

From Belize to Fairmount: A Legacy of Service

For Bill and Judy Houser, service has been a central thread weaving through their lives—spanning continents, cultures and now their new home at Fairmount. The couple, who moved to Fairmount in April 2025, has long embraced the Mennonite values of faith, community and helping others.

Early Years and Global Service

Bill was born and raised in Lampeter, attending Willow Street Mennonite Church, while Judy grew up in Jonestown, Lebanon County, as part of Dohner Mennonite Church. Bill and Judy first crossed paths in 1967 at a rural health clinic in British Honduras, where Judy was serving as a nurse and Bill had arrived for church voluntary service. They married in 1971, and in 1973, returned to the country, now renamed Belize, where they dedicated the next 10 years to service.

During that time, Bill's work included pastoral duties and agricultural development. Together they helped with a successful refugee resettlement project for families from El Salvador.

Continuing Service in Pennsylvania

Returning to the U.S., Bill and Judy were delighted to find opportunities to serve through teaching, volunteering and mentoring. Both were deeply involved with Mennonite and Brethren Marriage Encounter programs, and later, the Engaged Encounter program. Their dedication to service often extended to hosting international students over the holidays, forging lifelong friendships that now span countries and decades. More recently, Judy taught English to Afghan refugee women—a role she particularly cherished.

Serving At Fairmount

Since arriving at Fairmount Homes, the Housers have eagerly found ways to continue serving. Judy volunteers at the Morgantown ReUzit Shoppe. At Fairmount, she participates in wheelchair transportation and is exploring further opportunities to visit residents and assist with HealthDrive, a monthly program that provides on-site eye, podiatry and dental appointments for residents. For her, volunteering has fostered meaningful connections that are always a source of joy, echoing the relationships they built across the globe.

Bill joins the Monday Prayer Walk praying for residents, team members and volunteers, helps with

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The Housers visited decades-long friends on a recent trip to Belize.

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
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Rooted in Service and Radiating Hope

The President's Perspective

Fairmount Homes' mission is a living reality shaped by so many people who embody it daily. From our caregivers' steady hands to our volunteers' generous hearts, this community thrives because of those who choose to serve with love, humility and hope.

Scripture reminds us, "Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people" (Ephesians 6:7). That spirit of wholehearted service is evident in the quiet, powerful moments that fill our halls—moments often unseen, yet always appreciated.

One such moment came from Melissa, a team member in our healthcare facility. One night, a resident was feeling anxious and unable to rest. Rather than rushing through her duties, Melissa pulled up a chair, held the resident's hand, and advocated for comfort measures. That moment wasn't about charts or schedules—it was about presence, compassion and embodying Christ's love in action.

These are the moments that define Fairmount. Quality care is not just clinical, it's spiritual. It's about dignity, comfort and seeing each person as a beloved child of God.

Our volunteers embody this same

spirit. Whether they are tending flower gardens, leading Bible studies or writing notes of encouragement, they radiate the light of Christ fulfilling Peter's admonition that "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." (1 Peter 4:10) At Fairmount, we observe those gifts in action every day.

Everything staff and volunteers do is kingdom work! From feeding a resident to managing finances to guiding patients in physical therapy, each person is part of God's greater story of love and compassion.

May the Lord continue to bless the hands and hearts of all who serve at Fairmount. May this community remain a beacon of love and hope for generations to come. And may each person who walks these halls feel the presence of Christ through the care and compassion that surrounds them.



Jerry D. Lile
President/CEO

36th Annual Benefit Auction



Many thanks for your unwavering support of Fairmount's 36th Annual Benefit Auction and Barbecue which was held again this year at New Covenant Mennonite Fellowship. Net proceeds totaled over \$150,000, which will help to provide 665 days of care for residents whose funds are exhausted through no fault of their own. Thank you again for your generous support!

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caring for flower beds and assists with resident transportation on Sundays. “Service is a good way to get a feel for the community and stay aware of what’s happening,” he says. Participating in the Prayer Walk, in particular, has given him a broader perspective on life at Fairmount. “You can never outgive God,” he adds, emphasizing how service enriches not only the recipients but the giver as well.

Faith as the Foundation

The Houser’s faith and upbringing have been the foundation of their calling. A map of the world hung on the kitchen wall as Judy was growing up. Her

family would point out the location of missionaries as they prayed for them—an early lesson in the impact of faithful service. Together, Judy and Bill encourage fellow residents and staff to embrace service opportunities, as a way to engage with the community, gain perspective and allow God to work through their efforts.

