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Community: Sharing a Common Purpose

The President's Perspective

A good friend and I were recently discussing the meaning of community. We questioned whether "community" means holding common ideas, or having the same lineage or cultural characteristics. We ultimately decided that the essence of community was sharing a common purpose.

My friend reminded me of the 12 disciples. What a diverse group of men! Their occupations ranged from tax collector to fisherman. They all had their own unique traits and varied backgrounds, but Jesus called them together and said, “Follow me.” He sent them out into the world to spread the gospel and heal the sick. Despite their diversity, the group was committed to a common purpose.

Fairmount Homes is also diverse. Residents and employees come with unique backgrounds and have been influenced by a broad spectrum of factors. However, we share a common purpose. We want to provide an exceptional Christian environment in which our residents can thrive and our employees feel loved and supported by one another.

In his book, 21 Tests of Effective Leadership, Larry Kreyder details four commonalities that help a team function well together. The first three—a common vision, common values, and common procedures—must align so that the fourth—healthy relationships—can occur. If any of the areas is missing, a community will find itself struggling to function cohesively.

Although Fairmount Homes is comprised of residents and employees of varying backgrounds, we are committed to functioning as a healthy community. At times we may challenge each other’s ideas, but at the end of the day, we come together and support one another.

I hope that you have an opportunity to experience our community in action. God has called us to work together to honor and glorify Him in all that we do! I pray each one of us hears that calling and strives to make a positive difference within our own communities.

Jerry D. Lile
President/CEO

Fairmount Homes Mission Statement

“Fairmount Homes is a ministry with mature adults, providing high-quality services, promoting wellness and creative living consistent with Christian-centered Mennonite Values.”

Core Values

Community • Compassion
Dignity • Integrity
Quality • Tranquillity
Trust

Fairmount Homes Perspective is a 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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Giving is a Two-Way Street

Truly Personal Care

Fairmount Homes’ mission statement begins with, “Fairmount Homes is a ministry with mature adults...” Serving our residents and fulfilling our mission takes the help of many others in our community. Volunteers, local church and school groups, the fire company, and many other organizations and individuals play a vital role. However, giving is a two-way street, and Fairmount is also privileged to give back to the community in many ways. Following are a few examples:

• Fairmount offers space for a local TOPS (Taking Off Pounds Sensibly) chapter, a weight-loss program open to anyone in the community.
• Various educational and informational programs are hosted at Fairmount and open to the community.
• Fairmount’s beautiful walking paths are available for use by the community, as well as residents and staff, giving them a safe and beautiful place to walk.

Fairmount—what a great asset to our community!

Fairmount Homes Retirement Community

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Marcia goes on to explain some of the other benefits of Personal Care. “It is less expensive than Health Care, but offers assistance with medication management, respiratory care, diabetes, and wound care. Laundry and housekeeping are available. LPNs are on duty during the day, and at night a Registered Nurse supervisor is available to offer technical advice or assistance. These kinds of help may delay the need to move to Health Care, and when additional care is needed, PC residents can relocate within our familiar community rather than having to move to another facility.”

Marcia sums it up by saying, “The best part of Personal Care is that the care is truly personal.”

Fairmount Homes served as a real-life training ground for students. Two days a week a Certified Nurse Practitioner comes in to see the residents in her care. She is supervised by a group of students who are gaining practical experience to complete their master’s degree as Certified Nurse Practitioners.

During the school year, job trainers bring special-needs high school students to work under their supervision in specific departments such as Dining and Maintenance.

This gives the students an opportunity to learn important job skills and build confidence.

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Karina Dussinger, Certified Registered Nurse Practitioner (CRNP) is shadowed by York College CRNP student Stephanie Sanders (right) as she makes her rounds at Fairmount.

Truly Personal Care

Truly Personal Care

lived together in the Health Care area of Fairmount until his passing, after which she settled into a cozy Wheat Ridge PC room with a great view of the valley. “I love the view; I can see my daughter’s house from my window,” she shares. Living at Fairmount hasn’t slowed her down. “I go out with my daughters three or four days a week during the summer,” she explains. “They come and pick me up early in the mornings, and we spend the days together. We freeze corn and beans, and can peaches. This winter they freeze corn and beans, and can peaches. This winter they

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Truly Personal Care (continued from page 1)

The Farmersville Fire Company uses free space in the Farm Crest Community Room for its quilting events, which support their annual fund-raising auction.

Six times a year, Fairmount hosts a Central PA Blood Bank drive for the community.

Fairmount has been an integral part of the Amish/Mennonite Student Safety Vest Program since its inception. Numerous safety vest frolics have been held on campus and over 6,500 vests have been distributed to local children.

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Community Efforts Achieve Common Goals

While the past winter will probably go down as one of the coldest, snowiest winters in history, it will also be remembered at Fairmount as a time when local community efforts proved to be as robust as ever.

For instance, during three cold and icy days in February, over 200 quilters gathered in the Farm Crest Community Room and completed 12 quilts for the September 13 Benefit Auction. Several other quilts were started that will be finished by our faithful resident quilters by Auction day.

In March, the Weaverland Conference Youth for Truth teamed with Fairmount residents and staff for their annual Ham and Cheese Sandwich Fundraiser. Together the organization sold a record 10,600 sandwiches. Again, Fairmount supplied the work space and the youth assembled and packaged the sandwiches. The profits were split, with Fairmount’s portion going to the Sharing Fund for the benefit of residents who have exhausted their resources.
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Still Busy with Family

Elizabeth Horst also came to Fairmount because of a health crisis. She and her husband also came to Fairmount because of a health crisis. She attended programs and activities. (For husbands and wives who live on opposite sides of the campus from each other, transportation to be with their spouse is provided throughout the week.)

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Items of Interest

Clinic for Special Children Presentation May 8

Matthew Sware, development director with the Clinic for Special Children in Strasburg, is planning a presentation at Fairmount on May 8 at 6:30 p.m. in the Farm Crest Community Room Chapel. Topics will include the history, mission, and future goals of the clinic, and there will be time for questions at the end. Everyone is invited.

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