



REFLECTIONS

AUTUMN 2009
VOLUME 31 NUMBER 3



Willow Brook at Delaware Run
Now Open!

All that Really Matters

by Larry Harris, CEO

People sometimes ask me which of the three Willow Brooks is my favorite – Willow Brook Christian Home, Willow Brook Christian Village, or the new Willow Brook at Delaware Run. My stock answer, true as it can be, is, “I have three children, and I love them each the same.”

That’s true biologically with Ben, Becky, and Stephen. I’d take a bullet for any of my kids. And it’s true metaphorically with my three Willow Brooks. I confess I’d stop short of laying down my life for *any* piece of real estate, Willow Brook or not, but the list of other things I wouldn’t do for this ministry is pretty short.

For almost 35 years, my life has been poured into this treasured vessel that is Willow Brook. I have sweated over the architectural drawings for each campus to the point I could feel my way blindfolded through any of our 61 structures. Time me. The experiment would run little more time off the clock than if my eyes were open, for I know each turn of every hall.

And I personally have hired many who serve in those halls. Certainly my cadre of leaders is hand-picked. It is downright inspiring to watch this team of givers working their hearts out for the good of the

cause. To a person, I believe my leaders have made life-long



Larry Harris, CEO

commitments to Willow Brook. If they didn’t intend to make Willow Brook their final job when I hired them, they do now. This ministry sort of rubs off on you after a while.

Why is that? And why did a state

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inspector once confide in me that Willow Brook ran the only nursing home where she would put her own mother? Why are there thousands of former residents’ family members out there chatting up Willow Brook? Why is it that so many trustees come aboard as youngsters and stay into their twilight years?

The answer to all these questions is easy: We are true to our mission statement... *“In the spirit of Jesus our Lord, Willow Brook Christian Communities seeks to enable older adults to live to their fullest potential by providing housing, facilities, and services, delivered with compassion and love...”*

There you have it. You now have been let in on our secret formula.

As a not-for-profit ministry, our purpose is people, not profit. Each question is decided in the

context of what will benefit our residents, not which option will make the most money.

Years ago when we set up our adult day care program, a colleague from another retirement community observed that it maybe wasn’t the wisest decision from a business perspective. He pointed out that it could defer admissions to our assisted living and skilled nursing facilities, where the daily charges were three to five times those of day care. But it is our practice to bring people into the level of care that suits them best and is the least expense to them.

When people come to know our motives, they talk, and we become the stuff of legend.

People are forever coming up to me at Rotary meetings or Chamber of Commerce events telling me how impressed they are with Willow Brook. I, of course, am grateful for their confidence, but they are giving us a lot to live up to.

I know we have our warts. Heaven knows we were lucky to get our new Delaware Run campus opened up without any murders. But I also know that we love each other, and that we love the residents. And at the end of the day, that’s all that really matters.

Larry welcomes your comments at
lharris@willow-brook.org



The mayor, Chamber of Commerce president, board of trustees, builders, architects, and funders of the Willow Brook at Delaware Run project all aided in cutting the ribbon at the grand opening festivities on October 8.



Lekiesha Sanders prepared bananas Foster in the Library.



Only two years have passed since the October 2007 groundbreaking for the Village Square at Delaware Run, and just a few days ago we celebrated its grand opening on the western edge of Delaware, Ohio.

Members of the Board of Trustees and the Chamber of Commerce and the mayor of Delaware used a couple dozen scissors to cut a hundred-foot-long ribbon that surrounded the Village Square's mezzanine.

The four hundred plus visitors then spread across the \$28 million-building's apartments, gathering areas and healthcare centers to sample delicacies provided by the village chefs at nine stations. They toured the library, game rooms, coffee shop, fitness center, bank and beauty salon, the Water's Edge restaurant, and the corporate offices scattered across the nearly 200,000 square-foot structure.

Willow Brook officials announced at the opening that only five apartments and eight twin-single homes remained unspoken-for on that campus, and just a few twin-singles are still available at Willow Brook Christian Village nearby.

The Village Square project is the culmination of the 50-acre Willow Brook at Delaware Run campus, the second full-service retirement community in Central Ohio sponsored by Willow Brook Christian Communities.

The Haycock Sculpture:

They Dance in the Lobby

Delaware artist Ebb Haycock unveiled his 9-foot sculpture "The Dancers" at the grand opening ceremonies for Willow Brook at Delaware Run.

Haycock is a retired professor of art from Ohio Wesleyan University. "The Dancers" represents the culmination of his life's work and took more than a year to complete. It is now the centerpiece of the Village Square lobby at Delaware Run.