Throughout their journey, the Housers have embodied Matthew 5:16: “Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” Their light continues to shine at Fairmount, reminding all of us that service is not just an action but a way of life.

Celebrating 30 Years

This year, we celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Perspective, Fairmount’s quarterly newsletter, which began in February 1995 under the leadership of Kent Richard, now our Vice President of Operations.

It’s remarkable how much resonates with that very first issue. Back in 1995, the newsletter announced the purchase of a new mini-bus—just as we recently celebrated the addition of a wheelchair-accessible van. It also shared news of new cottages on Farm Crest Drive (then Fairmount Home Drive) and Nolt Drive, much like our current construction of 16 cottages as part of Orchard Terrace.

Some things change over time, but Fairmount’s dedication to growth, community, Christian values and caring for those we serve remains steadfast.

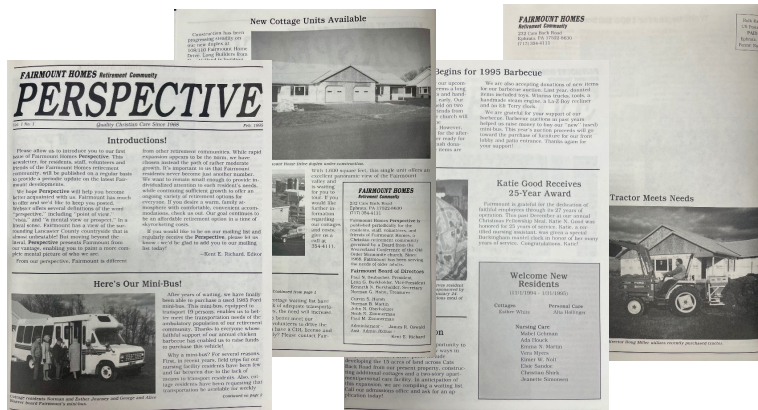


Matching Gift Opportunity

For many years, the fishpond on our Health Care patio has brought joy to residents and families at Fairmount Homes. Because of significant leaks, the pond must now be removed. Rather than replace it, we plan to create a safe, covered outdoor retreat where residents can relax and enjoy God’s creation.

A generous family foundation will match every gift, dollar-for-dollar, up to \$25,000, for donations received by December 1—doubling your impact! Plans include a pergola, tranquil water feature, and raised sensory garden to enrich the lives of residents for years to come.

To help make this vision a reality, donate by December 1. For more information, contact Kevin Nofziger at KevinN@FairmountHomes.org or by calling 717.354.1814.



Explore the past 15 years of the Perspective by visiting FairmountHomes.org/community-engagement/newsletters.



Fairmount

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Items of Interest

Annual Diabetes Day Event

Fairmount is hosting WellSpan Health for a free annual Diabetes Day event on Tuesday, November 11, from 2:00pm–4:30pm, in the Farm Crest Community Room. There will be food samples, exhibitors and a presentation offering practical suggestions for living with diabetes. Registration is required by calling 717.721.8790, ext. 0.

Central PA Blood Drive

On Thursday, December 11, 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.

Annual Quilting Days

Save the Date! February Quilting Days will be held on February 7, 10, and 11, 2026. Join us to create beautiful quilts for the September Benefit Auction!

What to Know About Estate Gifts and Planning

Join us on Wednesday, February 18, 2026, at 3:00 pm, in the Wheat Ridge Chapel for a seminar on Estate gifts and planning presented by Everence. Everyone is welcome and no registration required.

Watch for Our End-of-Year Appeal!

Keep an eye on your mailbox—our End-of-Year Appeal Letter will arrive within the next few weeks. Your generous gift will support our Sharing Fund, helping residents who have exhausted their financial resources through no fault of their own.

Let's Stay In Touch!

Have you recently moved, changed your email, or updated your phone number? We don't want you to miss a single update from Fairmount Homes!



Here's how to keep your info current:

Email: KirstinP@FairmountHomes.org

Call: 717.354.1887

Write to: 333 Wheat Ridge Dr. Ephrata, PA 17522

Updating your contact info ensures you continue to enjoy:

The Perspective newsletter, invitations to special events and important community news.

