



Welcome Home

by Larry Harris, CEO

Each time someone brings in a deposit for one of our homes or apartments, I accept it as a compliment of the highest order. Across the holidays and all winter long, they came in. In fact, December set a one-month record – and this was a season that normally is s-l-o-w. Most Decembers it wouldn't matter much if we took the phone off the hook, padlocked the sales office door, and spent the month at home decorating, cooking, and welcoming the kids back for an extended Christmas vacation.

A compliment, yes. Each check represents someone's decision to pull up roots and cast their lot with us. Sometimes that decision is obvious and easy. They walk in, take a look around, and pull out the checkbook. It's like Willow Brook is the retirement solution they have been imagining
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*The apartments under construction at Willow Brook's Delaware Run campus.
Note the Water's Edge Restaurant on the right, and the apartments on the bridge over the half-filled lake.*



Village residents Betsy and Bob Johnson enjoy Valentine's Day dinner with Lucille Reinhard

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for years. For others, the lead-up to the decision involves sleepless nights, long phone conversations with the kids on the coast, and much prayer and calculation.

It is no exaggeration when I tell you that at times I have been deeply moved when someone has walked through the door with a check in hand, for I know of the soul searching, the agonizing deliberation, and yes, even sometimes the tears that are wrought up in that slip of paper.

A compliment, for sure.

Each check is a proclamation of faith in Willow Brook. In this day of economic uncertainty, Willow Brook is seen as a solid investment. Our recent 2008 audit report is clean – as they always are – and our bank ratios are strong. Sound financial decisions are paying off for this ministry established so long ago to serve our old friends.

Their deposits are pushing the apartments at our Delaware Run community toward a pre-opening sellout. These apartments, along with the healthcare centers for that campus, are set to open this summer. The other day I put on my hard hat and walked through the entire 157,000 square-foot complex room by room. The building is

filled with the clean scents of new paint and wallpaper paste. Carpet is going down, cabinets are going up, sinks and basins are almost ready for water.

And the views from those apartment windows are to die for. Most include water and trees. Not one showcases a dumpster or receiving dock.

The three-story complex is built around (and over!) a lake. Some people literally will be living above the water. And an under-the-building parking garage will allow residents a safe, climate-controlled walk to the elevators for a fast whisk up to their respective floors.

As I wandered from apartment to apartment, a simple thought kept running through my head: "I could so easily live here."

Truth is, Janet and I probably will someday.

Over at our other Delaware campus, Willow Brook Christian Village, we have busied ourselves with the task of sprucing up some of the twin-single homes. Come take a walk-through. You'll find new carpets, countertops, light fixtures and wall paint, all in fresh new colors that will lift us out of the last century.

Among Ohio's retirement communities, our homes and apartments are bargains of the first order. Our prices are set always with an eye toward the resources of those who want to move here. I

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A gazebo in front of the Garden Apartments at Willow Brook Christian Village



PHOTO BY KEN PETERSON

Housing manager Becky Gerhart clowns around with Delaware Run residents at their weiner roast.

would have wanted my own mother to be able to afford this wonderful life on her widow's pension.

What's more, we do one thing most retirement communities don't do: We publish our prices on our website. I guess that must be something really bold, or dumb, because almost nobody does it. Check them out at www.willow-brook.org. I believe you will be pleasantly surprised. Oh, and I wish you could easily compare ours with theirs. But you can't. They won't let you. Not without a lot of legwork.

This January I marked my 34th anniversary with Willow Brook. I started out as a child of 25 when I was recruited to be administrator of Willow Brook Christian Home, our skilled nursing and assisted living facility in Columbus. Willow Brook and I have sort of grown up together. Through the years, I have served thousands of people at the three Willow Brooks, and I count it the highest honor to be leading this beautiful ministry.

My team and I are working hard to create communities that will serve deep into the future. Willow Brook is not-for-profit. Were it not for our mission of service, we would have no reason to exist. The profit that we earn (yes, we *do* earn a profit) is plowed back into the organization to create new ministries, strengthen those that already exist, or deepen our financial foundation. No one

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is taking dividends or profits from the operation, and that makes a huge difference you can notice.

