Imagine that Landis Homes had one central location to connect continual learning, overall wellness and vibrant community. That dream will become a reality with the new Learning & Wellness Center.

Located in the heart of campus and visible from Oregon Road, this center will provide a much-needed front door to Landis Homes. It will be our own version of Main Street — a bustling center of activity where connections will generate and flourish. In the Commons you will find an art gallery, bistro, hair salon, business center, bank, pharmacy, auditorium and more. The Wellness Center will include a four-lane lap and therapy pool, a spa pool, space for instructional classes, and state-of-the-art fitness equipment. Spiritual wellness will be encouraged in The Quiet Place, a series of small rooms for meditation and prayer.

The overall cost of the 103,000-square-foot project, including 22 residential living apartments and underground parking for those who live in the building, is estimated at $27 million. That includes approximately $11 million for the Learning & Wellness Center.

Connections: A Campaign for the Learning & Wellness Center has been established to raise a minimum of $3.2 million for this important project. This newsletter is the first in a four-part series that will keep you updated on construction and campaign progress.

Landis Homes has a long, rich tradition of giving, motivated by the joy of serving others. At every major moment in our history, residents, families, churches, businesses and other friends have provided critical financial support, volunteer service and prayer when we needed it most. This is another one of those times.
A TIME OF CELEBRATION

September 27, 2016, was a momentous day in the history of Landis Homes, and our hearts are filled with gratitude to God! We are grateful for the beautiful weather that embraced all who gathered for the groundbreaking; for the wonderful team effort of many, including those actively involved in the financing, fundraising and designing of the new Learning & Wellness Center; for the leadership and vision of the current Board of Directors; and for the service of those who have gone before us.

After celebrating this milestone, we now prepare for the next step in the journey of the Landis Homes community and the good work that lies ahead. Construction is getting underway and Connections: A Campaign for the Learning & Wellness Center seeks to raise a minimum of $3.2 million.

We are pleased to share that before groundbreaking, during the quiet phase of this campaign, we received commitments from all members of the Landis Homes and Landis Communities Board of Directors, Leadership Team, Capital Campaign Steering Committee and Communications Committee. We are overwhelmed by the generosity of those individuals and other lead donors, including Calvin and Janet High. We appreciate the Highs’ willingness to share their story in this newsletter (see page 5).

Now to you — our corporate partners, residents, family members and friends of Landis Homes — we invite you to connect with us, learn more about this project and join us through your financial support. Each gift is significant and will help bring the Learning & Wellness Center to completion.

Blessings to All,

Larry Zook  Connie F. Stauffer      Elvin Kraybill
President & CEO  Campaign Co-Chair     Campaign Co-Chair

VISIONARY CAMPAIGN LEADERSHIP

Thank you for volunteering your time and giving your talents.

Capital Campaign Steering Committee
Elvin Kraybill, Co-Chair, Connie F. Stauffer, Co-Chair, Mamo Dula, John Eby, John Hess, Fred Honaman, John Kreider, Ed Longenecker, Harold Mast, Clarence Rutt, Clair Sauder, Gregg Scott, Roland & Dottie Yoder and Rozanne Zimmerman

Capital Campaign Communications Committee
Gregg Scott, Co-Chair, Roland & Dottie Yoder, Co-Chairs, Carol Bornman, Lois Good, Lester Groff, Bill Hartman, Anna Grace Martin, Irvin Martin, Karen Musselman, Irene Neff, Fred & Judy Sargent and Don & Priscilla Zeigler

Honorary Committee
Calvin & Janet High, George & Jean Hurst, Daniel & Cindy Mast and Glenn & Anne Weaver
SHARING A PRAYER WITH YOU

Our Campaign Prayer

Faithful God of the past, present and future: We are grateful for Your guiding presence throughout our history.

As we open our minds to new possibilities that foster learning, wellness and community, enable the opening of our hearts to Your Spirit.

Buildings cannot contain Your glory or display the wonders of Your love; still we pray Your presence will be known within.

