

Perspective

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Fairmount Residents Give Back

What is retirement? Some see it as an opportunity to rest, travel, or enjoy a life of leisure. Others insist, “I am so busy in retirement! I don’t know when I ever found time to work.” As a tax-exempt non-profit, Fairmount is grateful that so many residents volunteer here on campus—providing services that enable us to fulfill our mission of compassionate care. But these selfless residents also generously give their time far beyond our community. The impact of their sharing radiates literally around the world. We thought you would enjoy some of their stories.



Residents (from left) Judy and Richard Kliewer, Paul Kurtz, and George Eaby are several of the residents who spend time giving back to their communities and around the world.

Giving Back to the Local Community

Since George Eaby moved to Fairmount a few years ago, our already-beautiful grounds have blossomed even more under his “green thumb.” A Master Gardener, he spends hundreds of hours each year designing and planting flowerbeds and herb gardens here on campus, often using plants he starts from seed over winter.

Fairmount, however, is not the only grateful recipient of his expertise and volunteer efforts. Another beneficiary is the Youth Intervention Center, a secure facility in nearby Lancaster that houses alleged delinquent youth and children in Protective Services

awaiting foster homes. Twice a week throughout each spring and summer, George teaches gardening skills to these youth.

“The students must earn the right to participate in this program,” George explains. “We have a 40’ x 80’ plot in the center of the facility where we grow an organic garden. We also grow flowers and make container pots to show the young people how to grow plants in a limited space.”

Participants learn about all aspects of gardening, including tool safety, planting, cultivating, insects, and environmental issues. George developed the program 12

years ago to fulfill requirements for his Master Gardener certification, and it has been thriving ever since. What happens to the food grown for the program? It is donated to another organization that provides housing and training to homeless mothers and their children.

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The Blessings of Community

The President's Perspective



Fairmount Homes Mission Statement

"Fairmount Homes is a ministry with mature adults, providing high quality services, promoting wholeness and creative living consistent with Christ-centered Mennonite Values."

Core Values

Community • Compassion
Dignity • Integrity
Quality • Teamwork
Trust

Fairmount Homes *Perspective* is published quarterly for the residents, staff, volunteers and friends of Fairmount Homes, a Christian retirement community governed by a Board from the Weaverland Conference of the Old Order Mennonite Church.

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Over the past several weeks, I have been bouncing between Little League baseball games with my son and marching-band performances with my daughter. It is exciting to watch both of my children learn to rely on their teammates. In a marching-band competition, members have their own responsibilities, but if one makes a mistake or is not present, the whole team suffers. During a baseball game, the pitcher can pitch strikes, but he needs his team's best defense to help get three outs each inning. A team and a community are similar; both require many people working together for the common good.

"We cannot do it alone!" That is how I often describe the operations here at Fairmount Homes. It takes more than our staff working together to make Fairmount a true community. We also rely on volunteers and the broader community to assist us. However, while our staff and residents benefit from the generosity of our community, the giving is reciprocal. I see that happen in so in many ways.

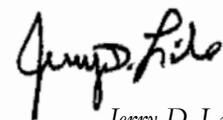
You will read in this newsletter how some of our residents give back

to the community at large. Others, whose stories we don't have space to share, work at Christian Aid Ministries, volunteer at their own church, or serve elsewhere. The list could go on and on.

God made us for community. All through His Word, He speaks about the importance of being part of a community. For example: "Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor; if either of them falls down, one can help the other up." Ecclesiastes 4:9-10.

It is a great privilege to work at Fairmount, knowing that not only do we benefit from the greater community, but many here also give back with great generosity and little fanfare. If you are considering becoming a future resident, rest assured, there are numerous ways in which you can continue to remain active in the community.

Oh, and by the way—I volunteer as coach for my son's baseball team, and I could sure use an assistant coach!


Jerry D. Lile
President/CEO

"Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor; if either of them falls down, one can help the other up."

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10, NIV

24th Annual Auction the Best Ever!

Fairmount's 24th Annual Benefit Auction and Barbecue produced a record level of income, thanks to the generous and hungry people who attended our September 14 event! Beautiful, brisk fall weather brought out a great crowd ready to bid at the auction, enjoy delicious food, watch children at the candy drop, and meet friends, old and new alike. Over \$108,500 was brought in. The proceeds left after expenses will be added to the Sharing Fund for the benefit of residents whose resources

have been exhausted through no fault of their own.

Fairmount is very grateful to all for their efforts and support in this event.

Mark your calendar now for next year's Benefit Auction & BBQ on September 13, 2014. See you there!



Tips on Planned Giving and Your Estate

Start with Objectives

Effective estate plans are based on specific objectives, and these arrangements should be carefully considered and spelled out in writing. Your plan should be reviewed at least every three years to make certain it still meets your needs and expectations. Your will is the foundation of your plan, but you may want to take advantage of other financial options as well.

Include Charitable Giving

Your basic estate plan should take into consideration the desirability and advantages of making gifts to charitable causes such as Fairmount Homes. Contributions may be outright gifts during your lifetime and/or deferred gifts, which benefit the charity fully after you (and perhaps others) pass away.

