

REFLECTIONS

AUTUMN 2013
VOLUME 35 NUMBER 3

Fantine takes
an autumn
walk with
her person,
Rosalie Miller,
along a
colorful
nature trail at
The Village.

Fantine is
one of
several dozen
pets enriching
the lives of folks
who live at
Willow Brook.



Advanced years are at once a blessing and a curse. Don't get me wrong, there is much to be said for the mature end of life's spectrum that I am just starting to explore personally. But in my long work at Willow Brook, I have seen up close the sorrows of extended age. There comes a point when age-related changes are downright painful, prompting me to wonder just who dubbed the later stages of life the "golden years." Must have been someone young.

But before I go further in lamenting the curse part of growing old, let me give you my take on the blessing part. Gray hair brings wisdom and perspective, leading to a more reasoned and settled response to life's provocations. I am thankful for the clarity of thought that has come as I tack on years, and I rank this as the single most important perk of age.

And there are grandkids, travels, Medicare, the homestead exemption, and ten-cent coffee at Wendy's. There's the slackened pace, the extinguished mortgage, and the accumulated experience that leads to understanding and forbearance. Gray hair bestows all these dividends.

But as the years click off, we start to rack up losses – what I call the curse part. Some are mere annoyances, the "gnats" of life – diminished eyesight, muscle tone, and vigor. Some demand accommodation and adjustment – the fading ability to mow a lawn, rake leaves, or negotiate stairs. But then come the soul-crushing defeats that invariably inflict sorrow and grief – a relinquished driver's license, a stroke-induced life sentence to a wheelchair, the fresh-mounded grave of a lifelong spouse.

More than four decades ago, Willow Brook's founders resolved to fashion a collective response to these age-induced troubles. The three Willow Brooks you see today are the net result of their bid to shore up defenses for those caught



Larry Harris
lharris@willow-brook.org

Simple (sort of)

by Larry Harris, CEO

in the battles of advancing years. We can't roll the clock back. Things are what they are. But we can sure soften some of the blows.

We meet our old friends where they are, and serve them in the lowest-cost setting that best meets their needs, not what will produce the most revenue. A few years back when we opened our adult day care center at Willow Brook Christian Village, a colleague from another senior community politely pointed out that this new service might cut admissions to our assisted living centers and nursing homes. "You'll lose a lot of revenue," he said. True enough, in a sense. But the way we see it, if someone's needs can be met in a daytime setting for one-third the cost of a nursing home, then it would be an indictable offense not to encourage it.

That approach alone sets us apart, and is a key factor in Willow Brook's acclaim. We deal with people straight.

We offer a continuum of living arrangements – from houses and apartments to skilled nursing care, with three or four steps in between. We didn't pioneer the concept. Innovators from the

1960s in other communities cut the trail, God bless them. But we are walking that trail, and have even "kicked it up a notch," as celebrity TV chef Emeril Lagasse would say. All things at Willow Brook are done with flair – carpet in our nursing homes, restaurant-style dining (yes, even in the nursing homes), inspired architecture that works with the natural undulations of the land and makes peace with our precious trees.

And then there is the quality thing. We've kicked that up a notch, too. Actually several notches. Over the past two years, our five healthcare centers have been inspected 11 times by the Ohio Department of Health. Ten of those inspections have resulted in deficiency-free nursing reports. I haven't seen any stats to support this, but that just has to be close to a national record.

How do we do it? Simple (sort of). Our motives are pure. The needs and wants of the people we serve drive our decisions and actions that we execute with integrity. And that, as the people living with us will tell you, makes all the difference in the world.

The Long Trail to Willow Brook

From a barefoot child on a New Mexico Indian reservation to board president of a Columbus-based drug store chain, Clif Bailey proudly reflects on his 84-year journey that landed him and wife Nancy in an apartment at Willow Brook Christian Village.

A Native American born in 1929 and raised on the Acoma reservation 60 miles west of Albuquerque, Clif went barefoot until he started school at age six.

A large flattop mesa on tribal land figures prominently in Acoma history. A “city in the sky,” 440 feet high atop the mesa, proved difficult to attack, but in 1599, the Spanish *conquistador* Coronado managed a sneak attack that resulted in many Indian deaths. For daring to resist the invaders, many of the Indian survivors had their right feet chopped off by the Spaniards.

Clif grew up 11 miles from the mesa.

Clif’s name is Gut-Z in the Acoma language. “When I go back to the mesa, they call me Gut-Z, not Clif. It means ‘deep water,’” Clif explained. “I am of the ‘water sign,’ so I wear a blue ribbon shirt. Not everyone is permitted to wear a ribbon shirt. It is a symbol of esteem, and a sign that people can consult with you and that you will not mislead them.”

Clif grew up in poverty. The tribe had no electricity or running water. “Nobody had any money,” Clif recalls. “You would barter. Dad would trade wood for a bale of hay.”

