

# Kisses for Mom

by Larry Harris, CEO

*Life is real! Life is earnest!  
And the grave is not its goal;  
Dust thou art, to dust returneth,  
Was not spoken of the soul.*

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow  
(1807-1882)

**M**y mother-in-law loved her grandkids, her cats, and Hershey Kisses. This winter Maude Prince left them all behind when she was called away by cancer from Willow Brook Christian Home, our skilled nursing facility in Columbus.

For the year prior, her strength had been on the wane, seeping steadily from her once-strong and robust body, as air escapes a punctured tire. Janet almost single-handedly propped her mother up in the home where she so fervently wanted to stay, phoning her four or five times a day and making the 12-mile trek there twice daily to see that she was getting meals and medicines.

As the end drew near, Maude rose gallantly to challenge her metaphorical enemy – her failing health – that was threatening to rout her from her house. She replied to each physical loss with an improvised defense. When she could no longer stoop to feed her two



Larry Harris, CEO  
email Larry at  
[lharris@willow-brook.org](mailto:lharris@willow-brook.org)

*continued on page 2*

continued from page 1

cats, she fashioned a chute from rolled newspaper to direct the Friskies pellets to their dish. Trips to the kitchen or bedroom were planned according to the placement of furniture and other supports she could grasp along the way.

Yet even as her aged body was folding in on itself, her intellect held firm. Right up to the end, she could recite the U.S. presidents – all 44 of them – and their dates in office.

At Christmastime, as the last ray of hope was dimming, we arranged her admittance to Willow Brook. There was no choice. Oh my goodness, I just don't know what we would have done without Willow Brook. As so many others have discovered, this precious place is a lifeboat in the stormy sea of old-age troubles. It was with wilting sadness that Janet and I delivered her mother into the loving hands of the good people working the halls of my dear Willow Brook.

A month later, when no fight remained in her, she slipped off quietly into a dark, wintry night.

You now can find Janet and me standing in the ranks of Willow Brook's grateful family members.

Maude Prince was the textbook perfect mother-in-law. She was a wonderfully gentle human being. To say that she wouldn't hurt a fly is literally true. She would capture them in her house and release them outdoors. In fact, I called her the Fly Whisperer, for she possessed an astonishing ability to coax a fly onto her pointer finger and carry it to fresh air and sunshine. I don't blame you for thinking that I am making this up, but Janet bears witness. We saw this with our own eyes. And

each time, her mother acted as if she had merely picked a bit of lint off her sleeve, instead of having just performed a miracle that left our mouths agape.

Janet and I now are sifting through her mother's life story. We are cleaning out her house, picking through yellowed letters and faded photos, sorting musty books, stained recipes, and Sunday school teaching materials.



Janet Prince Harris & her mother, Maude, 2008

Each item compels a decision – which to claim, which to discard, and which to carry off to the thrift store.

These life leftovers testify to Maude's love for her departed Gene, her family, and her God. We have collected 42 Bibles from her belongings. An obsession? Maybe. Probably. But it was a beautiful obsession. Old check registers are populated with entries for Maude and Gene's church and most every good work

that caught their attention. My in-laws gave away much of their modest treasure.

One week to the day following the funeral, I drove Janet to the cemetery for our first visit. As we entered the grounds, she sat with her hands folded over a bag of Hershey Kisses. We parked the car and walked in silence across the crunchy lawn, stepping around and over the grave markers of her mother's new neighbors, until we arrived at the mound of brick-colored clay that marked the plot where her mother lay.

We stood a minute with our arms around each other, staring at the faded flowers the undertaker had cast on the fresh dirt a week before. Then, with tears on her face, Janet dug into the bag of candy and sprinkled a handful of Kisses on her mother's grave.

We paused a moment more, then turned for the car as an exhausted winter sun was sinking deep into the western sky.

## Delaware Run Woodworker Builds things to Last

Dave Nelson is a craftsman. Formerly a lawyer and managing partner of a Chicago law firm, he has argued cases at the Supreme Court. Now he argues for reconfiguration of the exercise room to benefit the residents who want to watch television while retaining their health.

His greatest pleasures these days are derived from his family, his hobbies, and his volunteer activities.

It's a pretty good life!

Dave has notebooks filled with photos of his woodworking projects. In the pictures you see his fondness for his *alma maters*, Northwestern and the University of Michigan.

