

## What do Residents Value at Fairmount?

Cottage residents Luke and Dottie Nolt were drawn to Fairmount when they found a cottage with a walk-out basement. The cottage provides plenty of room for Luke's gardening tools and has a kitchen that Dottie loves. Both are captivated by the view from their home. But most valuable to them is the sense of community they found at Fairmount.

Luke was an engineer by profession and also served as a pastor for many years. In his pastoral role, Luke visited many retirement communities but was always impressed by the sense of community Fairmount embodied. "We knew only one couple when we got here," Luke says. "But we have made many friends by plugging into lots of the activities. It is a place where people accept each other and which proved the best fit for us."

Each person has their own values that determine the "best fit," and even similar values can be measured in different ways. The following stories illustrate other residents' unique perspectives on values that drew them to Fairmount.

### ***Friends and Security***

For Janet Weber, a Farm Crest Apartment resident, Fairmount is a very familiar place. Not only did she grow up in Farmersville, but her mother was a Fairmount resident for six years. In December of 2022, Janet became a resident and for her, like the Nolts, value lies in the sense of community.

"I like the Christian atmosphere and what Fairmount stands for—faith, family, and community—and I would add ***friendliness!*** Most of all, it is the security of knowing I will be taken care of if my health declines, which puts my family at ease too."



*Elvin Rohrer and his daughter Charlene Ranck stand in front of the wall hanging that reflects "home" to Elvin.*

### ***Great Care and Little Things***

A resident once remarked, "Before considering cottages and apartments, first take a look at a retirement home's healthcare and see how you will be treated when you need services the most."

Health Care resident Elvin Rohrer's experience serves as a great example. Elvin has lived in every level of care at Fairmount, including Residential Living, Personal care, Rehab, and now Health Care. His daughter, Charlene Ranck, has spent lots of time at Fairmount. She explains, "My husband's grandmother lived in the original building years ago. I would bring my children to visit, and we witnessed her getting the best of care. Then when my mother became ill about five years ago, we were very comfortable when my parents chose to move here—my dad into Personal Care, and my mom into Health Care—so they could be near each other."

*...continued on page 3*

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

### Board of Directors

#### CHAIRMAN

Kenneth N. Burkholder

#### VICE CHAIRMAN

Ernest H. Hahn

#### SECRETARY

James E. Witmer

#### TREASURER

Edwin N. Martin, Jr.

Lester K. Burkholder

Dale A. Martin

Michael D. Martin

Harold J. Rutt

Carl G. Sensenig

#### PRESIDENT/CEO

Jerry D. Lile

#### V.P. OF OPERATIONS &

#### SENIOR EDITOR

Kent E. Richard

#### DIRECTOR OF MARKETING

Mitchell Hanna

#### MANAGING EDITOR

Carol Swailes

#### EDITORIAL CONSULTANT

Ellen Livingood

#### Photo Credits

Carol Swailes, page 1, 3, and 4  
Dale Ebersole, page 2

*Fairmount complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex.*

*Fairmount cumple con las leyes federales de derechos civiles aplicables y no discrimina por motivos de raza, color, nacionalidad, edad, discapacidad o sexo.*

*Fairmount 遵守適用的聯邦民權法律規定，不因種族、膚色、民族血統、年齡、殘障或性別而歧視任何人。*

*Please visit our website for additional information and to download an Application for Residency. [www.FairmountHomes.org](http://www.FairmountHomes.org)*

# Human Touch Matters

## The President's Perspective

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is creating a growing buzz because of its potential to revolutionize industries including healthcare. While AI may enhance efficiency and improve certain aspects of care, we know it will never replace our Fairmount team members!

The genuine human connection demonstrated every day by our dedicated caregivers, nurses, and support staff has always been the heartbeat of our community. Their unwavering commitment to our residents is irreplaceable. Here are just a few reasons why AI can never replace our remarkable staff:

- **Compassion and Emotional Support:** AI may analyze data and perform specific tasks, but it lacks any capacity to care with human understanding. Our team members go far beyond providing medical care; they offer emotional support, companionship, and a listening ear that can ease the loneliness and isolation often common among seniors.
- **Personalized Care:** Every resident at Fairmount is unique. Each has their own history, and their own distinct needs and preferences. AI algorithms cannot tailor individualized care plans to suit each person—but our staff can and do!
- **Communication:** One-on-one communication is a crucial aspect of caregiving. Team members not only affirm each resident by listening to them, but over time they grow to

understand non-verbal cues, preferences and emotions. No machine can provide this personal touch.

