What’s Not To Like?

By Linda Hopple, Hybrid Home Resident

When we moved to Landis Homes, someone asked my husband Bob and me how we liked our new living accommodations. My first reaction was to reply: “What’s not to like?”

We who live together at 1500 Wisteria Drive, say again and again, “We are blessed,” when describing our new homes.

We appreciate the ability to interact with one another because of the design of the building, with all of our front doors opening onto the beautiful shared living area, known as the hearth room.

On the other hand, we do not need to be with one another on a daily basis, either. We are happy to be there for one another while also respecting each of our needs for privacy.

As a matter of fact, we actually enjoy one another. The six, soon to be seven, “neighbor ladies” get together for lunch and “a bit of shopping” about every six weeks. We laugh and have fun just as we might have done during our teen-age years. We literally energize each other!

We also jointly decorate our shared living area for the holidays and changing seasons. Some get more excited about this activity than others, but we all appreciate the results. We embellish the community room for the Christmas season, and as warmer weather arrives, we brighten the outside entrance grounds with additional plantings. This is healthy neighborhood activity and we thrive on being a part of it.

There are those friends outside our community who continue to ask us the question, “Do we still like living at Landis Homes?”

And, once again I am happy to say, “What’s not to like?”

What other residents said they like about hybrid living:

“Lots of storage”
“I can stay inside to get my mail and newspaper.”
“Love the big windows and the openness”
“Welcoming and socializing with new neighbors”
Mission, Serving and Strength

By Larry Zook, President/CEO

For an organization to remain strong and vital, it needs to always reflect its stated mission. For Landis Homes that means keeping in mind, “The ministry of Landis Homes is to serve aging adults and their families by honoring and enriching their lives in a community of Christ-like love.” We do that by striving to live out our values of Joy, Compassion, Integrity, Stewardship, and Community.

In 2011, as it looked through these lenses, the Landis Homes board developed the Landis Communities organization which is designed to guide not only the work of Landis Homes, but additional services as well. We often talk about Landis Communities as the “umbrella” organization. It serves as the handle and wire structure, if you will, designed to allow the different organizations making up Landis Communities function their best.

Landis Communities has as its mission, “Following God’s call to creatively serve the diverse needs and interests of older adults by developing opportunities and collaborative relationships.” Through the organizations making up Landis Communities, this vision is growing. On January 1, 2013, we saw Welsh Mountain Home become a new affiliate of Landis Communities. This personal care home in New Holland has a shared history and heritage with Landis Homes and provides quality care to residents, many of whom have limited resources. They are also seeking to build additional rental apartments for those 62+ in age who have less than median incomes to address one of the most urgent needs for housing in Lancaster County.

In addition, Steeple View Lofts, designed as loft apartments in downtown Lancaster, are nearing completion. Interested people are signing leases with first move in dates slated for June. These are rentals with access to another part of the Landis Communities umbrella which provides home services. Landis At Home provides reliable personal care and support services in the privacy of clients’ homes in short blocks of time.

We continue to investigate additional opportunities to collaborate with others to fulfill the vision of serving people throughout the need and financial capabilities spectrum. While each of these segments of Landis Communities is guided by their own boards and has their own finances, the “backbone” of belonging to Landis Communities helps strengthen them all. Please be in prayer for all of these parts of one ministry to serving older adults and others.

717-381-3561 or lzook@landishomes.org
Looking Forward to our 50th

Spring of 1963

By Larry Zook, President/CEO

By looking back to what was happening 50 years ago leading to the founding of Landis Homes, we can learn much about Landis Homes today, and possibly see a bit of our future.

Recently, Landis Homes Board Chair John Eby shared from a sermon, entitled, “Looking Back Gives Courage to Look Ahead,” based on 2 Samuel 7:18. In this passage, King David, sat before the Lord, and asked, “Who am I, O Lord God, and what is my house, that you have brought me thus far?”

As a community, we can also be grateful for the many persons who have helped build on strong foundations over the years, and most of all, be grateful to the Lord who has brought us thus far. In this glimpse back, we are looking at happenings during the spring of 1963.

The Retirement Home Development Planning Committee was firming up plans for Landis Homes’ first buildings; the quadruplex cottages at the East Entrance and Unit A, today known as Aspen. Supporting these plans were the Mission Board Executive Committee and the joint meeting of the Lancaster Conference Bishop Board and Mission Board.

This set the stage for new work, including publicity efforts to communicate the vision to “keep in mind our vision of creating a ‘community’ rather than the traditional old people’s home facility,” as Frank Enck put it.

Ira Buckwalter, who as a member of the planning group also served as lead staff person via his role at the Mission Board, worked with Omar Eby in the preparation of a brochure. Five thousand copies were printed and distributed to Deacons of Lancaster Mennonite Conference congregations. Lester Wenger and Frank Enck, both members of the Planning Committee, also joined Ira Buckwalter in making contact with area congregations for the purpose of acquainting them with the project and its objectives.

Recently at the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society, 50th Anniversary Committee member Lowell Detweiler and I found this brochure, pictured right.

