

Hope Created on the Auction Block

A lifetime of savings can't always cover a lifetime of care. For some residents at Fairmount, despite years of careful planning, unexpected circumstances can lead to the depletion of their financial resources. When that happens through no fault of their own, they are not asked to leave.

This steadfast commitment to lifelong care is made possible in large part through the Fairmount Sharing Fund—a designated pool of donations used exclusively to support residents who reach the point of being unable to cover the cost of their care. While some aid is available through the state, there remains a significant gap that Fairmount must bridge. Through the Sharing Fund, the broader Fairmount community—donors, volunteers, neighbors, and friends—rallies together to meet this vital need. As Vice President of Operations and chair of the very first BBQ committee, Kent Richard reflects, “Our residents, who run out of money through no fault of their own, don’t have to leave. They remain part of the family.”



Fairmount's first Benefit Auction tent in 1990 stood out front of Farm Crest, setting the stage for a beloved tradition.



“Grandpa’s Farm,” the quilt that was spontaneously donated to Fairmount’s first chicken BBQ.

From Crib Quilt to Community Legacy

The origins of Fairmount’s largest annual fundraiser date back to a particularly cold, rainy, and windy day at a Lancaster craft show in 1989. Members of the Activities Department had set up to sell resident-made crafts, but after a long and discouraging day with little success, they began rethinking their approach.

The following year, rather than participating off-site again, they decided to host a craft sale on Fairmount’s campus and pair it with a chicken barbecue. As plans came together, no one expected the event to evolve beyond that—until the day of the barbecue, when a team member donated a handmade crib quilt for auction. That spontaneous gesture marked the beginning of what would become the Benefit Auction. Today, the off-campus fundraiser has grown into a beloved September tradition that draws thousands each year to support Fairmount’s mission.

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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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Dignity • Integrity
Quality • Teamwork
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Enriching Lives Through Quality Care—No Matter What

The President's Perspective

At Fairmount Homes, we are dedicated to enriching the lives of our residents by providing compassionate, quality care—whether or not they can continue to afford it. This unwavering commitment stems from our faith-based values and our belief in the dignity of every person. As a nonprofit Life Plan Community, Fairmount has long been committed to a simple but powerful principle: No resident should be asked to leave solely because they have outlived their financial resources through no fault of their own.

This commitment is only possible because of the generosity and faithfulness of our donors. Year after year, our community of supporters helps to enable residents to continue receiving the care they need, even when their funds are depleted. In 2024 alone, over \$4 million was needed to support residents through our Sharing Fund—a portion of that was made available thanks to our donors' compassion and belief in Fairmount's mission.

In Psalm 8:4-5, the psalmist reminds us, "What is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him? Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor." At Fairmount, we view every resident as created by God with inherent glory and honor. Therefore, our purpose is not

just to meet a physical need but to nurture spiritual and emotional well-being through relationships that honor their story.

We see the effects of this mission daily: a longtime resident continuing to receive compassionate care after exhausting savings; a widow offered the peace of remaining at Fairmount after unexpected medical expenses; a family relieved knowing their loved one will be cared for without compromise. These stories are made possible because our donors' gifts allow us to say "yes" to grace, dignity and care.

As we look to the future, we remain steadfast in our calling to provide for those in need. But we cannot do it alone. We invite you—our friends, neighbors, and supporters—to continue walking with us. Your gifts do more than fund care. They extend hope, preserve community and honor the dignity of every resident.

Together, we are enriching lives, one resident at a time.



Jerry D. Lile
President/CEO

Save the Date: Faithful Give



Fairmount is excited to once again take part in The Faithful Give, a three-day online giving event supporting local faith-based nonprofits. This year's event will run from Sunday, October 19, through Tuesday, October 21. To participate, simply visit faithfulgive.org during the three-day event, select "Fairmount" from the list of organizations and make your donation online. Thank you for your faithful support that helps us continue to care for our residents.

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These beautifully arranged baskets drew plenty of attention and bids at the 2024 Benefit Auction.

“In the early years,” Kent recalls, “the funds went toward special projects such as buses, vans, tractors, and furniture. But eventually we realized the biggest ongoing need was resident support. That’s when all auction proceeds were designated solely for the Sharing Fund.” Since then, our annual Benefit Auction and Barbecue has generated a significant contribution towards that fund.

Growing in Purpose and Joy

The auction that started with one quilt has grown exponentially. “I hope it continues to grow so that we can help more people,” says Auction Chairperson Edwin Martin. In 2024, the event featured two auction blocks running simultaneously, with over 1,280 items ranging from handcrafted quilts and furniture to theme baskets, artwork, and even a vehicle.

The day also features a family-friendly atmosphere: fresh food, a flea market, baked goods, soft ice cream, tractor rides, a bounce house, choral music and the ever-popular candy drop for children. “We’ve tried to continue adding new things throughout the years,” Kent says. “Whether it’s a coffee spritzer bar, helicopter rides, or something for the children—our goal is to bring in the whole community.”

More Than a Fundraiser

The Auction is a meaningful tradition that captures the spirit of Fairmount. It brings together team members, residents, family members, board members, volunteers, and neighbors, all working side by side for a shared purpose. As Edwin explains, “Two things motivate me; first is the amazing teamwork that goes into making it happen. Seeing everybody work together is very inspiring. Second is the purpose behind why we’re doing this—helping Fairmount take care of residents who have exhausted their funds.”

In recent years, Auction proceeds have grown steadily, thanks to increased attendance and donor generosity. In 2024, the event netted an impressive \$131,567 for the Sharing Fund. Each dollar represents a meal served, a room cleaned, a hand held, a life enriched. It’s not just about dollars raised—it’s about hope sustained.

Looking Ahead: Auction 2025

Mark your calendars for this year’s event which will be Saturday, September 13! The day begins with breakfast at 6:30am, a singing group at 8:30am, and the Auction starts at 9:00am. Enjoy delicious food, a lively flea market, children’s activities and hundreds of auction items. Donations are needed for theme baskets, big-ticket items, Dining for Dollars meals, and handmade crafts. Bring items to donate to the Wheat Ridge front desk or call the Director of Development at 717.354.1800.



A beautiful day under the auction tent – 2024’s Benefit Auction was a memorable and successful day!



Fairmount

333 Wheat Ridge Drive
Ephrata, PA 17522-8558
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Items of Interest

Central PA Blood Drive

On Thursday, August 14, 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.

Outdoor Concert Planned

Enjoy two evenings of toe-tapping bluegrass music this August at Fairmount.

- Ransomed Bluegrass will perform on Tuesday, August 5, at 6:30pm on the Farm Crest campus. In case of rain, the concert will be held indoors.
- J-Tyme Bluegrass will perform on Tuesday, August 26, at 6:30pm on the Wheat Ridge campus. The rain date for this event is Thursday, August 28, at 6:30pm.

Both concerts are free and open to the public—just bring your lawn chairs and enjoy the program! For weather-related updates, visit FairmountHomes.org.



Fairmount, along with 16 other local Continuing Care Retirement Communities, will participate in the 13th Annual Explore Retirement Living Open House on Saturday, October 18, from 10:00am to 3:00pm.

You are invited to stop by and discover the benefits of cottage and apartment living at Fairmount. For more information, contact our Marketing Department at 717.354.1800 or visit FairmountHomes.org.

