

Compassionate Hearts

“When I leave at the end of the day, it’s so fulfilling to know that I have made a difference in residents’ lives,” Cheri Sauder shares with an earnestness that conveys the deep conviction behind her words. One of Fairmount’s Licensed Practical Nurses, Cheri enthusiastically continues, “I feel called to help those in need, and I really enjoy serving our residents.” Cheri came to Fairmount 35 years ago and initially worked in Food Service. “I immediately fell in love with our seniors,” she remembers, “and that was a major reason why I went into nursing.”

Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) Cheryl Martin is also quick to explain that for her, working at Fairmount is more than a job. She recalls holding the hand of a dying resident as he slipped away. “I felt the presence of Jesus and realized I would be the last person he saw before he met Jesus.”

For Cheryl, the connection often goes beyond the end of her workday because residents have become friends. For example, she has come in on a holiday to play games with a resident and the resident’s husband to make the day special for them.

Miranda Wenger, also a CNA, agrees that it’s important to serve both residents and their loved ones. “It is vital for staff to interact with family members. When family can’t be present, we help our residents connect with them by phone or Zoom calls,” she explains.

Each of these team members was asked about the driving force behind their genuinely caring attitudes. All three identified their faith as a primary factor. Cheryl Martin summarized what all three



Resident Irene Rutt enjoys time with CNAs Miranda Wenger (left) and Cheryl Martin. “They are my friends!” exclaims Irene.

expressed, “I want to love people like Jesus does—it’s what I believe being a Christian is all about.”

When It’s Not Just a Job

Crest View resident Julie Guinette spent a few weeks in Rehab before returning to her apartment and describes her stay: “I hated to leave because I was treated so well—the staff were so careful, so easy to get along with, and did so much for me. Fairmount really is just like family. I made lots of friends, and they never stopped being kind.”

Much More than a Word

Compassion is so much more than one item in the list of Fairmount core values—it is the very heart of our mission. Indeed, compassion was what drove Ed Nolt’s decision to provide a substan-

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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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Walking for a Heartfelt Cause

The President's Perspective

Walk to End Alzheimer's, an annual event held in more than 600 communities nationwide, is the world's largest fundraiser for Alzheimer's care, support and research. Along with several other family members and Fairmount staff, I have had the privilege to participate in the Alzheimer's Walk which for the past few years has been held at Lancaster County's Overlook Park with over 650 participants.

According to the Alzheimer's Association, more than 6 million Americans currently live with Alzheimer's. One in three seniors die from the disease, and this year, Alzheimer's is expected to cost the United States \$321 billion. By 2050, the annual cost is estimated to increase to a staggering \$1 trillion.

Finding a cure for Alzheimer's disease is a goal near and dear to my heart. Not only do I see residents at Fairmount suffer with the disease, but I witnessed firsthand my grandma's difficult Alzheimer's journey. Watching the disease ravage someone you love to the point where she no longer recognized her own son and grandchildren is hard to watch.

Grandma was a resilient lady who lost her husband early, raised a handicapped child and was strong in her Christian faith. Over time, I watched her lose touch with her surroundings and become verbally and physically aggressive. Alzheimer's disease took my grandma from us mentally, and it eventually took her life.

The painful memories of my grandma's Alzheimer's battle will always be with me and is why I support the efforts of those trying to find a cure for this terrible disease. It's why I'm so pleased that Fairmount is an annual sponsor of the Walk to End Alzheimer's event. If you are available next September, please join me

and other team members at Overlook Park to participate in the walk. I hope that one day in the near future I will witness a cure so other grandchildren do not have to witness their grandparent suffer like mine did!



Jerry D. Lile
President/CEO



Fairmount team members participated in the annual Walk to End Alzheimer's.

