Landis Homes Reaches Anniversary Milestone

This year Landis Homes is celebrating the 35th anniversary of first opening its doors. The community, tucked away among Manheim Township farmland, began in 1964 as a place of retirement primarily for returning missionaries of Eastern Mennonite Missions, Salunga. Over the years, it has grown from nine original residents to more than 600 today, from many denominations and walks of life. There are also services to an additional 50 persons through two adult day service centers on the campus.

George Leaman who was the administrator of the community from the beginning until 1977, now lives at Landis Homes as a resident. “I have seen a lot of changes in these years,” says George. Parties celebrating the anniversary were held for residents on February 18, the date when the first residents actually slept on campus. George, along with current president Ed Longenecker, were guests of honor at one of the parties.

On the same day Landis Homes employees were treated to a special buffet meal which cost 35 cents in honor of the anniversary. Other events planned to celebrate the milestone are an Open House in May and special events including an auction and children’s activities at the Annual Fellowship and Chicken Barbecue Day in September.

Attention Golfers!

Landis Homes Eighth Annual Benefit Golf Outing

June 4, 1999
Foxchase Golf Club

Proceeds will benefit the Adult Day Services program. Call Joanne Ramsbottom at 569-3271, ext. 3104 for sponsorship and registration materials.
Reminiscing with George

What was it like 35 years ago? George Leaman, then administrator and now a resident at Landis Homes, enjoys reflecting on those days. Recently I visited George to reminisce with him about those early days.

He recalls Board Member, Orie Miller’s enthusiastic push. Even before one “unit” as they were called then, was fully occupied he would respond to the builders proposed plans for the next unit by asking, “When can you start?” At the time, remembers George, “I just thought it couldn’t be. But because the demand was great we could hardly keep up. At first we struggled to get residents – but once the concept caught on, it grew quickly.”

George’s conversation didn’t go far until he mentions his wife, Grace. She speaks fondly of her role in those early days as “matron.” She took care of the details.

He remembers the struggle qualifying for administrator’s license. “I didn’t have the knowledge and training for such a job,” he says.

George was a great tree planter. He remembers digging out trees in the Brickerville mountain and planting them at Landis Homes. Today you can see the grove of trees behind One Homebrook Drive and think of George’s labor thirty-plus years ago.

In his modesty, George takes little credit, personally, for what Landis Homes has become. Landis Homes’ start was a combination of the dreams, aspirations and carefully laid plans of many persons. He mentioned early board members whose lives and families continue to influence the campus today. Charles Good, was a board member who now lives with his wife Susie in Grandview and whose son Don is Landis Homes pastor. George also named Frank Enck, Sanford High, Ira Buckwalter and Lester Wenger all of whom have died and whose wives live on our campus. He mentioned Chester Steffy, now his neighbor in Birch who was a board member and job foreman during those early years.

George remains an encourager. He is quick to refer to the efforts of the dedicated staff. He thinks we have today the greatest group of caring employees. His parting advice are the letters, KLH, which stands for “Keep Looking Up.”

Ed Longenecker, President

CCAC Evaluators Visit

A team of three evaluators representing the Continuing Care Accreditation (CCAC) visited Landis Homes March 14-16. The evaluators verify information contained in a self-study report submitted by Landis Homes and produce a site visit report. No recommendations were made in the site visit report. Recommendations are issued by evaluators when a retirement community is not in compliance with an accreditation standard.

Accreditation provides a seal of approval for retirement communities that meet exacting standards. These standards require a strong and involved board of directors and staff, resident contracts clearly written and complete, strong financial resources and management, financial disclosure to residents and the highest quality in healthcare service.

The site visit is an essential step in the process of renewing CCAC accreditation. Landis Homes was first accredited in 1994. Accreditation is renewed every five years. To date, 238 communities in 28 states have met the CCAC standards and have been accredited.

