Thanks to the initiative of a parent, the preschool children of the learning center on campus made and donated five quilts to children in need. The mother, Amy Ike, is a member of the Lititz branch of Project Linus and has made and donated a number of quilts over the past few years. The aim of the national organization known as Project Linus is to help children who are seriously ill or who have been traumatized, by using the skills of people in local communities such as knitting, crocheting and quilting.

Since Amy’s two children attend the learning center she had the idea this kind of project would be a good one in which to include preschool children at the center. Amy gathered the materials necessary and spent several days in the preschool classroom helping the children to create their own unique patch.

“We readily agreed to support Amy’s idea, since Landis Homes and the Children’s Learning Center community are committed to demonstrate love, commitment and concern in our relationships,” said Jo Ann Pringle, director of the Hildebrandt center at Landis Homes. “Also, since this project benefits children, the children at our center are actually helping other children in the area.”

Twenty children in the 3-4 year old classroom created a square using fabric markers to illustrate and sign their names on each patch. When the patches were complete, Amy pieced them together and put on the finishing touches.

“The children learned something about quilt making but more importantly they learned to think of ways to help others going through a difficult experience,” said Amy.

Earlier this year, Jo Ann and Amy discovered that there were others on the retirement community campus besides the children at the learning center involved in Project Linus. Residents Frank and Wanda Wilson have made more than 165 quilts for the project over many years. The Wilsons were invited to bring some of their embroidered quilts to the center to show the students a sampling of what they have donated to the project.

“I was 75 before I started to sew,” Frank said. “We’ve been part of the project ever since.”

Wanda said, “We think it’s great that children who are part of our community have become involved in Project Linus.”
On Wednesday, February 13, the Landis Homes Board lost a valued member as Harold Stauffer unexpectedly died at age 70. Following are comments that I shared at Harold’s Memorial Service on February 18 at East Chestnut Street Mennonite Church, where Harold and his wife Connie, and my wife, Dawn, and I were in a small group together. Harold’s death came as a shock and a real loss to many, and we remember Connie and Harold’s family in our thoughts and prayers. ~Larry

It has been a real privilege for Dawn and me to have been part of a small group with Harold and Connie here at East Chestnut Street for nearly 14 years. I believe each of us who have been part of the group deeply appreciated Harold’s gentle, strong spirit which was colored with a special sense of humor. We could tell by his smile and a twinkle in his eye that a fun comment was coming, and we were never disappointed!

At the same time, Harold shared his passionate side with the group, including his passion for reading and learning, and for justice and for living out his faith. We will miss the wisdom Harold shared as we continue to meet as a small group.

Harold also showed a deep love and respect for Connie, and together they modeled for Dawn and me how beautiful marriage can be. It was evident that Connie and Harold truly enjoyed spending time with each other, and we know that his loss will be keenly felt.

Another way that I appreciated learning to know Harold was in his role as a Board member at Landis Homes where I serve as president. The Board and staff of Landis Homes will very much miss his active engagement and participation. This past week several Board members shared reflections from their experience of serving with Harold.

Lois Good shared that Harold was always prepared for board meetings and brought fresh ideas and perspectives. One of Harold’s many gifts was to ask questions and think critically. However, he always offered his thoughts with sensitivity and readiness to listen to other perspectives.

Rachel Pellman shared that Harold brought a sensitivity and thoughtfulness to board discussions. She sensed that Harold truly understood the Landis Homes vision and was intentional about keeping it on point. Rachel said that even though his physical presence will no longer be with us, she expects we will continue to remember Harold’s perspectives.

James Martin remembered being blessed by a devotional Harold shared at our January Board meeting, which was the day after Martin Luther King Day. In the meditation, Harold noted King’s “I Have a Dream” speech. He shared that King worked to make that dream a reality, recognizing he might never see fulfillment of that dream.

Harold said that dreaming can be energizing and life-giving to self and others. He challenged us to dream boldly, to dream large, and to dream courageously with faith together in community. Harold was a man who had the courage to dream, and his life encourages us to continue to dream courageously in faith.
Survey Shows Resident Satisfaction

In the fall of 2007, Landis Homes partnered with Holleran Consulting, a national firm, to conduct a resident satisfaction survey for persons living at Landis Homes. A similar study was conducted at Landis Homes in 2002 and in 2004 using many of the same indicators and the same consulting firm. Overall there was a high level of satisfaction throughout the community.

