Willow Brook Christian Village apartment residents Phyllis Wood and Boots
We're living in an age of miracles. Oh believe it. I submit as evidence our newest community, Willow Brook at Delaware Run. This is the retirement village that never should have come to be, for it was hatched smack in the middle of the worst economic debacle since the 1930s. Yet in an era when other retirement communities are in retreat – declining occupancies, shrunken cash reserves, anemic bank ratios – our Delaware Run is brimming full and faring well.

So, too, is our original community three miles away, Willow Brook Christian Village. If you’re keeping count, that’s two retirement communities in charming little Delaware, Ohio. There’s your first tipoff that something curious is afoot with Willow Brook. Who ever heard of a pair of full-service retirement communities in a town of 35,000? And both cranking on all cylinders in the junkyard of the Great Recession. That’s crazy. 35,000? And both cranking on all cylinders in the economic debacle since the 1930s. Yet in an era when other retirement communities are in retreat, our Delaware Run is brimming full and faring well.

W

illow Brook Christian Village opened 21 years ago. It proved successful beyond our most optimistic dreams. In the early 2000s, the waiting list for our homes and apartments stretched to seven years – a wonderfully disheartening affirmation. Some on the list correctly calculated that they might never move in, so they urged us to build more.

All thirty acres of The Village had been built out and there was no adjacent land, so we started trolling for another site. We snagged fifty acres on Delaware’s west side and sent forth the word: “If you will get behind us with deposits, we’ll get on with it.”

People came running with checks in hand. It was close to a stampede and a true wonder to behold. With that mandate, we set about the joyful business of building Delaware Run.

We opened our 52 twin-single homes in 2006 just as the housing market began to melt. Almost overnight, depositors found they were facing a 25 percent haircut on the sale prices of their homes. Many started pulling back. As a result, our twins were slow to sell.

But the train was in motion, so we sounded the horn and plunged ahead.

At Thanksgiving 2007, we broke ground for the community’s centerpiece, the Village Square. This sprawling $28-million project would house apartments, the healthcare center, a campus restaurant, and the activities hub. Then midway through construction in September 2008, the economy collapsed around our ankles with a deafening crash. Panic would have been a reasonable response.

But the train was in motion, so we sounded the horn and plunged ahead.

As the nation struggled to its feet and started dusting itself off, our friends were coming to realize that Willow Brook was a happy exception in the financial mess around them. And when they looked in the mirror, they took note of the fact that they weren’t getting any younger. Even with their homes devalued, they needed the structure and security Willow Brook could offer in their later years.

Our last apartment sold just as we finished construction in the fall of 2009.

T
day Delaware Run is teeming with life and good health. So is our Village, and so is our Columbus nursing center and assisted living facility. When we started building Delaware Run in 2005, if we could have forecast the economic train wreck waiting around the bend, we never would have turned that first spade of dirt. So I am mighty glad we didn’t have a crystal ball. Just look at how it all has turned out.

We’re living in an age of miracles.

An Age of Miracles
by Larry Harris, CEO

Somewhere over the rainbow, skies are blue
And the dreams that you dare to dream
Really do come true
E.Y. Harburg
1896-1981

People who live at Willow Brook may be retired, but they are far from retiring. In addition to the “intramural” billiards competition at right, here are a few of the other activities in which residents are involved:

- Monthly Music on the Mezzanine concerts at Delaware Run are attended by both residents and the community.
- An ice cream social and viola/piano recital by Tonya and Ken Matsuda will be held on April 4 in the Terrace Room at Willow Brook Christian Village.
- The Delaware Community Chorus will perform at The Village on May 16th.
- Weekly painting classes in many media are offered.
- Spring and Summer weather will bring bocce ball tournaments and remote-control boat races on the ponds of Willow Brook.
- Village resident Janet Yoder is a leading force behind the Great Decisions lecture and discussion series in Delaware.
- Another Village resident was recently honored by having the Londontown Apartments community center re-named the Constance Whitaker Community Center.

