On September 27, Landis Homes and Landis Communities boards and leadership team joined with residents, their family members, employees and honored guests from the community to officially break ground for a new Learning & Wellness Center. It was a sparkling fall afternoon as approximately 300 persons gathered outdoors for the ceremony.

“Today we are breaking ground for an innovative addition to the center of our campus,” said CEO Larry Zook. “We are grateful to all who have gone before us in helping to create the community we celebrate today, founded on a desire to be a community of Christ-like love.”

The new centrally located space will include an indoor pool, fitness areas, bistro, hair salon, pharmacy, bank, art gallery, offices, classrooms and shops. Plans for the 103,000 square-foot, four-level center include 22 apartments and garage parking. The total cost of the venture is $27 million and completion is planned for early 2018. Major partners in the effort include RGS Associates, RLPS Architects, M&T Bank and High Construction Company.

To make way for the Learning & Wellness Center, Landis Homes will demolish thirty-seven cottages. The cottages are being replaced because they were built in the early 1970s and do not have the layout future residents prefer. More information can be found at www.landishomes.org.

Other speakers at the outdoor ceremony included Michel Gibeault from High Construction and Connie Stauffer and Elvin Kraybill, who are Co-Chairs of the Connections Campaign Steering Committee. Connie is a current resident and Landis Communities board member.
A History and Future of Serving Others

From our beginning Landis Homes has intentionally sought ways to engage the larger community. Board members, team members and residents have balanced an inward focus on keeping Landis Homes strong and vital, with an outward focus seeking to honor and enrich the lives of others who do not live at Landis Homes.

In 1963 a year before we welcomed our first residents in 1964, Eastern Mennonite Missions, our founding organization, envisioned Landis Homes to be “a Christian community in which residents will enjoy Christian fellowship with other residents. Some of these will be retired missionaries and other church workers with many years of experience. Participation in the life of the community will be encouraged. Christian service activities will be planned and it is expected that the ministries and influence of this community will be felt around the world.”

In 1989 we opened our first Adult Day Services center on the Landis Homes campus which offers a warm welcome and a caring, safe environment for persons who live throughout Lancaster County, reaching many who otherwise may not be able to afford or choose to move to a retirement community.

In 1994 A. Grace Wenger in the history of our first thirty years ended the book with a section “Reaching Outward,” where she referenced Adult Day Services: “This service to non-residents is one small step in a new direction, reaching beyond our own campus to give Christ-centered care to retirees in the larger community. As staff, board and residents discover new ways of sharing compassionate service, they may see, thirty years from now, the fulfillment of one man’s vision: ‘a Landis Homes Community without walls.”

Throughout the past 22 years, we have seen an unfolding of this vision with the addition of a Children’s Learning Center in 2004, the start of Landis at Home in 2007 and the founding of our parent organization, Landis Communities in 2011.

In 2013 Landis Communities launched Steeple View Lofts in downtown Lancaster and Welsh Mountain Home in Narvon affiliated with us. This latter connection led to the opening of Mountain View Terrace in 2015, a 36-apartment community serving seniors with fewer resources across the road from Welsh Mountain Home.

In 2014 the Landis Homes Board, which is charged with the responsibility to ensure Landis Homes remains strong and vital, approved plans to add a new Learning & Wellness Center that will both serve residents and the broader community through programs like Pathways Institute for Lifelong Learning®. It is our desire to embrace persons in the continuum of aging with an array of seamless services that enhance the lives of those living on the retirement campus and in the larger community.

In late 2015 the Landis Communities Board affirmed a plan to focus effort on initiatives to serve both Landis Homes residents and others throughout the greater Lancaster area, including creating new affordable senior housing communities and new home and community based services. Evon Bergey joined the Landis Communities Leadership Team in May 2016 to help guide these efforts.

We are grateful for the vision of our founders and to all who over the years have helped strengthen the community that is at Landis Homes, and who have reached outward and beyond in serving others. We welcome your prayers and counsel as we journey together.
Lifelong Teachers and Students

By Brianna W. Hess

Reprinted with permission from
Lancaster County Magazine, September 2016 issue

Don and Priscilla Ziegler, say you’re never too old to learn something new.

