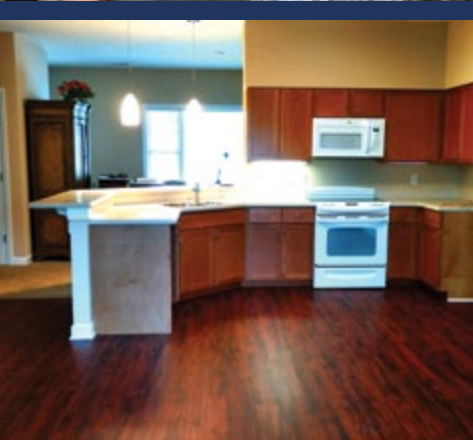


CHRIST'S HOME Connections



Frontline

Did you know...

...that the fastest growing segment in our society are people in their 80's?

...that there are more people alive today age 100 or older than at any time in the history of our country?

...that those who study trends in health and aging are now predicting that 1 in 5 people currently alive today will reach age 100?

These are significant factors that are causing a great shift in balance for the economic realities facing our nation as we seek to meet the needs of seniors.

Meeting these needs has been a part of Christ's Home's mission and calling since 1923. Over the past decade we've experienced an expansion of facilities and services. As a result, we served 739 seniors in the past year, a marked increase over the number served just a decade ago. Services now include: independent living, long-term nursing care, short-term rehab care, personal care, and memory care.

Many people who know about our work with children are surprised to find out we also serve seniors – and are surprised to learn how long we've been doing this. This issue of **CONNECTIONS** is designed to help you understand this part of our work and the people we serve.

Our Mission is clear. God has called us to serve senior adults AND disadvantaged children in a community known for our caring and compassion. I hope you enjoy this edition of **CONNECTIONS!**

Sincerely,

John Bryant
CEO



It Takes a Team

Creating a community known for its *Caring and Compassion* takes a lot of hard work, daily diligence, departmental focus, and inter-department cooperation. At Christ's Home, our staff serve our seniors every day with an extraordinary level of commitment and excellence. The following article provides an insight into three teams who live day-to-day with our residents, serving and ministering to them in ways that are meaningful for both our residents and our staff. This article was written by Annalise Shumski, a student at Cairn University who served us this summer as a Public Relations Intern. I hope you enjoy meeting some of the people who makeup the Christ's Home Team.

- John Bryant, CEO

Our **Activities Team** feel as though they have 500 grandparents, spending the ins and outs of every day with the residents. When we interviewed the Team about what motivates them to do their job, their eyes welled up with passion and love. "I have a profound impact on every day I spend with the residents. From being with them for breakfast, lunch, and dinner to doing crafts, and exercises, I am genuinely excited about the opportunity to spend time with them," said Nicoletta, our Activities Coordinator.

At Christ's Home, the residents and staff are one big family. The Activities Team is devoted to serving the residents with God's love by showing the residents they matter and are important. They accomplish this together, as a team. Their team cohesiveness comes from Christ's Home Core Values. "Christ's Home is different. The Lord is working in the community here. I think people come here seeking that out because they want to be a part of the difference," explained an activities staff member.



Pictured from left to right: Angie, Liz, Nicoletta, and Ruth

As the interview carried on, the Team shared their understanding about how the residents are often unhappy with their current state of being. The Activities staff help to take their mind off these hard things; they are able to uplift them. At Christ's Home, staff can express their faith, allowing them to have a deeper interaction with the residents.

The Activities Team is always working together, especially when they make the monthly activity calendars. Their goal is to play to each other's strengths as they plan who will lead specific activities. They do not, however, shy away from challenges. They strive to cultivate an atmosphere that is focused on Christ, respect, and professionalism, while still being relational with one another and the residents. Through this focus, they invite the residents to have input in activities, always evolving to create better programs that meet the residents' needs and desires. Above all, their commitment to communication keeps them engaged with the residents and each other daily.

Ultimately, they all have the same goal: serve the residents.