A copy of the brochure is available on the Landis Homes President’s Blog at landishomes.org.
Gratitude for a Great Team
2012 Team Member Survey Results

by Allen Heimly, VP of Human Resources

Recent survey results are very affirming of a committed and engaged team! A staff satisfaction survey is completed every two years with the assistance of Holleran Consulting. We appreciate that 84% of full-time and part-time team members shared their opinions on areas of strength at Landis Homes along with suggestions for improvement.

Factors rated covered a broad range of topics including supervision, communication, work climate/culture, training, pay and benefits and so forth. On a rating scale of 1-5, with 5 being the highest, 90% of factors received an overall rating between 4.0 and 4.6. Holleran Consulting compared these scores to a national benchmark (standard) developed from survey results of 366 retirement communities in 36 states. Landis Homes exceeded the benchmark in 58 out of 59 factors, with 53 considered to be significantly above the national benchmarks.

The survey results included statistical data along with written comments. The one factor that was below the benchmark relates to performance appraisals being completed on time, which is being addressed with a new performance appraisal system. Department Directors are reviewing all survey results and establishing action plans to address additional areas of opportunity for improvement.

We are blessed to have many team members who have a passion for serving others, demonstrate high standards, and personally align with the Landis Homes’ values of Joy, Compassion, Integrity, Stewardship and Community. Quality team members, faithfully committed to serving, have a tremendously positive impact on the lives of others! For this we are grateful!

Healthcare Houses Nationally Selected for High Performance

By Eva Bering, Vice President of Operations

Landis Homes Healthcare was chosen by the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS), as one of the two nursing homes in Pennsylvania, and one of a few nationally meeting the criteria identifying as a high performing nursing home. The vetting process identified 10 providers across the United States from over 16,000 licensed nursing homes.

Criteria included a 5 Star quality rating and positive clinical outcomes such as low percentages in pressure ulcers, use of restraints, urinary tract infections, falls and use of antipsychotic medications. Interviews were conducted with the State Quality Improvement Organization, the Department of Health, LeadingAge PA and the state Ombudsman representative to assure the status of quality outcomes.

Next steps include developing an expert panel that will serve as a resource for sharing best practices with other providers nationwide. The panel is also assisting in developing a change package focusing on systems improvement. It will be distributed in each state. Quality Insights of PA will oversee this collaborative effort in Pennsylvania.

Ethel Caldwell, Administrator for Health Care, and Eva Bering, VP of Operations, joined others at the National QualityNet Conference, “A More Perfect Union: Better Health Care, Better Health, Lower Costs through Improvement,” in Baltimore. They have agreed to serve as resource experts for the project and critique the change package as it is developed and distributed nationwide.

Landis Homes was recently contacted by the Pennsylvania Department of Health regarding the annual survey completed by the Division of Nursing Care Facilities on February 12, 2013. There was a focus during the survey on the use of antipsychotic medications. “It was most encouraging to review the statistics that support the reduction of antipsychotic drug use from 22.68% to 14.85%, which has demonstrated [Landis Homes’] commitment to the reduction of antipsychotic drug use,” read the report by the Director of the Division.

Landis Homes recently was recognized with another 5 Star rating from CMS. The ratings are based on inspections, staffing levels and measures of the health quality of residents which are evaluated quarterly. On a scale of one to five, the county’s 21 homes averaged 3.4 stars.
Life Insurance, a Creative Charitable Gift

By John R. Buckwalter, Planned Giving Counselor

Many persons purchase one or multiple life insurance policies in order to provide for the financial needs of their survivors. Some persons reach a stage in life where their survivors needs have greatly diminished and their life insurance policy is paid up. Perhaps their other assets have grown over the years to provide the protection their survivors will require.

There are some seniors at Landis Homes who, due to unexpected circumstances and factors beyond their control, have outlived their resources. They are depending on help through the Caring Fund to provide resources for their continuing care.

A paid up life insurance policy, or a policy on which premiums are still being paid, can become an excellent charitable gift. Two examples are listed below as to how this opportunity might work for the owner of a life insurance policy.

Landis Homes as PRIMARY BENEFICIARY of the policy

The owner retains ownership of the policy, but with the help of an agent completes a new beneficiary form and names the Landis Homes Caring Fund as the beneficiary of the policy. There is no income tax benefit during the owner’s lifetime. At the time of the owner’s demise the face value is included in the taxable estate, and then the face value becomes a charitable deduction in the estate as the death benefit is paid to the Landis Homes Caring fund.

Landis Homes as OWNER of the policy

The owner irrevocably assigns ownership of the policy to Landis Homes for the Caring Fund and Landis Homes becomes the owner of the policy. Landis Homes will issue a charitable contribution receipt for an amount approximating the cash value of the policy. If the policy is not paid up, Landis Homes will invoice the donor for each periodic premium payment due in the future. The donor, in turn, will receive a charitable contribution receipt for each subsequent premium payment to Landis Homes. Since the policy is now out of the donor’s estate, there will not be an estate tax liability at death and there will not be an additional charitable deduction.

