

## Celebrating 55 Years

February 19, 2023, is a special day for Fairmount as it marks another important milestone in our history —55 years of serving our community. Jim Oswald, Fairmount’s Chief Executive Officer (CEO) from 1987 to 2008, was a part of two decades of that history. He recently commented on how the mission and values shaped these 5½ decades of Fairmount’s service.

Jim has great admiration for Katie Kurtz, the woman whose vision and spirit were the driving force behind Fairmount’s beginnings. “She was not concerned about herself,” explains Jim. “She wanted to provide care for whomever needed help, regardless of religious affiliation or financial situation.”

Jim was at the helm of the Fairmount community during a period of significant growth. His tenure saw “Fairmount Rest Home” grow from a small health care facility into a 48 acre campus flanking two sides of Cats Back Road with expanded living options that included Health Care, Personal Care, 39 cottages, and a four-story apartment building. His careful attention to detail guided the construction of the initial Wheat Ridge campus as well as the 49-unit Crest View Apartment building.

Since Jim’s retirement, Fairmount has continued to both renovate and grow. A state-of-the-art Rehab Center, additional cottages, and the four-story Wheat Ridge Apartment building were major projects completed in the past 15 years under the leadership of President/CEO Jerry D. Lile.

But Jim Oswald’s relationship with Fairmount wasn’t finished. When health challenges made it difficult for him to maintain their home, Jim and his wife Phyllis decided it was time to move. “If I couldn’t keep it up myself, I didn’t want to be there,” he says. Where did they choose to go? Fairmount!



Former CEO Jim Oswald (left) and current President/CEO Jerry D. Lile enjoy a view of the Fairmount campus from a Wheat Ridge Apartment balcony.

### *Deciding Factors of Quality Care and Community*

Jim shares his reasons for choosing to become a Fairmount resident: “The high standards of health care, evidenced by consistently outstanding Department of Health ratings over the years, was the deciding factor for me. The availability of excellent nursing care when we would need it is what mattered most to us.

“The core values and mission of the organization, and the faith and values of the people in this community were another major draw for us,” Jim continues. “Katie’s initial vision withstood the test of time. The values Fairmount was founded on continue strong today, and they aligned with our values and ideals. People at Fairmount may differ in some of their perspectives, ways of life and thinking, but Jesus and caring for each other are at the core of this community, and that’s what is crucial.”

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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.

### Core Values

Community • Compassion  
Dignity • Integrity  
Quality • Teamwork  
Trust

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### February 19, 1968

Through the efforts of Ed Nolt and Katie Kurtz, Fairmount Rest Home officially opens with a license for 82 nursing beds and 20 initial residents. Harry Hertzog serves as the first Administrator, followed by Paul Ruth (1968) and James R. Oswald (1987). Jerry D. Lile becomes President/CEO in 2008.



### June 1, 1971

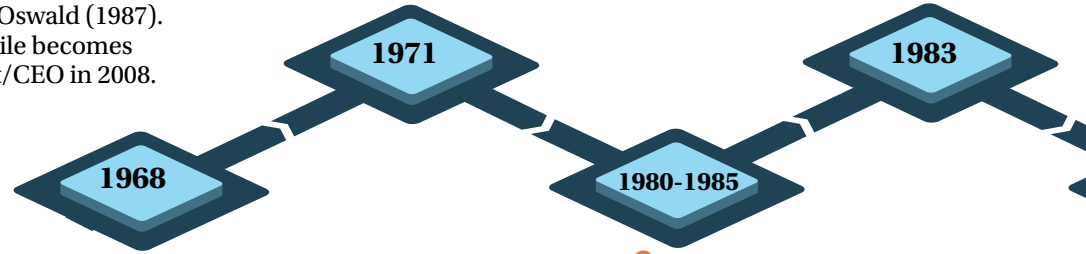
A new nursing wing opens adding 27 nursing beds. The Farm Crest Community Room opens.



# Fairmount Ho

### November 28, 1983

Personal Care is offered for the first time with 16 beds. Total capacity is now 132.



### 1980 - 1985

Eight, one-bedroom cottages add the first independent living residents to the Fairmount community.

## True to Our Mission Through Changes

### The President's Perspective

Fairmount's mission statement reads, ***Founded on Christ's love and Mennonite values, we strive to enrich the lives of those we serve.*** In their book, *Mission Drift*, Peter Greer and Chris Horst state that mission drift is the natural course for organizations. Only intentional effort to focus on core values and purpose will keep organizations "mission true" and faithful to what they believe God has entrusted them to do.