Linford Good, Vice President of Planning & Marketing
Adult Day Services Offer Unique Programs

Landis Homes offers the Lancaster community two types of day services to families caring for loved ones at home. Newly opened Eden East along with Eden West which opened in 1989 are licensed to offer services to 53 persons each weekday.

Eden East provides day services to persons with memory loss. Specially trained staff persons offer programs which stimulate mind and body in an atmosphere of warmth and security. The needs and abilities of each client are accommodated in the activities offered each day. Eden East is part of The Heritage, a special care center for persons with Alzheimer’s disease and other forms of dementia. In addition to day services, the newly constructed center also offers assisted living and healthcare.

Eden West offers many choices for persons who may have some limited functioning or physical disabilities. These include swimming classes, field trips, ceramics, educational presentations and musical programs to name a few. The center is located near the indoor pool, game room and fitness rooms on Landis Homes campus.

In both centers Eden East and Eden West there is a theme and structure offered each day. Morning programming usually includes physical exercise, service projects and discussion groups. A hot noon meal is provided every day in both centers by Landis Homes dining services. The afternoon programs can include cooking classes, physical games (like bowling or horseshoes), card games and music in almost any form. There is a plan for each day but also flexibility to adapt an alternative plan as needed.

Eden West manager Elaine Hollinger says, “Both centers offer high quality programming, while providing companionship and daily structure for the participants and respite for the caregivers.”

Volunteers Honored at Annual Banquet

“Loving Hands, Caring Hearts” provided the theme for this spring’s annual volunteer-honoring banquet. Volunteers and some special guests enjoyed a great meal at Yoder’s Restaurant on April 29. Tables were gayly decorated with baskets of fruit, balloons, and heart-shaped magnets for each volunteer to take home to remember the night.

It was a way of thanking hundreds of volunteers as a group for all the services provided to make Landis Homes’ residents lives pleasant, rich and full. It was a night of music as the Country Chapel Singers’ music focused on the joys and the benefits of loving service to others and the familiar songs lended themselves well to singing along.

Over 52,000 volunteer hours were contributed by loving hands and caring hearts in 1998. This special evening was Landis Homes’ opportunity to say a heartfelt thanks to each volunteer.

Helen Peifer
Director of Volunteer Services
Spring Cleaning

If you happened to wander through the halls of the assisted living and healthcare areas during the month of March, you may have stumbled upon a cart loaded with cleaning supplies and a hallway filled with residents’ furnishings. If so you were a witness to the kindness of much volunteer work during the annual spring cleaning. On each Tuesday and Thursday in March, 52 volunteers from 14 different churches helped to spring clean 55 resident’s rooms. This massive spring cleaning was organized by volunteer coordinator Helen Peifer and the Landis Homes housekeeping staff. “They sure cleaned everything,” one resident reported.

This year good weather allowed the cleaners to open windows and circulate fresh air. While the work was especially appreciated, everyone also enjoyed the chance to visit and make new friends. Sincere thanks to all of the volunteers who gave of their time and did a wonderful job!

Jim Oberholtzer
Housekeeping Supervisor

New Web Site Address

Landis Homes web site address has changed. It is now shorter and simpler to remember:

www.landishomes.org

The old address will continue to take persons to the new site. Check it out.

Welcome New Residents

Independent Living/Residential
Dorothy W. Forrest
Charles S. and Mary Jane Good
Anna Mae and Elva Hollinger
Pauline Joslin
Lloyd W. and Arlene Martin
Roy W. Millhouse
Wilmer & Della Oberholtzer
Henry H. Rohrer
Lydia Rutt
Ivan P. Stief
Leo L. Weaver

Assisted Living/Health Care
Kathryn R. Bomberger
L. Elizabeth Breitigan
Daniel K. Dagle
Lloyd S. Gerhart
Jacob A. & Katie E. Glick
Earl E. Grubb, Jr.
Franklin M. Hoober
Helen M. Kilhefner
Theodore O. Kuhl
Dorothy E. Landis
Jacob B. Landis
Alvin I. Mast
Clarence D. Rohrer
Edith A. Sangrey
Robina B. Shapiro
M. Irene Stauffer
LANDIS HOMES IN THE EARLY DAYS

