

# Perspective

Volume 18, No. 4 | November 2012

## Children Benefit from Community Spirit at Fairmount

**K**ay Moyer worried. Driving around the area, she often navigated around Amish and Mennonite children walking to and from school. What if a driver didn't see one of these boys and girls as they shared limited space on narrow rural roads? Her concerns were shared by the children's parents and teachers.

As Nurse Safety Educator with the Penn State Co-op Extension in Lancaster, Kay believed that the children needed reflective safety vests to make them more visible to drivers. But child-sized vests were difficult to obtain. So she came up with a plan.

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*Pictured above are "Safety Vest Frolic" participants. In the front row, from left, are Pauline Sensenig, Martha Engel, Hannah Martin and Evelyn Groff. In the back row, from left, are Kay Moyer, Elsie Altpeter, Jane Hess, Mabel Swartzentruber, Maribelle Steffy, and Carol Martin.*

## New Home Becomes a Reality

**I**n May of 2012, John and Mary Snyder chose a brand-new Fairmount cottage to be their next home, and began picking out carpet, vinyl, and cabinet finishes. By mid-August, their dreams became a reality as they accepted the keys to their new home.

The intervening months had been busy, as the Snyders sorted through the belongings they had accumulated over a lifetime. They decided what they wanted to take with them, what to pass on to their children, and what to dispose of at their upcoming sale. Because they had planned in advance and weren't moving due to a health or other crisis, they could make their own decisions at a more relaxed pace.

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Silent Auction Begins 9th Year

# The Blessings of Community

## 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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Serving  
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The idea of community gets a lot of attention these days. When people in my church family or here at Fairmount talk about community, it is clear that the concept is vital to them. Community provides a support system during the highs and lows of life. At Fairmount, the support we receive throughout the year from our wonderful volunteers is essential to maintaining the quality of life we enjoy here as a community.

Growing up in the Mennonite church, I learned from an early age the importance of supporting each other in a church community. I vividly recall watching my mom make meals for church members who faced some crisis.

At other times, we were the ones who benefited from meals delivered when we needed the support. My dad helped other families with their household chores too. When I asked my parents why they did this, they replied, "It's just what we do."

After my recent surgery, I felt this sense of community when my church and Fairmount families brought meals and sent numerous cards. These acts of community were wonderful examples for my children to witness.

In September, Fairmount experienced firsthand the importance of community with the success of our Benefit Auction. Every year for the past 20-plus years, many people have come together and helped in numerous ways to support our auction. It was amazing to see so many volunteers gather that fall day to make donuts, cook chicken, set up tables and chairs, buy quilts, clean up after the storm, and fulfill various other duties, all for the benefit of Fairmount residents.

We are very aware that our event would not be successful without the many hands that work together for a common purpose. It is a true testimony to Matthew 22:39: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

Community is one of our core values, and one that we strive to promote within our Fairmount family and beyond. In this issue, you will see examples of how community is lived out. We are blessed with the strong commitment of many people who help make Fairmount both a giving and receiving community.

  
Jerry D. Lile  
President/CEO

### New Home (continued from page 1)

Mary beams as she recalls, "Everything went really smoothly. We have strong, wonderful grandchildren who helped us move everything, and a daughter-in-law who lives close by and helped to select the amenities and arrange the furniture."

A month or so after they moved, the Snyders had a sale of their former house and personal possessions. It too went smoothly, largely because John and Mary

were already comfortably and happily settled into their new home.

John and Mary's cottage is the first new Residential Living residence built since 2005. Development of a duplex and triplex is planned just across the street from their new home.

For anyone interested in retirement living, now is a great time to investigate the possibility of enjoying the comfort of a Fairmount cottage. Call the Admissions Office at 717.354.1800 for information.





# Planned Giving and Your Estate



**E**ffective estate plans are based on specific objectives—well thought out and carefully spelled out in writing. These should be reviewed at least every three years to make certain they still meet your needs and expectations. Your will should be considered the foundation of your estate plan.

## ***Include charitable giving***

Your basic estate plan should take into consideration the desirability and advantages of making gifts to charitable causes such as Fairmount Homes. Such gifts may be outright gifts during your lifetime and/or deferred gifts, which benefit Fairmount fully after you (and perhaps others) pass away.