In addition to Landis Homes there were nine other Anabaptist Providers Group (APG) organizations that participated in the 2007 survey. This comparative base provides data for internal Landis Homes’ comparisons beginning in 2002. We can also compare the information gathered to external benchmarking with other APG facilities, and national benchmarking using the Holleran national data base with over 330 communities nationwide.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of Service</th>
<th>Landis Homes</th>
<th>APG</th>
<th>Holleran</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Residential Living</td>
<td>93.6</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>85.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assisted Living</td>
<td>91.8</td>
<td>88.7</td>
<td>87.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Care</td>
<td>92.2</td>
<td>87.6</td>
<td>86.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Landis Homes scores were significantly higher than the Holleran benchmarks in 50 out of 53 indicators and above all the other APG participating communities in every indicator.

Areas of strength across the community that resulted in very positive scores include the quality of spiritual services, access to amenities, quality of the fitness and wellness areas and programs, cleanliness of common areas, friendliness and courtesy of staff, appearance of exterior grounds and quality of housekeeping services. Improvement from the 2004 survey was noted in the areas of effectiveness of social service, the quality of rehabilitation services, and the skill level of direct care staff and in the upkeep to the general buildings.

The results are viewed as windows of opportunity to review our services and programs and to improve in those areas where we can make a difference. Department directors will form action plans for follow through in areas of their responsibility with the goal of addressing new areas for improvement.

Eva Bering, Vice President of Operations, says, “I would like to express my thanks to the residents and families who took time to participate in the satisfaction survey and who shared their comments. We are so grateful and proud of the entire community which also includes board members, volunteers and staff who make Landis Homes the organization it is, fostering services and quality.”

Connie Stauffer Joins Board

Connie Heisey Stauffer has recently joined the Landis Homes Board of Directors filling the term of her late husband, Harold, who served on the board since the fall of 2006.

Connie, of Lancaster, taught school for 30 years in the Pequea Valley School District, retiring from her role as an instructional support team teacher. She received both her B.S. and Masters in Elementary Education and her Reading Specialist certification from Millersville University, Millersville. She received her Elementary Principal Certification from Penn State University.

Connie has served on many educational boards including the Lancaster-Lebanon Reading Association, the Keystone State Reading Association, the Association for Supervision & Curriculum Development and the Lancaster Mennonite School Board, where she served as chair for ten years. She attends East Chestnut Street Mennonite Church.

“I would like to support the passion and dreams Harold had for continuing a strong and viable Landis Homes Retirement Community,” Connie says.
Children’s Center Receives Award

The Children’s Learning Center at Landis Homes is one of six Hildebrandt Learning Centers of a total of 35 who were recognized for outstanding work in creating an early learning environment that fosters teamwork in retaining professionals employed at their center.

This achievement was awarded with the presentation of a crystal trophy at the annual Hildebrandt Learning Centers directors’ meeting held in Hershey. The awards were presented to centers that had a staff turnover of less than 10%, and the Children’s Learning Center at Landis Homes had only a 4% turnover! At one tenth the national average for staff turnover in child centers, this is a notable achievement.

Center Director Jo Ann Pringle said, “I give credit to three factors working together: First, the great group of staff who focus on offering children and families a loving and enriching environment. Second, Landis Homes provides an excellent working environment, beautiful campus and the opportunity for intergenerational activities. And finally, Hildebrandt Learning Centers which provides and encourages professional development for staff and offers numerous benefits.”

Pictured with the award are standing: Sally Buchheit (Head Young Toddler Teacher), Jo Ann Pringle (Director) holding Patrick Marten, Jean Hurst (Head Infant Teacher) and kneeling: Kathleen Stoyer (Assistant Preschool Teacher) with Alyssa Artz.

Board Embarks on Future Planning

by Larry Zook, President

Over our 47 year history since the vision for Landis Homes was born out of a desire to form a community that would serve “Mennonite missionaries, church leaders, members of Lancaster Mennonite Conference and other individuals,” the board and leadership team of Landis Homes have devoted time and energy to planning for the future in a spirit of learning, prayer, and openness to the direction of God in guiding our future.

In the past 25 years, approximately every five or six years the Board of Directors has embarked on a very intentional planning process for the next five to ten year period. Our last planning effort of this scale was in 2002. In 2006 the Board also completed work on a Campus Master Site Plan designed to ensure the retirement community campus is a vital and thriving community.