You also get a hint of the precise nature of this man of generous spirit. Of course, you see that in his workshop, too. Three rooms, covering his entire basement, are devoted to the various stages of woodworking, and nary a single speck of sawdust can be seen.

His generous spirit comes out when one learns the only reason he agreed to an interview and story was to promote his favorite charity, the former MAP program, now called the Furniture Bank of Central Ohio.

He made a commitment some months back to build three chests of drawers for the organization that is dedicated to providing furniture for folks who cannot afford to buy it for themselves.

Dave's meticulous craftsmanship will not allow him to create anything second-rate. He traveled to Amish Country, to the little town of Charm, to buy his wood, and uses German euroslide tracks to make drawers glide smoothly out of the cabinetry.



Dave and Diane Nelson admire the first of three chests of drawers he is making for the Furniture Bank of Central Ohio. The Nelsons live in a twin-single home at Willow Brook at Delaware Run.

These chests will live for a hundred years, and they will be a tribute to the man who is so generous with his time, his treasure, and with his painstaking exactitude.



Mercy Obenwaah, from Ghana in west Africa, and Grace Mwathi, from Kenya, on the eastern end of that huge continent, are just two immigrant staff members from the four corners of the earth who have made Willow Brook their professional home in the United States. Both are nursing students at Willow Brook Christian Home. Watch for some profiles in an upcoming issue of Reflections.



# To Honor and Remember

## Memorial Contributions

through March 21, 2010

**Robert Allman**  
Uleta M. Allman

**Eugene Bianchi**  
Barbara J. Ekelberry  
April L. Rausch

**Joseph Biedel**  
Gayle A. Moe

**William R. Bilbo**  
Lois K. Smith  
Village Residents  
Advisory Council

**Hazel B. Blöse**  
Dennis & Sharon Blöse  
Kurt & Patricia Ringle

**Harriet M. Bracken**  
Ruth H. Bauerle  
Corinne D. Esau  
Jim & Shirley Jackson  
Arlene W. Palenshus  
Mary V. Reed  
Mary Jean Roach  
Lois K. Smith  
Village Residents  
Advisory Council

**Edna Brown**  
James & Nancy Gibbons

**Marie Buchan**  
Donna J. Buchan

**Florence N. Bumpus**  
Robert & Maxine Hamler

**Margaret Burks**  
Betty J. Branham  
Dave & Connie McNeal

**William R. Burns**  
Beryl & Marie McMasters

**Ken Campbell**  
Don & Yvonne Campbell

**Sara Paullin Casto**  
Anonymous  
Dale & Josephine Bichsel  
Corinne D. Esau  
Jean L. Flahive  
Arlene W. Palenshus  
Phyllis M. Wood

**Joseph Caudy**  
Roger & Jane Sagar

**Margaret Caudy**  
Roger & Jane Sagar

**Patrick Chew, Jr.**  
Mona R. King

**Blossom J. Childs**  
Paul & Lynn Zizzo

**Elsie R. Clendenon**  
Norman & Barbara Shivener

**Bernice L. Conrad**  
Alfred & Dianne Slivinski

**Tom D. Conrad**  
Alfred & Dianne Slivinski

**Rose P. Coville**  
Lavetta M. Bryant  
April L. Rausch  
Beverly S. Russell

**Ruth L. Dennis**  
Lavetta M. Bryant

**Irene Dzatko**  
Claudia J. Wells

**Sara Ann Evans**  
Kathryn Brod  
Paulette Luneborg  
John & Frances Savard

**Ed Flahive**  
Jean L. Flahive

**Joan Fletcher**  
Karen Fletcher

**Lawrence Fletcher**  
Karen Fletcher

**John Florance**  
Dorothy F. Florance

**Margaret J. Forsythe**  
Marla M. Campbell  
Steven & Janet Garlock  
Grady Memorial Hospital  
Ruth W. Johnson  
Patricia K. Koons  
Nancy Levanduski  
Corinne Lyman  
Robert & Carolyn McQuattie  
Joseph & Louise Musser  
Mary Jean Roach  
John & Arlyss Tombarge  
Robert & Ethel Zimmer