League of Women’s Voters Hosts Symposium at Delaware Run

In February the Delaware County League of Women’s Voters sponsored a panel discussion at Delaware Run on the subject of campaign finance. The event was open to the Delaware/Columbus community and featured speakers Jennifer Bruner, former Ohio Secretary of State (pictured); Catherine Turcer with Ohio Citizen Action; and Dennis Stapleton, Delaware County Commissioner (pictured). Jo Ingles of Ohio Public Radio moderated.

They’re Hoppin’!

Cross-town rivalries at Willow Brook’s two Delaware retirement communities have kept folks from both villages running up the roads on their four-mile trip to unseat one another in eight-ball competitions this winter. Spectators line the billiard rooms for the round-robin, single-elimination games. While neither campus is the distinct winner, you can see from the photo above that Willow Brook Christian Village resident Jim Jackson is intent on sinking his shot.
Gifts were made to honor:
Margaret A. Brigner
Anna M. Smith
Rose Froelich
Gayle A. Moe
Mary Jane Goelz
Don & Sally Evans
Bill & Sue Lauderman
Don & Sally Evans
Thomas & Joan MacLaughlin
Alan Johnston & Heather MacLaughlin
Clarence Delores V. Laffalith
Lynda H. Myers
Thomas & Carolyn Myers
Don & Sally Evans
Don & Sally Evans
Gerr & Brooke Ann Martin
Eddie & Alma Talmage
Arthur R. Talmage
Lois M. Ward
Eric A. Radcliff
Lindsey R. Robinson
John & Sandy Wilson
Charles & Mary Strickland

Woodrow Buchanan
Mary L. Waugh
Florence N. Bumpus
Robert & Maxine Hamler
Kenneth Campbell
Don & Yvonne Campbell
Robert L. Carlton
David & Patricia Baer
Glen & Sharon Carlton
Lisa Nicole Carlton
David & Mary Howell, Sr.
Donald P. "Dan" Corant
Ridgely & Christine Corant
Anson S. Kroeter
Donald Conklin
Andrew & Lisa Moffatt
Lillian Conklin
Andrew & Lisa Moffatt
Charles R. Cooper
Gary & Mary Cooper
Rose P. Coville
Lavetta M. Bryant
Evelyn M. Culter
Willford Culter
Esther Daniels
Carl & Avalene Daniels
Dianne Hershman
Harvey & Charlotte Horsley
Roy & Eunice Rogers
Alonzo & Elsie Williams
Lovell & Erma Williams
Josephine Delgappe
Robert & Susan Byers
eCU Staff of OhioHealth
James & Martha Owens
Charlene S. Powell
Ruth L. Denns
Lavetta M. Bryant
Robert "Deal" Dragehaus
Paul & Lynda Mulline
Frank & Lou Ann Roell
Arline Earick
Penry & Mathiew Schrowm
Spring Road Church of Christ
Claudia J. Wells

John Edwards
Robert & Bette Meyer
Arlene W. Palenshus
Lois K. Smith
Robert & Ethel Zimmer
Joan Fletcher
Karen Fletcher
Lawrence Fletcher
Karen Fletcher
Anna Fralich
Clifford A. Fralich
Loretta Glawacki
Ron & Mary Wilcox
Mary Laurene Godsmith
Bruce & Barbara Reiersen
Elise Goodman
Leslye Goodman
Lea J. Goodpasture
Tiffany C. Wilson
Leah Mae Green
Billy Miller
Dorothea Hamilton
Rachel McMullen
Eveline Hamilton
Rachel McMullen
Audrey & Alberta Harris
Larry & Janet Harris
Marie Harvey
Warner Harvey
John T. Hayes
Karen S. Hayes
Ruth L. Hickox
David & Connie McNeal
Martha Christine Hill
Eanita A. Albright
Robert & Lois Jones
William L. Hoffman
Tiffany C. Wilson
Robert B. "Bob" Kaisser
Delaware Run
Residents’ Council
Nancy L. Hutchison
James E. Jackson
Norma V. Jackson
Mitchell & Dyana Welch

