

# FAIRMOUNT HOMES Perspective

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Dedicated to Faith, Family and Community

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## From Full-Timing to a Settled Home

**M**oving to a retirement community usually involves some downsizing. However Jim and Esther Hodgkins will actually expand their living space this fall when they move into their 1,464 square-foot, two-bedroom, two-bath Fairmount cottage. After a decade of “full-timing” in their 38-foot recreational vehicle, they will once again have a permanent place to call home.

### *Life-Long Traveling*

Jim and Esther have always traveled. “One of our daughters married a diplomat and moved all over the world. We went to see them wherever they lived,” Esther explains. “The first place we visited was Beijing, China, and Tibet. Later we visited Japan, the most fascinating of our excursions.”

Over their married life, the Hodgkins visited all 50 states (not always in their RV) as well as many countries. As “full timers” in their motor home these last 10 years, they have been moving from one place to another every three or four weeks, except for winters which they spent in Mission, Texas.

### *Fun, Not Work*

Jim and Esther both enjoyed fulfilling careers. In 1958 Esther earned her LPN license and Jim fulfilled his dream of securing his 1st class operator’s license to work in a radio station. Esther was a nurse for many years at Community Hospital in Reading. Jim spent his entire career as a broadcast engineer, working for the same radio station in Reading for 30 years before retiring in 1993. “It was never work for me—it was fun!” he declares.

On the side, Jim had his own studio where he made vinyl records, cassettes and CDs, and in addition he ran



*After ten years of “full-timing” in an RV, Jim and Esther Hodgkins have chosen to make a new Fairmount cottage their home.*

his own photography business. In 2005, he gave up his studio to go on the road, but he still enjoys photography and carries a camera wherever they travel.

So what made them decide to settle down now? Esther ponders for a moment. “I am getting tired of moving around,” she says finally. “And our daughters really wanted us to have a place we could call home.”

### *Many Reasons to choose Fairmount*

Asked why they selected Fairmount, Jim answers first. “We qualified for another nearby retirement home, too, but our values more closely align with Fairmount’s values.”

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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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## Displaying Courage *The President's Perspective*

As the story goes, on May 13, 1947, the Cincinnati Reds were playing the Brooklyn Dodgers in Cincinnati, OH. As the Dodgers took the field, some fans began yelling racial slurs towards the Dodgers' African-American rookie, Jackie Robinson. Pee Wee Reese, Jackie's teammate and popular All-Star player from Kentucky, left his shortstop position, jogged over to first base, and put his arm around Robinson. Reese's bold gesture of empathy silenced the abusive fans.



Much later, a statue of the two men memorizing Reese's act of solidarity was unveiled in New York. At the dedication ceremony, Robinson's widow Rachel stated, "It's an historic symbol of a wonderful legacy of friendship, of teamwork, of courage—of a lot of things we hope we will be able to pass on to younger people."

We celebrate a baseball player who displayed great courage in supporting a teammate whom the world was reluctant to accept. Sometimes the world around us today is increasingly reluctant to support the elderly.

In recent years, Pennsylvania state lawmakers have passed budgets that consistently fall short of meeting the

financial needs of older adults. In the last five years, nursing facilities, including Fairmount, have seen only slight increases in funding, while costs for salaries, food and supplies have continued to rise. This directly affects our residents.

How can we display courage similar to Pee Wee Reese and show our support for the elderly? Here

are three options:

1. Contact your local legislators and ask them to increase reimbursement for the elderly. This action will help residents who cannot cover the cost of their health care expenses.
2. Volunteer here at Fairmount. We have many wonderful volunteers who give their time and energy to support our residents, but we can always use more helping hands.
3. Pray for us as we work to fulfill our mission, providing Christ-centered care for our residents.

In whatever way you feel led to show your support, we thank you.

*Jerry D. Lile*  
Jerry D. Lile  
President/CEO

## Heritage Day Reflections

On Saturday, June 4, Fairmount Homes and the community celebrated our rural heritage at our 12th Annual Heritage Day. A detailed account and great pictures are posted on the Fairmount website under the Community Engagement link. Thanks to everyone who helped to support this exciting event. All proceeds will go to the Sharing Fund for the benefit of residents who have exhausted their resources.



# Welcome to 6th Annual Open House



## **Welcome!**

Along with 16 other local, continuing-care retirement communities, Fairmount is opening its doors for our 6th Annual Open House. Don't miss this opportunity to come and see what cottage and apartment living here at Fairmount is all about.

### **From Full-Timing ...** *(continued from page 1)*

Family connections are another factor, as Esther explains. "My mother was a Fairmount resident many years ago. She always got good care, and when I came to visit, I thought, 'I could live here.' Mother's sister also lived and worked at Fairmount for many years. Plus we have friends here, and our daughter lives nearby."

### **Looking Forward to the Next Phase**

The Hodgkins are excited about their move. Esther says, "One of the things I'm really looking forward to is being able to go to the same church every Sunday. Right now we have to find a church in each new location. Also, after we settle in at Fairmount, I would like to volunteer in some capacity working directly with residents."

Jim is also eager to find a church, but he has a different idea for volunteering. "I have thousands of great pictures from all over the world," he remarks. I hope there will be opportunities to share travelogues with new Fairmount friends."



*Six new cottages are scheduled for completion in early fall.*

### **Only One New Cottage Left**

The Hodgkins' cottage is one of six new duplexes in Fairmount's latest expansion project on the corner of Cat's Back and Farmersville Roads. As construction nears completion, only one of the six cottages is still available. This is a great time to investigate the benefits of joining the Fairmount community, especially if you would like to be the first residents to occupy a brand-new cottage. Please call the Admissions Office at 717.354.1800 for more information.

## **"Make a Difference" on Auction Day**

The Benefit Auction/BBQ will once again auction "Make a Difference" opportunities to contribute \$150.00 for one day of care for residents who have exhausted their financial resources. You can use the enclosed envelope to "Make a Difference" if you are unable to attend the Auction. Please consider helping our residents in this way.





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# Perspective

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## Items of Interest

### *Central PA Blood Drive*

The Central PA Blood Bank will hold a blood drive on Thursday, August 18, from 11:30 a.m.–6:30 p.m. in the Farm Crest Community Room. Walk-ins are welcome until 6:00 p.m. To make an appointment, please call the Blood Bank at 800.771.0059.

### *Benefit Auction Needs*

#### • Theme Baskets

Donations of theme baskets, supplies and/or money toward additional theme baskets are always welcome.

#### • Dining For Dollars

Consider hosting a Dining for Dollars event. To host a meal, please call 717.656.7810 or 717.733.2509 by August 12.

#### • Auction/Flea Market Items

New items for the auction or good used items for the flea market are always welcome.

### *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](mailto:carols@FairmountHomes.org).



## 27th Benefit Auction & Barbecue

*New Date! September 17*



*“Make a Difference”  
 Opportunities  
 (details on page 3)*



*Come - Bring Friends - Enjoy the Day*