If you are contemplating a move to one of the Willow Brooks, just know that I and my team stand ready to serve you. To those who already have brought in a check and now are standing in the growing queue at our front gate, I have but two words for you, both brimming with warmth and love, and delivered straight from my heart: Welcome home. ❤️

*You can email Larry at
lharris@willow-brook.org*

*Dave Edwards,
Village resident
and president
of the Delaware
Rose Society,
tends to our
rose and other
gardens on the
Willow Brook
Christian
Village campus.*



The footbridge at the Welcome Center near the entrance of Willow Brook at Delaware Run

To Honor and Remember

Memorial Contributions

through March 30, 2009

Richard F. Bauerle
Mary Jean Roach
Donna Belville
Robert & Judy Belville
Ronald & Joann Belville

Eugene Bianchi
Barbara Ekelberry
April L. Rausch

Joseph Biedel
Gayle Moe

Mary E. Bossert
Lois K. Smith

Carl M Brofft
Susan Cligrow
Vernon & Betsy Coriell
Roger & Merle Pickens

Marie Buchan
Donna J. Buchan

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Florence N. Bumpus
R. Leroy & Juanita Bumpus
Robert & Maxine Hamler

Margaret Burks
Betty Branham
Charlotte Gallant
Dave & Connie McNeal
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Larry & Marian Wenger
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Roger & Jane Sagar

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Beverly S. Russell

Wilda "Bid" Crosby
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Yvonne "Bonnie" L. Garner

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Clyde Wooley

Katherine K Hilborn

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Virginia Lowry

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Virginia Lowry, cont.

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Rebecca Sheets

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Bob Lyons

Geneva Connor

Dorothy "Dot" Lyons

Josephine M. Montgomery

Helen Martini

Eugene & Terry Martini

George & Lucretia Wellman

Jerry Martini

Eugene & Terry Martini

Helen R. Lunney May

Elizabeth Davis

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Jenks

C. C. & Betty Kraft

Helen May

Mary Jean Roach

Caroline N. Miller

Terry & Karen Irwin

Olivia M. Moses

Marcus W. Kissel

Our Mothers

Robert & Martha Slatzer

Sandra Mucci

Elvira Serra

My Family

Kathryn Hoskinson

Mabel Nixon

Robert & Patricia Borean

Louise A. Norman

Nancy Levanduski

Alex Pappas

Jean Pappas

Mary Jean Roach

Ruth B. Patrick

Dora L. Devers

Davie Esau

Charlotte Gallant

Jim & Shirley Jackson

David & Rosalie Miller

Arlene W. Palenshus

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Phyllis Wood

Gifts were made to honor:

Hazel B. Blose
Dennis & Sharon Blose

Mary Lou Calpin
Frederick & Susan Vierow

David L Chappell
Frederick & Susan Vierow

Cherith Residents of

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Elsie R. Clendenon

Nick & Trena Briscoe

Karen Crisafulli

Frederick & Susan Vierow

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Margaret R. Wylie
 Eugene & Terry Martini

Petersons Jefferson Awards Finalists



Genevieve Peterson



Ken Peterson

Genevieve and Kenneth Peterson, residents of Willow Brook at Delaware Run, were among 20 finalists for the 2009 Jefferson Awards in Central Ohio.

Community organizations and individuals nominate the candidates for these annual awards. They are nominated for setting and achieving the standard of selfless giving of one's time to the betterment of our community. The sponsoring organizations select 20 semi-finalists, and five winners are named. Each wins \$500. The top honoree competes in the national Jefferson Awards program in June in Washington, D.C.

The awards are sponsored by the *Columbus Dispatch*, WBNS-TV (Channel 10), the Nationwide on Your Side Volunteer Network and *ThisWeek* newspapers.

According to the *Dispatch*, "the Petersons have volunteered for 25 years with organizations including the American Red Cross, Habitat for Humanity, the Ohio Historical Society, International Visitors Council and International Neighborhood Coffee Hour. They also founded a card ministry to provide greeting cards to inmates, churches and community groups."

Willow Brook is fortunate to have the Petersons in our community, where they contribute so much to our residents as well.



Culinary services director John Lindeboom, an accomplished ice sculptor, hosted his second annual ice sculpting classes during the month of February. Vicky Boley, above, went with a Valentine's theme to create a "love-ly" ice sculpture. Ice sculpting is just one of the skills Chef John shares with culinary employees to keep them excited about their jobs and about working at Willow Brook.