33rd Benefit Auction and Chicken Barbecue

Many thanks to our community for your wonderful support of Fairmount's 33rd Annual Benefit Auction and Chicken Barbecue which was held again this year at New Covenant Mennonite Fellowship. Both the in-person and online Benefit Auctions were a great success. Quilts, theme baskets and many other items

were auctioned off one by one in the tents. Dining for Dollars events were sold by silent auction.

Net proceeds totaled a record \$122,111, which will provide for 741 days of care for residents whose funds are exhausted. Thank you again for your generous support!



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Compassion ... (continued from page 1)

tial gift when his sister Katie Kurtz came to him 55 years ago with the dream of creating a home for local seniors that eventually became Fairmount. Ed's daughter, Vera Burkholder, fondly remembers her father: "He was a person who preferred to remain in the background but was very generous. When he saw a worthy cause like Fairmount, or someone in need, he would be there both physically and financially."

Compassion in Giving

Over the years, the ongoing faithfulness of donors has been vital to Fairmount's mission. Giving has taken many forms. Matching gifts have provided needed upgrades, renovations and new equipment. Events like the Annual Benefit Auction, Ham and Cheese Sandwich Fundraiser, Book Sale, Annual Sharing Fund Appeal and the ExtraOrdinary Give all depend on the loyal support of donors.

Why do donors choose to give to Fairmount? According to Peter Passage, Stewardship Director, many donors are motivated to contribute because of the compassionate care received by their family members—sometimes experienced by multiple generations.

One long-time donor who wishes to remain anonymous explains, "I give for many reasons.



Benefit Auction attendees enjoy breakfast (by donation). Donors, volunteers, and attendees at the Annual Benefit Auction and Chicken Barbecue all contribute to the compassionate care afforded Fairmount residents through the Sharing Fund.



Above, Wheat Ridge Apartment residents Gail and Carole Sensenig help transport Health Care residents to the exam room for monthly doctor's visits. They are just some of the many volunteers whose generous gifts of time make compassionate care a reality at Fairmount.

First and foremost, I want to support Fairmount's mission and values; I am grateful that it continues to hold fast to biblical values. Also, I have witnessed first-hand the compassionate care given by the staff and feel that if I do my part to support this organization, I help to ensure that Fairmount's mission will continue."

Motivated by Compassion

Fairmount is also very blessed by the generosity of a multitude of volunteers who donate their time, energy and expertise. These are the people who faithfully help with annual events, activities, mailings, quiltings, grounds enhancements, wheelchair transport, service on the Fairmount Board and other tasks too numerous to mention. Many are residents, family members or church friends. Some have a generations-long connection to Fairmount, and volunteer both because of their faith and out of appreciation for the care their families have received.

Fairmount is truly blessed to be enveloped in a supportive network of volunteers, donors, team members and residents' families, who, motivated by compassion, assist in fulfilling our mission of "striving to enrich the lives of those we serve." ➔



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Items of Interest

Matching Gift Opportunity

A generous donor has offered to match gifts up to a total of \$25,000 contributed by December 1 for a special project that will enhance the lives of our residents. This year all matched funds will go to purchase a small, electric box truck for transportation of food, housekeeping equipment, and other maintenance needs between our two campuses. This electric truck will be non-polluting, reduce costs, and travel quietly throughout the campus.

Please call 717.354.1814 with any questions or to make a donation.

Annual Diabetes Day Event

Fairmount is hosting WellSpan Health for a free annual Diabetes Day event on Tuesday, November 15, from 6pm–8pm, in the Farm Crest Community Room. There will be food samples, exhibitors, and a speaker on diabetes and heart disease. Registration is required by calling 717.721.8790 ext. 0.

Central PA Blood Drive

On Thursday, December 1, 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.

Give ExtraOrdinary!

GIVE EXTRA™



Fairmount will once again participate in this year's ExtraOrdinary Give—an annual, 24-hour, online giving campaign. To participate, visit ExtraGive.org on Friday, November 18, choose Fairmount from the list of options, and make your donation online. Thank you for your continued support of our residents.

