

# Family Ties

A newsletter for the friends and families of residents at Willow Brook Christian Home

DECEMBER 2018

## *Longing for Those Christmas Seasons of Yester Year*

*By Tom Johnson, activities*

As I sit at my desk, looking out my window and watching it snow, my thoughts go back to the kinder, gentler times of Christmases past here in Columbus.

I have fond memories of my Mother and me riding the electric street cars, where I would sit in the very back seat so I could watch the sparks fly off the wires as we went downtown to the Lazarus department store. Those trips for me at Christmas made it the most wonderful time of the year.

I remember getting off the bus right in front of the store and rushing to press myself up against the store front windows, mesmerized by the animated characters and displays.

Then there was the trip on the elevator to the 6th floor which opened up to Santa Land with



the Talking Tree standing guard. My trip wasn't complete without a conversation with the jolly old man himself and a trip to Secret Santa's Workshop to buy a gift for Mom and Dad.

Christmases in Columbus were different then. Yes, there still was the hustle and bustle of all Christmases, but to me there was something very special about those Christmases past. What was different? Maybe what I remember is that Merry Christmas was on practically everyone's lips and families could lay aside personal differences and be drawn together out of sincere love for each other.

May your Christmas this year be filled with special memories like those of the past and may your family be blessed with a very Merry Christmas.



## A word from the CEO...

Wow! I want to shout a great big “thank you” for your gifts to the staff Christmas bonus fund. You set a new record by far – \$119,497! This was as of November 30. There may yet be a

couple of straggling gifts show up that we can sneak in, which would take the total up even more. You beat the 2017 total (which itself was a record) by \$5,200. All I can say is thank you, on behalf of the hundreds of staffers who will have a richer Christmas because of you. What an outpouring of love! I am so proud of you.

We will divvy up the amount equally among staff members (except some leaders). We haven’t yet calculated the individual amount, but I will let you know. We’ll be passing out checks at the staff Christmas party on December 7. I assure you, you will put a lot of smiles on faces that night.

We are getting set for Christmas. Many thanks to our maintenance teams for their beautiful job with outdoor decorations. All the colors proudly proclaim to the world that Christmas is celebrated at Willow Brook!

And inside, the trees are simply gorgeous. Each year we have a tree decorating contest. Groups of staff and others sign up to decorate a tree, and the result is what you see – so much creativity and beauty! We’ll announce the winners – one at each Willow Brook – at the staff Christmas party on December 7, and we’ll let you know the winners after that.

All our decorations are but an outward expression of what we feel in our hearts. A sense of good cheer abounds!

Many thanks to all who submitted nominations for the Second Mile Award. This is the award that goes to three staff members each year – one at each campus – who have been recognized as going beyond what is expected. Special committees have chosen this year’s recipients. We will announce them on the 7<sup>th</sup> at the party and let you know.

With love to all,

Larry Harris, CEO



## Chaplain’s Corner

### *No Room for Jesus?*

Back in the late 1950s, our family made a trip to Canada. There were not nearly as many hotels and motels then as there are today, and every one we saw had posted “no vacancy” on their sign. What a relief it was to see a modest, unassuming house that had a sign “tourist rooms”. After meeting a gentle older couple, we were given cookies and a clean warm room in which to stay. What a wonderful blessing it was to find a place where we were welcome.

In Luke 2:7, we are told that Joseph and Mary stayed in, and Jesus was born in, a stable, because there was no room in the inn. Surely, had they known they were being visited by the One God sent to be our Savior, someone would have made room for Him!

In reality, we all are given that opportunity! Jesus said, “behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in” (Revelation 3:20). The choice is ours– will we make room for Jesus in our life– or not? Our only hope of salvation is Jesus. The blessings of a Christian’s life are immense. Will we open the door? “There’s a Stranger at the door . . .let the Savior in.”

Family Ties is a publication for the residents and families of Willow Brook Christian Home  
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