(continued on page 4)



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MISSION STATEMENT

The heart of Christ's Home is to serve the Lord by providing services to senior adults and disadvantaged children in an atmosphere graced with love, dignity, compassion and respect.

CORPORATE OFFICES

800 York Road
Warminster, PA 18974
215-956-2260

Children's Services - Warminster
215-956-2260

Children's Services - Paradise Campus
717-687-6072

Senior Services
215-956-2270
www.christshome.org

Photos and names may or may not depict the children of Christ's Home.

CONNECTIONS is a publication of Christ's Home. Please contact the Corporate Office with any comments or questions.

DONOR CHOICE PROGRAM

Christ's Home is a qualified member of and participant in the United Way Donor Choice Program. You may contribute to United Way through payroll deduction or by giving an outright gift. Please be sure to ask for a Donor Choice Form. For the Southeastern PA region (Delaware Valley only) our number is: 00981. All other regions must use our national number: 007689

Christ's Home is a 501 (c)(3) organization. Gifts are deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes.

The official registration and financial information of Christ's Home, Inc. may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. (Certificate of Registration No. 13865)

Registration does not imply endorsement.

It Takes a Team *(continued from page 3)*

Another team striving to serve the residents is our **Staff Chaplains**: Ron and Scott. Both come from vocational ministry backgrounds as full-time pastors. Now, Scott serves in several part-time chaplain positions in the greater Philadelphia area, while Ron is “retooling” (not to be confused with retiring) as a part-time chaplain here at Christ’s Home. Ron and Scott exhibit a smooth, integrated flow filling in for each other and working as a tag-team that can only be explained by God’s sovereignty. They have only been here together for six months!



Pictured from left to right: Ron and Scott

“Everyone needs encouragement. Here, outside of a church building, but underneath the name of Christ, it is not offensive to bring up Jesus and it is a more relaxed space to talk about spirituality for people,” said Ron. Ron shared how it is natural to bring up God’s Word at Christ’s Home and feels that there is more freedom to share from the heart. He experiences heart-felt conversations daily. Having had his own struggles in life, he understands the hurt that life can bring. He connects with residents on a personal level with this perspective, offering genuine empathy and hope.

Scott testified about how Christ’s Home is truly Christ centered, especially when compared to other environments where chaplaincy is significantly more difficult, like hospitals. With excited eyes, Scott explained, “One of the best parts of our job is how we

go and meet people where they are. We visit them, offering a safe presence, a place where they will be listened to.”

Both Scott and Ron love how they not only get to meet people where they are physically, but also emotionally, spiritually, and mentally; even if that means standing with residents in silence.

Scott shared about a moment of silence turning into a heartfelt moment.

Standing with a man up on the Skilled Nursing floor, I could sense the need for silence. The man was deep in thought. As the moment progressed, the man began to speak of his late-wife. He invited me into a moment of vulnerability where I spoke words of encouragement and helped this man process through feelings of grief, regret and sadness.

Ron and Scott even get to walk through the various stages of care with residents moving from an Independent Living cottage, to the hospital, to rehab, and back to the cottage! They travel and keep the relationships with the residents moving forward in a positive way. They build a foundation of trust where the residents know they are going to be there to listen and help them through those challenging transitions and changes. Ron and Scott also shared how much they value the coordination of care they experience with other departments, such as Activities and Wellness.

The **Wellness Program** was started almost nine years ago. Louise Mattern, Wellness Services Coordinator, built the Wellness Program from scratch. She expressed that it was difficult to build trust with the residents at first, but helping them through their transition of moving to Christ’s Home certainly opened doors for her to connect with residents on a personal level.

With tear-filled eyes, Louise expressed the joy of seeing residents continuing to keep themselves healthy, continuing to live their life regardless of the impact of aging. She shares that many of “these residents have

climbed the Mt. Everest of aging. They have so much richness in their life.” Her passion drives her and her team to advocate for residents, serving as a liaison for many who may not have family to guide them through various medical services and/or need help navigating the social services system. Louise elaborated, “Many residents don’t even know all the services offered to them.” Our wellness nurses bridge the gap between the residents and the care they deserve.

