

FAIRMOUNT HOMES Perspective

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Dedicated to Faith, Family and Community

With Hearts to Serve

Why does Barry Zimmerman struggle to fit his legs under a child-size table each Friday afternoon? And why does Betsy Brackbill patiently encourage a little girl to try one more time to get the words of a Scripture verse just right? The simple answer is that, like so many other Fairmount residents, they have hearts to serve.

“Fairmount Homes is a ministry with mature adults...” begins our mission statement. While much of our ministry is to our residents, dozens of types of service are provided by and with the wonderful residents and staff who are a part of the Fairmount community. The impact of this service ripples far beyond our campus.



Pictured above are Fairmount residents Betsy Brackbill (second from left) and Barry Zimmerman, with a small group of their Released Time participants.

Serving Youth

For the past five years, cottage resident Barry Zimmerman has spent Friday afternoons at his church as a “listener” for elementary-school children in the Released Time Program. These public-school children are excused from their classes to participate in a weekly hour of religious instruction. For part of the time, children divide into small groups so they can quote their Bible verses to an adult “listener.” Over the course of a school year, the listeners’ focused attention encourages children to share about their lives as well.

While Barry and his wife Linda have volunteered at Fairmount too, this children’s ministry has been especially meaningful to Barry. “The boys and girls receive wonderful teaching. I have seen seven children come forward to be saved just this year,” he relates.

Another resident, Betsy Brackbill, became a Released Time listener two years ago, soon after the passing of her husband. “I find it very satisfying to do something that helps guide the next generation,” she says.

Providing a Job Training Environment

Another heartwarming connection between Fairmount and area youth began six years ago. Lisa Alcalá, a job trainer with the Lancaster-Lebanon Intermediate Unit 13 (IU13), asked if she could bring a group of Garden Spot High School students to Fairmount to work for a few hours every other week. Doris Lindhurst, Director of Dining Services, worked with Lisa to come up with a mutually beneficial plan.

Lisa learned specific jobs that she then taught the students. The teens gained valuable job skills in a real

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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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Finding Where God Wants Us

The President's Perspective

In his devotional book, *Let Your Life Speak*, Parker Palmer explores the idea of a vocational calling. He considers how we listen to God's voice while reflecting on the ways we serve others. Over the past several years, I have read this book numerous times and each time I learn something new. I enjoy the self reflection!

Reading this book causes me to revisit where God wants me to be, what He wants me to do, and who I am meant to be. Maybe it's because due to a recent birthday I am another year older, or maybe God is challenging me to look deep inside and question whether or not I am living the life He intended. As I ponder these questions, I am reminded of Philippians 4:8-9, "If anything is excellent or praiseworthy, think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me, put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you."

*If anything is excellent or praiseworthy, think about such things.
Philippians 4:8*

- So, what have I learned or seen in my vocation at Fairmount?
- I have seen Fairmount caregivers hold hands and sing to the sick and dying.
 - I have been humbled because staff members are willing to sleep on air mattresses during a winter storm so they can be here for our residents.
 - I witness volunteers investing hundreds of hours feeding and visiting residents, evidence that our core values are far more than words on a page.
 - I have learned that our residents have wisdom to share, and I should listen.
 - Lastly, I have learned that I am exactly where God is calling me to be, surrounded by a wonderful group of residents, volunteers, and staff who love and care for one another.

Jerry D. Lile
Jerry D. Lile
President/CEO

February Quilting Days

Thank you to all the quilters who came out to quilt for the September Benefit Auction. Over the three days, 219 quilters finished more than a dozen quilts. Several more were started and will be finished by our Fairmount resident quilters before the auction. Special thanks goes to the dedicated volunteers who coordinated this event, and to those who prepared lunches and snacks for the quilters.



Residents Maribelle Steffy (left) and Lydia Kurtz have a good time working together at February Quilting Days.



Fairmount Welcomes New Medical Director

Fairmount Homes is pleased to welcome Dr. William Loretan as our Medical Director, effective March 13. As a physician with Internal Medicine Specialists of Lancaster County (now part of WellSpan), he had already been caring for many of our residents. In his new role as Medical Director, he will collaborate with Fairmount's administration, staff, and other medical practitioners to coordinate care, and to provide clinical guidance and oversight assuring that each resident's medical needs are met.

Working closely with Dr. Loretan as part of the Internal Medicine Specialist Group is Karina Dussinger, CRNP, who spends several days each week attending to Fairmount residents.

Dr. Loretan comments on his new role: "I am proud and honored to serve as Fairmount's Medical Director. We are dedicated to continuing to provide the fine quality of medical care that residents rightfully expect at Fairmount."

President/CEO Jerry Lile expresses gratitude to retiring Medical Director Dr. Kathleen Kreider: "Our residents were blessed to have an outstanding and consistent Medical Director for 30-plus years. Dr. Kreider was a tremendous asset to Fairmount Homes and we will miss her."



Pictured are Medical Director Dr. William Loretan and Karina Dussinger, CRNP, who provide medical care for many Fairmount residents.

With Hearts to Serve *(continued from page 1)*

working environment where they had careful oversight and guidance. They also learned how to prepare for job interviews, fill out applications, and interact socially with residents, co-workers, and the public.

The program has grown and flourished. Additional job trainers and other area high schools have brought students to learn a variety of jobs in the kitchen, laundry, housekeeping, or activity departments. Many of them have gone on to successfully pursue internships and employment.

Lisa is eager to share why she has a special place in her heart for Fairmount: "Approximately 100 students have come through our program here over the past six years. They always look forward to coming to work, and unanimously love the people they work with."

Doris reflects that the program she helped to build "has been very helpful for us here at Fairmount. When the students are here, my staff can do extra things, such as our annual in-service training. They like the students and miss them when they aren't here over the summer."

Additionally, students help with special projects

such as tearing out old carpet during a cottage renovation. And prior to Fairmount's Annual Benefit Auction, groups of eager students spend a day moving boxes of flea-market items from the storage area to the tent. For Fairmount, they are an invaluable asset. For the students, their experience here is an opportunity to make meaningful contributions by working together to accomplish essential tasks.

Meeting a Wide Range of Needs

Some of Fairmount's residents contribute to organizations outside of Fairmount without ever leaving home. For example, they cut materials for safety vests, knit caps for newborn babies, make comfort tops for homeless people, decorate bags for Meals on Wheels, or sew hygiene products for women in under-resourced areas of the world. Many others leave campus to volunteer at organizations such as Christian Aid Ministries, Material Resource Center, or Booksavers.

A few years ago, Fairmount adopted the tagline, "Dedicated to Faith, Family and Community." It is a concept lived out daily as we go about fulfilling our mission.



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Perspective

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Items of Interest

Amish/Mennonite Student Safety Vest Frolic

A Safety Vest Frolic will be held in the Crest View Gathering Room at 1100 Farm Crest Drive on Friday, May 19, starting at 9:30 a.m. The public is invited to come and work with residents to assemble kits and help make vests for the Amish and Mennonite students who need them.

Central PA Blood Drive

On June 15, the Central PA Blood Bank will hold a blood drive in the Farm Crest Community Room from 11:30 a.m.–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 p.m.

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.

Perspective issues are available at www.FairmountHomes.org



Fairmount's 13th Heritage Day
Saturday, June 3 ~ 6:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Come. Bring Friends. Enjoy the Day.



Questions?
Contact Peter C. Passage
Stewardship Director
717.354.1814

All proceeds benefit the Sharing Fund.