

All Roads Lead to Willow Brook

by Larry Harris, CEO

What is this land of America, so many travel there?
I'm going now while I'm still young, my darling meet me there.
Wish me luck my lovely, I'll send for you when I can,
And we'll make our home in the American land.

Bruce Springsteen
American Land

All roads lead to Willow Brook. In this issue of *Reflections*, you will meet thirty-two dear souls from far-away lands who have walked those roads – roads that originated in Kenya, Mexico, El Salvador, Ghana, Vietnam, and points beyond and between. These are the Willow Brook workers who claim a homeland outside America's borders. They hail from fourteen nations on five continents.

One of every ten Willow Brook workers is a first-generation immigrant. Each harbors a unique motive for mustering the courage to uproot herself and set forth on a grand adventure that ended at our doorstep.

Some came for family, some for education. Some came for opportunity, for a better life. They came seeking a seat at our nation's storied table, to partake of the bountiful feast that is America.



Some came running for their lives – literally. One on my team

Larry Harris, CEO
Larry welcomes your comments at
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sought and was granted asylum by the U.S. State Department. For these who fled oppression, war, and terror, Willow Brook is the happy ending to a sorrowful journey. Their roads here are watered with many tears. On these pages, I will tell you some of their stories.

Not one of our immigrants came with the intention of working at Willow Brook. They hadn't even heard of us. They landed first on an American shore, blinking, bewildered, searching about, and somehow came upon us as the fog began to clear.

I am proud to proclaim to you that Willow Brook has flung open its doors to these sojourners from around the planet. Each is a fellow traveler on Spaceship Earth, and we welcome them. In exchange for our hospitality, every day they offer their labor, their wit, their talent, and their love. They serve well in our halls and restaurants.

They are eager to meet you, so turn the page now and say hello to Willow Brook's cadre of internationals.



Hagar Ackah-Andoh
Ghana



Cecilia Agyemang
Ghana



Theresa Agyepong, RN
Ghana



Chef Javier Alvarez
Mexico

Each of our immigrants has a story. Some were flat-out lucky. Nurse Elizabeth Folefac, from Cameroon in West Africa, won a lottery for immigration to the United States, as did nursing assistants Hagar Ackah-Andoh and Mercy Ohenewaah, both from Ghana, as well as others.

Chefs Javier Alvarez, from Mexico, and Marc Dullin, from France (yes, we have a genuine *French chef!*), came for the legendary opportunities of America.

These are some of the happy stories. For others, the road to Willow Brook has been a bitter trail of tragedy and unspeakable sorrow.

Five of our number lived in Sierra Leone, a West-African nation that endured a vicious 11-year civil war rooted in the diamond trade. Dreadful sufferings have been inflicted on our African friends so we can adorn our fingers and necklines with pretty rocks. Give an ear to their harrowing tales and you may never buy another diamond. Janet and I have taken the pledge.

Nursing assistant Assanatu Sidibay tells how rebels swept through her village in Sierra Leone on a mission to kill all males. Her uncle was shot to death right in front of her. She fled on foot to a zone of safety four days away. A New York church rescued her and secured her passage to America.

Nursing assistant Ali Kabia, another refugee from that war, tells how rebels surrounded his town and abducted those who failed in their attempts to flee – especially women and children. Five in his family were killed. The rebels made a habit of raping and mutilating their victims before murdering them. “Do you like long sleeves?” they would ask. Arms would be chopped off at the wrist. “Do you like short sleeves?” Arms would be hacked off at the elbows.

Another nursing assistant, Tutu Kamara, was captured by the rebels. They were intending to kill her, but she was recognized by one who knew her mother, so her life was spared.



