



Bystanders, rubberneckerers, sidewalk superintendents and the merely curious had a great time watching as construction crews lifted the roof from Willow Brook at Delaware Run's assisted living wing to make way for two additional floors. The second level will double the assisted living capacity, and the third floor will be "transitional apartments" for those whose needs fall between independent and assisted living.

Construction will be completed this winter.

*Photo by Irene Blaszkowski*

# Nothing More

by Larry Harris, CEO

Last April, while watching all the painful images of the Boston Marathon bombings, Janet and I talked of the uncertainty of life. The three spectators killed before our eyes that day had set out from home a few hours before with no inkling that the end was so near. Everything was fine up until the boom. Were they granted even a sliver of a moment to start a thought? Did they catch a panic flash of realization that this was the end? Or was it simply light one instant and lights out the next?

The biblical writer James was right: "...life is a vapor, that appears for a little time, then vanishes away."

We have no promise of tomorrow, or this afternoon, or the next tick of the mantle clock. We possess this moment alone. Nothing more.

And when you consider all the ways there are to catapult us into the Great Beyond - a Boston bombing, the infestation of a malevolent microbe, a vital organ failure, a violent encounter with a Mack truck or one of our beloved firearms - it's a wonder any of us are still walking the planet.

But you and I, we are the survivors. For now.

We are all terminal, and we know it. Not one of us will walk off the stage of this curious Shakespearean drama called Life. We'll be carried feet-first. That is a guarantee.

We acknowledge this truth with a nod, but except maybe for a condemned Texas prisoner walking the green mile, or a cancer victim lingering at the far end of her passage, we contemplate death as some far-off appointment. Yes, it is out there, but it's so far up the calendar as to have no influence on this day.



And so we fritter away our allotted days as if we had a million. We freely give ourselves over to an

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obsessive quest for a fatter paycheck, a weed-free lawn, or the next electronic toy. We engage those around us in crafty maneuverings and unyielding rivalries. We inflict pain with our words and bombs and piggish actions. We stumble through life distanced, distracted, and disengaged.

So here's my question: Why? If we know the end is out there, and that it could well come sooner as later, and most of our desires and pursuits are nonsense, why do we conduct ourselves as if they matter?

The answer is a no-brainer: We are fools.

A decade or so ago, I led a town meeting at our Willow Brook Christian Village where I had fielded a few barbed complaints from residents.

*We have no  
promise of tomorrow,  
or this afternoon, or  
the next tick of the  
mantle clock.*

When the meeting adjourned, I walked out of the assembly alongside apartment resident Dick Bauerle. In World War II, he was Captain Richard Bauerle. He had commanded a tank company in the Battle of the Bulge, Hitler's vicious last hurrah, where he watched in traumatized horror as many of his men were barbecued in their tanks by incendiary bombs and German flamethrowers.

The captain himself took a bullet to the head. He recovered, though, and even stood guard at the Nuremberg Trials where the worst of the Nazi war criminals were called to account.

As we exited the meeting, he said, "You know, they talked about cold soup at dinner and some weeds in the flower beds. What do they have to complain about? They're getting three squares a day. Nobody's shooting at them. Life is good."

God forgive me when I tender complaints in lieu of thanks. Forgive me when I dawdle away my precious hours. Forgive me when I fail to see each person I encounter as a brother or sister worthy of respect and honor. Forgive me when the last words that pass my lips as I exit my house each workday morning are anything other than, "I love you, Janet."



## What a Life!

Who says retirement must be re-tiring? Willow Brookers enjoy life in ways as wide-ranging as their interests.

Brenda Spradling (right), from Willow Brook at Delaware Run, joined her grandchildren in a ziplining adventure through the treetops of Hawaii this summer.

Davie Esau (bottom right), from The Village, came in first place in a national dance competition in Las



Vegas a few weeks ago.

And veterans Charles Allen (left), Delaware Run, and Ray Nally (bottom left), Village, were honored as grand marshalls of the Columbus Red, White & Boom Independence Day Parade.







