



REFLECTIONS

SPRING 2013
VOLUME 35 NUMBER 1



*Doras lives in the Centrum assisted living center
at Willow Brook Christian Village*

When I signed on to lead this great ministry 38 years back, I began writing a column for the newsletter. In those days our printed publication was nothing like the one you are holding now. Think mimeographed church bulletin. No color, no photos, no coated paper.

Humble as it was, it served the same purpose as *Reflections* today – it proclaimed Willow Brook to a world beyond our walls.

From the start, I pledged to make each of my essays something more than a 600-word snoozer. [“Things are good at Willow Brook (yawn). Yes sir, things are great, so everybody come and see us real soon (snore).”]

About half my pieces have nothing to do with Willow Brook. I have told you about a little lost mouse that wintered with Janet and me in our family room, and an old sycamore that fell into the river while desperately clinging to life, and a handful of Hershey Kisses that Janet tossed on her mother’s grave.

Even when I write an essay that relates directly to Willow Brook, I strive to tuck it into a warm bed of tender sentiment so you can feel the Willow Brook love rather than simply learn nice things about us.

Well, I have a straight newsy one for you this time. We have been making some



Larry Harris, CEO
lharris@willow-brook.org

The Best of the Best

by Larry Harris, CEO

powerfully positive headlines lately – just too good for me not to share with you. So no tale of

Like a fine morning coffee, positive energy percolates through all our ministries. Staffers often commit for life once they sip the famous Willow Brook brew.

an orphaned mouse or toppled tree this time. Just some eye-popping news. Please, take a seat...

• **All state nursing inspections deficiency-free.** Surveyors from the Ohio Department of Health show up unannounced each year at our two nursing homes and three assisted living centers. Last year all five earned a perfect deficiency-free nursing report. You are well within a range of reasonable responses to exclaim, “No way!” But “Way!” We did it! We usually pick up one or maybe two perfects in a good year. But five? I am still rubbing my eyes in dazed disbelief.

Even more, we are off to a perfect start this year. The two facilities that have had their 2013 inspections so far have earned perfects, too. That’s seven in a

row. This just has to be a national record or something.

• **High ranking in state’s Family Satisfaction Survey.**

Every other year, the Ohio Department of Aging quizzes families of residents in the state’s 964 nursing homes regarding their satisfaction with the care provided their loved ones. Both Willow Brook nursing homes ranked in the golden “top 25.” Willow Brook Christian Home came in fourth; Cherith Care Center (at Willow Brook Christian Village) polled 15th.

• **5-Star ratings for our nursing homes.** The federal government rates all nursing homes in the nation one to five stars as a guide for families seeking placement for loved ones. Both Willow Brook facilities have earned the coveted 5-Star rating.

• **U.S. News & World Report ranks us among the best.** This winter both Willow Brook nursing homes were named in the “Best Nursing Homes” listing of this national publication.

All these accolades attest to the spirit that undergirds our communities. Our mission is people, not profit. Like a fine morning coffee, positive energy percolates through all our ministries. Staffers often commit for life once they sip the famous Willow Brook brew. And board members stay for decades because they see a purpose larger than themselves.

The winners in all this are our old friends who have cast their lot with us. For them, Willow Brook is a promise kept. And I think they agree with the state inspectors, survey responders, federal raters, and a national news magazine: Willow Brook is among the best of the best.



Join Us

Open House Business Before Hours
in celebration of the new Rehabilitation Center at
Willow Brook Christian Home
55 Lazelle Road, Columbus, Ohio 43235
just east of US 23 in Columbus/Worthington
Tuesday, June 11, 7:30 - 9:00 am
Call 740-201-5687

CEO Larry Harris Featured as a Healthcare Leader

Willow Brook CEO Larry Harris was featured recently in *Columbus Business First* as one of the “20 People to Know in the Health Care Industry” in central Ohio.

Larry is the volunteer president of the board at the Council for Older Adults in Delaware County, the not-for-profit group responsible for overseeing Meals on Wheels and other services that enable older adults to remain independent and in their own homes. He teaches at The Ohio State University’s Core of Knowledge Program, the curriculum that prepares healthcare professionals for gaining their nursing home administrator’s license in Ohio.

He has been the president of the board of the Association of Ohio Philanthropic Homes, Housing, and Services for the Aged (now called LeadingAge Ohio), and has served on the board of the Christian Senior Services Association.



Students from Worthington Christian Middle School’s 8th grade visit Willow Brook Christian Home every Tuesday with their teacher, Michael Clutz. They are a bright spot in the week for those who benefit from their youthful attentions. At left, Dorothy Edwards is playing King’s Corners with Dan Morris, Kyle Sanders and Sam Bechtel.

Support Senior Services
In a break with Willow Brook’s long-standing policy against endorsing political candidates or issues, the board of trustees of Willow Brook Christian Communities endorsed the Delaware County Senior Services Levy and encourages voters to support home- and community-based services for older adults on May 7.