**Yvonne "Bonnie" L. Garner**  
Harvey L. Garner  
Gary & Susan Sommerville

**Dorothy Gerber**  
Richard & Patti Marrah

**Helen Gerhardt**  
Johnny & Mari Anne  
Schwamberger

**Delmas Gibbons**  
James & Nancy Gibbons

**Thelma Gibbons**  
James & Nancy Gibbons

**Loretta Glowacki**  
Ronald Wilcox & Mary Wilcox

**Lela J. Goodpaster**  
Mary Jean Roach  
Tiffany C. Wilson

**Edgar T. Grover**  
John & Jeanette Carey  
Dean & Nancy Eucker  
James & Susan Mild

**Anne D. Hall**  
Mary Jean Roach

**Audrey & Alberta Harris**  
Larry & Janet Harris

**John T. Hayes**  
Ronald & Alice Dye  
Karen S. Hayes

**James D. Heinold**  
Susan Sturgill

**Betty Hill Henry**  
Elmer & Eileen LaRue

**Robert Herold**  
Ruth H. Bauerle

**Ruth M. Herold**  
Ruth H. Bauerle  
Corinne D. Esau  
David Fielder  
& Sarah Wright  
Jim & Shirley Jackson  
David & Rosalie Miller  
Arlene W. Palenshus  
Mary V. Reed  
Helen J. Reppart  
Mary Jean Roach  
Lois K. Smith  
Village Residents  
Advisory Council  
Duane & Diane Yothers

**Ruth L. Hickok**  
Dave & Connie McNeal  
Mary Jean Roach

**Roberta "Bobbie" Hutchison**  
Nancy R. Hutchison

**James E. Jackson**  
Mitchell & Dyana Welch

**Doris Jessie**  
Brian & Sandy Arnold  
April L. Rausch

**Vivian C. Jones**  
Paul & Lynn Zizzo

**Donald Kelch**  
Darlene M. Kelch

**George Kelch**  
Darlene M. Kelch

**Irene Kelch**  
Darlene M. Kelch

**Roger Kelch**  
Darlene M. Kelch

**Evelyn Kerr**  
Martha K. Sprout

**Paul E. Landefeld**  
Geneva Landefeld

**Clara Mary Langford**  
Paul & Lynn Zizzo

**Joseph Lauria**  
Claudia J. Wells

**David Lavender**  
Lloyd Ben & Jane O'Neal

**Sandy Lowden**  
Dennis & Melanie Day

**Lydia P. Lozano**  
Edward & Kristine Bozymski  
James & Joann Claggett  
James & Norma Claggett  
Duffey, Stults, &  
Walker Families  
Frank & Jeanine Frastaci  
Elizabeth A. Johnson  
Deborah A. Kersman  
Maria R. Lozano  
David & Katherine Pietras  
James & Linda Posani  
Mary Jean Roach  
Village Residents  
Advisory Council

**Helen Martini**  
Eugene & Terry Martini

**Jerry Martini**  
Eugene & Terry Martini

**Margaret E. Maxey**  
Joe Evans & Frances Veverka  
Mary Jean Roach

**Bernice Miller**  
Claudia J. Wells

**Betty (Underwood) Miller**  
Cardinal AEP Plant  
Janis Eureka  
Friends & Neighbors  
Ernest & Sally Hickenbottom  
Delores Lallathin  
Clara Main  
John & Sandy Marshall  
Billy Miller  
Howard & Xlee Miller  
John & Cathy Miller  
Richard & Deborah Respole  
Joseph & Hazel Sheba & Family  
Bruce & Peggy Steele

**Betty (Underwood) Miller, cont.**  
Lois X. Steele  
Naomi Taylor & Samra Mazzulli  
John & Mary Wodarcyk

**Mary E. Miller**  
Billy Miller

**Mary E. "Betty" Money**  
Gary & Karen Deighton  
Corinne D. Esau  
Farmers National Company  
Charlotte A. Gallant  
Arlene W. Palenshus  
Helen J. Reppart  
Lois K. Smith  
Village Residents Advisory Council  
Daniel & Leslie Yaussy

**Jane Moore**  
Sam J. Morris

**Sandra Mucci**  
Elvira Serra

**David Myers, Sr.**  
Geneva B. Connor  
Thomas & Carolyn Myers

**Helen Nickeson**  
Donald & Janet Cooper

**Joann Noel**  
Amvets Auxiliary Post 89  
Diane Lewis  
Jayne W. MacKay  
Eugene & Terry Martini  
Mary Jean Roach  
Roger & Jane Sagar  
Lois K. Smith