Said Haycock of his creation, "I hope residents, family, and friends will say to each other, 'Let's meet by The Dancers.' I want people to sense the physical movements and rhythms of the figures in their own personal way."



Artist Ebb Haycock (bottom right) got help and advice from the entire maintenance team and CEO Larry Harris at a "dress rehearsal" a couple days before the official unveiling. The sculpture was a secret to all but one or two, even at the rehearsal. The shroud protecting it from view was never raised higher than in the photo at right.



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Delaware, Ohio

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Delaware, Ohio 43015
Phone: (740) 369-0048
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- Independent Homes & Apartments
- The Centrum Assisted Living
- Passages Alzheimer's Care
- Cherith Skilled Nursing Care & Rehabilitation Center
- Heritage Day Health Center Adult Day Care
- The Courtyard Restaurant

Willow Brook at Delaware Run

100 Delaware Crossing West
Delaware, Ohio 43015
Phone: (740) 201-5640
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- Twin-single Homes
- Apartments
- Assisted Living
- Memory Care
- The Water's Edge Restaurant

Worthington, Ohio

Willow Brook Christian Home

55 Lazelle Road
Columbus, Ohio 43235
Phone: (614) 885-3300
Fax: (614) 885-8476

- Skilled Nursing & Rehabilitation
- Assisted Living
- The Grapevine Grill

REFLECTIONS

Larry Harris, CEO
Teri Ryan, Director of Community Relations, editor & designer

*A not-for-profit ministry
of members of the Churches of Christ*



Lobby Named for CEO

In a surprise announcement, President Herman McHan (left) and former president Judy Earich (center) read a proclamation naming the lobby at Delaware Run in honor of Willow Brook's first and only CEO Larry Harris. Harris has led the organization as its first nursing home administrator, first executive director, and now chief executive officer since 1975. Above, wife Janet and daughter, Rebecca, look on. Sons Benjamin and Stephen were also present.

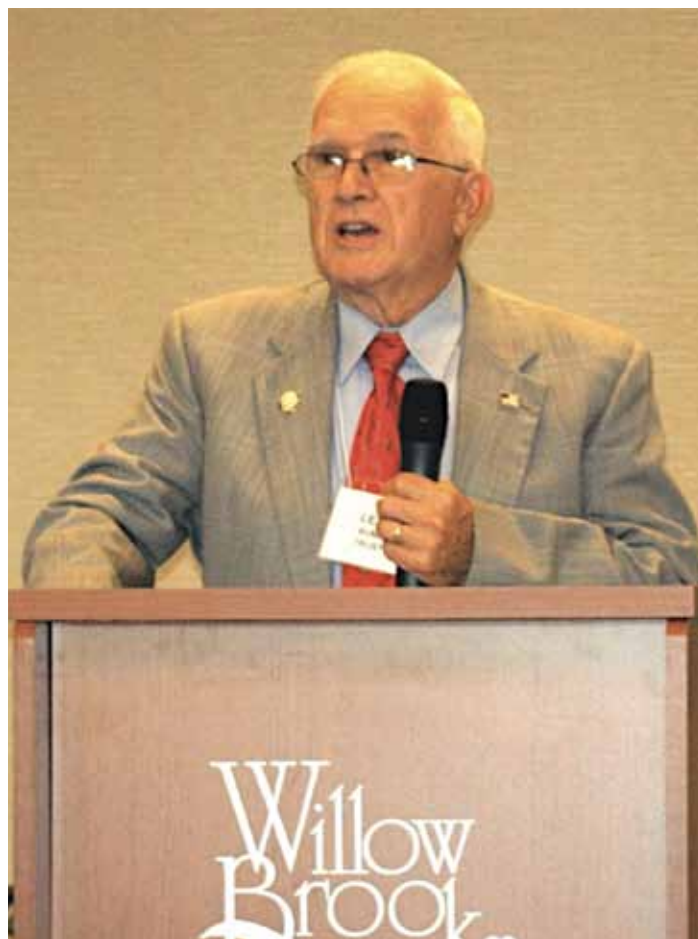
Dedicated to Health and Home

“It’s a God Day,” said Delaware Run resident, Residents Council president, and minister Bill McCartney. McCartney welcomed the two hundred residents, employees, church members and families who attended the dedication service for Delaware Run on Sunday, the 11th of October.

Board members Frank Chappell and Leroy Bumpus gave the opening and closing prayers. Dr. Chappell, a member of the board since the early days, was working as a chemist when he voluntarily stepped in to run Willow Brook Christian Home, the very first facility, until a permanent administrator could be hired.

