



Fairmount *Perspective*

Dedicated to Faith, Family & Community

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Valuable, Vital Volunteers

When cottage resident Lucy Horst got a call asking if she could help with resident activities, Lucy's immediate response was, "Yes! I am honored that you would call upon this 89-year-old to help. Volunteering gives me a purpose for living!"

Wheat Ridge Apartment residents Gail and Carole Sensenig also find fulfillment in volunteering, especially helping to transport Health Care residents to the exam room for doctors' visits. Gail says, "While serving in this way, I have been able to witness the genuine care and compassion of the nurses for the residents. I am so impressed!"

Lucy, Gail, and Carole are just a few of the many Fairmount residents who consider it a privilege to serve others. Resident volunteers help in so many ways—assisting other residents with meals, caring for flower beds, serving on committees and helping the Activity department. Every act of giving enhances the lives of our residents.

Blessed with Church and Community

Fairmount has been truly blessed over the past 54 years with extraordinary church and community support, starting with our Board Members and their wives. In addition to providing guidance for the organization, they donate their time at fundraisers, cook and serve special-event meals, and volunteer around campus.

The local community also reaches out in various ways: a church youth group mulches the grounds every spring; many hands quilt for the September Benefit Auction; music groups offer concerts, lifting the spirits of our residents.



Cottage resident Ruth Harnish enjoys taking care of the flower beds she adopted at Fairmount.

Residents and Team Members Also Give Back

Fairmount also gives back in helping to serve the needs of the local community. Many residents are involved in volunteer efforts with local charitable organizations. Christian Aid Ministries, Blessings of Hope, Reuzit, MCC's Material Resource Center, and local churches are but a few of the community organizations reaping rewards of their generosity.

Our staff find many ways to give back to Fairmount, the local community and global causes. Here on campus, team members provide care to everything from plants to people. Both staff and residents contribute generously to food drives coordinated by two of our nurses which benefit local food banks. Globally, several team members have connections to Ukraine, and are instrumental in helping to direct aid to that area.

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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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Community • Compassion
Dignity • Integrity
Quality • Teamwork
Trust

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Volunteers Needed More than Ever

The President's Perspective

Did you know the first volunteer firehouse was started in Philadelphia by Benjamin Franklin in 1736? Franklin believed that volunteering was an important service, rooted in charity and religious convictions.

The Anabaptist/Mennonite forefathers considered volunteering an expression of faith, and for many generations it has been a way of life. My parents were firm believers in helping others, and as a young child growing up in a Mennonite church in Texas, I often accompanied them to a local nursing home to sing and play games with residents. My mom also made food and delivered it to families in need, and to this day, she delivers meals to neighbors in their retirement community.

This issue of *Perspective* describes many ways Fairmount benefits from volunteer help and how our residents and team members also serve as volunteers. It is a true testament to being a community!

However, since March 2020, many of our volunteers stopped visiting because of the pandemic. We all miss our volunteers! COVID took many things away from our residents, and it is time that we find ways to restore some of their losses. As the health threat has lessened, a handful of volunteers have returned, but we would like to see many more. Because of the ongoing challenge to fill staff positions, our need for volunteers is greater than ever.

One of the most crucial ways to help is by assisting residents with meals. Our staff are very busy, and extra hands are so appreciated! Visiting residents is another great opportunity. Many residents have families who stop by frequently, but some have no family or their family lives out of the area so they get few visitors.

Volunteering is a true testament to being a community.

To explore these or one of the many other ways you could enrich residents' lives, contact Carol Swailes, our Volunteer Coordinator, at 717.354.1887. She would love to welcome new volunteers and assist our longstanding volunteers to return. If you feel called to use the gifts God has given you to assist our residents, contact Carol or stop by.

Our Core Value of "Community" is so important to Fairmount life, and we long to see a host of volunteers again functioning regularly as part of our family. Thank you for considering how you can become part of our Fairmount community! ➤



Jerry D. Lile
President/CEO

Valuable, Vital Volunteers . . . *(continued from page 1)*

Resident Efforts Radiate Globally



Ezra Stoltzfus (left) teaches Alex Kachkovskyi to knit hats on a loom.



Residents Carol Martin (front), Betty Cannell, (left) and Elsie and Lowell Stauffer display items they help to make for Unto.

Alex Kachkovskyi came from Ukraine to Fairmount last summer through a Mennonite Central Committee exchange program, and volunteers two days a week with Chaplain Eugene Weaver. He has become acquainted with many residents, including Wheat Ridge Apartment residents Ezra and Elizabeth Bell Stoltzfus. The couple are both avid knitters, and Elizabeth is part of a resident club that knits hats for various organizations. The club is giving Alex hats to take home with him for fellow Ukrainians. Ezra is teaching Alex to knit hats, and will send him off with a set of looms as well. The relationships and cultural exchange has proved a valuable connection for all.

Farm Crest Apartment resident Carol Martin coordinates the efforts of 20 residents who cut, mark, sew, knit or crochet various items for Unto, a global relief organization that distributes essential supplies to Third-World countries. Additionally, she manages and volunteers in Fairmount's Farm Crest Gift Shop.

Carol explains, "I am busy six days a week picking up fabric or supplies, distributing them to the residents who work on each piece, and delivering the finished products to Unto headquarters. Sunday is my day of rest!" ➤

So Many Ways You Can Help

Following are some of the areas where your help is most needed:

- Assisting Health Care residents with meals
- Visiting one-on-one with residents
- Providing music programs
- Serving as a dining room host or hostess
- Transporting residents to their on-campus doctors' appointments
- Helping to care for grounds and flower beds

Fairmount's Core Value of "Community" is lived out daily through the contributions of our wonderful volunteers. While volunteer options have been limited recently due to COVID, new opportunities to serve are now available.

If you would like to join the community of Fairmount volunteers, please call 717.354.1800 and ask for Carol Swailes, Volunteer Coordinator. ➤



Fairmount

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Items of Interest

Thank You, Quilters!

The capable hands of 200 volunteers finished 9 quilts and brought several others close to completion for our September Benefit Auction. Special thanks to coordinators of this annual event and to those who provided food for the volunteers.

Medicare Workshop

A Medicare Workshop is planned for Thursday, May 5, at 6pm in the Crest View Gathering Room on the Farm Crest campus. Please call 717.394.0769 to register if you would like to attend.

Central PA Blood Drive

On Thursday, June 9, the Central PA Blood Bank will hold a blood drive in the Farm Crest Community Room from 11:30am–6:30pm. Donors may call the blood bank for an appointment at 800.771.0059.

Outdoor Concert Series

- Ransomed Bluegrass will be holding an outdoor concert Tuesday, May 10, at 6:30pm on the Farm Crest campus. The concert is free and open to the public. Please bring lawn chairs.
- Tru Vintage Bluegrass will be holding an outdoor concert Tuesday, June 28, at 6:30pm on the Wheat Ridge campus. The concert is free and open to the public. Please bring lawn chairs.

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.

Fall Open House



**Save the date for our “Explore Retirement Living”
Open House on October 15, 2022,
or call 717.354.1810 to arrange a personal tour.**