(Excerpted from The First Thirty Years by A. Grace Wenger)

From the very first day, Landis Homes had a home-like environment, due to the warm-hearted leadership of George and Grace Leaman. George found he had to be janitor, maintenance man, chauffeur, admissions counselor, business manager, social worker and activities director. Besides supervising kitchen, laundry, housekeeping and volunteer help, Grace met visitors, showed rooms to prospective guests, helped to interview applicants and served as George's secretary.

Whether a guest flooded his room by forgetting to turn off a faucet or complained that the place was too quiet, the Leamans solved the problem. George pulled out the saturated rug, hoisted it onto a wheelbarrow, and took it to the basement to dry out. He and Grace bought a piano to satisfy the resident who complained about the quietness. The man played it for a day and then moved away, but the piano remained to delight others. In spite of a crowded schedule, the Leamans took time to listen to residents and either grant their requests or consult with the Landis Homes Advisory Committee. Through the years, residents asked for many different privileges, from keeping soft drinks in their rooms to having an outdoor pavilion.

Once a week a staff member, usually Grace, drove residents to town for shopping. The trip often lasted the better part of a day since people took their time. She started projects in quilting and other handwork for the women. Also, she encouraged them to help in the kitchen or dining room. George looked for ways to keep the men active. He installed his own woodworking equipment in the basement for residents to use, had a shuffleboard painted, and recommended that walking paths be provided. Fostering good feelings among residents was a priority for the Leamans.

WHAT DID IT COST IN 1964?

Average House ~~~~~~~~~~~~~ $30,000.00
Car ~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~ 2,350.00
Landis Homes Monthly Rate ~~~~ 100.00
Milk ~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~ 1.06
Gas ~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~ 2.5
Bread ~~~~~~~~~~~~~~ 2.1
Lancaster Intelligencer Journal ~~~~~ 0.07
Postage Stamp ~~~~~~~~~~~ 0.05

CHAIRPERSONS OF LANDIS HOMES ADVISORY COMMITTEE/BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1961-1966 ............... Frank M. Enck
1967-1979 ............... Sanford H. High
1987-1994 ............... J. Clyde Root
1994-1998 ............... J. Kenneth Brubaker, M.D.
1998-Present ............... J. Glen Hostetler
IMPORTANT HAPPENINGS IN FEBRUARY 1964

IN THE WORLD AND NATION

- First appearance of Beatles on "Ed Sullivan Show" (73.7 million viewers).
- The U.S. ship Exelona arrives in Odessa with the first shipment of wheat to be delivered under the recently negotiated Soviet-American grain deal.
- A three-judge federal court in New Haven, Connecticut upholds the constitutionality of the U.S. State Department’s ban on travel to Cuba.
- Dr. Louis Leakey discovers remains of tool-making creatures thought to have lived 1.75 million years ago.
- Amendment 24 outlaws poll tax.
- A bomb blast in a Saigon, Vietnam stadium kills two U.S. soldiers and injures 20 other Americans.
- Bill Bradley scores 51 points for Princeton.
- U.S. Supreme court rules one man one vote.
- Cassius Clay beats Sonny Liston for heavyweight championship.
- Lyndon B. Johnson was president.
- There was no Vice President.
- U.S. wins only one gold medal at the 1964 Winter Olympics.

