



Photo credit to Shane Flanigan/ThisWeek

Every day at Willow Brook presents an opportunity to experience joy. It could be as simple as a good meal with friends or a lovely lakeside walk. And then there are times when life bubbles over, and there's only one thing to do: pick up your pompoms and cheer! That's what these Village residents did at their mock Super Bowl game in February. From left are Evelyn Winter, Pat Coe, Shirley Brush, Phyllis Wood, and Shirley Jackson. As Wood, once a high school cheerleader, said, "This is so much fun!"

*Through me you pass into the city of woe...
...Abandon all hope, ye who enter here.*

From Dante's *Inferno*,
the first part of *The Divine Comedy*
Dante Alighieri (1265-1321)

Dante's inscription over the entrance to hell should be posted for drivers visiting our nation's capital for the first time. Hark ye uninitiated D.C. motorists! Enter ye here through these gates at thy peril. Many hours of traffic travails await you as it shall become your unhappy lot to wander the asphalt pathways in search of your hotel, a museum, or a restaurant holding your reservations.

Driving in Washington, D.C., is nigh unto impossible, unless you are genetically adapted by virtue of birth to the tangled labyrinth of streets and avenues. I speak as one whose son and daughter-in-law live there, prompting many confounding visits over the years.

Designed for plodding equine passage in 1791 by French architect Charles L'Enfant, the city flaunts daunting traffic circles, diagonal boulevards that slice across those circles and other random intersections, and streets that mysteriously disappear or change names. Aarrgghh! I'm only just now learning Massachusetts Avenue's infuriating jog as it leaves you abandoned at 7th Avenue NW, with a mocking reappearance a block over. Who but seasoned D.C. motorists know about this?!

Thank God for the Metro, D.C.'s sleek subterranean public transit system. Janet and I and daughter Becky make use of this storied network as much as we can when we visit. Whirring trains whisk us beneath the traffic clutter overhead to the vicinity of our destination. For D.C. residents who board the trains for daily commutes to work and appointments, their subway travels maybe have become routine and tiresome. Not us. Our visits to the capital city are infrequent enough that Metro rides are still an adventure.

Trains snake about under the city day and night on color-coded tracks. It takes a bit of study at first, and you have to pay heed to transfer stations and announcements on overhead speakers from the train's operator up in the lead car, if you can make out the words. Most conductors sound like they are mumbling through mouths packed with Tootsie Rolls. "Red line to Shady Grove" sounds like "Wruu aahaa ta saamee grode." You learn the lingo after a few rides.

The night after Christmas last year, we boarded a

red line train at Union Station for a ride to our hotel, knowing we would be transferring to the yellow line two stations up. We waited on the platform in a Carlsbad-like cavern as our train roared in from a dark tunnel. It rolled to a stop before us, doors opened and we were greeted loud and clear with a happy melodic voice from the train's P.A. – "all a-BOARD, ALL A-board," as if he were inviting us onto the Polar Express. No other conductor ever says those words. As we stepped into

the car, we heard the African-American male voice declare in a cordial, welcoming tone, "Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls,

welcome aboard the red line to Shady Grove! Thank you for riding the D.C. Metro tonight. It is my distinct pleasure to drive you this evening to your destination." Again, new subway words for us.

As the train pulled away with 200 mildly amused commuters, he segued to an inspiring message where normally there is operator silence.

**Ladies and gentlemen, boys
and girls, welcome aboard
the red line to Shady Grove!**

"You have joy in your heart tonight! Maybe you don't feel it right now, but it is there! Embrace that joy! Nurture that joy, and don't ever let anyone take

that joy from you! You've worked too hard for it to let someone take it away!"

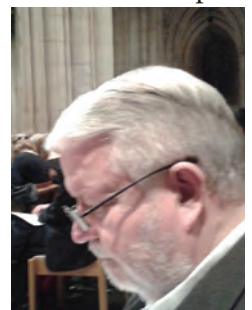
By now smiles were broad, and eyes were darting from rider to rider, asking "are you believing this?" As we glided into the next station, we heard the same songful greetings for the newbies. Then, on our passage to the next stop, our last on that train, we heard a happy homily on love. "You were put on this earth to love! Embrace those around you and let them know you care..."

As we disembarked we heard his joyous "all aboard!" gifted to fresh passengers waiting on the platform. When the doors closed, we could hear him proclaiming the same merry greeting we had heard, "Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, welcome..."