As the community grew, Louise slowly got to know the residents as they moved in. Louise has the privilege of seeing the big picture of our Retirement Community as she has watched the community grow and expand. This provides her a wider perspective of life that she can share with the residents that they are not always capable of seeing.

And, as the community has grown, so has Louise’s team. Angela and Joanna joined Louise about four years ago, bringing different insights from their specific nursing backgrounds.

Walking door to door, over our 84-acre campus, Louise, Angela, and Joanna are motivated by seeing the residents stay healthy and pursue wellness for themselves. The wellness nurses veer away from being a “nagging daughter” by simply “providing programs, education, and support to maintain optimal health and functioning for the residents,” says Louise.

“I like encouraging and being a part of preventive medicine. I like seeing people well and healthy, instead of being ill or in crisis.” - Angela.

Ultimately, the moments of seeing residents walk around campus, attend exercise programs, or simply staying hydrated, keep Louise and her team motivated to encourage them to attain the highest level of wellness possible. They have the blessing of encouraging people whether in times of health or illness. And, in the hard times, to offer a simple gesture of reliance upon God to meet a resident’s need. “Being able to sit down and pray with people is such a blessing of working here at Christ’s Home. No one has ever declined from being offered a prayer,” emphasized Louise.

With the collaboration of the Activities Team, Chaplains, and Wellness Nurses, our residents are provided the opportunity to pursue wholeness in their life spiritually, mentally, emotionally, physically, and relationally. The combined force of these three teams provides a community that is vibrant, authentic, and balanced.

Thank you for every moment you invest in our residents. Each conversation, smile, activity, and visit changes the lives the residents in this community each and every day!



Pictured from left to right: Louise, Grace (a resident in the garden apartments), and Angela (Joanna not pictured)



Jane and GriefShare

By Vernon Morris – Administrator for Independent Living



Pictured from left to right: Vernon and Jane

Christ's Home is blessed by the many gifts our residents bring to this community.

Jane Robinson and her leadership is a perfect example of these blessings.

When asked what led her to move into her suite in the Shepherd's Way Building, Jane's first response was: "age." She added that she is also very stubborn and independent.

However, after a winter storm with no electricity for five days, a medical stay in the hospital following a hip replacement, and conversations with her family, she knew it was time. She had visited Christ's Home before with her children so she had them choose a suite and she took it "sight unseen."

She appreciates the ability to still live independently in the suite, while feeling secure, protected, and safe. She also has plenty of room for company to stay in her two bedroom suite! While she likes the way she can host family and friends, Jane shared that she did not come to form friendships. God, however, had other plans for her.

Through her window, Jane enjoys seeing the barn and silos, from the original senior community in 1924. More importantly though, she loves seeing the main entrance that allows her to pray for each guest coming in the door.

When you meet Jane, her desire to follow Christ's example quickly becomes apparent. One of Jane's missions is to spread positivity amidst all her interactions throughout the day.

"My husband was always the fun one," said Jane. After his passing, she felt the strong calling to ask herself each day: "What can I encourage people with today?" She routinely greets staff with the question, "What do you do here?" This question is quickly followed by a thanks for all they do, and, if desired, a big hug. She does the same to vendors, volunteers, fellow residents, etc. She strongly believes that this is making a difference. We think she is definitely on to something!

With the passing of her husband, Jane understood that all in life is not easy.

Jane feels the calling to help others who are struggling with grief. Once retired from being a Special Education teacher, Jane always thought she would simply continue that interest by being a volunteer. Once again, God had other plans for Jane. While attending Cheltenham church, she was asked to assist in a grief support group known as GriefShare. She came alongside a couple that was struggling to relate to the group they were leading. She was hooked.