**Rose A. O'Hora**  
Mary Jean Roach

**Harold "Jerry" Patrick**  
Mary Jean Roach

**Michael Petrucci**  
Joyce P. Gove

**Mary Pilgrim**  
Stephen & Joyce Evanko

**Emma "Maude" Prince**  
Philip and Connie Barth  
R. Leroy & Juanita Bumpus  
Glen & Carol Burkhart  
Dan & Elizabeth Conant  
Corinne D. Esau  
Roy & Waneta Estep

**Emma "Maude" Prince, cont**  
Jean L. Flahive  
Donna J. French  
Charles & Rebecca Gerhart  
Benjamin Harris &  
Christina Barry  
Everett & Ernestine Haycock  
Charles & Grace Lang  
Esther Leggett  
Jayne W. MacKay  
Eugene & Terry Martini  
Herman and Karen McHan  
Beryl & Marie McMasters  
David & Rosalie Miller  
Corinna Owens  
Helen J. Reppart  
Roy & Eunice Rogers  
Frank & Nancy Rynearson  
Roger & Jane Sagar  
Arthur & Billie Thorne  
Michael & Susan Wade  
George & Lucretia Wellman  
Robert & Ethel Zimmer

**Gene and Maude Prince**  
Larry & Janet Harris  
Clara B. Justice

**Rosemary Rice**  
Anna M. Smith

**John Richards**  
Rachel Thomas

**Mary Helen Richards**  
Rachel Thomas

**Lavon M. Russell**  
Robert & Carolyn McQuattie

**Terence J. Ryan**  
Mark & Teresa Ryan

**Bernice Shivener**  
Norman & Barbara Shivener

**Clyde F. Smith**  
Lois K. Smith  
Village Residents  
Advisory Council

**Veronica Smith**  
Uleta M. Allman

**Elizabeth "Nadine" Spindler**  
Mary Jean Roach

**Cloyd Stauffer**  
Ron & Susan Stauffer

**Gladys Stauffer**  
Ron & Susan Stauffer

**Dollie Stine**  
John & Gladys Neff

**Helen V. Strickland**  
Robert & Patricia Howard  
Charles & Mary Strickland

**Lorraine Thomas**  
Richard & Carol Thomas

**Ona Thompson**  
Pansy R. Gordon

**Rose Toth**  
John & Joanne Toth

**Tillie Tuttle**  
Mary Jean Roach

**Sharon Underwood**  
Billy Miller

**Pauline M. Way**  
Betty J. Branham  
Mary Jean Roach

**Randy LaRue Weller**  
Elmer & Eileen LaRue

**Max Wildermuth**  
Jayne W. MacKay

**Doris Wilson**  
Uleta M. Allman

**Farrow J. Wylie**  
Eugene & Terry Martini

**Margaret R. Wylie**  
Eugene & Terry Martini

### Other Gifts Honored:

**Margaret Brigner**  
Anna M. Smith

**Jean Flahive**  
Kay E. Musgrave

**Kelly S. Frentos**  
Mary Jean Roach

**Rose Froelich**  
Gayle A. Moe

**Charlotte A. Gallant**  
Kay E. Musgrave

**Neil Gouhin**  
Cynthia J. Crecelius

**John Lindeboom & staff**  
Mary Jean Roach

**Clara Main**  
Delores Lallathin

**Margaret A. McCreary**  
David McCreary

**Connie McNeal**  
Mary Jean Roach

**Jean D. Pappas**  
Robert & Barbara Pappas

**Heidi Reed**  
Mary Jean Roach

**Carol A. Short**  
Brenda J. Klein

**Phyllis A. Slone**  
Charles & Phyllis Slone

**Jennie Carpenter Stephens**  
Carroll & Bonnie Bogue

**Lois M. Ward**  
Lindsey R. Robinson

**Willow Brook Christian Village**  
Staff Caring for Margaret Forsythe  
Mary Jean Roach

**Willow Brook Residents**  
Brigitte S. Chase





Lindsey Robinson enjoys a gentle moment with one of "her" residents.

## Tuition Assistance Program Benefits All

Lindsey Robinson is a nursing assistant at Willow Brook Christian Home and a beneficiary of the donor-funded tuition assistance program. She has a special fondness for older folks, and they love her, too.

"I like knowing that I am making a difference in a person's life," she says. "Sometimes you can sense a loneliness, and I like being there for that person. I love to see a smile light up her face when I come into the room."

The tuition reimbursement program at Willow Brook makes it possible for Lindsay to support herself on her STNA salary and still take the classes that will bring her a bachelor's degree in nursing next spring.