PHOTO COURTESY OF OHIO WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

Delaware Run resident Bill McCartney was the host and master of ceremonies for Delaware's Martin Luther King breakfast, held at Ohio Wesleyan University in January.

Three Staffers Given Second Mile Honors

The golden hearts that beat within some individuals just seem to shine right through their clothes. They are the folks who you know you can count on to go the second mile for anyone, at any cost. We have more than our fair share of such employees at Willow Brook, and we know how fortunate we are. To honor them we present each year a "Second Mile Award" to a staff person from each campus who has gone that second mile. Winners are nominated by their peers and by the residents whom they serve.



Regina Macharia

Regina Macharia "grew with us" at Willow Brook Christian Home, beginning her service in housekeeping and then taking the initiative to become trained and certified as a nursing assistant. Always smiling, always helpful, her quiet nature has been the source of comfort to the people she cares for in assisted living.



Connie McNeal

Activities director Connie McNeal received dozens of nominations at Willow Brook Christian Village, all honoring her for her loving and compassionate manner, and noting that she visits residents in the hospital, shares her musical talents, and sometimes comes in the middle of the night to sit beside a dying patient and comfort the family.



Gayle Moe

This past year for the first time we included Delaware Run in the awards, and residents there resoundingly called for honoring wellness nurse Gayle Moe. "Gayle is always available," they said, "She is very professional and knowledgeable in her craft." Her commitment to keeping them in their homes was cited most.



Chaplaincy Program Formed

Chaplain Dick Riley

Willow Brook Christian Communities has developed a new chaplaincy program to more completely address the spiritual needs of residents and their families.

Under the leadership of Chaplain Dick Riley, the program is recruiting spiritual advisors for each of Willow Brook's three campuses to offer support, prayer, guidance and connection with the church communities requested by those in need. Dick is an elder at the Fishinger & Kenny Church of Christ in Columbus.

The chaplaincy program will complement ongoing services brought into our healthcare centers by area churches and will make spiritual support available 24 hours a day when needed.



Home resident Jane and her husband Jack Rager are collaborative artists – he's a carver and woodworker, she is a painter. He carved the giraffes above, and she painted them. Their work was among dozens of items on view at the Willow Brook Christian Home art show in February.



Moments of Silents

Residents of Willow Brook Christian Home have been going to the movies the old fashioned way this winter. Thanks to Tom Hamilton and the Central Ohio Theater Organ Society, we have been treated to the silent movies of Buster Keaton, Laurel and Hardy and more, all accompanied by Hamilton on the society's Allen organ. The organ is moved monthly by Davis Piano Moving as a gift to the society and the community.

Once a week for a month Hamilton came into The Home and led sing-alongs and musical trivia games before accompanying a movie.

Hamilton was the organist at the Ohio Theater in Columbus for seven years, and co-chaired the committee that helped save the theater from demolition a few decades ago.

He always brings a stack of music with him when he accompanies the movies, but each performance is unique. He can't stop to write down what he plays from one time to another, he says, "I just watch the movie and make up the music as I go along."



Theater organist Tom Hamilton, playing at Willow Brook Christian Home

The month of movies in the middle of winter was greatly appreciated by everyone at The Home, and the society is bringing the fascinating project to Willow Brook Christian Village this summer. Watch for information about how you can join the fun on a couple of silent movie nights in July.



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Willow Brook Christian Communities

The Willow Brook Campuses

Delaware, Ohio

Willow Brook Christian Village

100 Willow Brook Way South, Delaware, Ohio 43015
Phone: (740) 369-0048 Fax: (740) 369-7034

- 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
- Corporate offices

Willow Brook at Delaware Run

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

- Twin-single Homes
and under construction for occupancy summer of 2009:
- Apartments and other services
- Healthcare Center

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

www.willow-brook.org

Coming Up . . .

You are invited
to learn about how
retirement living
at Willow Brook
could be *the best financial move*
you ever make.

Come to a
Strawberry Rally
on **Thursday, May 21**
2:00 p.m.
Byxbe's Five Star
Banquet Center
next door to
Willow Brook at Delaware Run
on the west side of Delaware, Ohio
Enjoy Chef John's
world-famous strawberry shortcake

for reservations

Call 740-201-5640

or reserve online at www.willow-brook.org