For Fairmount to remain "mission true," it will require that we adapt and grow without altering our core identity. I am proud to say that we work hard to make sure that every action and decision we make helps to fulfill our purpose for existence, prioritizing

the best interests of our residents and team members.

Now in my 16th year at Fairmount,

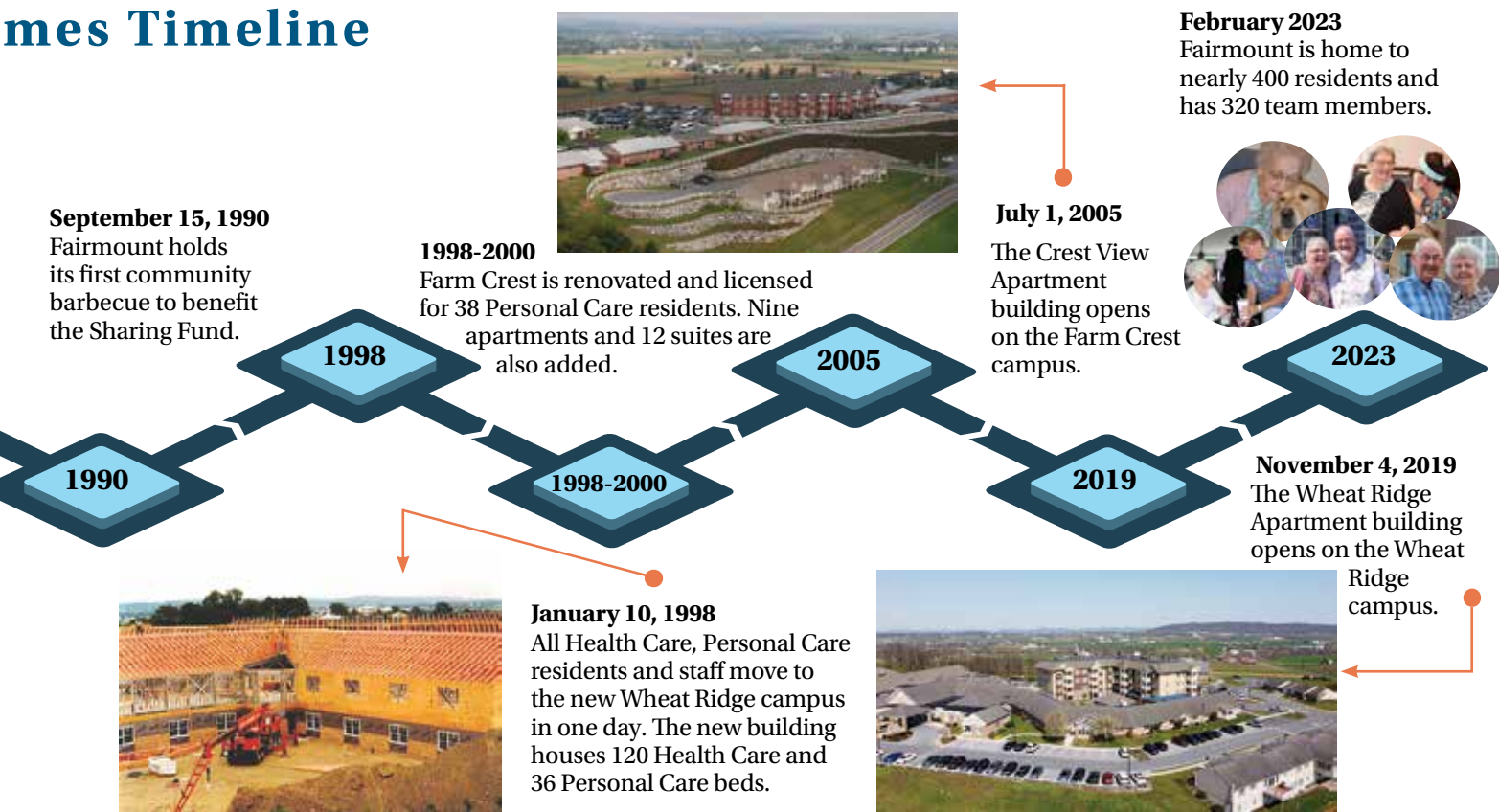
I feel honored to continue serving the board, residents and team members. Over that time, I have seen many changes on campus, including new cottages and apartments, renovations, residents and staff, not to mention a worldwide pandemic that altered our entire operation. Through 55

years, we have stayed focused on our mission and core values, and maintained our 5-star rating in Health Care awarded by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid services which alone is a major accomplishment!