The program helps staff members working at Willow Brook to pursue their goals. Last year seven employees took advantage of the opportunity. Most are working to become nurses, but others received certification in food service, dietary management, and activities.

The reimbursement comes only when the initial sacrifice has already been made and evidence of successful completion of the course has been provided. The reimbursement funds then can pay for the next quarter or semester.

Everyone benefits. Our residents enjoy committed and loving caregivers who want to make a difference. Willow Brook gets better-qualified employees, lower turnover, and higher morale. And residents appreciate the ministrations of caregivers who love their work so much that they want to learn how to do it even better and how to give even more.

To learn more about the program call Dyana Welch in the Willow Brook development office at 740-201-5688.



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

[www.willow-brook.org](http://www.willow-brook.org)

Delaware, Ohio

### Willow Brook Christian Village

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

- Twin-single 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

- 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

- 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*

## Chopin, Calkins & Detlor Receive Second Mile Awards



Lee Chopin  
Personal Care Attendant  
Willow Brook Christian Village

Lee Chopin understands what makes "her" residents tick, said one person who nominated her. She understands their likes and dislikes, their fears, and their triumphs.

Another stated "She would do anything to help the residents."

And a third said "Lee delivers compassionate care with patience day in and day out. She 'pampers' each and every resident."

"She works very hard, she has a big heart, and our residents love her," said yet another.



Carol Calkins  
Village Manager  
Willow Brook at Delaware Run

"She is all things to all people," said one resident about Carol Calkins. "Whatever you need to know, whatever help you need, she is there for you. Her energy is endless. We are so glad she is part of our family."

Another said "Carol goes the whole nine yards—she is always there when we need her."

"She is wonderful about solving any problem. She is super about finding the solution to any problem and gets back to us with it," added a third from her many nominations.



Lora Detlor  
Activities Director  
Willow Brook Christian Home

Home Executive Director David Chappell says of Lora Detlor: "Lora is a real giver. She ensures the happiness of our residents by taking them out on frequent bus trips, creating fundraising projects, and advocating for them each and every day."



Lee Chopin, Carol Calkins, and Lora Detlor were surprised at the staff Christmas party in December by being named recipients of the coveted Second Mile Awards for their campuses.

The Second Mile Awards are presented for extraordinary service to the residents. A committee of previous winners and the CEO meets to decide who on each campus most completely exemplifies the spirit of the award. It's a tough job, but a rewarding one. The surprise, the tears, and the standing ovation of their peers make it all the more meaningful to the recipients and to the staff members who hope that someday they too will receive the honor.





# Reflections

Nonprofit  
organization  
US postage  
PAID  
permit #102  
Delaware, Ohio

## Reflections

is published quarterly by:  
Willow Brook Christian Communities  
Editor: Teri Ryan

Send change of address to:  
100 Delaware Crossing W.  
Delaware, Ohio 43015

Address service requested

*If you wish to receive your  
newsletter electronically, or  
to remove your name from  
the Reflections mailing list,  
please call 740-201-5688.*

# What Housing Slump?

by Teri Ryan, Director of Community Relations

You've been hearing a lot lately about the slump in the housing market, and despite our headline above, we know it's true. For many, times have never been tougher.

It makes us feel blessed, because this past December, for the second year in a row, we beat all "sales" records at Willow Brook. Not only that, the people who have decided to make Willow Brook their retirement home have been selling their homes as well!

Somebody must be watching out for us.

As this newsletter goes to press our newest community, Willow Brook at Delaware Run, has only three openings left – two apartments and one twin-single home. In addition, advance sales of "G Wing," the wing that will finish out our Village Square apartments, are going great guns. In fact, they're going so well that we have asked our architect to submit the drawings that will allow us to begin construction on that

last wing of the apartments *this year*.

Yes, we have been truly blessed.

If you're one of those procrastinators who has said "I'm not ready yet," then we have a question for you: What does "ready" look like?

Are you ready to meet the neighbors who will be your friends for the rest of your life?

Are you ready to allow someone else the pleasure of shoveling snow, raking leaves, and weeding flower beds?

Are you ready to pursue your interests in a community of like-minded folks while you're healthy enough to enjoy them?

There's no time like the present, while we are pre-selling those final "G-wing" apartments, to get the floor plan and wood finishes you prefer. Those choices will soon be gone. You'll be glad you decided you are ready now. As one happy neighbor told me this morning, "I got what I came for."