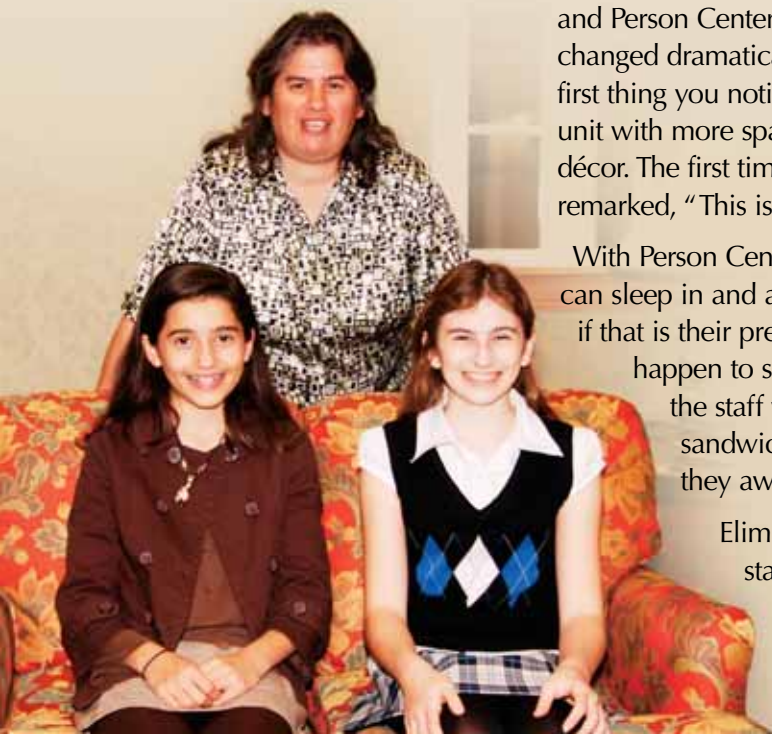
With the recent move to households and Person Centered Care, things have changed dramatically for the better. The first thing you notice is a much smaller unit with more space and beautiful décor. The first time my sister visited she remarked, "This is like a nice hotel!"

With Person Centered Care, residents can sleep in and awaken just for lunch, if that is their preference. If residents happen to sleep through lunch, the staff will make them a sandwich and soup whenever they awaken.

Eliminating the nursing station as the center of activity created a much more home-like

atmosphere. Now the residents gather to chat, enjoy activities, and listen to entertainment on the keyboard. The consistency of staffing is very important for residents. Dealing with the same care-givers and homemakers promotes strong bonds of friendship and understanding.

The parlor is a very welcome addition for private family visits. Recently we had an eighth grade graduation celebration for my daughter, Andie. Mom was able to participate as she had throughout Andie's life. That was very special for our family. Because of Person Centered Care, I spent more time with my children this summer, content in the knowledge that Mom was in loving hands.



A Gift That Keeps On Giving

Imagine being 88 years old, requiring a walker and needing to buy just bread, milk and eggs. Bus trips to the store are one solution. But Pat Smith, Woodcrest Villa Resident Council chairperson, devised a better solution.

Pat recruited John and Mary Rolinc, residents with years of food business knowledge, to create a committee. Together they enlisted the support of management and recruited volunteers to staff the resulting mini-business. The residents, via a survey, quickly identified their shopping needs. Shaun Metzler, Director of Dining Services, worked diligently with the committee to implement sound operational procedures.

The Marketplace allows residents to purchase groceries, non-food items, dairy and frozen products on



The Marketplace ribbon cutting ceremony is attended by Mary Rolinc, Shaun Metzler, Nan Rush, Nelson Kling, Pat Smith & John Rolinc.

the premises. It is located directly behind the Garden Café, so most residents don't have to travel out of their way. Residents with mobility

issues may request delivery to their rooms. This is a wonderful service!

The Marketplace is dedicated to having grocery store market prices with proceeds benefiting the residents of Woodcrest Villa. Woodcrest Villa residents truly know the spirit of giving by volunteering their time and talents for the benefit of their resident community.



The Marketplace is a welcome addition to Woodcrest Villa allowing residents the convenience of on-campus shopping.

OTHER WAYS OF GIVING

The Marketplace is the latest of many volunteer efforts to benefit our community. The Country Store at Mennonite Home provides attractive and affordable gifts. The Thrift Shop provides an outlet for low cost items of clothing and furniture. Both stores use volunteer staff and return their profits to the residents of MHC.

This year the Woodcrest Villa "Critters" (a contraction of crochet and knitting) created over 300 afghans for distribution through the "Warm Up America" program. Young and old alike appreciate the warmth and beauty of the afghans. The Mennonite Home Sewing Circle created comforters which they send around the world to children in need.

Christmas Gift Ideas

Residents may appreciate our gift certificate options:

WOODCREST VILLA RESIDENTS	MENNONITE HOME RESIDENTS
Beauty Salon	Barber/Beauty Salon
Housekeeping Services	Country Store
The Market Place	Main Street Café
Call 390.4100 to purchase	Call 390.1301 to purchase

PROS & CONS

You usually think of these as opposites, but in the ugly world of scams, the Pros are the ones pulling off the Cons. Cons use many types of fraud to separate you from your money. Here are a few examples:

Your telephone caller ID displays a reputable company or bank. The individual asks you to verify account information because of a problem with your account. If you verify your personal information, you have just become another “Vishing” victim.