Agustin Antonio
Mexico



Maurice Asola-Fadola, LPN
Ghana

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Samantha Baltus
Canada



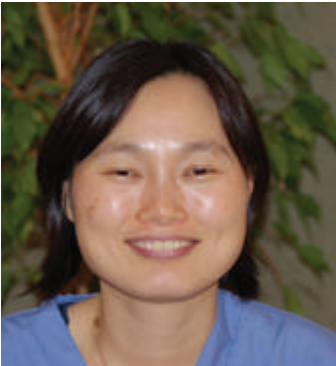
Shy Broughton
Philippines



Chef Marc Dullin
France



Elizabeth Folefac, RN
Cameroon



Grace Jang, RN
South Korea

*(Our immigrants')
rich global exploits
bring fresh perspectives
to the Willow Brook
experience and teach us
all lessons on diversity
and acceptance.*



Sunny John
India



Ali Kabia
Sierra Leone



Isha Kamara
Sierra Leone



Tutu Kamara
Sierra Leone



Juliet Kibula, LPN
Uganda



Marie Kpakra
Sierra Leone



Jean Milor
Haiti



Grace Mwathi
Kenya



Irene Ngayap, RN
Cameroon



Mercy Ohenewaah
Ghana



Peggy Phan
Vietnam

Nursing assistant Peggy Phan escaped Vietnam after the United States withdrew from the calamitous war in her nation. One dark night she and thirty others packed into a little boat and launched out into the China Sea. She was squeezed in so tight there was no room to lie down. After two days, the engine failed, and they bobbed and drifted for another nineteen days. They soon exhausted their meager supplies of rice and water. Four gave up and leapt overboard. Two others died of thirst. Before they were rescued by a Filipino merchant ship, Peggy remembers begging God to somehow give her just one last drink of water before she died.

Teresa Santos, nursing assistant, fled to Mexico from war-torn El Salvador in 1987. She tells of bodies strewn in the streets as she ran for her life.

Nurse Juliet Kibula is from Uganda, in East Africa. She describes bombings and mass killings as common occurrences in her homeland. Cowed citizens knew that criticism of the president could lead to unpleasant consequences, so you learned that in conversations with any but those you absolutely trusted, you heaped praise on the government.

Each of our immigrants has a story. A few declined to tell theirs, and I respected their desire to stay silent. One said, "My life incidents are filled with tears, and I do not wish to spread those tears to this world."



Sally Russell
Philippines



Teresa Santos
El Salvador



Assanatu Sidibay
Sierra Leone

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Ouy Somboon
Thailand



Sheryl Sprague
Philippines



Philomina Sunny
India



Steffy Sunny
India



Victoria Tarpeh
Liberia



Dhara Trivedi
India



Claudia Wells, RN
Jamaica

Our immigrants serve with a work ethic forged in the orchards of Africa and the rice paddies of Vietnam. Each day they log a new entry in the Willow Brook journal. Their rich global exploits bring fresh perspectives to the Willow Brook experience and teach us all lessons on diversity and acceptance.

In my interviews, I didn't talk with one who wasn't happy to be in America. Their sentiments ranged from simple joy, to relief, to exuberance. Our nurse Juliet from Uganda said, "Here in America I no longer feel that my life is in danger. I no longer hear gunshots at night, and I don't see soldiers walking around everywhere carrying guns. I feel safe."

Some reflected on their initial shock and dismay at our wasteful ways. Housekeeper Ouy Somboon from Thailand said, "I couldn't believe Americans pour clean water on their lawns! Are you kidding me? In Thailand I had to carry drinking water a half mile to my house. I would never pour it on my lawn!"

Certainly America has its warts. Consider our sordid history with slavery and its 100-year aftermath, and our annihilation of Native Americans as our forebears went about the nasty business of appropriating a continent. But we have settled down, and this nation now shines as a beacon of hope across the seas to troubled peoples around the world.

Peggy, our Vietnamese refugee, said it best: "My heart is here. I live here, I die here. I love this country."

Larry Harris, CEO

... this nation now shines as a beacon of hope to troubled peoples around the world.