GriefShare is an organized network of 12,000 churches worldwide equipped to offer ongoing weekly support groups. The program is nondenominational and features biblical concepts for healing from your grief. Jane calls it: "A place where grieving people can find healing and hope after the death of a spouse, child, parent, family member, or friend."

This group ministers to not only Christ's Home residents, but also to the community. It is an outreach gift to people in the greater community. We currently have participants from Wycombe, Warminster, Oreland, Jenkintown, and Hatboro. These individuals have heard of our GriefShare program through the GriefShare website.

Jane's arrival at Christ's Home is certainly not by chance. God is using her as a positive influence in the lives of so many, in so many ways. As for the GriefShare program, Jane wanted to specifically share, "We leaders and participants (of GriefShare) are grateful to Christ's Home for reaching out and providing the opportunity for hurting people to heal their grief and be provided hope in their journey".

Please consider keeping the GriefShare group in your prayers. It is through this support that the group and leaders feel blessed each week and every day in between.

If you or someone you know, are struggling with grief, please also consider joining the group. They meet for a 13 week session, but you can join in at any time.



Jane laughs with those around her, spreading joy and comfort.



Christ's Home GriefShare meets Tuesday evenings at 7:00 PM in the McKeown Center on the Senior Services campus.

The McKeown Center
466 South Norristown Road
Warminster, PA 18974

You are invited to the Seventh Annual Christ's Home Legacy Celebration

Thursday, October 5, 2017

6:00PM at The Fuge in Warminster, Pennsylvania

Mark your calendar for this annual celebration and fundraiser.

Our special guest presenter will be former Eagles place kicker, **David Akers**.

The evening will also feature the presentation of three awards:

The Legacy Service Award • The Legacy Volunteer Award • Legacy Support Award



Why David Akers?



During his 12 seasons as a Philadelphia Eagle, David played in a franchise record 188 games and is the team's all-time leading scorer with 1,323 points. David is one of four NFL kickers who share the record for the longest field goal of 63-yards. He was also named to the Eagles 75th Anniversary All-Time Team and was voted as the kicker on the NFL all 2000's 2nd Team.

His NFL career only tells you about part of the man. He is as successful in the community as he was on the field.

David launched *David Akers' Kicks for Kids Foundation* with the mission to provide Greater Philadelphia/Delaware Valley children with opportunities to pursue their dreams. Many of the programs help kids and their families enjoy what might be a brief respite away from the stress brought on by illness or other tragedy.

We are excited to bring David to Christ's Home as he shares his story and what God is doing in his life today.

New Venue: What is The Fuge?



The Fuge was formerly known as the Johnsville Naval Air Development Center, a centrifuge training center for astronauts simulating zero gravity. Now called The Fuge, it has moved from training America's space travelers to hosting a wide variety of events for organizations such as ours. In an 11,000 sq. ft. main room, you will experience an evening full of eloquent, impactful stories while experiencing exquisite dining. The Fuge is the most-wanted venue in town. It will be unforgettable!

Tickets are \$35 per person and cover the cost of your meal.

Opportunity to give for the needs of Christ's Home will be given at this event.

For reservations, contact Paul Baur:

pbaur@christshome.org // PH. 215-956-1885



Dancing in celebration of God's blessings



Celebrating the opening of the boys' dorm



Some of the Mahiga Children's Home leaders

Meet Me at Mahiga - 2018

Since 2012, Christ's Home has financially supported the Mahiga Children's Home in Kenya, Africa. Mahiga is one of several homes operated by Chariots For Hope based in Dresher, PA. We are proud to be a partner with them. In addition to operational support, Christ's Home has provided financial support for a new vehicle, a staff housing apartment, and most recently a new boy's dormitory.

The staff at Mahiga care for over 100 children that come from extreme poverty and often dangerous situations. When a child is placed in the Mahiga children's home they become part of a family. They are given shelter, nutritious food, clothing, and medical care. The staff pours into them, learning who they are as a person, caring for not only physical needs, but also their social, emotional, and spiritual needs. For many, this is the first time in their lives they have felt safe.