- **Ethical and Moral Decision-Making:** AI cannot make complex moral and ethical decisions, but our caregivers are well equipped to handle sensitive situations, aware of their responsibility to always uphold the dignity and autonomy of our residents.

*Our dedicated team members make Fairmount the warm and caring community it is today!*

While we will explore ways to use AI's increasing potential to support our caregivers, it won't replace them. We know it's our dedicated Fairmount team who make this the warm and caring community it is today. Their commitment to our residents is something that no machine can replicate! ➤



*Jerry D. Lile*  
President/CEO

## Renovations Set to Begin

Wheat Ridge renovations are set to begin October 23, and will include all Health Care areas and the front reception area. The renovations will include painting, addition and removal of walls, new lighting, and new flooring in the corridors, lounges, dining, and common areas. Additional noise may be experienced while the work is underway, but visitation will remain open during

construction, and no residents will need to relocate. The project is expected to take seven-eight months to complete. The project will be completed in phases, so all areas will not be affected at the same time. We appreciate the patience of our residents, team members, and visitors, and apologize for any inconvenience while we make these much-needed upgrades. ➤



LIKE US ON  
FACEBOOK

*What do residents value ... (continued from page 1)*



*Ella Hoover is one of the housekeeping team members who works to keep everything as clean as possible.*

What in Fairmount's Health Care represents "value" to Charlene? "It's seeing personalized care for individual residents. When my mother was a resident, I learned to know a lot of the staff—not only nursing staff, but also the housekeepers, maintenance, and dietary staff—all of whom contributed to her care.

"Recently I was visiting when a tornado warning sounded. It was reassuring to watch the administrators working with all of the other team members to get residents to safe places. When the 'all clear' sounded, they even stayed to help residents back to their rooms."

Charlene continues, "Here's another example: Every time dad has moved to a different room, Fair-

mount's dedicated maintenance staff rehung his favorite wall hanging of his beloved 1949 Pontiac. Dad recognizes 'home' by where his wall hanging is.

"Another value for us? The housekeeping staff keep everything impeccably clean, and the activity staff take residents out for ice cream, just one of the activities they provide that my dad likes to do. It's making sure he has a magnifying glass to read, and providing the services of a notary here on site to facilitate his caring for business transactions.

"From everything I have experienced," Charlene concludes, "I know that when it is my time to retire, Fairmount is where I want to live." ➤



*Wheat Ridge Apartment residents Milton and Lois Lehman enjoy showing their family the new pavilion overlooking the scenic vista on the north side of the Fairmount campus.*

*The pavilion is just one more way of building the sense of community mentioned in this issue. Events for residents can be held here in nice weather, or residents and team members can reserve it for their own gatherings. The pavilion was made possible with monies received from a matching gift and many generous donors—another example of community involvement. Thank you for your support!*

## 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Benefit Auction

Many thanks to our community for your wonderful support of Fairmount's 34th 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 \$140,908 making it the best ever Benefit Auction and providing 805 days of care for residents whose funds are exhausted. Thank you again for your generous support! ➤



# Fairmount

333 Wheat Ridge Drive  
Ephrata, PA 17522-8558  
717.354.1800  
www.FairmountHomes.org

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Ephrata, PA  
Permit No. 50

**Electronic Service Requested**

**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](mailto:CarolS@FairmountHomes.org). Perspective issues are available at [www.FairmountHomes.org](http://www.FairmountHomes.org).



## Items of Interest

### *Matching Gift Opportunity*

A generous donor has offered to match up to \$25,000 in gifts contributed by December 1 for a special project enhancing the lives of our residents. This year all matched funds will go toward the cost of replacing heat pumps and vital housekeeping equipment that have worn out from years of use. 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 7, from 2pm-4:30pm, in the Farm Crest Community Room. There will be food samples, exhibitors, and a speaker on diabetes and how to stay healthy. Registration is required by calling 717.721.8790 ext. 0.

### *Central PA Blood Drive*

On Thursday, December 7, 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.



# Fairmount **GIVES**

This November, Fairmount will hold a 24-hour online giving campaign called **Fairmount Gives** on Friday, November 17. To participate, go to the Fairmount website at [www.FairmountHomes.org](http://www.FairmountHomes.org) any time between 12:01am and midnight on Friday, November 17, and make your donation from the link on the home page.

Thank you for your continued support of our residents.