Gifts of Love

June 17 - September 12, 2010

Kathleen S. "Katy" Ames
Marty Ames
Kathleen A. Helling
Dan & Janet Hiestand
James & Roxann Newton
Mary Jean Roach

Thomas & June Russell
Joel & Lauren Schaefer

Harold "Barney" Barnhart
Naomi J. Schneider

Mary Catherine Bauder
Helen J. Reppart
Mary Jean Roach

Lois K. Smith

Lillian Bell
Fifty Plus Group,
Forest Hill Church of Christ

Helen "Virginia" Bell
April L. Rausch

Thelma Bevins
William & Diane Bates

Cliff Bigler
Delores V. Lallathin

Hazel B. Blose
Dennis & Sharon Blose

Virginia Chapman
John & Joy Chapman, Sr.

Katherine "Louise" Clark
John & Shelly Hubbell

Thelma "Edna" Close
Richard & Linda Lupton

Dave Colwell
William Cooke &
Linda Colwell-Cooke

Sally Cooke
William Cooke &
Linda Colwell-Cooke

Bernice L. Conrad
Alfred & Dianne Slivinski

Tom D. Conrad
Alfred & Dianne Slivinski

Golden Andrew Cooper
Gary & Mary Cooper

Rose P. Coville
Lavetta M. Bryant

Ruth L. Dennis
Lavetta M. Bryant

Pauline E. Eleyet
Fred & Carolyn Forbes

Glenn Ellzey
Lila Ellzey

Rita Erickson
Donald & Dianne Almendinger

Joan Fletcher
Karen Fletcher

Lawrence Fletcher
Karen Fletcher

Rowena M. Hall
Gilbert R. Hall

Audrey & Alberta Harris
Larry & Janet Harris

John T. Hayes
Karen S. Hayes

Ruth L. Hickok
David & Connie McNeal

Katherine K. Hilborn
James & Sharon Edwards

Rodger S. Hoyt
June M. Hoyt

Roberta "Bobbie" Hutchison
James L. Hutchison

James E. Jackson
Mitchell & Dyana Welch

Lois J. Johnson
Manuel L. Johnson

Donald Kelch
Darlene M. Kelch

George Kelch
Darlene M. Kelch

Irene Kelch
Darlene M. Kelch

Roger Kelch
Darlene M. Kelch

Paul E. Landefeld
Geneva Landefeld

Thomas J. Lasley
Anna F. Lasley

Bertha A. Lengacher
John & Deloris Suppes

Martha Rose Libbert
Bruce & Barbara Reiersen

Dorrance Lowry
Robert D. Harris

Virginia (Harris) Lowry
Robert D. Harris

Lydia P. Lozano
Jeffrey & Lisa Reschke

Rose M. Merlini
Mary Jean Roach

Harry Mittendorf
Michael & Nancy Skurja, Jr.