It is frequently to your advantage to transfer cash, securities, real estate, and other property to family members and charitable institutions such as Fairmount Homes

while you are still living, rather than through your will. These gifts can provide favorable income-tax and estate-tax benefits for you, the donor. In addition, you enjoy the satisfaction of seeing the impact your gift has on the recipients.

Charitable giving reduces the tax impact on your estate and allows you to invest in organizations that extend your values in perpetuity. As you make estate-planning decisions, consult with your lawyer. Advisors at Anabaptist Foundation or Mennonite Foundation are also available to assist you.

Ask Questions

For more information, please contact Peter Passage, Stewardship Director, at 717.354.1814 or by email: peterp@fairmounthomes.org.



Giving Back (continued from page 1)

George says simply, “My experience at the Youth Intervention Center is very rewarding.”

A Million Connections

Resident Paul Kurtz’s passion for genealogy and history made him a natural fit to help coordinate the Nicholas Stoltzfus House Project in neighboring Berks County. His involvement started years ago.

“In 1997, I was on a tour of Berks County when we stopped at the Nicholas Stoltzfus homestead,” Paul relates. “The house was run down and slated for demolition. Someone made the comment that the house ought to be saved.”

Paul’s interest was piqued, and thus began his involvement in the preservation effort. It took three years to acquire the property. Since then, the house has been restored as closely as possible to its original condition.

In 2011, a barn was added that includes a Heritage Room to store historical artifacts showcasing Stoltzfus and Anabaptist stories. It is also a place for reunions and weddings, and housing for a caretaker. Paul volunteers at least 25 hours a week working with committees, conducting tours, fundraising, and writing newsletters. The effort has been rewarding and the impact far-reaching.

Paul observes, “Most of the people in this area have some connection to Nicholas Stoltzfus as he is the original immigrant to whom every Stoltzfus in the area and in the country can trace their ancestry. By my calculations, there are over one million living descendants.”

A Global Impact

When Richard and Judy Kliever leave Fairmount behind and head south each winter, it is not only to enjoy the beach and sunshine. In Florida, they work with Educational Concerns for Hunger Organization (ECHO), a non-denominational, non-profit, networking organization that combats world hunger. The Klievers began helping at ECHO in 2000.

“We were fascinated with the program,” Richard shares. “On a 45-acre property, ECHO simulates the environments of other countries and experiments to find which plants grow best in those climates. Missionaries and interns come to learn about plants, agricultural processes, and irrigation methods that can be used where they live and work. The goal is to teach people around the world to grow nutritious food for themselves as a way to combat hunger.”

Several days a week, Richard uses his drafting experience to draw site plans for the ECHO grounds. Judy volunteers in the library. The Klievers are energized by contributing their talents and skills to a worthy cause with a global impact.

Benefits Radiate around the World

It is wonderful to discover some of the very diverse value that Fairmount delivers. Our impact is not limited to service to our residents. Rather, through them it flows beyond our campus to touch the rest of the world.



Retirement Community
333 Wheat Ridge Drive
Ephrata, PA 17522-8558
717.354.1800
www.FairmountHomes.org

Address Service Requested

Items of Interest

Public Welcome to Attend Grief Seminar

A grief seminar, "Coping With Loss During the Holidays" is planned for November 7 at 1:30 p.m. in the Crest View Gathering Room. The facilitator will be Trish Benton, LSW, CT, from Hospice and Community Care in Lancaster. The public is welcome to attend.

Central PA Blood Drive

On December 12, 2013 the Central PA Blood Bank will hold a blood drive in the Farm Crest Community Room from 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Donors may call the blood bank for an appointment at 1.800.771.0059. Walk-ins are also welcome until 6:00 p.m.

Volunteer Opportunities

More hands are welcome to assist residents at mealtimes. If you are willing to help in this way, please call Carol Swailes at 717.354.1800.

Mailing List Update

If you wish to have your name removed from the mailing list, please call 717.354.1800, write the Managing Editor at the address above, or email carols@FairmountHomes.org.

*Perspectives may be viewed at
www.FairmountHomes.org*



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Silent Auction Returns for 10th Season!

New bid numbers are now available for the 2014 Heritage Day Silent Auction set to open for its 10th season. On Monday, October 28, the first week's items were placed on display in the Wheat Ridge lobby. From then until Heritage Day on June 7, each week's auction will begin Monday at 8:30 a.m. and end a week later when a new collection of antique or collectible items is exhibited.

The items are also pictured on a slide show at the bottom of the Silent Auction page on the Fairmount



website. New bidder numbers are required each year, and can be obtained at the Wheat Ridge or Crest View reception desks.

Since its beginning a decade ago, the Silent Auc-

tion has continued to grow in both number and quality of items, as well as in the interest and enthusiasm of participants. All proceeds from the Silent Auction and June Heritage Day are designated for the Sharing Fund which benefits residents who, through no fault of their own, have outlived their resources.