This year the Landis Homes Board is embarking on a six-month planning effort beginning in May, which will give special attention to strategic opportunities beyond what constitutes current operations and services. The planning effort will result in a strategic framework, as well as planning documents that address elements of long-term vision, opportunities for strategic diversification, strategic corporate priorities, and ongoing support for operations.

We are excited to be working with staff of Mennonite Health Services (MHS) Alliance in this planning endeavor, led by Rick Stiffney and Lee Schmucker. The planning process will include an “appreciative inquiry” process as well that will seek to listen carefully to a wide range of stakeholders who have interest in the future of Landis Homes.

If you have any questions or ideas to share with the Board as part of this planning process, I welcome hearing from you. We also welcome your joining with the Board in prayer for this planning effort. Thank you!
Volunteers Celebrate Compassion

By Sue Shirk, Director of Volunteer Services

Approximately 300 persons including volunteers, board members, and Auxiliary members attended the annual Volunteer Appreciation Banquet, held on April 19 at Yoder’s Restaurant. Following a tradition of several years, the banquet theme focused on a Landis Homes guiding value. This year’s chosen value was compassion, defined by Landis Homes as “demonstrating Christ-like love and concern in our relationships, serving one another with kindness, tenderness, sensitivity, humility and grace in a manner which respects diversity and honors the dignity and worth of everyone.”

Lynette Youndt Meck, Associate Executive Director of Mennonite Central Committee and daughter of resident, Eva Youndt, shared reflections about compassionate service. In her remarks she said, “Compassion makes the pain in the world real to us, not just passing news.”

Sue Shirk announced the recorded volunteer service hours for 2007. The 475 volunteers (316 residents and 159 non-residents) served 48,981 hours for Landis Homes which is equal to 23 persons working full time for 52 weeks of the year. Residents recorded another 13,528 hours in the larger community. In May, an evergreen tree will be planted on campus to recognize the significant contribution by volunteers.

Shank Named New Director

Donna Shank of Landisville is the new Director of Residency Planning at Landis Homes. In this position Donna, who succeeds former Director of Admissions Virginia Musser, presents the benefits of retirement community living to prospective residents.

Her professional background includes working part-time as the Marketing Director for Messiah Village at the Mt Joy Country Homes campus, and at Philhaven, Mt. Gretna, where she also worked part-time as a Clinical Social Worker with the Older Adult Team. Earlier employment was as Director of the Access Center at Messiah Village, Mechanicsburg.

Shank received a Bachelor of Social Work from Elizabethtown College in Elizabethtown, and a Masters in Social Work at Marywood University in Scranton.

Donna and her family are part of Landisville Mennonite Church, where she has been involved in teaching Sunday School and as a mentor for a youth. She and her husband, Rowland, are the parents of two children, Sarah Amanda, a freshman at the University of Pittsburgh, and Emily who is a freshman at Lancaster Mennonite School. Her other interests include flower and vegetable gardening, reading, knitting, craft projects with Emily and cooking.

“I am anticipating being part of a team effort in welcoming folks to become part of the community,” said Donna “and also fitting into the culture of service that is central to the Landis Homes’ mission.”

Board Chair Honored

Landis Homes Board of Directors Chairperson J. Kenneth Brubaker, of Geriatric Associates, has been honored for his care of seniors.

Brubaker, who has practiced medicine in Lancaster County for 35 years, was named the 2008 Medical Director of the Year by the American Medical Directors Association (AMDA) in March 2008.

“Dr. Brubaker epitomizes the best in geriatric care, giving his heart and soul to his passion for older-patient care,” says his colleague, Dr. Leon Kraybill, who nominated Brubaker for the award.

Brubaker has 18 years of experience working in long-term care facilities and serves as medical director at Masonic Village, Willow Valley Retirement Communities and Maple Farm Nursing Center.

An interdisciplinary panel judged nominees on their contributions and accomplishments in long-term care medicine — specifically clinical expertise, staff education, leadership and community involvement. This year, the panel reviewed 27 nominations. The AMDA is the national professional association of medical directors, attending physicians and other professionals practicing long-term care medicine.
Will the Circle Be Unbroken?
By David Helmus, Director of Gift Planning

The hymn “Will the Circle Be Unbroken” was written by Ada Habershon in 1907. The verses reflect on the love and grief felt when a loved one dies in a Christian family:

“You can picture happy gatherings
Round the fireside long ago
And you think of tearful partings
When they left you here below.”