Mr. Bumpus was on the Board when the organization was formed, and gave the prayer dedicating the Village Square to Willow Brook’s mission of serving older adults.

A string trio, whose members included both a resident (Ruth Hay) and an employee of Willow Brook (Buffy Golden) played on the mezzanine throughout the afternoon’s festivities.



Leroy Bumpus

photo by Bill Baskwill



Ketron named Executive Director

Cherith nursing home administrator Nicole Ketron has been named Executive Director of Willow Brook Christian Village in Delaware. As executive director, Ketron oversees the entire continuing care retirement community – Cherith, the skilled nursing and rehabilitation center, Centrum assisted living, Passages memory care, and independent living. She has been administrator of Cherith for the past six years.

Ketron is a “retired” award-winning gymnast and a graduate of the University of Cincinnati where she earned a B.S. degree in health administration and was a varsity cheerleader. CEO Larry Harris says of her promotion, “Nicole has proved her leadership abilities these past six years. I look for her to provide steady, mature direction for The Village.”



Mary Louise Dieck became the very first resident of the healthcare center at Delaware Run. Her husband, Don, stops by for lunch every day and spends much of the afternoon with her. Don will soon move into a twin-single home right across the street from the healthcare center just so he can stay close-by.

Donors, Families Celebrate New Patio for Passages

A picnic celebrating the redesign of the secure patio in Willow Brook Christian Village’s Passages memory care center was held in August. It attracted many generations of family members, including Pat Ivory and her granddaughter, pictured at left. The concrete work was donated in memory of Robert and Ruth Mustain by their children Pat and Thomas Ivory and Robert Mustain, Jr., the fountain was donated in honor of Amanda “Weeder” Thompson by her daughter Ouida Siler, and the patio furniture was funded by Floyd Siebert in memory of his wife, Iona.

Passages is one of Willow Brook’s two memory care facilities, dedicated to serving those with Alzheimer’s and other dementia-related diseases. The doors to the unit are secured to protect those who may wander. The enhanced patio is surrounded with secure fencing and will offer residents a safe, uplifting outdoor experience in warm weather.



It's a Trifecta! – Chefs from Willow Brook Christian Home, Javier Alvarez, Kendall Friend, and Madelyn Turner, turned Madelyn's Fresh Berry Cloud Flambé into the first-place winner in the dessert category at the A Taste of Worthington event in July. With this award, Home chefs have brought in top honors in each of the three categories over the past three years.



Dublin-Powell Church of Christ minister Bryant Myers and Willow Brook trustee Phil Barth are working the church's concession booth at an Ohio State University football game. Members of the church are tending the booth at all home games, and donating profits to a fund for retired ministers at Willow Brook.



Brittany Dittman and Shelby Jackson served pita chips with a crab/artichoke dip, roasted asparagus wrapped in prosciutto, bacon basil BBQ prawns, and more at their station in the Café 100 restaurant during the dedication open house at Delaware Run on October 11. Their station was among several offering a wide variety of gourmet delicacies that afternoon. Chef Marc Dullin oversaw chocolate fountains, bananas Foster skillet, shrimp ice sculptures created by chef John Lindeboom, vegetable grills, Caesar salad, mashed potato bars and more.



Chef, scoutmaster, and ice sculptor John Lindeboom spent an afternoon demonstrating one of his crafts at the Delaware Area Career Center. Several students learn job skills from John and others on the staff at Willow Brook Christian Village each school year. Lindeboom is corporate head of culinary services for Willow Brook Christian Communities.



Executive Director Nicole Ketron hands Bob Meyer the ceremonial first cup of coffee at the dedication of Willow Brook Christian Village's Gathering Place. The Gathering Place has been Bob's dream for several years, and with the conclusion of a successful fundraising drive, he was able to see it come to fruition. Now a little-used area of the Village is a warm and inviting spot where residents and families do indeed gather to snack, buy sundries, watch ball games and enjoy one another's company.



Reflections

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Going Green

“Going green,” or becoming good stewards of the earth and its resources, is not only a popular mind-set right now, but an economical one. Every quarter Willow Brook spends thousands of dollars to bring information, pictures, and inspiring stories to our readers through the printing and mailing of this *Reflections* newsletter.

We fully intend to continue, but you could help us be more “green,” more economical, and more in tune with the times if you would select the e-mailed version to view your *Reflections* newsletter.

Just send an e-mail to our development manager, list administrator, and computer guru Dyana Welch at dwelch@willow-brook.org. In the subject line say “Green” and she’ll do the rest. We may save a few dollars and more than a few trees.