*Six staff members were shining brightly at the Leading-Age Ohio Stars luncheon this spring, honored for their outstanding front-line service to residents. They are (left to right) maintenance man Bobby Wheeler from The Village, housekeeper Ivan Nsubuga from Delaware Run, nursing assistant Kay Kilgore from The Home, nurses Shawn Hayes from Delaware Run and Erin Wilson from The Home, and personal care assistant Sri Seliskar from The Village. Congratulations to all!*



## Are You Pinterested?

### Opportunities to Give

*If the people on these pages inspire you to share your own gifts with those to whom our subsequent generations owe so much, here are some suggestions:*

- Designate Willow Brook's charitable care in your will.
- Make a gift to honor or memorialize someone special.
- Donate real estate.
- Bequeath stocks.
- Go to our web site ([www.willow-brook.org](http://www.willow-brook.org)) and check out the gift registry.

*And if you are blessed with more time than treasure, you could share a little of that instead.*

Everyone knows that social media is the rage these days, and Willow Brook is doing its best to keep up with the times while preserving the time-honored traditions we hold dear. If you like the high-tech stuff and would like to see a different side of Willow Brook life, here are some places you can turn:



**Our Web Site** – [www.willow-brook.org](http://www.willow-brook.org), where you can read and refer back to digital versions of *Reflections* from the past several years, check out the calendars of events and activities, view the newsletters each care location puts out every month, and see pictures of fun and exciting trips, tours and outings that make Willow Brook life so full.



**Facebook** – go to [facebook.com/WillowBrook-ChristianCommunities](https://facebook.com/WillowBrook-ChristianCommunities) and “like” us. See albums of what everyone's up to and add your comments.



**Pinterest** – while you're looking up more about your hobbies and interests check us out on Pinterest at [pinterest.com/WillowBrookCC](https://pinterest.com/WillowBrookCC).

# Volunteers Give, Receive Gifts of Love

Residents, volunteers, and staff members nominate volunteers who have given their time and talent to enhance the quality of life at Willow Brook, and each year someone from each campus is surprised with the Gift of Love Award at the annual volunteer appreciation reception.

For seven years Jan Andrews has been the leader of The Willow Brook Singers choral group at Willow Brook Christian Village, spending every Tuesday afternoon leading rehearsals and even more time locating music and arranging for concerts at nursing homes and other organizations. "She educated and loved us," said Blanche Allchin in her nomination.

Carol Conklin, who is the daughter of a resident of Willow Brook at Delaware Run, is in her third year of volunteering every single week. She conducts a class in the healthcare center, teaching residents to make whimsical clay animals and other creatures. She spends many hours at home preparing for the classes and provides materials at her own cost.

According to Willow Brook Christian Home's executive director David Chappell, volunteer Tom Johnson might enter the building as Elvis, a Halloween goblin, or any of a dozen other personas to entertain residents at the Lazelle Road facility. According to the activities staff, Tom is not shy about looking a little silly if it will make the residents smile.

He travels along on trips to help those who need a little aid in navigation, finds speakers for the men's luncheons, and volunteers at game days and evening bingo games.

Willow Brook is grateful for the gifts of love these committed volunteers bestow upon our residents and proud to honor them with the Gift of Love Award.



*Village director of resident life activities Marlene Andersen presents the Gift of Love award to Jan and Bid Andrews.*



*CEO Larry Harris pauses with Delaware Run honoree Carol Conklin.*



*Home executive director David Chappell poses with Gift of Love recipient Tom Johnson.*

## **Each Day brings a Splash of Joy**

Senior Sharing Time

*A day of Spiritual Nourishment for Seniors*

**Tuesday, October 15, 2013, 9 am - 2 pm**

Willow Brook at Delaware Run, Delaware, Ohio  
presented by members of the Willow Brook Board of Trustees