Doris Jessie
Brian & Sandy Arnold
Mary A. Jordan
Mary P. Jordan
Mary P. Jordan
Mary W. Jordan
Robert E. "Bob" Kaiser
Bruce & Barbara Reiersen
Donald Kelch
Darlene M. Kelch
George Kelch
Darlene M. Kelch
Irene Kelch
Darlene M. Kelch
Roger Kelch
Darlene M. Kelch
Edna Kdder
Linda Carpenter
Jean W. Kohan
Andrew J. Kohan
Paul E. Landesfeld
Geneva Landesfeld
Marie Langford
Buckeye Theater & Implement
Johnny & Marlene Yarhurse
Sandra Lowend
Dennis & Melanie Day
Donald Ludolph
Donald Ludolph
Mary Laurene Godsmith
Bruce & Barbara Reiersen
Elise Goodman
Leslye Goodman
Lea J. Goodpasture
Tiffany C. Wilson
Leah Mae Green
Billy Miller
Dorothea Hamilton
Rachel McMullen
Eveline Hamilton
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Audrey & Alberta Harris
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Norma V. Jackson
Mitchell & Dyana Welch

Kathryn Palmer
Catherine G. Palmer
Robert M. Palmer
Bruce & Barbara Reiersen
My Parents
Irene C. Blaszkowiak
Michael Petrich
Joyce P. Gove
Martha G. Petrucci
Emma "Maude" Price
Benjamin Harris & Christina Barry
Gene & Maude Prince
Larry & Janet Harris
Louise Roebuck
Michelle P. Washington
Elizabeth Rumbold
Beth White
Maudie May Runyon
Phyllis Hardy & Audry Hardy
Terence J. Ryan
Mark & Teresa Ryan
John G. Sauer
Irene Anderson
Greg Crow
Gary & Cheryl Fowler
Gordon & Frances Hauser
Charles & Martha Hoying
Phillip & Phyllis Knell & Family
Joseph & Shirley Koury
John & Linda Lloyd
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Lloyd
Kacy Meade
Mrs. & Mr. Paul Meldahl
Orchards at Big Bear Farms
Condominium Association
James & Darlene Sanden
Audrey Testlow
Sue Vollmer
John B. Schweinberger
Richard & Dorothy Baudendistel
Olin T. Seely
Arthur & Jennifer Block
Paul & Camille Schroeder
William H. Seely
Robert S. Shaw
Kieren E. Wilson
Rebecca A. Sheets
Dale & Josephine Bichsel
Richard & Dorothy Dawson
Jean L. Flahive
Donna J. French
Charline A. Gallant
Janet H. Hickman
Harry & Mary Jo Humes
Chris & Penny Hersh
Robert & Bette Meyer
David & Rosalie Miller

Rebecca A. Sheets, continued
Arlene W. Palenshus
Gary & Carolyn Skinner
Lois K. Smith
Marily J. Terry
Johnny & Marlene Yarhurse
Robert & Petrik Zimmer
Veronica Smith
Uleta M. Allman
Cloyd Staufer
Ron & Susan Staufer
Gladys Staufer
Ron & Susan Staufer
Dollie Stine
John & Gladys Neff
Herb Stigle
Robert W. Stigle
Grover & Elijah Strouse
Judith H. Hagner
Loree C. Thompson
Loorita T. Myles
Ona Thompson
Pansy R. Gordon
Rose Tolt
John & Joanne Toth
John Traudman
Josephine M. Montgomery
Michael & Elizabeth Traudman
Mollie M. Traudman
Michael & Elizabeth Traudman
William T. Trusly
Brenda S. Ritchie
Virgina M. Walker
Arlene W. Palenshus
Helen J. Reppart
Harold H. West
Charles & Janet Feeny
Richard & Letha Foster
Andrew & Megan Herha
Greg & Wendy Lucow
Todd & Reita Moffit
Gordon & Barbara Rood
Max Wildeketh
Jayne W. MacKay
Hal Willis
Anne R. Willis
Laurerne W. Wilson
Uleta M. Allman
Bill Wissing
Billy Miller
John Wood
Marily J. Terry
Clarence Young
Thomas & Rena Brown
Gayle A. Moe
Ralph Bryant
Mary Bryant
Marie Buchan
Donna J. Buchan

To Honor and Remember
Memorial Contributions
through February 16, 2011
The Mother's Day card you send this year can have special meaning for another mom (or dad) who could really use your help.

