

Life with Opportunities to Serve

Their primary working years are behind them. Downsizing and transitioning happily into one of our comfortable homes has been completed. When they reach this point, many Fairmount retirees find themselves with extra time on their hands and a desire to make that time meaningful. Many discover that volunteer activities, for which they had limited time earlier in life, now enrich their lives and provide deep fulfillment. Not only do they find purpose and meaning in giving of their time, but Fairmount is a grateful beneficiary of their many hours of service.

Drive onto the Fairmount campus and you can't miss the many gorgeous flower beds faithfully tended by residents with green thumbs and a love of plunging their hands into the dirt. Other residents use their varied talents and interests to directly benefit Fairmount and our residents. Some craft wooden or hand-woven items, quilts, rugs, or paintings to be sold in the Farm Crest Gift Shop or at our Annual Benefit Auction. Others volunteer to transport Health Care residents in wheelchairs to on-campus church services, the hairdresser and doctors' appointments. Others stop by to chat with residents who may not get many visitors, read to those who are vision-impaired, play games, help with activities, lead Bible studies, or teach Sunday school. Here are just a few of the unique stories we could share.

Volunteering Provides Purpose

Fred Nolt moved into his Wheat Ridge Apartment a year ago. Before long, he joined a small group of resident woodworkers and partnered with another craftsman to make wooden items to be sold in our



Pictured above is a group of Fairmount residents who recently volunteered to help at UNTO. Different groups of residents volunteer several times a year.

Gift Shop and at our Auction. He also transports residents, assists with mailings, and fills in elsewhere as needed. His new activities give purpose to his days, and, as he says, "I do things here I would not have done otherwise."

Fred has quickly made new friends. "I've learned to know the other woodworkers quite well," he explains, and "I've made friends working with the other transport volunteers. I've also really enjoyed getting to know the Health Care residents I see on a regular basis."

Crest View Apartment resident Janet Hibbs also joined the Fairmount family just over a year ago.

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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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Celebrating Volunteers—an Invitation to Serve

The President's Perspective

Here at Fairmount, volunteers are at the heart of our mission. They bring warmth, compassion and a sense of belonging to residents. Our volunteers embody the spirit of service whether by sharing a smile, lending a listening ear or helping with daily activities that enrich the lives of others.

In Romans 12:10-11, the Apostle Paul encourages us: “Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.” These words remind us that serving others is not only an act of love but a reflection of our faith. Each small act of kindness we offer has the power to uplift, strengthen and bring joy to others.

At Fairmount, we see this truth in action as volunteers dedicate their time, energy and talents to serve our residents. From helping with special events to providing companionship, every contribution makes a lasting impact. It is through the dedication of our volunteers that we can maintain a vibrant, loving community where every resident feels like family.

If you are considering volunteering, be assured that your unique gifts will make a difference! Whether you enjoy engaging in conversations, leading activities, or assisting behind the scenes, Fairmount has a place for you.

Volunteering not only benefits our residents but also enriches the personal lives of those who serve. Many volunteers find a deep sense of fulfillment because they have built meaningful relationships and experienced the joy that comes from giving.

Now more than ever, our community needs the support of people like you. Please call 717.354.1800 and talk to us about finding an opportunity that fits you and your schedule! Your time, your smile, and your presence could be the very thing that brightens someone's day. Together, we can continue to build a community where love and service are at the heart of everything we do.

Jerry D. Lile
President/CEO



35th Annual Benefit Auction

Many thanks for your unwavering support of Fairmount's 35th Annual Benefit Auction and Chicken Barbecue which was held again this year at New Covenant Mennonite Fellowship. Both the in-person and online furniture 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 over \$130,000, which will help to provide 590 days of care for residents whose funds are exhausted. Thank you again for your generous support!

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After settling in, she was ready to resume her active lifestyle so accepted a part-time job in Fairmount's Residential Living Activity Department. In addition, Janet volunteers helping the Farm Crest Gift Shop manager. Thanks to both her work and volunteer roles, Janet has built a whole new network of friends and acquaintances at Fairmount.

Ferne Motto, another Crest View Apartment resident, has found many paths to a fulfilling retirement. A nurse by profession, Ferne has worked part time at Fairmount throughout the decade she has lived here. She also volunteers at Fairmount—maintaining a flower bed, restocking the Wheat Ridge lobby card rack, and assisting with events such as our open houses and mailings. “Without the responsibilities of home ownership, I have time to pursue many other activities and interests,” she exclaims with enthusiasm.

Residents Serve the Greater Community

The contributions of these Fairmount residents reach far beyond our campus. Fred, for example, continues his several-decades-long practice of serving on extended mission trips.

Ferne volunteers at her church by assisting to prepare meals and serving as a mentor, especially to those battling some of life's more difficult struggles. She provides a listening ear, friendship, and counseling as needed.

Since moving to Fairmount, Janet has joined other residents who knit, crochet, and make lap blankets, toiletry items, hygiene bags and school kits for UNTO, a global humanitarian organization. Besides plugging into various opportunities at Fairmount, she also continues in a wide variety of volunteer positions where she had served prior to moving here. One day a month she mends books at the Schuylkill Valley Library.

Another one of her favorite efforts is working with Joni and Friends, an organization that benefits people with disabilities. “I have assisted Joni and Friends for 14 years, helping at their summer Family Retreats International and fundraisers,” she explains. “And



Crest View Apartment resident Janet Hibbs, who works part-time in Fairmount's Activity Department, assists Wheat Ridge Apartment resident Edith Lorah in the Wheat Ridge Apartment Wellness Room.

I collect discarded and unneeded mobility devices, which Joni and Friends then refurbish for distribution by various international organizations.”

Janet is delighted with her full life! “I would not have known about many of these avenues of service had I not come here,” she explains. “Actually, I learn of so many opportunities that I have to say ‘no’ sometimes!”

These are but a few examples of the many ways our wonderful residents offer their gifts to Fairmount, other residents, and the outside community. Last year, volunteers contributed more than 20,000 hours to Fairmount, as well as thousands more hours to benefit numerous local organizations including Blessings of Hope, Christian Aid Ministries, or Mennonite Central Committee. It is a testament to the fact that there is no end to the ways in which people can use their talents, experience, and unique interests to serve others long into their retirement years.



Fairmount

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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 a wheelchair van for use by residents and their families. Please call 717.354.1814 with any questions or to make a donation.

Central PA Blood Drive

On Thursday, December 5, 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.

Proposed Orchard Terrace Cottages **Informational Meetings**

**December 10 and 11, 2:00pm-6:00pm
Presentations at 3:00pm and 5:00pm**

**Wheat Ridge Gathering Room
2100 Wheat Ridge Drive, Ephrata, PA 17522**

**To RSVP or learn more,
call 717.354.1811 or
go to FairmountHomes.org**

