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# Living Out Christ's Love in New Ways

C ider Mill Heights perches on top of a hill adjacent to the Fairmount Homes campus. The beautiful Victorian house not only stands out physically because of its location but has also become a beacon of spiritual hope and renewal. Formerly known as the Hurst House Bed & Breakfast, the property was purchased by Fairmount in 2024 with the hope of future expansion while also meeting present needs. It was recently leased to Stories Made New, a local nonprofit committed to transforming lives and deepening community connections.

Stories Made New is a Christ-centered residential discipleship program for women aged 18–35, focused on spiritual freedom and personal growth rooted in the 1963 Mennonite Confession of Faith. As part of the Anabaptist community, the program fosters healing, discipleship and transformation, providing a safe space for women to grow in faith and purpose. Their mission aligns with Fairmount's values, creating a partnership that extends Christ's compassion and strengthens the broader faith community.

By leasing Cider Mill Heights to Stories Made New, Fairmount is supporting a like-minded organization which enriches lives and extends Christ's compassion, sowing seeds of hope, faith and renewal for future generations. However, creating space for Stories Made New is only one of Fairmount's initiatives that creatively serves residents and our community. We want to share two more.



Cider Mill Heights, formerly the Hurst House Bed & Breakfast, now serves as a place of hope and renewal through Stories Made New, a Christian residential discipleship program for women.

### A Wheelchair Van: Dignity and Mobility for All

This past year, thanks to a generous foundation's matching gift, we successfully raised funds to purchase a new wheelchair-accessible van. This van now allows residents who cannot get in and out of most vehicles to safely and comfortably do things like go shopping and to doctor's appointments and join other residents on day trips through our beautiful Lancaster County scenery.

The generosity of donors like you makes a real difference every day in the lives of those we serve.

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The Fairmount Mission: Founded on Christ's love and Mennonite values, we strive to enrich the lives of those we serve.

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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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**Perspective** 

### **Embracing the Challenge: Hiking the Grand Canyon**

The President's Perspective

The Grand Canyon in Arizona is one of the seven natural wonders of the world. It is both impressive and intimidating! Standing on the South Rim and looking across the canyon, one cannot help but be amazed by God's creation. Pictures simply do not do it justice!

Hiking the Grand Canyon's Rimto-Rim-to-Rim, a 44-mile trek that crosses from the South Rim to the North Rim and back, is not for the faint-hearted. It requires training, mental grit, physical endurance, and a commitment to press forward, even when the path gets tough. As I embarked on this journey recently, I realized how similar this experience is to leading an organization like Fairmount.

Tackling the Rim-to-Rim-to-Rim demands vision and preparation. At Fairmount, the vision is clear: to create a thriving, supportive community where our residents feel at home and cared for, and where team members feel a sense of meaning. Achieving this also requires large reserves of dedication and commitment to preparation. Hiking down into the canyon and back up, reveals that every step counts and every moment of rest matters. Similarly, leading a retirement community demands attention to every detail, from ensuring quality care to fostering a compassionate atmosphere for both residents and team members.

From beginning to end, we hikers encountered challenges—steep climbs, changing weather, and the weight of miles yet to go. But each challenge taught us resilience. At Fairmount, there are times when the challenges seem as daunting as the steepest canyon trail. Yet, with each difficulty we face, we grow stronger as a team. We

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learn new strategies, discover more effective solutions, and ultimately better serve our residents and team.

One of the most inspiring parts of the Rim-to-Rim-to-Rim journey is meeting others on the trail who share the same goal. Some are faster, some slower, but all are committed to completing the journey. Similarly, the team members and residents of Fairmount are on a shared journey—working together with patience, kindness, and resilience to fulfill our mission.

After two days of hiking across the canyon and back, I reached the goal—the top of the South Rim where we had started--and was suddenly overwhelmed by a powerful sense of accomplishment. I had finally reached my goal! I learned that every step matters. Just as I persevered in the canyon, the Fairmount family persists in our commitment to Fairmount's mission, ensuring that our communi-

ty remains a place of strength, compassion, and joy for those we serve.

Jerry D. Lile President/CEO



### Living Out Christ's Love in New Ways

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# Orchard Terrace Cottages: Expanding the Reach of Christ's Love

Fairmount is also planning the construction of 16 additional duplex homes. These cottages will provide additional housing options, allowing us to serve more individuals and families within our community. The cottages are designed to provide a welcoming and supportive environment where residents can experience the love and care that Fairmount embodies, while also enjoying the peace of mind that comes with access to higher levels of care when needed.

This expansion represents our commitment to growing our capacity to serve while staying rooted in Christ's love. By meeting the needs of a broader population, we continue to reflect God's compassion and extend His grace to all who seek a place of belonging and purpose.

### A Mission Rooted in Love

In every facet of living and working at Fairmount, the Christian faith remains our guiding principle. Each of these initiatives is more than a project; they are ministries that reflect the heart of our mission—to enrich lives through faith-driven service.

As we look to the future, we are committed to continuing this legacy of love and service, trusting in God's guidance and provision. Together, we celebrate the opportunities to share Christ's love and make a lasting impact on our community.



# Fairmount Announces New VP of Health Services

Fairmount is pleased to announce Katie Kimmet as our new Vice President of Health Services. Katie, who joined Fairmount in 2021 as Assistant Director of Nursing, brings 20 years of nursing experience and a passion for long-term care.

A New Holland native, Katie lives in Ephrata with her husband, Andrew, and their two children, Rye and Karis. She holds a BSN and MSN from Eastern Mennonite University and recently earned her nursing home administrator license and attends Hinkletown Mennonite Church.

"Working at Fairmount is truly a blessing," Katie shared. "The care and compassion here make it feel like a big family."

Please join us in congratulating Katie on her new role!



# Staff Honored for 440 Years of Service

On December 6, 2024, Fairmount team members gathered to celebrate at the annual Team Member Christmas Fellowship Meal, enjoying a delicious array of food and festive camaraderie. This year, we gratefully recognized 30 team members for achieving five-year employment milestones, collectively representing an outstanding 440 years of service. A special congratulations to Edith Zimmerman for her incredible 50 years of dedication! Thank you to all the honorees for your commitment to our mission.



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#### Mailing List Update:

If you wish to have your name removed from the mailing list, please call 717.354.1887, write the managing editor at the address above, or email KirstinP@FairmountHomes.org. Perspective issues are available at www.FairmountHomes.org.

#### **Electronic Service Requested**

### **Items of Interest**

### Ham & Cheese Sandwich Fundraiser

Our annual ham and cheese sandwich fundraiser, held jointly with the Weaverland Conference Mennonite Youth for Truth, is ending soon. Sandwich orders may be placed until March 14 at the Wheat Ridge or Crest View front desk, or by calling 717.354.1800. The pick up date will be April 5. The proceeds will be used for the benefit of residents in financial need through the Sharing Fund.

#### **Central PA Blood Drive**

On Thursday, April 10, 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 or visit www.cpbb.org.







# **Proposed Orchard Terrace Cottages**

Don't miss your chance to join Orchard Terrace. With construction anticipated to commence in Spring 2025, we are currently accepting deposits to reserve these cottages. A limited number are still available, offering the perfect blend of comfort and convenience. Act now to secure your spot and join the Fairmount family.



To reserve yours, call 717.354.1811 or email MitchellH@FairmountHomes.org