It is frequently to a person's advantage to transfer cash, securities, real estate and other property to family members and charitable institutions, such as Fairmount Homes, while living rather than by will. These gifts can provide favorable income tax and estate tax benefits for you, the donor. In addition, you may enjoy the satisfaction derived from watching the impact your gift has on the recipient.

Charitable giving reduces the tax impact on your estate and allows you to invest in organizations that extend your values in perpetuity.

As you make decisions for your estate plan, consult with your lawyer and with advisors at Anabaptist Foundation or Mennonite Foundation.

***For more information, please contact:***  
Peter Passage at 717.354.1814 or email  
[peterp@fairmounthomes.org](mailto:peterp@fairmounthomes.org).

## Another Successful Auction Day!

**T**he 2012 Benefit Auction proved to be the best yet! Over \$100,000 was received; after expenses, all funds will go to support Fairmount's Sharing Fund. Twice as many donuts were sold as last year, Dining for Dollars set a new proceeds record, and more furniture than ever was auctioned. Vergil Handrich's

model baler sold for \$1,000. There were beautiful quilts, creative and varied theme baskets, and a multitude of hard-working cheerful volunteers. And hundreds of generous Fairmount supporters made success possible by donating or purchasing food and items to sell, and lending their helping hands in many ways.



## *Children Benefit (continued from page 1)*

### **Fairmount Residents Get to Work**

Last April Kay came to Fairmount to share her vision for making safety vests. After hearing about the project, several Fairmount residents offered to help and soon were cutting Velcro, reflective tape, and elastic strips into specified lengths, working from home at their own pace. Others cut fabric into three sizes, using patterns supplied by Kay, who periodically stopped by to pick up completed work and deliver more supplies.

Then someone suggested a "work frolic," and the project took on a new dimension. To date, Fairmount has hosted three Safety Vest Frolics with a fourth scheduled for November (see page 4). At each frolic, residents and people from the community work together for several hours. Some sew, some cut, some assemble kits. The kits

contain the components necessary for parents to sew vests at home.

### **Accomplishing Much in Community**

Kay says of the collaborative project, "This is a true community grassroots effort like I have never previously experienced. I really appreciate and thank all who donate time, effort, and funds to help make it possible. It is not my project, but is coordinated by Someone greater than all of us Who opens doors of opportunity as they are needed."

To date, over 2,000 children have received vests, and another 2,000 are in process. The project truly captures the concept of community. Residents provide time and willingness to serve, Fairmount provides work space, supplies are provided by other organizations, and in the end, the children of our community benefit most of all.



Retirement Community

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## Items of Interest

### *Amish/Mennonite Student Safety Vest Frolic*

On Friday, November 16, a Safety Vest Frolic will be held in the Crest View Gathering Room at 1100 Farm Crest Drive starting at 9:00 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. See page 1 for more information.

### *Blood Drive Slated for December*

On December 20, the Central Pennsylvania Blood Bank will hold a blood drive in the Farm Crest Community Room from 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Donors may call the blood bank for an appointment at 1.800.771.0059. Walk-ins are also welcome.

### *Volunteer Opportunities*

More hands are welcome to assist residents at mealtimes. If you are willing to help in this way, please call Carol Swailes 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](mailto:carols@fairmounthomes.org).



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## Silent Auction Returns for 9th Season!

Get your new bid numbers now, as the 2013 Heritage Day Silent Auction has begun! The first auction items for this 9th season went on display in the Wheat Ridge lobby on Monday, October 22. From now until Heritage Day in June, each week's auction will begin at 8:30 a.m. on Monday and end a week later when a new collection of antique or collectible items is offered.

The items are also pictured on a slide show at the bottom of the Silent Auction page on the Fairmount website.



New bidder numbers are required each year, and can be obtained at the Wheat Ridge or Crest View reception desks.

Since its beginning nine years ago, the Silent Auction has continued to grow in both number and quality of items, as well as in the interest and enthusiasm of participants.

All proceeds from the Silent Auction and Heritage Day in June are designated for the Sharing Fund, which benefits residents who, through no fault of their own, have outlived their resources.