

Perspective

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Personal Care—It Feels Like Home



Volunteer Hanna Ornelas and Personal Care resident Dolores Townsley and their families developed a close friendship that grew out of their common love of music.

What is Personal Care? It is a level of care here at Fairmount that allows each resident the most independence possible while providing the basics of meals, cleaning, laundry services, and medication management. Also, staff are always on duty to address health issues. Beyond these basics, Personal Care means something different to everyone because it is personal, and uniquely tailored to each individual. Accommodations may vary from a single room to a suite of rooms, and some residents still drive their cars or even hold jobs off campus.

Independence in a Safe Environment

When asked what Personal Care means to her, Elsie Harnish has an instant reply, “It’s home!”

Elsie lived alone after her husband passed away in 1997. A few months ago, being alone began to make her uneasy. “My son is very devoted but lives a few hours away. I knew that if I got sick, it would pose a difficult dilemma for all of us. Here I feel safe, no matter what happens.”

Although she has lived nearby most of her life, Elsie was not familiar with Fairmount until she spent time here about a year ago recuperating from an illness. “When I returned home, I told my son I wanted to come to Fairmount when the time came for me to move. He put my name in then, and I was so happy to get the call that there was an opening. It feels like home here.”

Freedom to Enjoy Leisure Activities

With the chores of grocery shopping, cooking, cleaning, and home maintenance now in someone else’s hands, Elsie is free to relax with her favorite pastimes: crocheting, reading, doing puzzles, and enjoying the spectacular view of the valley from her window.

She adds, “I am eating much better now, too. When I lived alone, I would just grab something quick. Here, the meals are delicious, and I have other people to talk with when I want.”

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Servant Attitude Puts Residents First

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

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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I recently read *It's Not About the Coffee* by Howard Behar, former President of Starbucks International. During his time at Starbucks, Mr. Behar helped create a culture that stresses the importance of people over profits.

While Starbucks is known for good coffee, they have a reputation for great customer service. They impress on their staff the value of making sure customers are treated with respect, as well as ensuring that each employee feels appreciated and respected—putting people first!

We are obviously not in the coffee business, although when you visit, I am sure I can find you a great cup of coffee! But we do "sell" an experience that focuses on people. Our mission is all about people—the people we serve and the people who do the serving.

Starbucks explains their guiding principles for employees in a little green booklet, *The Green Apron Book*. One of the principles is "Know why you're here: Do it because it's right,

not because it's right for your resume."

This reminded me of a recent conversation I had with one of our nursing assistants. I asked, "Why do you drive 45 minutes one way to work at Fairmount?"

Her response was simple: "I work here because I love the residents."

She doesn't work solely for the wage but for the passion of providing loving care to our residents. She is not just building her resume. Instead, she is focused on offering a positive experience for the residents she serves and putting people first, above herself.

In Philippians 2:3-4 we are called to do nothing out of selfish ambition. Rather, we are to work for the interests of others over our own interests. I am grateful to our team members who display this servant attitude each day by putting our residents' needs first.

*"I work here
because I love the
residents."*

Jerry D. Lile
Jerry D. Lile
President/CEO

Serving
44
Years
1968-2012

Heritage Day, a "Thing of the Past"

In spite of the previous night's downpour, Heritage Day dawned bright and clear, and a great number of attendees turned out for the event. Some of the day's highlights:

- Crowds of young and old gathered around old tractors, cars, and farm equipment, reminiscing bygone days.
- The petting zoo, sheep shearing, and alpacas were a hit with all.
- Master craftspeople provided a glimpse of "how it was done in yesteryear."
- Spirited bidding resulted in \$1,616 for the final week and a total of \$11,158 for the year's Silent Auction proceeds.
- Everyone enjoyed fresh hand-cut French fries, ice cream churned with hit-&-miss engines—plus plenty of other food!
- All around there was great fellowship, fun, and food while raising money for Fairmount's Sharing Fund.



Thanks to all who helped in any way to make Heritage Day a great success!

Perspective, August 2012



LeadingAge PA
formerly panpha



Admissions Department Expands

We warmly welcome Rebecca Ebersole who recently joined the Fairmount team in the newly-created Admissions Associate position. In this role, her primary responsibility is Health Care admissions. Rebecca feels the position is a great fit for her, as she previously spent 10 years working in long-term care and finds a great deal of satisfaction in caring for others.

"I feel connected to Fairmount in many ways," Rebecca reflects. "I live close by, and I grew up in a large,

close-knit family and a conservative church, so I am right at home. However, I would not have considered a job change had I not served as a volunteer here and gotten a first-hand glimpse of Fairmount's inner workings and caring attitudes."

In her free time, Rebecca enjoys photography, genealogy, gardening, traveling, and spending time with her family.

God bless you, Rebecca, as you continue serving others at Fairmount.



"Explore Retirement Living" Open House



Fairmount Homes, along with 16 other local retirement homes, is opening its doors for a 2nd annual Open House on the following dates and times:

**Friday, October 26
3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.**

**Saturday, October 27
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

Welcome! Come and see the options Fairmount has to offer!

Personal Care *(continued from page 1)*

New Horizons to Explore

Dolores Townsley, who has lived in Personal Care with her husband Jesse for about a year, is delighted to continue sharing her musical talents with others. Playing her piano and accordion has always been a big part of her life. After the couple settled in at Fairmount, music played a significant role in the development of new friendships and provided a special niche for Dolores' gifts.

"I heard Hannah, a young volunteer, playing her violin for an activity one day. After listening for a bit, I got up, went to the piano, and started to accompany her," Dolores recalls. "After that, Hannah and I started practicing together. We now perform a monthly music program for other residents. In the process, my husband and I formed a close friendship with Hannah and her family."

Resident Ruth King also enjoys new horizons—in a very literal way. Most mornings find her standing atop the hill surveying the vista. "I love to look out over the valley and pray," she explains. "For 24 years of my life I lived in the mountains, and I never saw a sunset or a sunrise from my home. I just love the view here!"

Peace of Mind

The goal of Personal Care is to provide the maximum amount of independence possible within a safe environment. Residents know that three good meals are available every day without the need for shopping or cooking, medications are dispensed as prescribed, and someone is always around to help with health needs. This is a safety net that even the most loving and thoughtful families cannot supply. For these residents and their families, Personal Care means peace of mind.



Retirement Community

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Address Service Requested

Items of Interest

Joy Through Adversity

Terri Roberts, mother of the man responsible for the Nickel Mines school shooting, will be telling her story on August 21 at 10:00 a.m. in a program called "Joy Through Adversity." The event will be held in the Crest View Gathering Room and is open to the public.

Benefit Auction Needs

- **Theme Baskets**

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

- **Dining For Dollars**

Consider hosting a Dining for Dollars event. To host an event, please call 717.656.7810 or 717.733.2509 by August 13.

- **Auction/Flea Market Items**

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

Volunteer Opportunities

More hands are welcome to assist residents at mealtimes. If you are willing to help in this way, please call Carol Swales 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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Benefit Auction Coming Soon

Saturday, September 8, 2012

Schedule

6:30 a.m. Big John's Breakfast

8:30 a.m. Hoover's Male Chorus

9:00 a.m. Auction Begins

10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. BBQ Chicken Dinner

Events

Candy Drop ❖ Dining for Dollars ❖ Flea Market
Silent Auction ❖ Food Stands ❖ Children's Games & Rides

Auctions

Handmade Quilts ❖ Theme Baskets ❖ Children's Auction
Specialty Items ❖ Outdoor Furniture & Plants

2012 Auction Proceeds will benefit the Sharing Fund.

Come ~ Bring friends ~ Enjoy the day!