Margaret J. Forsythe
Mary Jean Roach

Dorothy Gerber
Richard & Patti Marrah

Lela J. Goodpaster
Tiffany C. Wilson

Our Mothers

Robert & Martha Slatzer

Guy C. Murphy
Sheila J. Murphy

Marjorie R. Nichols
Walter & Wendy Nichols

Mabel Nixon
Robert & Patricia Borean

Charles D. O'Dell
Martha A. O'Dell

Our Parents
David & Rosalie Miller

Michael Petrucci
Martha G. Petrucci

Gene & Maude Prince
Larry & Janet Harris

Mary Helen Richards
Jon & Kathy Richards

Lavon M. Russell
Dan & Elizabeth Conant

Robert & Carolyn McQuattie

Robert R. Rutan
Jane W. Rutan

Terence J. Ryan
Mark & Teresa Ryan

Lona E. Shaw
Marene Kellems

Austin E. Showman
Dennis & Pamela Cooper

Charlotte A. Gallant
Jim & Pat Matthews & Family

Lisa Matthews
& Natalie Huebner

Robert & Francine Matthews

Tom & Christina Matthews

Helen J. Reppart
Mary Jean Roach

Lois K. Smith
Village Residents Advisory
Council

Larry & Marian Wenger

Tom Skipton
JoAnne Skipton

Lura Jane Stewart
Helen J. Reppart

Lois K. Smith
Clyde E. Wooley

Wilma Stewart

Helen J. Reppart
Village Residents Advisory
Council

Larry & Marian Wenger

Marjorie Sweigert
Kenneth & Marilyn Fischer

The Berwanger Family
Robert & Ardith Berwanger

Harry Thorne
Arthur & Billie Thorne

Mildred Thorne
Arthur & Billie Thorne

Rose Toth
John & Joanne Toth

Morris B. Townsend
Geneva B. Connor

Mollie M. Trautman
Michael & Elizabeth Trautman

Max Wildermuth
Jayne W. MacKay

Johnnie Yoblonski
Billy Miller

Gifts were also received in honor of:

Esther Daniels
Carl & Avalene Daniels
Rose Froelich
Gayle A. Moe
Larry Harris
Robert Wilson
Nola C. Motts
Joyce L. Edwards
Ruby Olsen
Kenneth & Vivian Knox
Lillian R. Powell
Mel & Nancy Effron
Lois M. Ward
Lindsey R. Robinson
Harold H. West
Gordon & Barbara Rood
Willow Brook Residents
Brigitte S. Chase



Music on the Mezzanine

Coming up

October 21 Sax player Pete Mills and Nancy Gamso on woodwinds playing classical music and jazz

November 16 Pam Beery,

Ohio Symphony Orchestra
December 16 Robert Nims on the piano will lead a Christmas Sing-along

January 20 Pianist Tanya & Columbus Symphony violist Ken Matsuda

All concerts are held at 7 pm on the Mezzanine of Willow Brook at Delaware Run and are free. Refreshments are served after the performance.



CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES
Willow Brook

100 Delaware Crossing West
Delaware, Ohio 43015
Phone: (740) 201-5640
Fax: (740) 201-5740
www.willow-brook.org

Delaware, Ohio

Willow Brook Christian Village

Delaware, Ohio 43015
Phone: (740) 369-0048
Fax: (740) 369-7034

Apartments

Rehabilitation Center

Adult Day Care

Willow Brook at Delaware Run

100 Delaware Crossing West
Delaware, Ohio 43015
Phone: (740) 201-5640
Fax: (740) 201-5740

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

REFLECTIONS

Larry Harris, CEO
Teri Ryan, Director of Community



Reflections

Willow Brook Christian Communities
100 Delaware Crossing West
Delaware, Ohio 43015

Nonprofit
organization
US postage paid
Permit #102
Delaware, Ohio

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Talent, Creativity, Gifts

We've always bragged about the talents of Willow Brookers, and have lots of examples to prove it. In the past few weeks we have been reminded twice that their gifts are exceptional.

First, Willow Brook made a great showing in the annual art and writing exhibition held each year by AOPHA, the state association of not-for-profit homes and services. The awards "our" folks brought home were impressive:

- Ebb Haycock – 1st place, 3-dimensional art
- Bebe Conant – 1st place, small quilted works
- Gladys Dillemoth – 2nd place, large quilted works
- Dee Seebode – 3rd place, fine art 2 and 3rd place, large quilted
- Delaware Runners – 3rd place, cooperative art\project, the stained glass windows for the Delaware Run chapel
- Paul and Kathleen Granger – 1st place, cooperative writing
- Centrum Creative Writers – 2nd place, cooperative writing



Ginny and Bob Seibert look over some of the photos in the inaugural exhibition of the Willow Brook at Delaware Run art gallery.

Residents of Willow Brook at Delaware Run celebrated the first anniversary of the opening of the Village Square by opening their own art gallery on the mezzanine. The first exhibition features photography from about 15 residents.

The photography show, named "Through Their Eyes," demonstrates how even photos taken of the same event turn out differently depending on the point of view of the artist.

"The colors may be the same," says organizer Dee Seebode, "but the angle, the perspective, the interpretation is different."