Over the past five years, Christ's Home staff have visited the home twice, initially in April 2013 and again in November 2016. A trip is being planned for the spring of 2018. We consider the staff and children at Mahiga part of our extended family. Plans for this trip include: the dedication of the boy's dormitory, games and activities

with the children, interaction with and support for the staff, as well as several home visits to meet the children's extended family with the children's caregivers. In addition we will visit a game preserve to observe the local wildlife and observe God's beautiful creation.

We would love to have you join us for this once-in-a-lifetime experience – especially if you are already sponsoring a child at Mahiga. This is a great opportunity to meet that child in person and present them with a few small gifts. Space on this trip is limited to 10-12 persons. If you have any questions, or are considering being part of this unique opportunity, please contact trip leader Jim McGovern at jmcgovern@christshome.org. The registration deadline is November 15th.

If you are unable to join us for this trip, please keep the trip – and most of all the children of Mahiga – in your prayers.



New boys' dormitory

Senior Services Campus Update

By Jim McGovern – Chief Operating Officer

There have been a lot of exciting projects at the Senior Services Campus the past few months. Here is a brief update.

Manor Annex

There is a 3,000 square foot building on the Senior's Services campus that has been vacant since the former healthcare building was demolished in 2013. The Annex building is connected to the original Manor House and was used as office space as well as Independent Living apartments. A committee of Independent Living residents was formed to discuss converting the Annex building into a recreational facility. The residents chose to have pool tables, ping pong, shuffleboard, dartboard, large screen television, kitchen, restrooms, woodworking, and craft room. The committee chose the name "Annex Recreation Center" or "ARC". An architect was hired to create a layout and blueprints for the building. The residents are looking forward to spending recreation time in the new "ARC" in the near future.

New 15-Passenger Bus

With the high census that Christ's Home has experienced over the past year there was a need for an additional vehicle to transport residents and Skilled Nursing patients at the Healthcare Center. A new, 15-passenger ADA accessible wheelchair bus was purchased and added to the fleet. This new vehicle will better meet the needs of patients requiring transportation to medical appointments and residents for shopping trips and recreational activities. The vehicle came with our logo and contact information on the exterior. The other transportation vehicles all received the Christ's Home logo and contact information as well.

Cottage Upgrades

Since our original Shepherd's Crossing Cottages were designed almost twelve years ago, an architect and an interior designer were hired to create optional floor plans and upgrades for the cottages. The plans included making living areas more spacious by removing walls to create an open feel in the kitchen

and dining areas. Other options include newer laminate flooring, gas fireplace, energy-efficient LED lighting, various countertop and backsplash options, as well as crown molding. These options can be purchased by new residents before moving into a cottage, or by current residents desiring to upgrade their existing cottages. More detailed information, including floor plans of the new cottage layouts, will be available on our website this fall.



Manor Annex Building floor plan



Residents ready to ride their brand new bus!



Shiny new floors and counter tops give these cottages quite the pick-me-up!

Gifts in honor of

Gifts given between April 1, 2017 and June 30, 2017.

Mr. Gene McCreesh
In Honor of Ellen Walsh

Ms. Jennifer Richardson
In Honor of Laila Ortega

Mr. and Mrs. Bryant
In Memory and Honor of Les Clemens

Gifts in memory of

Gifts given between April 1, 2017 and June 30, 2017.

Ms. Zweig
In Memory of John F. Rawlings
Mr. and Mrs. Tauber
In Memory of John F. Rawlings
Ms. Nelson
In Memory of Louise Stahl
GBU Of Pittsburgh #817
In Memory of Markus and Johanna Schaefer
Mr. and Mrs. Dudley
In Memory of Leonidio Germano
Ms. Mary Anne Allen
In Memory of Jean E. McKinley
Mr. Wayne Goldschneider
In Memory of Julia Verrecchia (pisano)
Mr. and Mrs. Tauber
In Memory of John F. Rawlings
Mr. William Barcalow
In Memory of Richard T. Peterson Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Bryant
In Memory of Jack Miller
Mr. and Mrs. Gary S. Landis
In Memory of Richard T. Peterson Jr.
Mr. Jordan Rogers
In Memory of Eleanor Kurtz Saylor
Mr. and Mrs. David Pallenik
In Memory of Eleanor Kurtz Saylor
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Clark