IMPORTANT HAPPENINGS AT LANDIS HOMES

EVENTS

February 18, 1964
First residents entered Landis Homes

May 3, 1968
First issue of Landis Homes News

1970
First meeting of Auxiliary

September 8, 1973
First Barbeque

February 4, 1975
First meeting of Religious Life Committee

December 4, 1977
Ed Longenecker installed as administrator

June 7, 1979
Decision to form Residents' Council

1988
Bus purchased by Auxiliary

1994
Accredited by the Continuing Care Accreditation Commission

1997
Wheelchair bus purchased by Auxiliary

BUILDING OPENINGS

February 1, 1964
Open house for Aspen Birch

January 16, 1967
Birch opened

March 10, 1969
Dogwood opened

October 9, 1970
East Bethany Chapel dedicated

June 25, 1971
Cedar opened

October 17, 1973
Elmwood opened

September 29, 1979
Grandview opened

January 8, 1980
Homeview opened

November 1, 1983
Kirkview opened

October 13, 1985
Dedication of West Bethany Chapel

November 1, 1988
Westview opened

August 1, 1989
Adult Day Services opened (Eden West)

February 2, 1992
Meadowview Apartments opened

January, 1995
Completion of Harvest View Apartments

September, 1998
The Heritage special care center dedicated

November 5, 1998
Eden East Adult Day Services opened

IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY AND THE MENNONITE CHURCH

- Groundhog in Quarryville predicts six more weeks of winter.
- State unveils plans for new Route 222.
- Cost of living for local families averaged $4,985.
- New Holland Robinson Store razed by fire; loss seen over $250,000.
- Robert Fulton house named as National Historic Landmark.
- Lancaster provides World's Fair's "eyes" with color TV tubes made at RCA plant.
- February 18-Second major snow storm of season hits Lancaster City. (8" and maybe 12")
- H. Raymond Charles is President of what is now Eastern Mennonite Missions.

IN LANDIS VALLEY

- Landis Homes opens its doors.
Many new residents arrived at Landis Homes in March, including one who weighs 90 pounds, has golden fur, and responds happily to commands to "snuggle" and "bring it here."

This new resident is Gabriel, Landis Homes' first in-house dog, who arrived after 18 months of puppy home training. The training included an extensive obedience "boot camp" he attended along with Landis Homes staff person Liz Breitenstein.

Gabriel lives in the Healthcare center and is free to roam in Dogwood, Elmwood and Cedar, as well as in the enclosed courtyard outside Elmwood. Late nights, he seeks out a quiet spot in the Activities Center for undisturbed rest. A team of staff and resident volunteers provide care including feeding and walking the dog, and even brushing his teeth.

Why have a full-time dog in the Healthcare center? It is widely agreed today that pets contribute to human health and well being. Students have demonstrated, for example, that persons who spend time with pets have lower blood pressure, use fewer medications and actually have fewer illnesses.

For persons who are ill or have physical disabilities, pets can help combat loneliness, boredom and feelings of helplessness or uselessness. Pets offer unconditional love, encourage interaction, and enliven their surroundings with their playfulness and affection. At Landis Homes Gabriel can be seen running to greet residents in the morning, accompanying them on wheelchair walks, and napping with his head across someone's feet.

Gabriel was placed at Landis Homes by New Life Assistance Dogs (NLAD), a branch of United Cerebral Palsy of Lancaster County. NLAD primarily places trained animals that assist persons with disabilities. Their dogs can be trained, for example, to open doors, turn lights on and off, and retrieve items for persons with limited mobility. Gabriel is the first dog, trained as a visitor, they have placed in a healthcare setting.

_Tina Mast Burnett_
_Director of Activities_

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Local writer and author Louise Stoltzfus recently visited Landis Homes to share reflections on her latest book, _Traces of Wisdom: Amish Women and the Pursuit of Life's Simple Pleasures_. The book is a collection of stories of many women of the Amish community sharing experiences of life, faith and courage.

Louise shared that she grew up in the Old Order Amish church until the age of 16, when along with her parents and 11 brothers and sisters, she joined the New Amish Church. She continued to dress Amish and even taught in an Amish school for a number of years. At age 32, in search of furthering her education, Louise actually left the Amish way of life. However, she told the audience, "A person who was once Amish, in everything they do they continue to be informed by their Amish roots."

From the prologue of her book, Louise read, "I have known the gentle touch of an Amish mother's heart and hands, an Amish father's wisdom and generosity. This is the foundation on which my life is built. The eyes through which I see the world."