Don and Priscilla moved to Landis Homes from their well-loved home and gardens in Akron a little over two years ago. “It’s been a gift, a surprise gift. We thought we were giving up paradise [when leaving Akron], and here it’s paradise regained,” Priscilla exclaims.

The couple lived in Akron for approximately 40 years before health concerns prompted them to make a change. The Zieglers placed their name on a waiting list at Landis Homes years prior, and after having visited six other retirement communities, they chose Landis.

“We came here because we had for the previous couple of years been taking this photo show around to various retirement villages,” Don shares, referring to his macro photography. “… So when we came here, it was just like fire struck. It was wonderful.”

Beyond meandering walking paths lies a number of outdoor adventures that fancies Don and Priscilla, such as gardens, flower beds, natural wetlands, woods and other amenities.

Since moving to Landis Homes, Don has helped to foster some of the surrounding vegetation that grows on the 114-acre campus. He was born and raised on a peach orchard in southeast Virginia, and his claim to loving all things outdoors is attributed to his parents. “My dad had orchards along the Warwick River, and my earliest memories are sitting under a peach tree, where the peaches are ripe, and they just fall to the ground beside me,” he reminisces.

Don tends to pawpaw trees and has planted several persimmon trees. He is also part of a group called Friends of the Wetlands that helps to maintain the restored stream and its surrounding ecosystem. He and Priscilla also have a garden plot that yields zinnias, beans, tomatoes and other produce.

Among other talents, Don also helped to bring in pollinator bees to enhance the Landis Homes campus. “The reason for the bees is to pollinate the fruit and the flowers. … We’re fortunate to have these wetlands here with all of these native plants that have been reintroduced by LandStudied, Landis Homes and others who have structured this tremendous change.”

Besides taking advantage of the many outdoor activities on campus, Don and Priscilla also say that living a healthy life includes mindfulness, interacting with others and keeping a balance of healthy attitudes.

“There’s so much good energy here on this campus,” Don says. “It’s just really amazing. I see people here who just glow.”

Groundbreaking for Learning & Wellness Center, continued from page 1

and Elvin has had family connections with Landis Homes residents from his childhood to the present. The co-chairs made a “ground breaking” announcement about the capital campaign – the success of the silent phase of the Connections Campaign has resulted in the initial goal of $2.6 million being increased to a minimum of $3.2 million. The current amount committed to date is $2,456,382.

The co-chairs credited a pair of gifts from the High family as a major reason for setting the new goal. Calvin and Janet High have committed the lead gift for the naming of the new Learning & Wellness Center and the S. Dale High Family Foundation has pledged $300,000 for the new auditorium. Calvin and Dale’s father, Sanford High, served on the Landis Homes original committee and board from 1961-1980, and their mother, as well as Janet’s mother, were Landis Homes residents for many years.

In his closing remarks, Larry Zook said, “It is our hope the center will be a place that fosters lifelong learning, promotes wellness and encourages a sense of community.”
Readers’ Choice Awards

Landis Homes was selected as a favorite or runner-up by Lancaster Newspaper readers in three categories in the Readers’ Choice Awards for 2016. Annually local readers select their favorite local businesses and service providers in many categories, including dining, apparel, leisure, finance, education, medical groups and home improvement.

Voters who participated in the Readers’ Choice Awards again chose Landis Homes Personal Care as the favorite. Landis Homes was chosen as a runner up favorite in Senior Living and Home Health Care.

In addition, Steeple View Lofts, which is part of Landis Communities, was selected again as the favorite Apartment Community.

On campus, Hildebrandt Learning Centers was selected as favorite child day care and Judy Errigo from the campus PNC bank branch was selected as the friendliest teller.

Congratulations to all of the favorites!

Campus Update

• Construction of seven new cottages in the southeast corner of campus is nearing completion with occupancy to begin at the end of October. All of these cottages are reserved.

• With renovations in Westview complete, the effort has now moved to Grandview and Kirkview apartments. Like Westview the renovations will take place in the common areas, passageways and the exteriors at the entrances.

• Ground was broken for the new Learning & Wellness Center (see front page article) which will include community areas and 22 new apartments in the first phase.

• Landscaping work began at Leaman Woods to make part of it more accessible. Funds for this project were raised during the 50th Anniversary celebration in 2014.

New cottages will be occupied soon.

