



# Perspective

Volume 19, No. 1 | February 2013

## Fairmount Celebrates

**W**e've reached our 45th anniversary! Fairmount first opened its doors on February 19, 1968, so that means this year we are celebrating four and a half decades of service. John and Ruth Zimmerman have had a front-row seat on the Fairmount story for all of those years. We recently sat down with them to hear their perspective.

It was 1967 when the Zimmermans with their young, growing family learned that a new seniors' facility was going to be built at the top of the hill on Cat's Back Road. Deciding that such a community would make excellent neighbors, they purchased an adjacent parcel. As Fairmount's initial buildings went up, so did the Zimmermans' rancher on the corner. John and Ruth were always glad for their decision to become Fairmount's neighbors. "It was a great place to raise our four boys," Ruth reflects. "Our children had a great place to play, with brush and small game and a shale pit they called their hut."

### **Watching Fairmount Grow**

In 1980, Fairmount started adding cottages. "As our new neighbors moved into these cottages, we realized that Fairmount was expanding beyond the traditional nursing home to include younger seniors whose lives weren't that much different from ours," Ruth remembers. "We saw many of them lovingly tend their flowerbeds, and we would notice the van coming and going taking residents on day trips together."



*John and Ruth Zimmerman, as both neighbors and residents, have watched Fairmount grow for the past 45 years.*

When the Wheat Ridge expansion project was completed in 1998, the shale pit that had served as a playground for the Zimmerman boys was replaced by Fairmount's new Health Care and Personal Care facility and administrative headquarters. "Of course, by then our boys were grown," Ruth relates. "We recognized that again, Fairmount was expanding to serve more seniors with a broader array of options. Then the four-story Crest

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# Looking Back to Prepare for the Future

## 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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- Carol Swailes: pages 1, 3 and 4  
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In 1968 the United States was experiencing a time of new beginnings, including the introduction of the Hot Wheels car, one of America's most popular toys. The year was also marked by sadness at the death of civil rights activist Martin Luther King, Jr., and by the excitement of the Apollo 8 orbit of the moon.

As history was in the making around the world and in our nation, history was also being made in our small community of Farmersville.

*Fairmount's unwavering commitment to serve the community with tender loving care remains the same.*

Fairmount Rest Home, now called Fairmount Homes, opened on February 19, 1968. It grew out of the desire of Katie B. Kurtz to establish a nursing home with Christian values. Her foresight and vision played an instrumental role in bringing the dream to reality. With the help of her family and the community, Fairmount opened with 20 residents.

Over the succeeding 45 years, the original vision matured into a full continuing care retirement community serving as home to over 300 residents. The small facility that once

sat on about 10 acres and employed a handful of people, now spreads over 50 acres and employs more than 300 devoted and loyal team members.

While much has changed in the past 45 years, Fairmount's unwavering commitment to serve the community with tender loving care remains the same. Fairmount is truly blessed with dedicated staff devoted to carrying out Christian values in the services they provide.

Reflecting on the past helps us gain a greater appreciation for the present, and better prepares us to meet future challenges. We welcome opportunities to keep growing, remain innovative, enhance our community relationships, and demonstrate God's love through the care we provide.

Just as children still play with Hot Wheels, Fairmount continues to provide quality care for our residents and remains a sought-after and well respected retirement community. I invite you to join us in celebrating our 45 years of successful service!

Jerry D. Lile  
President/CEO

## Absentee Bidding for Silent Auction

Did you know that you can view current Silent Auction items on the web and place absentee bids on the items you want? If you cannot bid in person, you may leave a message at 717.354.1814 or email peterp@fairmounthomes.org to have your bid placed for you. Your message must be received by 8:00 a.m. Monday morning and must include

your bid number, the item you want, and the maximum bid you are willing to make. Your bid will be placed for you.

