

You Never Retire From a Life of Service

Retirement for some is the time of life to sit back and enjoy a life of leisure. However, for many Fairmount residents, it provides the freedom to explore new hobbies, build deeper relationships, and continue serving and giving back.

Janet and Irvin Wenger carefully planned their retirement for the beginning of 2020. After diligent research, a lot of number-crunching, and discovering the availability of an apartment with the layout and view they wanted, they chose Fairmount to be their new home. They loved that several friends live at Fairmount, it is close to where they grew up, and one of their three children lives nearby.

As per their plan, the Wengers sold their house in Guatemala where they had lived since 1980 and gave up their teaching and leadership positions—Janet taught music and Irvin taught ministry courses at the Central American Theological Seminary; they were both heads of their departments. Irvin agreed to continue serving as treasurer for FAM, a Latin American mission agency. They looked forward to life without the burdens of home maintenance and the demands of full-time work. Their plans were to relax and reconnect with friends and family. They packed their belongings, booked flights, and stepped into retirement at Fairmount.

Then their lives took an unexpected turn. As the pandemic forced school programs to move online, Janet's successor in Guatemala found it difficult to take on all of the classes Janet had been



While retired and living in their Crest View apartment at Fairmount, Irvin and Janet Wenger enjoy continued service with their Mission.

teaching. Janet was called back to the mission field, teaching one of the classes via a modified Zoom platform. She gladly agreed, knowing she was able to contribute to the lives of students thousands of miles from their new Fairmount home.

“Teaching has certainly changed my expectations for retirement—I never thought I would be a music instructor again, so I left all my notes and course material behind,” Janet exclaims. “I had to create lesson plans from scratch! But we love that we can continue to give back and invest in the lives of others.”

In addition to his role as treasurer for FAM, Irvin also agreed to teach a three-month, cross-cultural online ministry course at the Seminary, and to serve as a thesis advisor. They both agree, “Our lives are happy and fulfilled as we continue with our mission, just not exactly as planned. ➔

Fairmount *Perspective* is published quarterly for the residents, staff, volunteers and friends of Fairmount, a Christian retirement community governed by a Board from the Weaverland Conference of the Old Order Mennonite Church.

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It Was a Giddy Experience

The President's Perspective

Residential Living residents on our Fairmount campus outnumber those in all of our other living areas. However, this was not always the case. Fairmount first opened its doors in 1968, but it took another 12 years before the first person moved into what we now refer to as Residential Living.

Board minutes from 1967 reveal a decision by our founders to build cottages for “independent living” along Farm Crest Drive. However, demand for health care was so strong that expansion in that area took priority, postponing cottage development for a decade. Construction on the first two cottages began in late 1979, and the first residents moved to Fairmount six months later.

The next phase of Residential Living was again delayed until 1992, this time by the need to build a required wastewater treatment plant. In April 2000, Fairmount’s first apartment residents moved into the renovated Farm Crest building, followed just five years later by occupancy of the new, four-story Crest View Apartment building. In the subsequent 15 years, more cottages and apartments were added, bringing the total Fairmount Residential Living accommodations to 103 apartments and 52 cottages. Over the years they

have been home to more than 500 residents.

Earl Osborn, the first resident to reserve a Nolt Drive cottage in 1997, has resided in a Residential Living unit longer than any other resident. “It was a giddy experience

Views, Values, and Value:

These are the three main reasons people choose Residential Living at Fairmount

to move into a newly-built cottage,” he remembers. “I had been living in Lancaster City and immediately loved my new country setting.”

Earl chose Fairmount because of its location, views, Christian values, and affordable prices as compared to other communities. **Views, values, and value:** These are still the three main reasons people choose Residential Living at Fairmount! →



Jerry D. Lile
President/CEO

Dogwood Update

In the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, with fear and ever-changing information creating such uncertainty, Fairmount took the bold step of creating a special “COVID Unit.” A first-floor hallway named Dogwood was chosen, partially because it had its own separate entrance. Negative pressure equipment was installed to move air outside rather than circulating inside.

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Welcome to New Department Team Leaders



Director of Nursing

We welcome Kristine Ruble as our new Director of Nursing. Kristine is returning to Fairmount after earning her master's degree in nursing as a certified Registered Nurse Practitioner. While completing her studies, she worked at Fairmount as a RN Supervisor and IT Nurse. The following year, she worked for WellSpan, serving residents in nursing homes including Fairmount.

Kristine lives in Narvon with her husband, three of her four children, three dogs, and a cat. She says she was drawn back to Fairmount by its culture and core values, observing, "It is small enough to not get lost in the mix." We wish you all the best in your new role, Kristine. ->

Director of Dining Services

In February, Aaron Zimmerman was promoted to his new position as Director of Dining Services. Aaron came to Fairmount six years ago as a cook and has been honing his food-services skills since then, including completing a yearlong training program to become a Certified Dietary Manager.

Aaron's role includes ordering and maintaining inventory, as well as working with the dietician to plan menus for staff, family members, and residents with a wide range of dietary needs and restrictions.

Aaron lives in Akron with his wife, Kate, and attends Neffsville Mennonite Church. In his free time, he enjoys riding his motorcycle and... cooking!

Why does Aaron work at Fairmount? "I like that the people I cook for actually live here—they are not just faces in a crowd. And the fact that Fairmount is faith-based really appeals to me."

Congratulations, Aaron, on your new position at Fairmount! ->



Dogwood update ... (continued from page 2)

Staff who offered to work in this area went through special training and were issued personal protection equipment (PPE) to work safely in this unit.

Not only was Fairmount ready to serve its own residents who tested positive with COVID, it was equipped to take residents with COVID-19 from hospitals, other retirement homes, and the broader community who needed a place to recover. While other nursing homes were turning these residents away, Fairmount was welcoming them.

By the end of 2020, the Dogwood COVID Unit had reached the milestone of serving its 100th resident; by the end of February, 122 individuals had been cared for in Dogwood. ->



Fairmount

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Items of Interest

Thank You, Quilters!

The busy needles of 230 volunteers finished 14 quilts and brought an additional four close to completion for our September 11 Benefit Auction. Special thanks to those who coordinated this annual quilting event and provided food for all the volunteers.

Heritage Day Canceled

Due to ongoing concerns with COVID-19, the 2021 Heritage Day event has been canceled. We are hoping to be able to hold it again in 2022, so save the date, June 4, 2022.

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.

Perspective issues are available at www.FairmountHomes.org.

Personal Care Available at Fairmount

If you and/or loved ones are finding it more difficult to keep up with daily household activities, remember to take medications timely, and maintain a home, consider Personal Care at Fairmount. There, residents receive three nutritious meals a day, personal laundry service, housekeeping services, and medication management by our caring and capable staff. Currently, there are accommodations available in Personal Care.

Fairmount is a Life Plan Community, which means we maintain high standards in regards to meeting the needs of our residents at every stage of the aging process. We provide apartments and cottages in Residential Living. Then, as residents need more assistance to negotiate activities of daily living such as cooking, laundry, housekeeping, and managing medications, Fairmount offers these additional services in Personal Care.

To learn more, contact Mitchell Hanna at 717-354-1810 or by emailing MitchellH@FairmountHomes.org. ➔