**The Joy of Family & Friends  
The Joy of Receiving a Gift  
The Joy you Share**

*for reservations call Helen Reppart at 740-363-0686*





# Memorial Tributes

## Gifts made March 23 - June 25, 2013

**John R. Advent**

Melba Advent-Davis

**Wilbur Allen**

Lynn & Ursula Champney

**Jean Allerdig**

James & Cathy Listermann

**Robert Allerdig**

James & Cathy Listermann

**C. Edgar Ames**

Sandra J. Cryder

Naomi R. Powell

**Evalyn Anderson**

Eugene Anderson

**Ethel M. Bilbo**

Village Residents Advisory Council

**Hazel B. Blöse**

Dennis & Sharon Blöse

**Jack L. Brader**

Peggy Brader

**Betty A. Brown**

M. Jacqueline Kuhns

**John Buchanan**

Mary L. Waugh

**Woodrow Buchanan**

Mary L. Waugh

**Sue Buchannan**

Mary L. Waugh

**Margery D. Burkhardt**

Julie Bardelang

Alice T. Click

**John R. Burns, Sr.**

Curtis & Genevieve Burns

**Jeanne Byrd**

Don & Yvonne Campbell

**Betty Calhoun**

Kenneth & Wyvonna Calhoun

**Lilly Carpenter**

Gary D. Cooper

**Mr. & Mrs. Clarence H. Clark**

Marilyn A. Schroeder

**Elsie R. Clendenon**

Norman & Barbara Shivener

**Deborah Coleman**

Fifty Plus Group, Forest Hill

Church of Christ

Forest Hill Church of Christ

**Cobert C. Collins**

Bruce & Barbara Reierson

**Donald P. "Dan" Conant**

Chrystal Blanton

Elizabeth K. Conant

Anson S. Knoderer

**Julia F. Condit**

Dominic Mongiardo

**Robert Craddock**

Stanton & Jane Craddock

**Wilma Craddock**

Stanton & Jane Craddock

**Esther Daniels**

Carl & Avalene Daniels

**James "Jim" Davis**

Dale & Josephine Bichsel

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David & Rosalie Miller

Lois K. Smith

Margaret Strohm

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Ellen S. Davis

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Joey Gaskell

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**Arline Earich**

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**Hal Willis**

Anne R. Willis

**Irene Worrell**

Steve &amp; Laurreta Oldham

*The photo background is in memory of Home resident Marie Elkins*

### Gifts were made in Honor of

**Elizabeth K. "Bebe" Conant**

Anson S. Knoderer

**Delaware Run Residents**

Joy D. Lackey

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James &amp; Judy Freed

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David &amp; Barbara Kolbe

**Anna Lasley**

Mark &amp; Sue Lasley

**Lloyd and Joan Moe**

Gayle A. Moe

**Martha L. Seckel**

Terry L. Fawley



## Full Life Fair Drew a Crowd



Willow Brook's two retirement communities in Delaware, Ohio, invited their friends, former neighbors, and the community to attend the first-ever Full Life Fair on the Delaware Run campus in May.

Guests visited booths planned and staffed by residents to demonstrate the variety of interests and activities that are part of everyday

life at Willow Brook, from art, textiles, antiques, and community service, to exercise and music groups, games, and gardening. They sampled delicious hors d'oeuvres and toured twin-single homes on both campuses.

The fair was a rousing success: the energy and enthusiasm of the folks who call Willow Brook home were obvious, their welcoming arms were open, and visitors were impressed. Several decided to make Willow Brook their retirement home.

Retirement is far from retiring here, and folks got to see for themselves why we say "the neighbors you meet in retirement will become your friends for life."







# REFLECTIONS

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*David Chappell, executive director at Willow Brook Christian Home, tries out equipment in the newly enlarged and re-furbished therapy center with physical therapy assistant Amber Powelson and occupational therapy assistant Rachelle Joy. Nearly a hundred people attended the open house breakfast presented in partnership with the Worthington Area Chamber of Commerce in June. A pair of anonymous donors contributed \$300,000 toward the project's cost.*