Items are changed weekly. To view Silent Auction items online, go to [www.fairmounthomes.org](http://www.fairmounthomes.org) and click the Silent Auction button to the left side of the home page. For more information, please call Peter Passage at 717.354.1814. Happy bidding!





## Team Members Honored at Christmas Meal

On December 11, Fairmount staff and their families enjoyed a delicious dinner and a wonderful time together at the annual Christmas Fellowship Meal. A highlight of the evening was the recognition of 44 team members who were celebrating five-year increments of service and together represented a total of 410 years of service at Fairmount.

Kent Richard, Vice President of Operations, commented in his opening remarks, “Teamwork is one of the reasons Fairmount is a workplace of choice and why our turnover so far this fiscal year is in the single digits, which is phenomenal for this industry.” What a great tribute to our team!



Recognized for their years of service were (from left): Denise Givler (25), Deborah Hoover (35), and Lena Zimmerman (25).

## Matching Fund Offer Met for New Hearthside Café

We want to express our thanks to the generous donor who gave a matching challenge gift of \$12,500, and to everyone who contributed in response! The total was met by the end of November, and additional gifts continue to come in. The funds have been designated for the development of a new Hearthside Café in the Wheat Ridge lobby for the enjoyment of residents, visitors, families, and team members. We

know this welcoming environment will quickly become a favorite place to meet and fellowship over coffee or a meal.

Through the generosity of many, a total of about \$36,000 has been raised to date. Additional donations are needed, although the exact amount cannot be determined until the design committee completes their plans. Watch for updates as the project progresses.

### Fairmount Celebrates *(continued from page 1)*

View apartment building went up in 2005, and it really changed the landscape. But we noticed smaller changes too. For instance, when the walking trail was completed, we saw many residents enjoying our hill-top views from various angles while getting their daily exercise.”

### ***Becoming Part of the Family***

Four years ago, the Zimmermans decided to sell their house to Fairmount with an agreement that they could continue to live there as Fairmount residents. “We love our new status as official members of the Fairmount community,” Ruth declares—then adds with a grin, “except that John forgets sometimes that we don’t have to shovel the snow anymore!”

In the Zimmermans’ opinion, one of the biggest advantages of this new arrangement is the security of a continuing care community. They realize great health

care is right next door. “We’ve seen firsthand the excellent care a relative of ours has been receiving for a number of years here. She has made such wonderful friendships with the staff. We know we will receive the same quality care if we need it.”

### ***Still Growing***

As Fairmount celebrates this 45th anniversary milestone, we are taking the opportunity not only to look back with gratitude but also to look forward with additional plans for expansion. We want to continue to meet the changing needs and desires of mature adults.

Plans have been completed for a new duplex and triplex cluster of cottages on the Farm Crest campus, and several of these units are still available. So now is the perfect time to investigate the possibility of enjoying the benefits of becoming a member of the Fairmount community. Call the Admissions Office at 717.354.1800 for information.



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

**Address Service Requested**

## Items of Interest

### *Central PA Blood Drive*

A blood drive will be held in the Crest View Gathering Room Thursday, February 14, from 11:30 a.m.–6:30 p.m. For an appointment, please call Ferne at 354.1895 or the blood bank at 800.771.0059. Walk-ins are welcome until 6:00 p.m.

### *Ham and Cheese Fundraiser*

Our annual ham & cheese fundraiser, held jointly with the Weaverland Conference Youth for Truth, is just around the corner. Sandwiches may be ordered at the Wheat Ridge or Crest View front desks, or by calling 717.354.1800. Proceeds will be used for a project enhancing resident lives.

### *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).

*Perspectives may be accessed online at [www.fairmounthomes.org](http://www.fairmounthomes.org).*



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## Annual February Quilting Planned

### *Save the Dates*

*Saturday, February 16*

*Tuesday, February 19*

*Wednesday, February 20*

*8 a.m. to 4 p.m.*

*(lunch served daily)*



*Farm Crest Community Room, 100 Farm Crest Dr.*