We pray the new space will nurture a warm welcome, vibrant friendships, increased wellbeing and opportunities for growth.

Keep us mindful of Your presence and guidance as we work together, empowered by Your Holy Spirit in and among us. With gratitude in our hearts, we pray in Jesus' name, Amen.
The festivities kicked off with a resident celebration in the Azalea Room featuring music of the Temple Avenue Jazz Band, delicious smoothies from Old Mill Gourmet, and stations serving make-your-own trail mix and fruit skewers. Residents socialized and asked questions while viewing plans and design boards for the project.

The groundbreaking event under the tent drew more than 300 local officials, corporate partners, residents and friends of Landis Homes. Beth Trout, Vice President of Advancement, enthusiastically welcomed everyone and then introduced Larry Zook, President and CEO. Larry communicated the goals for the new space and expressed appreciation to the Board of Directors, corporate partners and Connections Campaign volunteers for their hard work in bringing us to this day. Michel Gibeault, Vice President of Business Development at High Construction, then shared his perspective on working with the design team and gave an update on the permit approval process, which is close to completion.

Connie Stauffer, campaign co-chair, recognized Honorary Committee members Calvin and Janet High, George and Jean Hurst, Daniel and Cindy Mast, and Glenn and Anne Weaver. She gave an update on the Campaign Communications Committee, commending them on how they led 40 Community Gatherings, educating over 325 people on campus about the new Learning & Wellness Center. Fellow campaign co-chair Elvin Kraybill recalled visiting his grandparents and now his own parents at Landis Homes. He spoke of the strong leadership of the Board as they set an initial $2.6 million philanthropic goal for this project, hoping to raise $1.5 million before the groundbreaking. Elvin acknowledged the hard work of the Steering Committee and announced their decision to increase the minimum goal to $3.2 million. He then shared personal stories about the High family, noting that Sanford High helped found Landis Homes and served on the Board from 1961-1980; recognizing Calvin and Janet High for their generous, thoughtful, and inspiring lead gift for the Learning & Wellness Center that will bear their names; and thanking the S. Dale High Family Foundation for contributing $300,000 for the Auditorium.

A campaign progress sign was unveiled and it was announced that 83 lead donors, including the Highs, have already committed $2,456,382 for the Connections Campaign! Sincere gratitude was expressed for this generosity. Anne Kauffman Weaver then led a responsive reading passage in which the audience was invited to respond with “Bless this space.” A cheerful groundbreaking followed, using an assortment of shovels and tools from various time periods, representing the past and the present coming together.
WHY WE GIVE
*A Conversation with Calvin and Janet High*

Calvin and Janet High share a common connection to Landis Homes – both of their mothers lived here. Though similar in that they were very happy residents, Calvin and Janet High’s mothers were quite different. Janet’s mother enjoyed showing up an hour early for dinner and talking with everyone, while Calvin’s mother, being more reserved, was quite content to stay in her room and read or visit one-on-one with neighbors.

Regarding the generous lead gift from Calvin and Janet to *Connections: A Campaign for the Learning & Wellness Center* Calvin says, “I like to give to organizations I’m really familiar with, and with Landis Homes I have a family connection.” Along with this being home to their mothers, Calvin’s father, Sanford High, was one of the founders of Landis Homes. In the early 1960s Sanford traveled to Florida to research retirement communities. Calvin has a copy of the journal he brought back to share with the original group of founders.

Calvin’s view of stewardship is rooted in the origins of the family business, The High Companies. Founded by Sanford in 1931 during the onset of the Great Depression, it started as a welding business. “The blessing was that people couldn’t afford new items,” Calvin explains, “so my father and my uncle welded and repaired things, and the business grew a step at a time. No big plans — as they say, if there’s an opportunity out there, you take it. They worked hard, and in the early years it was tough. My father rode a motorcycle to save gas, and one customer paid his bill in chickens.” From such humble beginnings grew a business that 85 years later employs about 2,000 people.