The refrain reminds us of faith’s wonderful hope when the Christian family is made whole again “in a better home awaiting.”

As we approach the celebrations of Mother’s Day and Father’s Day, you are invited to make a gift to honor or to remember a parent or someone you loved and respected. Your tribute gift to either the Caring Fund or the Endowment Fund will help Landis Homes provide quality care, with compassion. We like to think of it as providing a little heaven on earth to those receiving care.

Please consider making a gift by using the envelope included with this newsletter.

Double Meanings
By David Helmus, Director of Gift Planning

Sometimes one word can mean different things. For example, think of the use we give to the word, “trunk.” It can mean an elephant’s snout, a vehicle luggage compartment, a container for storage or shipping, a swimsuit, or even the main body of a tree. All of these uses can be downright confusing unless we know the context of the message.

Double meanings can also confuse those who are learning about planned giving. For example, we use the term “trust” to mean both a gift vehicle and an attitude of personal confidence.

We talk about the appreciation of assets and possible capital gains tax and we can also seek to express our appreciation to those who indicate they have remembered Landis Homes in their wills.

And speaking of wills, how about the person who just doesn’t seem to have the will to get his or her will done? And finally, consider the term “fund.” We invite donors to fund an endowment fund with a planned gift.

We are eager to communicate clearly about the wonderful opportunities for anyone to make a planned gift to Landis Homes. One way we can help is to provide basic, informative literature that keeps things simple and clear. We have, in fact, just printed a brochure on planned giving that describes a variety of options.

We also have a planned giving counselor who is skilled at communicating the features of planned giving in a personal and understandable manner. That person is John Buckwalter who is available to talk with individuals in person or over the phone each Thursday.

To receive a brochure or to request a meeting with John, please call the Gift Planning Office at (717) 509-5490.
Bank of Lancaster County
Estate Planning Seminar
Tuesday, May 20, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.
in the West Bethany Chapel

Topics to be covered:

- Estate planning, estate and trust administration topics, including lifetime and testamentary gifts
- Important decisions in preparing your estate plan documents
- Proposed legislation that would reform the federal estate, gift and generation-skipping transfer taxes

Be prepared to bring your estate planning questions to this interactive seminar.

Featured speakers are:

- Chris W. Kull, AAMS
  Senior Vice President, Sterling Financial Trust Company
- Frank C. Chester, Esquire and Vance E. Antonacci, Esquire of McNees Wallace & Nurick LLC

All are welcome.

Calendar

May 16  
First Children’s Learning Center Graduation  
East Bethany Chapel  
3:00 p.m.

May 19  
Parkinson’s Support Group  
“Using Music to Assist People with Parkinson’s Disease”  
Libby Lynch, MA in Music  
Westview Community Room  
2:00 p.m.  
Contact: 717-509-5494

May 23  
Grandpals Writer’s Tea  
With Hinkletown Mennonite School Students  
West Community Room  
9:30 a.m.

May 27  
Memory Loss Support Group  
“Dental Care for Persons with Memory Loss”  
Lisa Sunday, Dental Hygienist  
Warwick Room of The Heritage  
7:00 p.m.  
Contact: 717-581-3939

June 3  
Strawberry Social  
Dogwood Courtyard - 5:15 p.m.  
West Community Room - 6:30 & 7:40 p.m.

June 6  
Golf Tournament  
Foxchase Golf Club  
Denver, PA

July 23  
Outdoor Concert  
Lititz Community Band  
West lawn near the bocce courts.  
7:00 p.m.

September 13  
Fellowship Day & Chicken Barbecue  
9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

September 14  
Outdoor Worship in the Tent  
6:00 p.m.

Artists Reception

Featuring the latest works of Renny Magill & Velma Magill  
May 8, 2008  
Mixed Media  
Harvest View Galleries  
6:30-8:30 p.m.  
All are welcome  
Show continues through July 2008
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Recent Issues of *Horizons* may be downloaded from www.landishomes.org

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Attention **Golfers!**

**17th Benefit Golf Outing**

**June 6, 2008**

Proceeds will benefit the Adult Day Services program.

Call the Gift Planning Services Office at 509-5490 for sponsorship and registration materials.