Medicaid funds that enable Willow Brook to continue caring for folks even after their personal resources have been depleted are in jeopardy. We’ve never turned someone out because they were unable to pay, and we hope never to be in that situation. Here’s an opportunity to support our efforts while doing something you’d planned on doing anyway. Make a gift to Willow Brook in honor or memory of a mother and we’ll send a Mother’s Day card to a special mom in your life. It will be beautiful and of high quality, with the sentiments expressed on the left. You tell us who it goes to and how you want the card to be signed, and we’ll take care of the rest. Your gift will then be directed toward providing care to people whose personal funds have run out.

Go to our web site at www.willow-brook.org or call the Willow Brook development office at 740-201-5688 to request an order form.

Mother’s Day Cards
Help Other Moms

“You have always been a wonderful mom, the role model everyone could follow. Your warmth, your generosity of spirit, and your willingness to wrap your arms around and pull close to you a person who really needs your love have set the standard for me. That’s why on this Mother’s Day I have made a gift in your honor. It will support Willow Brook Christian Communities as they care for mothers who can no longer care for themselves. You’re a great role model, and I thank you. Willow Brook thanks you, too.”

Chaplain Glenn’s Insights

Willow Brook’s new chaplain, Glenn Carlton, Ph.D., is uniquely qualified for his position. First, he is a practicing psychologist, bringing professional credentials. Second, he approaches his job of ministering to residents and families from the perspective of a son. His mother, Frances, is, and his late father, Robert, was, a resident of the assisted living center at Willow Brook Christian Home in Worthington.

“Observing the compassionate care that my parents have received is to see Christ’s love in action,” says Chaplain Glenn. “This recognition has profoundly impacted my interactions with others. I continually seek, through my words and actions, to make God’s love more visible to other residents, family members and staff.”

Dr. Glenn is a member of the Alum Creek Church of Christ.

Madelyn Turner named Culinary Services Director at Willow Brook Christian Home

Known across Willow Brook’s three communities as the dessert artist, Madelyn Turner has been named director of culinary services at Willow Brook Christian Home. Madelyn has for several years provided the pastries, candies, and other desserts served on special occasions and sold in the Gathering Place, the conversation nook at Willow Brook Christian Village. Her calm assurance and the respect afforded her by the entire staff made her the logical choice to head The Home’s culinary operations when former director Mary Lou Calpin moved to the corporate dietitian position.

Our Apologies

In the Christmas 2010 Reflections, Delaware Run resident Tom MacLaughlin wrote a lovely essay entitled “The Fifth Stocking.” We rewarded him by leaving the “a” out of his “Mac” in the print edition. We’re sorry, Tom!

Three Receive Second Mile Award

Matthew 5:41 admonishes us to go above and beyond what is expected of us. “Going the second mile” is the standard at Willow Brook, and every December the residents, families and staff of Willow Brook nominate a staffer from each campus to receive the coveted Second Mile Award. At the staff Christmas party, amid cheers, applause, and tears, Linda Raber, Randy Southwick, and Theresa Ageypong were honored for their selfless and cheerful habits of always exceeding expectations and going that second mile. We are proud of them, and touched by the words of praise used by those who nominated them for this award.

Says CEO Larry Harris of the three, “My favorite part of our Christmas parties is always the announcement of the Second Mile Award recipients. My hat goes off to Theresa, Randy, and Linda. What a special moment! Those at the party couldn’t see their tears as I could up on the stage as they came up to claim their plaques. I will never forget.”

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Cherith Care Center Receives Five-Star Rating

Willow Brook Christian Village’s Cherith skilled nursing and rehabilitation center recently received a Five Star Rating from the Center for Medicare Services (CMS) in Washington, DC, signifying that Cherith’s care is “much above average quality.”

“The sniff factor and a hundred other elements go into what makes a great program,” says board president Frank Chappell. “We are proud of Cherith for achieving the Five-Star Rating, and of Willow Brook Christian Home’s four stars. They remind us that vigilence is required every single day to maintain the quality of service and the quality of life that we expect to surround the people in our care.”