In Memory of Eleanor Kurtz Saylor
Ms. Sharon Saylor
In Memory of Eleanor Kurtz Saylor
Mr. and Mrs. Barren
In Memory of Grace Schmidt
Leslie and Jodi
In Memory of Julia Verrecchia (pisano)
Ms. Siewrattan
In Memory of Her beloved Dog
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Diehl
In Memory of Eleanor Kurtz Saylor
Mr. Ronald Beard
In Memory of Eleanor Kurtz Saylor
Mr. and Mrs. Wolf
In Memory of Fred H. Hoffmann
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Saylor
In Memory of Eleanor Kurtz Saylor
Mr. and Mrs. Roy Stalker
In Memory of Eleanor Kurtz Saylor
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hoover
In Memory of Raymond and Grace Shank
Mrs. Dryden
In Memory of William Perry
Mr. and Mrs. Pedersen
In Memory of Dorothy Polaski
Otto
In Memory of Ruth Saffri

Denise
In Memory of Chester B. Smeal
George
In Memory of Eleanor Kurtz Saylor
Rich and Jean
In Memory of Mary Morrison
Smyth Campbell
Rich and Jean
In Memory of Gail Lois Jenkins Hafner
Charles F. Snyder Jr. Funeral Home
In Memory of Richard Alexander Bates
Ms. Miller
In Memory of Jean Capus
Mr. DeBenedictis
In Memory of Dorothy DeBenedictis
Mr. and Mrs. Ben Fisher
In Memory of Harold and Marian Warner
Mr. and Mrs. Weidner
In Memory of Mae Vetter
Mr. and Mrs. Weidner
In Memory of Florence Weidner
Joseph
In Memory of Minnie B. Sellers
Douglas
In Memory of Jean E. McKinley
Rich and Jean
In Memory of Jay B. Gordon, SR.



Fall Festival

Free Admission and Parking
September 16th
10 am – 4 pm

800 York Road
Warminster, PA

To register, contact Paul Baur: pbaur@christshome.org

LIVE MUSIC | GAMES | CRAFTS | VENDORS | FOOD TRUCKS

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

A Generous Thought

Your giving can have a life of its own!

Recently, a supporter shared that they made provisions through their will to continue contributing to Christ's Home after they are no longer alive. This couple has been donating financially to Christ's Home for 20 years. In addition to making larger gifts to Christ's Home in recent years, they also disclosed that when they are gone they want to make sure the support continues. This dear couple values the services and impact Christ's Home makes in the lives of needy children and senior adults, and they understand that donor support is critical to continuing our vital programs. Their plan includes leaving Christ's Home as recipients of investments that will generate, on average, 4% each year. This will largely protect the legacy of generous support they have established during their lifetime. In essence they have decided to endow their current giving by treating Christ's Home as a member of the family.

What might this look like for other donors? Let's suppose someone contributes \$1,000 on an annual basis. A donor could make arrangements in their estate plan to leave Christ's Home in their will for \$25,000. Some larger estates may direct the establishment of a larger trust that makes payments to multiple charities and family. Another option is to direct a gift to Christ's Home through your will, with a statement directing that the gift to be added to the Christ's Home endowment, allowing the interest to be used for sustaining our vital programs.

By way of example, if a donor gives \$4,000 annually during their lifetime, a gift of \$100,000 through their will can perpetuate that level of support, making sure that your giving "has a life of its own". This kind of forethought is an incredible blessing to Christ's Home and those we serve.

If you would like to learn more, or desire sample language that you can use in writing your will, contact Vernon Wright, Chief Development Officer, by calling 717.687.9424 (ext 102), or send an email to vwright@christshome.org.