The Acomas looked after one another. “When someone butchered, everyone would come and share the meat,” Clif explained. “There was no refrigeration, so we dried it. Jerky was a staple on the reser-

vation. We lived peacefully, and took care of each other.”

When World War II broke out in 1941, Clif says, “Dad heard there was defense work in California, so he hopped a freight and got a job in a shipyard. Mom and my brother and sister and I later joined him there.”



Clif and Nancy Bailey pose on their Willow Brook balcony over the water. Clif, a Native American, is wearing the blue ribbon shirt, an honored piece of apparel that signifies esteem.

Clif joined the US Army Airborne after the war, and was part of the Japanese occupation. He was discharged in Kentucky, found sales work in Cincinnati, and married Nancy Heath in 1953. The couple was transferred 14 times, including a stint in New York City. “I didn’t like New York,” says Clif. “I was an outsider, so I was happy to return to Ohio in 1977.”

He and Nancy came to Worthington, a Columbus suburb. Clif invested in an upstart drug store chain, Drug Emporium. He became a member of the board and eventually its

president, a position he held until 1992.

Clif and Nancy have five children. “They are glad we are at Willow Brook. They feel we are safe here,” Clif says.

Reflecting on native peoples’ history in the Americas, Clif says, “I don’t dwell too much on Christopher Columbus and the greedy Europeans who came after him. They called us savages, and we wish it all hadn’t been so brutal. We never had a Martin Luther King, so we just move on. We have wonderful children and grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. I don’t have enough time to carry a grudge.”

by Larry Harris



The roof is on, the windows and outside doors are in, siding is almost complete, and in November, the assisted living residents who had taken up temporary quarters on the apartment side of Delaware Run will move back home. Then construction will be completed on the second and third floors. Folks should be able to move into their new homes in late winter. Save the date of April 17 for the grand opening!

Winners again:

Topping the Taste of Worthington

We did it again! For seven of the last eight years, Willow Brook Christian Home's entry has been voted best in its food category at the Worthington Area Chamber of Commerce Taste of Worthington food festival!

This year it was a dessert: waffle cake topped with apples Foster, candied pecans and whipped cream.

As in years past, we beat out some of the best restaurants in the area with our presentation, and make no mistake: the one and only year that we didn't come in first, we were second.

Love to see the chefs of our healthcare centers go toe-to-toe with the big guys and win!



Proud chefs at The Home add first-place plaque number six to the wall of fame in the Grapevine Grill. Pictured are Javier Alvarez, Bill Kutanon, Eric Ratcliff and Madehyn Turner.

Each Day Brings a Splash of Joy

Senior Sharing Time

*A day of spiritual
nourishment
for Christian Seniors*

Tuesday, October 15, 2013
9 am - 2 pm

Willow Brook
Christian Village
Delaware, Ohio

Messages, songs, and
prayers presented by
members of the Willow
Brook Board of Trustees
and friends

Topics

The Joy of Family and Friends

Dana Singluff
Board of Trustees

The Joy of Receiving a "Gift"

Leroy Bumpus
Board of Trustees

The Joy you Share

Keith Ball
*Minister, Delaware
Church of Christ*

A continental breakfast and
lunch are provided.

Free!

for reservations call

Helen Reppart
740-363-0686

Brag Page

Another Year of Perfection

Well, nobody's perfect, but we're definitely bragging about another year of perfect nursing scores. We aced Ohio Department of Health state nursing inspections in *all five* of our health centers for the second year in a row!

In fact, we have had ten perfect scores out of eleven *in a row!*

No wonder Willow Brook always seems to make the list of the top nursing homes or assisted living centers in the state. Our incredible staff have earned the honor - as have the people under their loving care.



Assisted living staff members celebrate with a cheer their perfect score in the annual state inspection of the care centers at Willow Brook Christian Village. They are, clockwise from bottom left, Kelly Huddleston, Sri Seliskar, Stacey Wheeler, Susie Fleak, Janie Jordan, Marie Kpakra, Marlene Andersen, Whitney Bringle, Melissa Burnap, Jessica Hughes, and Peggy Phan.



The Rainbow Kids, a group of home schoolers who have been visiting The Village every Wednesday for several years, won the LeadingAge Ohio Intergenerational Volunteer Service award. It was presented at the statewide conference in Columbus in September.