New Director of InHome Services Begins

Landis Communities recently announced the hiring of Michele Sipel, of Holtwood, PA, as the Director of InHome Services.

Michele is an Occupational Therapist (OTR/L) and comes with extensive leadership and experience in community services, operations and rehabilitation. At Willow Valley Communities, she served as Director of Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) and prior to that as Rehabilitation Team Leader.

As Director of HCBS, Michele successfully launched a Home Care Program and a Continuing Care at Home program. In this role, she was responsible for overseeing all service delivery, staffing, education, budget development and management, marketing and development of policies and procedures.

Earlier in her career, Michele served as Regional Director of Operations for Select Medical Rehab Services which included service delivery, fiscal management, program development, staffing, employee education, quality assurance and compliance.

In announcing this move, Evon Bergey, Landis Communities Vice President of Community Initiatives, commented, “Michele’s experience in launching and growing Home and Community Based Services aligns well with our strategic priorities. Michele brings her passion for supporting individuals so they can remain in the home of their choice while receiving the services helping them to thrive.”

Commenting on her appointment, Sipel said, “I am very excited to join the team. I look forward to working with the residents and those in the greater community to provide quality home-based services to allow each person to be as independent as possible in their homes.”
Betty and I moved to Landis Homes in 2013. We love the comfortable setting and have reconnected with old friends and made many new friends. We believe in Landis Homes mission and are pleased to be able to financially contribute through gifts from an IRA. This is now one of the simplest ways to donate and support charities such as Landis Homes—but it hasn’t always been so simple.

In the past, we would wait until December to find out if Congress was extending the law that allows people 70½ or older to make a tax free donation from an IRA. This would leave us scrambling to make the contribution before the deadline. One year the extender was not passed until January of the subsequent year and it was applied retroactively.

Last year Congress made the Tax Free Charitable IRA Rollover permanent. We think this type of donation is ideal because it also counts as our required minimum distribution and it doesn’t increase our adjusted gross income.

As residents, we have a stake in Landis Homes being a strong, healthy organization. We care about its future and we care about its benevolence ministry which helps to support our neighbors when they have diminished resources. As long as we are able, we hope to share in this way. -- David and Betty Shenk

As David and Betty Shenk explained, the Tax Free Charitable IRA Rollover is permanent through The Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes Act of 2015. This is a simple way to do charitable giving and support Landis Homes. Distributions can only be made from traditional Individual Retirement Accounts or Roth IRAs and contributions must be transferred directly from the IRA administrator to Landis Homes in order to be tax-free. For more information on the particulars of the guidelines, benefits and a sample communication with an IRA administrator, call Alonna Gautsche Sprunger, Director of Advancement at 717-509-5490 or visit www.landishomes.org. Alonna can also be reached by email at asprunger@landishomes.org.

Running for a Cause

Thank you to Oregon Dairy, event sponsors and 97 runners who participated in the Oregon Dairy Corn Pickin’ 5K Run on the cool morning of September 17. The scenic course wound through the Oregon Dairy Farm and the Landis Homes campus. In addition, 21 kids participated in the Kid’s Dash. The $2,000 proceeds from this event are designated to the Caring Fund which helps support Landis Homes benevolent ministry.
In the past fiscal year, Landis Homes offered a variety of services and supportive connections to the local community beyond the 114-acre campus.

**Community Outreach & Partnerships** - Landis Homes offers its own programs as well as participates in partnerships which benefit individuals and groups in the larger community.

- In the annual giving project, Landis Homes employees donated a mini-van load of blankets and hygiene kits and also $2,250 in monetary donations to Mennonite Central Committee to support victims of disasters in the US and around the globe.
- In April, Earth Day events were held for residents and community members including a healthy vegetarian buffet meal and an informative bus trip to Lancaster County’s Waste-to-Energy Facility in Conoy Township.
- The 25th Annual Golf Tournament in June 2016 supported the Adult Day Services program with $52,000 for financial scholarships to eligible clients, who cannot afford the full cost of services.
- Landis Homes sponsored several Lancaster County organizations including Landis Valley Farm Museum, Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society, Hands on House, Lancaster Senior Games and others.