As we approach our 55th anniversary on February 19, we have



# Timeline



## True to Our Mission ... (continued from page 2)

a master plan that will serve as our map for the days ahead. Demographic studies confirm that the senior population in our area will continue to grow significantly so we anticipate additional expansion here at Fairmount. We will share more specific plans with you as we move forward. But rest assured, our commitment to stay focused on our mission and values will not waver. Please keep the board and me in your prayers as we strive to honor and glorify God and remain true to our mission.

**Jerry D. Lile**  
President/CEO

## Celebrating 55 Years ... (continued from page 1)

### Count on the Fairmount Family

Jim and Phyllis experienced Fairmount compassion firsthand. When Phyllis' health declined rapidly soon after their move, the Oswalds found themselves surrounded by an incredible network of friends and support from their new neighbors—the Fairmount family—throughout her illness and passing. “The timing was providential,” Jim reflects. “I am so glad we did not wait another year. When Phyllis was struggling, people went out of their way to encourage her, talk to her, and just be here as friends. When we were personally in need, we proved that you can still count on the Fairmount family.”

Settled into his comfortable Wheat Ridge apartment, Jim is happy with his home, his friends and neighbors. He's excited to have a front-row seat to watch Fairmount's plans for the future continue to fulfill its original purpose.

## Staff Honored for 410 Years

On December 9, 2022, our Fairmount staff gathered once again for a delicious array of food choices at our annual Team Member Christmas Fellowship Meal. The recognition of team members celebrating 5-year increments of service continued, honoring 35 team members with an amazing cumulative total of 410 years! Congratulations to all honorees! Thank you for your faithfulness.



# Fairmount

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## Items of Interest

### **6th Book Sale**

Fairmount's 6th Book Sale is planned for Friday, April 28, 6-8:30pm and Saturday, April 29, 7-10am in the Farm Crest Community Room. All books are half price on Saturday. Everyone is welcome.

### **Central PA Blood Drive**

On Thursday, February 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.

### **Ham & Cheese Fundraiser**

Our annual ham-and-cheese sandwich fundraiser, held jointly with the Weaverland Conference Youth for Truth, is coming up soon. Sandwiches may be ordered until March 31 at the Wheat Ridge or Crest View front desk, or by calling 717.354.1800. The pick-up date will be April 15. Proceeds will be used for the benefit of residents in financial need through the Sharing Fund.

### **You Gave ExtraOrdinarily!**

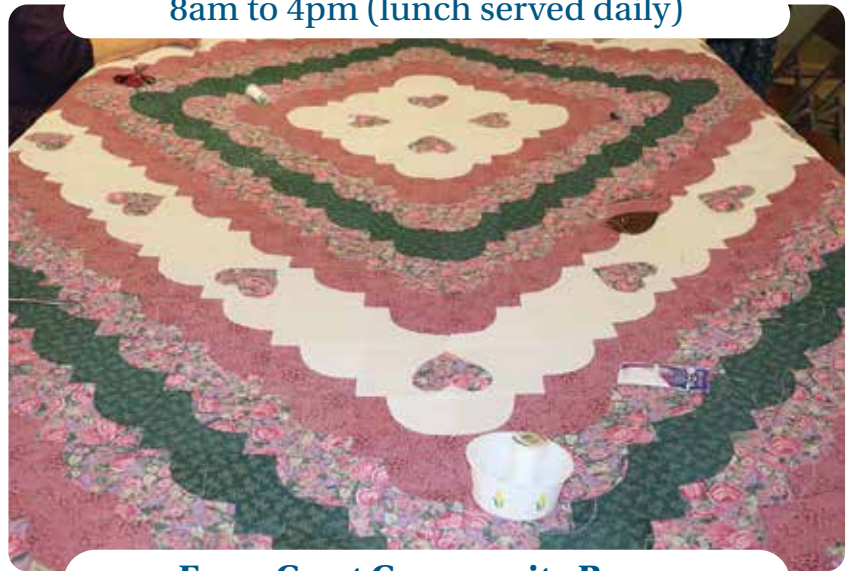
Thank you to everyone who donated to Fairmount through the November 22 ExtraOrdinary Give event! A total of \$14,485 from 55 generous donors will go to the Sharing Fund. We are grateful for this wonderful show of support from our community.



## February Quilting Days

**Saturday, February 11,  
Tuesday, February 14, & Wednesday, February 15**

8am to 4pm (lunch served daily)



**Farm Crest Community Room  
1100 Farm Crest Drive  
Ephrata, PA 17522**

*Save the dates and plan to join us!*