In addition to the Landis Homes Caring Fund, the Landis Homes Caring Endowment Fund or other Landis Homes Funds can be chosen as a beneficiary of a life insurance gift.

At Landis Homes we are happy to work with you and your Insurance agent, Insurance Company, or financial advisor to discover if a gift of life insurance would fit with your charitable goals. You are welcome to contact us in the Gift Planning office at any time. 717-509-5490.
An art reception featuring a local watercolorist will be held at Landis Homes Retirement Community, Lititz, PA, on May 7. Linda Wohlberg will show her latest works which feature the natural world in intricate detail.

Wohlberg, of Lititz, is a graduate of fine arts from the University of Kentucky. It was in Kentucky where Linda was first inspired by the native flora of the fields and forests.

After college, Linda married and moved to a farm in Blair County, PA, where she continued her mission to seek out and paint beautiful native flowers of the Appalachians. As a result, she has been painting wildflowers for over 30 years.

In this show, each flower is native to Pennsylvania and the Appalachian Mountain region. All of Linda’s paintings are original watercolors using the finest pigments and painted on 100% rag Bristol board.

Linda lives with her husband and two sons in Lititz. Her paintings have been displayed and received recognition in local galleries and art exhibits as well as in private collections across the U.S.

The opening reception, to which the public is welcome, will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 7, in the Harvest View lobby and galleries. The works will continue to be on display through July. For more information, call Landis Homes at 717-381-3550 or visit www.landishomes.org.

Residents filled the West Bethany Chapel in March for the Good Friday Service which included their first view of new art sculptures. The art was commissioned in response to residents suggestion to add artwork to the chapel as a visual aid in times of worship and mediation.

Roland Yoder, resident and artist, shares that he chose to create a more abstract design in an effort to awaken the imagination of the viewer. Observers will experience a variety of meanings while contemplating these two designs.

“The theme of three crosses on the right front wall of the chapel reflects the Crucifixion scene with the cross of our Lord in center,” said Yoder. “The five interconnected crosses to the left symbolize the church or all those who have taken up their crosses to follow Christ.”

We thank Roland and Leonard Brunk, who assisted in fabrication, for enhancing our worship experiences in this way.
April 30 & May 30
Spring Events: See What’s Coming Up
For persons interested in making a move
Beginning at 1:30 PM
RSVP required
For information call: 717-581-3935

May 7
Artist Reception
Watercolors by Linda Wohlberg
Harvest View Galleries
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

May 9
Ascension Day Service
10:30 a.m. - East Bethany

May 18
Women’s Expo
Spooky Nook Sports Center
Visit our display booth
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

May 20
Parkinson’s Support Group Meeting
“Parkinson's and You”
Jarod B. John, MD
Neurologist with Argires, Becker, Marotti & Westphal
Westview Community Room
2:00 p.m.
Information at 717-509-5494

June 7
Benefit Golf Tournament
Fox Chase Golf Club
Morning & afternoon rounds
Information at 717-509-5490

June 10
Lancaster Senior Games
F&M College
Visit our display booth
7:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

August 2
Preview Art Auction Exhibit
Steeple View Lofts
118 N. Water Street, Lancaster
5:00 – 9:00 p.m.

August 8
Preview Art Auction Exhibit
Featuring work of multiple artists
Will be auctioned on 9/14/13
Harvest View Gallery
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Earth Day Promotes Healthy Wetlands
By Linford Good, Vice President of Planning & Marketing

On April 22 Landis Homes plans to celebrate Earth Day, which highlights the importance of healthy wetlands. This year the day includes a presentation on healthy wetlands, tree planting, New Technology Car Show featuring full-electric vehicles and a tour of the recently restored stream and floodplain at Landis Homes.

Wetlands were long thought to be a nuisance because they were not suitable for development or most kinds of agriculture. Many now realize that wetlands are invaluable. Some of the ways healthy wetlands benefit people and the environment include flood damage control, stream bank stabilization, groundwater recharge, water purification and wildlife habitat.

Did you know healthy wetlands devour mosquitoes? Mosquito populations are held in check by healthy wetlands. Certain birds, frogs, fish, and insects live in wetlands and feed on mosquito larvae and adults. But they need proper habitat (healthy wetlands) to survive. They are not found in the typical areas where mosquitoes thrive—small spots of open, standing water and other wet areas where mosquitoes have few natural enemies.

Earth Day events promote the importance of environmental issues around the world, as well as reflects stewardship, one of Landis Homes guiding values. On this day the Landis Homes community joins people of all nationalities and backgrounds in voicing appreciation for the earth and encouraging its protection.
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Recent Issues of Horizons may be downloaded from www.landishomes.org

“Sooner Rather than Later”

Save the Date
Annual Benefit Golf Tournament
June 7, 2013
Fox Chase Golf Club

Benefits:
Adult Day Services

Call Gift Planning Services at 717-509-5490 for Sponsorship & Registration Information
landishomes.org

“We did a lot of research before choosing this caring community. We have been warmly welcomed here and Landis Homes has truly felt like home from “Day One.” We are so glad we moved in sooner rather than later.”

– Fred and Judy Sargent

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