**Guiding Values:** Joy, Compassion, Integrity, Stewardship and Community

- Educational Seminar “It Takes More Than a Will,” was held in March 2016, with attorney Timothy Shawaryn and Nikki Shingle of Everence Financial.
- Memory Loss and Parkinson’s support group meetings are held monthly with professional speakers, which serve many residents, families and persons from the local community.
- Harrisburg Area Community College (HACC) uses Landis Homes as a clinical rotation site for training healthcare students. There is also classroom space and a hosting program for the HACC students.
- Since 2011 the annual Explore Retirement Living Open House, in collaboration with 16 other retirement communities, educates Lancaster County residents to local retirement options.
- The Streambed and Flood Plain Restoration continues to serve as an outdoor classroom for both university and business groups. Participants came to Landis Homes for a “Healthy Watersheds” tour as part of a Native Plants in Landscaping conference at Millersville University.

With demolition coming soon to make way for the new Learning & Wellness Center, 30 older cottages became a realistic training venue for the local Manheim Township Fire Rescue team who spent several evenings on campus.

Since 2010 Landis Homes has served as a polling station for the Manheim Township elections.
**Pastoral Services** - Chaplains provide spiritual support and guidance to residents, families, team members and volunteers. Pastoral services to the community include the annual clergy breakfast, special offerings for local charities and multiple prayer groups for worldwide and local ministries. They support residents during times of transition by staying connected to and working together with pastors of resident congregations.

- Through collaboration with Eastern Mennonite Seminary, Landis Homes continues to be a training site for Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) interns. They are guided and supported by the Pastoral Services team.
- Fifty local pastors attended a Clergy Breakfast in May 2016 with a panel of experts on the topic, “Pastoral Care for Seniors Experiencing Mental Illness and Dementia.”
- Landis Homes hosts bi-monthly meetings of chaplains from across Lancaster County.
- An Annual Service of Remembrance is held as a time for families of residents and clients of adult day services to come together and remember those who have died in the previous year.

**Volunteering** - Volunteers provide services that enhance life beyond what team members are able to offer to residents and clients. In the past year, 443 volunteers contributed many hours of service both on and off campus. Residents also volunteered for many community agencies like the Material Resources Center, Meals on Wheels, Book Savers, Mennonite Disaster Service, ReUzit, Linus Project, Hope International, Habitat for Humanity, Storm Aid, Nazareth Hospital, Bridge of Hope, local food banks and prison ministries.

*Resident Charles Lefever, far right, is one of several residents to host a learning experience for students of the newly formed Bee Club at Lancaster Mennonite School. The residents showed finished pollinator bee boxes and also how they are created and installed.*

A total of $76,449 was donated through chapel service contributions from July 2015 – June 2016. Funds were distributed to church missions, international programs and local agencies. Recipients included Water Street Ministries, Bridge of Hope, Beth Shalom, Friendship Community, Lancaster County Council of Churches Food Bank, Tabor Community Services, Welsh Mountain Home, Mennonite Disaster Service, Camp Andrews, Woodcrest Retreat and others.

**Support to School and Municipal Services**

Support was given to the township, the county and to local schools through property taxes, payments in lieu of taxes on exempt property, memberships and contributions. In the past year a total of $762,736 was distributed as follows:

- Real Estate Taxes  728,116
- Payments in Lieu of Taxes  16,500
- Fire  10,000
- Ambulance  8,120
  
  **Total**  $762,736

**Benevolent Care**

Residents received benevolent care support because their savings, insurance or public assistance did not fully cover their charges. In the past year benevolent care of $2,957,050 was provided in the following areas:

- Health Care  1,810,174
- Personal Care  1,083,597
- Residential Living  63,279
  
  **Total**  $2,957,050
Borrowing a line from the Volunteer Newsletter Angels on Duty about Fellowship Day 2016:

“We will long remember the HEAT — but that didn’t diminish the happy sounds of children, the joy as persons connected with old friends, and the usual excitement of this special day.”

The spirit of generosity was as warm as the sun during Fellowship Day on September 10. Donors, sponsors, patrons, bidders and volunteers poured out their kindness and support.

The net proceeds for the Caring Fund from the Benefit Auction and Chicken BBQ are $126,200. This includes donations of $22,000 given during Fill-the-Gap and an additional $10,000 challenge gift by an anonymous donor.

Thank you to all for a successful 2016 Fellowship Day and for generously supporting Landis Homes’ benevolent ministry!