To Honor and Remember

Memorial Contributions

December 1, 2012 through March 22, 2013

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Three Earn Second Mile Awards



Every December the residents, staff, and families on each campus nominate staff members who most closely personify the admonition of Matthew 5:41, "If any man forces you to go with him one mile, go with him two," for the Second Mile Award. This coveted honor for 2012 went to (top to bottom) Carl Foster, nursing assistant at Willow Brook Christian Home, Valerie Faulkner, housekeeper at Willow Brook Christian Village, and Healthier Meadows, LPN, of Willow Brook at Delaware Run.



Gifts were also made
 to honor:

Marla M. Campbell
 Mary Jean Roach
Delaware Run Residents
 Joy D. Lackey
Doris Jessie
 Brian & Sandy Arnold

Roger Massey
 Lucretia M. Wellman
Lloyd and Joan Moe
 Gayle A. Moe
Roy Rogers
 Lucretia M. Wellman

*Photo background in memory of
 Village Resident
 Robert W. Meyer*

Nurse Practitioner Joins Willow Brook Team

Nurse practitioner Alicia Martinez-Spencer has joined the Willow Brook health care team.

A nurse practitioner is a registered nurse with a master's degree and specialized training and licensure that gives a broad scope of practice.

She has skills and authority that fall between those of a physician and a registered nurse. As a nurse practitioner, Martinez-Spencer has undergone rigorous training and advanced coursework and clinical rotations.

She can order tests, perform and interpret diagnostic studies, x-rays and EKGs, order physical and other therapies for patients, and prescribe drugs for acute and chronic illnesses. She can also give physical exams and perform minor surgeries.

She holds national board certification in geriatrics and is licensed through the Ohio nursing board.

A nurse practitioner can serve as a primary health care provider. Many people now go to a nurse practitioner under circumstances that at one time required a doctor. She makes rounds in Willow Brook's healthcare centers, allowing many residents to

avoid the inconvenience and expense of transport to their physician's office if the doctor does not visit patients in nursing, assisted living, or retirement communities.

Martinez-Spencer also makes private appointments with independent residents to address acute illnesses and manage chronic medical conditions. She is also holding Coumadin clinics to monitor and adjust blood-thinning drug levels without having to leave campus.



Alicia Martinez-Spencer, RN, MSN, NP

Below:

Instructor Greg Hankins and two of his Willow Brook students, Gene Glendenning and Bob Taylor



A chance encounter at a local gas station led guitarist Greg Hankins to a hootenany and eventually teaching a ten-week course in guitar playing at Willow Brook at Delaware Run.

A founding member of The Irish Brigade musical group and Dublin, Ohio's, Irish Festival, Hankins now brings his laid-back style to sharing the pleasure of playing the guitar. Delaware Run residents who always thought they'd like to learn to play have had that opportunity and are now strumming to their favorite tunes.



Call
740-201-5687
to let us know
you're coming

Join us!

The residents of Willow Brook's two Delaware retirement communities invite you to join us for our first-ever



Full Life Fair

**Willow Brook
at Delaware Run**
Delaware, Ohio 43015
off West William Street/US 36



Thursday, May 9
2:00 pm

We'll show you the the fun things we do that make spending our retirement years at Willow Brook so satisfying and so much fun!

We live at Willow Brook, and we'd love for you to see what we're doing: art, textiles, antiques, card games, community service activities, exercise groups, food for thought, games, gardening, food gatherings and trips, literary and musical groups.

Come to the fair – we'll all be competing for your attention and participation.

CEO Larry Harris will give you the latest info on our expansion plans, and models of our twin-single homes will be open if you'd like to wander around and take a look.

Retirement life is far from retiring at Willow Brook. Come see for yourself why we say **"the neighbors you meet in retirement will become your friends for life."**

Construction beginning on Delaware Run Healthcare Center Expansion

Construction will begin soon on an expansion of the healthcare center in Willow Brook at Delaware Run.

The roof will be lifted from the one-story assisted living center and two more levels will be added. The second story will double the size and number of people living in the assisted living wing.

The third floor will be a transitional living wing where apartments will accommodate the desire of couples who need assisted living for one spouse but not the other to continue living together safely, with support services close at hand.

The memory care center dining room will be moved, Cafe 100 expanded, and a snack shop installed to enhance the dining options of residents and guests.

A wintertime opening is anticipated.





Reflections

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Housekeeping staff members of Willow Brook at Delaware Run (left to right Eileen Wesley, Ivan Nsubuga, Elise Tietjen, Tracie Mattix, Scott Folchert, Morgan Stroman, Jayson Scheiderer) enjoy every opportunity they find to celebrate. In this issue it is the seven perfect nursing surveys in a row from the Ohio Department of Health. The people who work so hard to keep people, buildings, grounds, and furnishings fresh, clean, well fed and well cared-for play a huge role and get both our credit and our appreciation for the fine jobs they do every single day. We are truly grateful.