Memorial Tributes

Gifts made June 26 - September 20, 2013

Rose Lafave Abare

Mariella C. Dunnan

B. Benny Andreoni

Bruce & Barbara Reiersen

Patricia A. Barkhurst

Marilynn Baker

Corinne D. Esau

Arlene W. Palenshus

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Lois K. Smith

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Bruce & Barbara Reiersen

Margery D. Burkhart

Julie Bardelang

Bill Clatworthy, III

Bruce & Barbara Reiersen

Earl G. "Red" Condit

Michael & Lynn Whetstone

Julia F. Condit

Michael & Lynn Whetstone

David Cook

Doris Cook

Dale Cook Curtis

Doris Cook

James "Jim" Davis

Corinne D. Esau

Arlene W. Palenshus

Pauline L. Reuwee

Larry & Marian Wenger

Ruth Deitch

Joey Gaskell

Donna Ewing

Dale & Josephine Bichsel

Corinne D. Esau

Jean L. Flahive

David & Rosalie Miller

Arlene W. Palenshus

Helen J. Reppart

Lois K. Smith

Marilyn J. Terry

Myra Weber

Phyllis M. Wood

Charles Gerhart

Rebecca L. Gerhart

Robert E. "Gene" Glendening

Lois K. Smith

Mary Dee Glossner

Kurt & Patricia Ringle

Merwin "Gene" Glossner

William & Vickie Brown

Computer Sciences Corp.

Corinne D. Esau

Rodney V. Hayden Family

David & Rosalie Miller

Parkview Christian Church

Helen J. Reppart

Kurt & Patricia Ringle

Ronald & Beth Roberts

C. Roger & Nancy Vagnier

Gene Glossner, cont.

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Pauline Flahive

Dale & Josephine Bichsel

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Jean L. Flahive

David & Rosalie Miller

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Myra Weber

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Kay Wentz Hamilton

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John & Margo Evans

Carole T. Galbraith

Pat & Rose Luongo

Wilfred & Frances Provost

Janet L. Stoufer

Worthington Christian

Schools

Audrey and Alberta Harris

Larry & Janet Harris

John T. Hayes

Karen S. Hayes

Maebelle Henry

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Robert & Hazel Miller, Jr.

Ernie Hickenbottom

Delores V. Lallathin

James E. Jackson

Mitchell & Dyana Welch

Frank A. Kender

Bruce & Barbara Reiersen

Lydia Landis

Linda A. Raber

Sophia McKay

April L. Jackson

Claudia J. Wells

Ruth Menger

Josephine M. Montgomery

Robert W. "Bob" Meyer

Julie Bardelang

Kaaren Courtney

Milton Morrison

Corinne D. Esau

Phyllis M. Wood

Marion B. Parnell

Dale & Josephine Bichsel

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Max Wildermuth

Jayne W. MacKay

*The photo background is
in memory of
Delaware Run resident
Gene Glendening*

*Gifts were made to
honor the following:*

Delaware Run Residents
Joy D. Lackey

Harry Humes Birthday
Corinne D. Esau

Willow Brook Christian Communities

Delaware, Ohio

Willow Brook Christian Village

100 Willow Brook Way South
Delaware, Ohio 43015
Phone: (740) 369-0048

- Independent twin-single homes & apartments
- Assisted living
- Memory care
- Skilled nursing
- Rehabilitation
- Adult day care
- The Courtyard Restaurant

Willow Brook at Delaware Run

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

- Independent twin-single homes & apartments
- Assisted living
- Memory care
- Corporate offices
- The Water's Edge Restaurant

Worthington, Ohio

Willow Brook Christian Home

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

- Skilled nursing
- Rehabilitation
- Assisted living
- The Grapevine Grill

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Teri Ryan, designer, writer & editor

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www.willow-brook.org



A Thousand Thanks

Florist Shirley Miller, of Moments to Remember, has been quietly but consistently brightening the birthdays of folks at Willow Brook Christian Home. She brings each person flowers from her shop. Some months it's violets, other times it may be a rose or a plant.

She has been celebrating the birthdays for more than fifteen years, bringing about a thousand birthday flowers so far. Her gifts bring smiles, nods, and words of thanks from the lucky recipients of her generosity.



Art & Writing Competition

Willow Brookers are Winners

So many talented people live at Willow Brook! They move into our communities with rich backgrounds in the arts, as both professionals and as gifted amateurs.

LeadingAge Ohio, the organization that represents Ohio's not-for-profit retirement communities and healthcare organizations, holds an annual contest to recognize the exceptional talents of the folks who live in communities like ours.

Each year, resident artists from across the state participate in regional art and writing competitions. Winners of the regional competitions go on to the Ohio state competition in September. As always, Willow Brook residents were well represented among the winners:

Gertrude Torry, 3rd place

Aran knit baby sweater
Wearable Art

Robert Johnson, 3rd place

Lamp table
Woodworking

Ann Hopkins, Honorable Mention

Log Cabin Glories
Large Quilted Works

Ann Hopkins, 2nd place

"Ooh, nice in Blue & Navy"
Small Quilted Works

Delaware Run Quilters, 1st place

Autumn leaves & stripes quilt
Cooperative Art



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A photograph of an elderly couple sitting on a bench in a park. The man is wearing a red jacket and the woman is wearing a dark jacket. They are surrounded by trees with green and yellow leaves, suggesting autumn. The path they are on is covered with fallen leaves.

"Grow old along with me! The best is yet to be . . ."
Robert Browning

Don and Melba Advent-Davis enjoy the wonders of autumn at a bench along the walking trail of Delaware Run.