Youthful Generosity

At the end of the day, a volunteer cashier in the Flea Market shared the story of her experience with an eight or nine-year old boy who arrived at the market with his wallet in hand. He carefully studied the tables, and after selecting two small items, he asked the cost. She replied that the cost was whatever he would like to give to the Caring Fund. He pulled out $2 from his wallet and handed it to her. He then asked what the Caring Fund was, and after she described it to him, he pulled out another dollar – his last dollar – and gave it to the cashier.
The barrel train ride is a popular attraction in the Children’s Area.

WJTL’s Lisa Landis does a live interview with her 99-year old “Grandma Landis.”

Donavon Landis, WJTL volunteer, displays his face paint.

Umbrellas this year provided shade in the 95° heat.

New this year, the Chicken BBQ, like the proceeds of all the food stands, went to the Caring Fund.
An art reception on November 3 will feature the most recent works of Katherine Horst who lives in Manheim. She graduated from Pennsylvania College of Art and Design in the spring of 2009 with a bachelor’s degree in fine art.

Katherine’s knowledge and experience with traditional techniques developed from the foundational skills she learned in the PCAD fine arts program. These techniques are still very present in her work process as she makes current pieces.

Katherine received watercolor instruction from several teachers and devotes much of her ability now to watercolor and acrylics. The recipient of several local awards, she is currently exploring mixed media paper collage which will be featured in the upcoming exhibit. She has exhibited her collages both locally and across the country as part of solo and group shows.

Katherine is a member of Harvest Bible Chapel of Lancaster. She participates in art ministry opportunities and outreach events as she combines her love of art making and her Christian faith.

“I desire to create a place where personal invention and observation may coexist in the area of collage,” says Katherine. “I utilize nature’s subject matter as a tool to express my inner self.”

The opening reception, to which the public is welcome, will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 3, in the Harvest View lobby and galleries. Live music will be provided by Glenda Gingrich and Karen Gingrich. Katherine’s art will continue to be on display through January 2017.

Walk to End Alzheimer’s

The Landis Homes team walked to prevent Alzheimer’s and provide programs to improve the lives of millions of affected families. Team members are: Steph Hoffman, Judy Zdancewicz, Lois Gerlach, Moses (therapy dog), Mim Wert, Naomi Weaver, Linford Good, Jim Martin, Betty Martin, Beth Ann Good, Hersh Leaman, Norma Leaman and Susan Paul. Team members not pictured were Jessica Rettew, Christine Wilson, Roberta Newton and John Newton.
November 3
Art Reception
Watercolors, Acrylics & Collage
Katherine Horst
Harvest View Gallery
6:30-8:30 p.m.

November 3
Book Signing
“More Than One Thing is True: Agony and Ecstasy Below Cloud Nine”
By Urbane Peachy
West Bethany Chapel
7:00 p.m.

November 8
Election Day
Westview Community Room
For all registered voters in the Manheim Township area
8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

November 21
Parkinson’s Support Group
“RAP Session on Parkinson’s Disease”
With Suzanne Reichwein, BASW, Pennsylvania Hospital
Westview Community Room
2:00 p.m.
More info at: 717-509-5494

November 29
Memory Loss Support Group
“Celebrating the Caregiver”
Evening of Stories & Dessert
Warwick Room
7:00 p.m.
More info at: 717-581-3939

December 1
Christmas Bazaar
Harvest Room
Benefits the Caring Fund
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Questions: Call 717-509-5490

December 16
Christmas Bazaar
Westview Community Room
Benefits Adult Day Services
8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Questions: Call 717-581-3975

November 22
Thanksgiving Service
East Bethany Chapel
10:30 a.m.

November 29
Extraordinary Give Campaign
See details on page 12!
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Recent Issues of Horizons may be downloaded from www.landishomes.org

This November 18 go the EXTRA mile for Landis Communities. On that day, several parts of Landis Communities are participating in the Extraordinary Give, Lancaster County’s Largest Day of Giving. For 24-hours only, visit ExtraGive.org, make a donation (minimum $25) and every generous gift will be stretched by at least $300,000 in stretch pool and prizes. Landis Communities, Pathways Institute for Lifelong Learning® and Welsh Mountain Home are all participating!