Another popular tactic is called “Phishing.” Phishing scams rely on computer e-mail and pop-up messages to deceive consumers. It usually starts out something like this... “Dear Valued Customer,... please verify your information via email immediately.” The message sounds upsetting and demands an urgent response. You have been tricked and your personal information has been compromised.

Charities ask for donations to help victims of natural disasters. Unfortunately, offenders are busy trying to collect

money while falsely identifying themselves as representatives of the American Red Cross. They can sound very persuasive, but charities use the mail, not phone calls!

In a “Spoofing” scam, crooks create a fake copy of a website to mislead you. The website can look like the real thing, with logos and web links, but it’s a fake. Using this page can ruin your credit and drain your account.

There are many other forms of fraud including investment, fake checks, sweepstakes or lottery, pharmacy, mail, imposter burglary, and home repair.

Don’t let embarrassment prevent you from reporting fraud. A con artist is counting on you to be reluctant to admit you have been scammed.

To help prevent scams, NEVER give out your personal information and change your passwords frequently. Educate yourself, use good judgment and a healthy dose of skepticism. Choose not to participate; hang up the telephone or don’t respond to shady mailings or e-mails.

Remember, if it looks or sounds too good to be true...

“Regrettably, scam artists prey on older adults. Our residents can rest assured knowing that their safety and security are paramount with all staff members. Fourteen cameras, running 24 hours a day, were recently installed at entrances and dining areas, helping us to maintain tight physical security.”



Chuck Williams,
Security Supervisor MHC

- Americans lose more than \$40 billion a year to telemarketing fraud.
- People over the age of 50 account for 56% of all fraud victims.
- In 2007, the FBI Internet Crime Report Center received 206,884 Internet crime complaints.

ANNUAL REPORT

Two • Thousand • Eight



As we moved through 2008, Mennonite Home Communities was a place in transition. The management team implemented the Board's bold new direction of Person Centered Care.

Throughout the year, we witnessed stunning changes to the exterior of the old Rosevue building.

Benchmark Construction transformed the most dated part of our facility from an assisted living area to a beautiful neighborhood called Goods Run. Subsequent renovation phases created two health care households, Swarr Run and Trout Run.

This year the Board initiated a capital campaign to offset the costs of construction required for Person Centered Care. This effort will assure that resident rates are competitive. As we move into 2009, we welcome the support of board members, staff, residents and all those who have been blessed by our community and endorse Person Centered Care.



This year, Mennonite Home Communities experienced declines in our investment portfolios. This, coupled with a reduction in reimbursement, requires us to pay close attention to expense items. To that end, we are carefully monitoring capital expenditures and aggressively pursuing greater efficiencies.

I want to thank everyone who supports this great organization; donors, volunteers, board members and staff. Each person played a significant role in making this a memorable and transformational year.

J. Nelson Kling

Mennonite Home Communities Statement of Operations for the year ended June 30, 2008

RESIDENT SERVICE REVENUE:

Gross billings for room, board and ancillary services	\$34,750,258
Amount written off for required contractual allowances and inability of some residents to pay	(3,799,461)
NET RESIDENT SERVICE REVENUE	30,950,797
Pennsylvania nursing home assessment	478,772
Other revenue	377,085
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE	31,806,654

OPERATING EXPENSES:

Salary, wages and outside services	13,801,790
Payroll taxes and employee benefits	3,687,035
Food, medical supplies and other expenses	7,677,923
Pennsylvania nursing home assessment	144,170
Depreciation and interest	5,968,937
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	31,279,855
RESULTING IN A NET INCOME FROM OPERATIONS OF	526,799

OTHER INCOME:

Unrestricted contributions	374,569
Investment Income	371,103
Change in fair value of derivative financial instruments	(435,359)
REVENUES AND GAINS IN EXCESS OF EXPENSES	\$837,112

Mennonite Home Communities

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SOLICITATION POLICY

If you wish to have your name removed from the mailing list to receive future newsletters or fundraising materials supporting Mennonite Home Communities, please send a written request to:

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

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Congress Throws you a **T.A.R.P.**

On October 3 President Bush signed Public Law 110-343, commonly known as the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP). A little known aspect of this law is the return of the IRA Charitable Transfer Gift, retroactive to the beginning of 2008 and extending through the end of 2009. The terms are the same as the previous version of this act:

- Applies to IRA owners over age 70
- Direct roll-over gifts of any amount up to \$100,000 to a 501c3 charity, like MHC
- Transferred directly from your IRA administrator to the charities you specify
- This counts towards your Required Minimum Distribution
- Not included in your income so not subject to tax
- Eliminates future federal estate taxes and PA Inheritance taxes

You should contact your IRA Administrator quickly. See www.mennonitehome.org/donations for information and forms.

Mennonite Home Communities Wish List

Hoyer Lifts —————	\$3,000 ea	Digital Photo Frame ———	\$80
2) Wiis —————	\$240	2) Enteral Feeding Pumps —	\$850 ea
Pulse Ox Machine —	\$800	2) Doppler Kits —————	\$1,000 ea
Cell Phones —————	\$80	Aquariums —————	\$100