Using excerpts from her book, telling of her own life and answering questions, Louise shared with the attentive audience the background of her writing and about the lives of the individuals represented in her book. Following the presentation, persons who wished, talked with Louise further and purchased signed copies of her book.
Dining Services Director Begins

Greg Henning joined the Landis Homes staff in February replacing Maria Burdette as Director of Dining Services. Greg was born in Denver, Colorado, but has spent most of his life in the King of Prussia area. He currently lives with his wife Pat and son Jess in the home in which he grew up. Another son Jason is currently in graduate school at the University of Minnesota.

Greg comes to Landis Homes with a long history of food management. He has spent 21 years of his working career at Albert Einstein Healthcare Network in the Philadelphia area. For the past four months he was reserve manager with Morrison Senior Dining Services, who manage Landis Homes Dining Services, and was affiliated at Dock Woods Retirement Community in Landsdale, PA.

Greg is currently an active member of Valley Forge Presbyterian Church. He is an avid golfer who enjoys fishing, bowling, family activities and, of course, cooking.

“Everyone has been warm and welcoming,” says Greg. “I am acutely aware of the rapport and reputation Maria built with staff and residents. I have large shoes to fill.”

New Social Worker for The Heritage

Pam Brubaker recently began working part time at Landis Homes as a social worker in The Heritage.

Pam was born and grew up on a farm in Rantoul, Illinois. She graduated from Goshen College in Indiana in 1967 with a B. S. in Nursing. In 1998 she received an M.S.W. in Social Work from Temple University. Pam continues her part time work with Hospice of Lancaster as a certified Hospice Nurse, where she has been employed the last nine years. Pam and her husband Ken live in Mount Joy and attend Mount Joy Mennonite Church. They have three grown children. Brent and his wife Kathy live in Mt. Joy and are the parents of Pam’s only grandchild, Jacob, who Pam says is wonderful. Her daughter, Melissa, is a physical therapist and was just recently married to Brett Collins. Her youngest child, Kirsten, is just graduating from Eastern Mennonite University and plans to begin a one year assignment with Mennonite Central Committee in the fall.

Pam’s hobbies include walking, reading and journaling. She says she looks forward to working at Landis Homes.

In Loving Memory

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LANDIS HOMES

First Annual Auction

on

Fellowship and Barbecue Day

September 11, 1999

Anyone wishing to donate items such as artwork, antiques, services, gift certificates or other items to the auction, please contact:

Joanne Ramsbottom
717-569-3271

Dinners Served 11:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Auction begins at 9:00 a.m.

Calendar Of Events

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May 13 Ascension Day Services
10:00 a.m.
7:00 p.m.

May 20 Open House
2:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Auscultation Brass
7:00 p.m.

June 4 Benefit Golf Tournament
Tee-offs: 7:30 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.
Foxchase Golf Club

June 8 Strawberry Social
Sponsored by the Auxiliary
6:30 p.m.

Aug. 8 Galilean Service
6:30 p.m.

Sept. 11 Fellowship Day & Chicken Barbecue
Sponsored by the Auxiliary
11:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Auction begins at 9:00 a.m.
Tent near pavilion
Come Join Us!
Landis Homes Retirement Community
35th Anniversary Open House
Thursday, May 20, 1999

Dramatic Presentation:
“Annie Funk” a Mennonite missionary on the Titanic
2:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.
West Bethany Chapel

Tours of Cottages, Apartments, Residential and Assisted Living Rooms and The Heritage
2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Leaving from Westview Community Room

Demonstrations:
Aquacise, Tai Chi, PEPP!  
2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Westview Pool & Community Room

Displays: Computer Club
What’s New at Landis Homes?
2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Westview Community Room

Light Supper (reservations by May 14)
2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Serving 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Garden Room

Auscultation Brass Concert
7:00 p.m.
West Bethany Chapel

For more information: 581-3935