

Fulfilling a Long-Range Vision



Katie (Nolt) Kurtz

Katie (Nolt) Kurtz was a visionary. We learn from *Fairmount Homes: A 25th Anniversary History*, that “Katie realized that a home which recognized conservative Mennonite values might someday be greatly appreciated by the church.”

Initially Katie’s idea was not embraced by everyone. In the 1960s, families in her community typically took care of each other as long as they lived. But Katie realized that even in the Weaverland Conference some people did not have family members who could help, and others had medical needs that could not be adequately addressed by their loved ones. While other communities had built nursing homes to meet these needs, there was no facility in the area where a person from the plain community would feel comfortable. Katie set out to change that.

A Vision Becomes a Reality

Katie’s brother, Ed Nolt, agreed to help with the finances if she could find the right people. Others did share her vision, and she soon developed a committed board of directors. They toured other facilities to come up with a model, and in 1968 Fairmount Rest Home became a reality.

What would Katie and Ed think of Fairmount’s growth and impact on the community today? A small nursing home with 20 residents has become an expansive home for over 340 residents! While Katie and

Ed are no longer here to answer that question, their children and grandchildren provide some insights.

Growth Beyond Expectations

According to Katie’s son, Norm, “Fairmount has grown far beyond what my mother envisioned. Even the original building was more than she had in mind.”

His sisters agree adding, “It would make her happy to see the number of people who are being helped. And it would really bless her to know that two of her daughters live here.”

Ken Burkholder, a grandson of Ed Nolt and Fairmount’s current Board Chairman, reflects, “They would be surprised at how big Fairmount has grown and very pleased at the high standard of care.”

Katie and Ed would probably be especially honored to see the involvement of their descendants and their church. Each of them has a grandson on the board, and many of their relatives over the years have benefitted from Fairmount’s services. A vast number have spent countless hours serving as volunteers, not because they are obligated but because they have hearts for service like their grandparents before them.



Ed Nolt

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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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Called to Serve—*The President's Perspective*

As I reflect on our most recent revision of the Fairmount mission statement, one line keeps running through my mind: ***“We strive to enrich the lives of those we serve.”***

In 1 Samuel 3:1-20 we find the boy Samuel entrusted to the care and mentoring of Eli. One night the Lord called Samuel who ran to Eli and said, “Here I am.” Eli replied, “I didn’t call; go back to bed.” This happened repeatedly until Eli realized it was God calling Samuel. When God called again, Samuel responded, “Speak, for your servant is listening.” Even as a young boy, Samuel understood the importance of being God’s servant.

I have been blessed to observe our team members and volunteers honor our mission statement by demonstrating their calling day in and day out, especially as they relate to one another and to each resident at Fairmount in a spirit of service.

Serving others is a great way to demonstrate gratitude. We prepare by becoming mindful and grateful for each blessing we have received so that we can joyfully pay those blessings forward.

*“Speak, for your servant
is listening.”*

1 Samuel 3:10, NIV

Serving one another with a heart of joy is one way to root out the deeply embedded habit of self-centeredness.

Author and medical doctor Rachel Naomi Remen writes, “When you help, you see life as weak. When you fix, you see life as broken. When you serve, you see life as whole.”

We don’t want to just “help” or “fix.” We want to truly “serve.” My hope for Fairmount this spring is that we say, “Speak, for your servant is listening,” and continue to say yes to our calling to serve one another in love. ->



*Jerry D. Lile
President/CEO*

Thank You, Dedicated Quilters!



Residents (from left) Gladys Martin, Anna Mae Eby, and Joyce Martin work alongside community residents Robin Gosch and Virginia Hertzler at Fairmount’s February Quilting. Thank you to each of the 236 quilters whose stitches finished 10 quilts and brought an additional five close to completion for the September 8 Benefit Auction. Special thanks to the dedicated volunteers who coordinated the event and provided food for the quilters. ->

Coming Soon: Wheat Ridge Apartment Building

The new Wheat Ridge Apartment building at Fairmount will start taking shape soon! Paul Risk Construction expects to begin moving dirt this summer, launching the 4-story, 45-unit project. The new building will offer 11 different floor plans—a studio, a one-bedroom with one full bath, 6 one-bedroom options that include a den and 1.5 baths, and 3 two-bedroom with two-baths layouts. Each unit will have a patio or balcony.

Many of the residences have already been reserved. However, you still have time to secure a brand new apartment.

Mitchell Hanna, Director of Marketing, will hold a series of meetings presenting the new apartment options on Thursday, May 31 from 5-7 p.m.; Wednesday, June 6 from 5-7 p.m.; and Saturday, June 9, from 10-noon. All sessions will be held in the Harvest View Conference Room at 333 Wheat Ridge Drive.



South view overlooking the courtyard of the new Wheat Ridge Apartments.

Please contact Mitchell at 717.354.1810 to reserve your space for one of these sessions or to arrange a personal meeting to learn more about the new apartments. ➤

Fulfilling the Long-range Vision... (continued from page 1)

A Vision for the Next 50 Years

This half-century anniversary is a great time to reflect not only on our growth but on our own vision for the future. Just as 50 years ago, Katie envisioned a new building project, so Fairmount now embarks on another expansion. The Wheat Ridge Apartment building will contain 45 apartments strategically designed to appeal to today's market. There will be no chandeliers and no swimming pool, simply great value.

Not only has Fairmount grown in resident capacity, but many services have been added in the past few years. Fairmount at Home provides a way for people to remain in their homes longer. Our Rehab program provides services for both residents and those from the local community. Fairmount offers a Plain Community Rehab program for people who do not subscribe to insurance programs. The future may include home health care, or even telemedicine.

Some Things Remain the Same

But what has drawn people to Fairmount for 50 years remains the same. The community spirit is unfailing—people enjoy each other's company, and know and care about each other. The view remains un-

paralleled. Most importantly, Fairmount has remained a home that offers Christ-centered care greatly enhanced by an impressive group of volunteers who visit residents, lead Bible studies and church services, bring in singing groups, or help in so many other ways. A majority of the volunteers come from the church whose members Katie hoped to serve.

Fairmount's President/CEO Jerry D. Lile shares his long-term view: "As we look ahead, our prayer is that in another 50 years we too can look back to see our vision fulfilled, not just with expanded buildings but with a continuation of the dedication to faith, family, and community that is part of our fabric. We hope we can be as happy with the fulfillment of our vision as we imagine Katie is with hers." ➤



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Items of Interest

Quest Diagnostic Health Screen

Fairmount plans to host a Quest Diagnostics Health Screen on Wednesday, May 16, from 6:00-9:00 a.m. in the Farm Crest Community Room. The Health Screen is open to the public. For information, please contact Ferne Motto at 717.354.1895 or fernem@FairmountHomes.org.

Central PA Blood Drive

On June 14, the Central PA Blood Bank will hold a blood drive in the Farm Crest Community Room from 11:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Donors may call the blood bank for an appointment at 1.800.771.0059. Walk-ins are also welcome until 6 p.m.

Fairmount's 14th Heritage Day

Saturday, June 2, 2018 ~ 6:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Come. Bring Friends. Enjoy the Day.



Questions?
Contact Peter C. Passage
Stewardship Director
717.354.1814

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