“We’re just caretakers of what the Lord has given us while we’re here, aren’t we?” Calvin asks rhetorically. Together he and Janet have strongly rooted this philosophy in their family, which in May welcomed Calvin and Janet’s first great-grandchild. The family meets together regularly to share ideas regarding philanthropy and giving back to the community. Each year the entire family participates in service projects, like packing bags of food for needy people in the city and taking dinner and gifts to a family on Christmas Day.

Ideally for Janet, giving is a surprise. “I really enjoy giving when people don’t expect it,” she declares with a gleam in her eye. “It is very pleasurable. The Lord has blessed us, and daily we ask the Lord to show us how He wants us to use it. When He blesses us, we should share.”
Major renovation has been a hot topic here on the Landis Homes campus in recent months, including the Learning & Wellness Center and additional independent living apartments. These plans have been in the works for what seems to be a very long time. As we neared the start of construction, the Capital Campaign Communications Committee engaged in energetic gymnastics — bending over backward to make sure everyone who lives here had an opportunity to hear about the plans and make comments/suggestions in small-group settings.

From the outset, residents have been kept informed by means of newsletter articles, letters and verbal reports from Larry Zook and others at community meetings in West Bethany Chapel and other locations. However, we thought a more personal approach would encourage greater discussion.

Thanks to the committee members, everyone was invited to a small-group gathering in a more intimate setting like the Rose Room or a community room on South Campus. Over the first six months of 2016, 40 meetings were held, attended by over 325 residents. These “Community Gatherings” were hosted and led by Landis Homes residents, with the support of staff members. The same information was presented at each meeting, with opportunity for residents to speak in a relaxed, comfortable environment. Detailed floor plans on large posters were also available. Each meeting closed with a Campaign Prayer (see page 3) and encouragement to keep on praying as the project unfolds.

I led several of these events and noticed the residents’ comfort level and their freedom to offer suggestions and ask questions. It was interesting to learn which aspects were of special interest or concern to my neighbors. A common thread was expression of appreciation for the obvious amount of effort to be open and transparent at every stage of development.
CREATIVE WAYS TO PARTNER AND PARTICIPATE

By Beth Trout, VP of Advancement

Connections: A Campaign for the Learning & Wellness Center will provide the philanthropic support needed to successfully complete this important project at Landis Homes. In addition to outright cash gifts, there are alternative ways of providing a generous commitment to the campaign. One way is through a planned gift.

Along with current gifts that support the campaign, planned estate gifts are very important to the future of Landis Homes. There are a number of options for creating a planned gift either currently or through your estate, including charitable gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts, bequests and gifts of life insurance. Furthermore, lifetime distributions from retirement accounts can be directed to Landis Homes so that the distributions are not subject to income tax.

In this campaign, new or increased planned (estate) gifts created by donors who are age 77 or older (or who will be by the end of the campaign, estimated to be December 31, 2017) will be counted at face value toward both the campaign goal and for donor recognition purposes. For donors under age 77, credit will be given for the present value of their gift. In the case of a Charitable Gift Annuity, gift and campaign credit will be based upon the Charitable Deduction Value as determined by the IRS regardless of the donor’s age. For revocable planned gifts such as new bequests or beneficiary designations, donors will be asked to sign a campaign commitment form and provide copies of the pertinent section of their will/beneficiary form. Many donors will choose to make a combination of outright and planned (estate) gifts to maximize their giving.

One donor who has already chosen to make his gift through a Charitable Gift Annuity calls it a “win-win” — he has income for his lifetime, and Landis Homes has a wonderful gift for the campaign!
LANDIS HOMES IS GROWING!

There is another great reason to celebrate your connection to Landis Homes! See inside.

HARD HAT UPDATE

Demolition has begun on the 37 cottages coming down to make way for the Learning & Wellness Center! Site work and the relocation of utilities will begin soon. Weather permitting, construction of the new building is anticipated to be completed in early 2018.

Watch for pictures and updates in the next issue of the Connections newsletter and online at www.landishomes.org!