We weren't sure what we had been treated to, but it felt good. I don't know if he's like that all night long, or if he had fallen into a temporary euphoric state. Was he following a penned script, or were we hearing an emancipated stream of consciousness? As his train sped off into the night, we came to realize we had been presented a late Christmas gift. We immediately regretted not riding on for a few more stops. We could have doubled back, but we didn't.

He was gone forever.

Larry Harris, CEO
lharris@willow-brook.org





Architectural rendering shows the new wing at left.

Ribbon Cutting & Open House at Delaware Run

Thursday, May 17 at 5 p.m.

100 Delaware Crossing West
Delaware, OH 43015

Join us for tours, refreshments and music!

Delaware Run's newest addition offers:

- Medical practice of Dr. Peter Hucek, Central Ohio Geriatrics - open to the community
- Blue Sky Therapy: outpatient physical, speech and occupational therapy for the community
- New rooms and suites for assisted living
- More apartments for transitional living
- Charming courtyard with gardens
- Expanded patio for memory care area

2017 Second Mile Award Winners



**Tylor
Hovis**

Delaware Run

**Joanne
Jones**

Village

**LeVonne
Shaffer**

Home

Congratulations to Delaware Run's Tylor Hovis (Personal Care Attendant), The Village's Joanne Jones (Housekeeper), and The Home's LeVonne Shaffer (Scheduling Coordinator), for earning the coveted Second Mile Award. This award for distinctive service is given annually to one staff member from each campus for following the admonition in Matthew 5:41 "If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles."

Willow Brook Christian Communities

Delaware, Ohio

Willow Brook Christian Village

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

Willow Brook at Delaware Run

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

Worthington, Ohio

Willow Brook Christian Home

55 Lazelle Road
Columbus, Ohio 43235
Phone: (614) 885-3300

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A Gift to Honor the Living

Phyllis Chucta

Teresa J. Ryan



The background photo is in memory of Bill Ingalls, former resident of Willow Brook Christian Home.

DACC and Willow Brook Partner to Train Students

Clay Condo is one busy guy. At 8 a.m. on week-days, you'll find this high school student at The Village, where he cleans wheelchairs, dusts handrails, vacuums hallways, feeds the birds and visits with residents—all while learning job skills.

Condo is one of six students who work at The Village through the Delaware Area Career Center's employment training program for students with disabilities. DACC has partnered with The Village for 17 years. Dozens have landed jobs in the community, and two graduates work at Willow Brook.

"I really like working here," says Condo. "My co-workers are always willing to help, and everyone is nice." He loves to chat with residents about his favorite topic, classic movies.

DACC students work in a variety of assignments at Willow Brook, from housekeeping to the laundry, dining room and kitchen, and they assist with activities for residents and adult day care clients.

Hope Cowoski, DACC hospitality instructor, considers it a great partnership.

"Our students are welcomed with open arms and are given opportunities that they may not get elsewhere," she says. "Willow Brook has shaped my students into better employees but even more so, better people. They are surrounded by caring staff members and wonderful residents."



Student Clay Condo helps keep The Village spotless.

DACC Alumni Employed by Willow Brook



Meet Devin Hines

Devin Hines joined The Village as a kitchen utility assistant. His boss, Chef John Lindeboom, says he's lucky to have Devin.

"For two years now, Devin's work has been stellar, with perfect attendance and an attention to detail second to none. He even received special notice during a federal health inspection last year."

Hines is equally satisfied. "I like the employees here. They treat me like an adult," he says. "The residents are really nice, and you get a free lunch every day."



Meet Brettney Culler

Known for her big smile and colorful outfits, Brettney Culler brightens everyone's day at Delaware Run, where she is a staff aide.

"I bring flowers to the residents and honor them with their favorite colors," Culler says. "I also clean the offices and help the staff with activities."

Supervisor Kelly Frentsos notes, "It's a joy to have Brettney here. She remembers everyone's birthday and takes time to visit with everyone."



Ron Dill, resident of The Home, works a jigsaw puzzle with Perpetual Opoku, aide. Ron was born 94 years ago on a farm where The Home is now located.

Circling Home

As a child, Ronald Dill rose at dawn to help milk the cows on his family farm north of Worthington, Ohio. He loved the simple farmhouse where he lived with his parents and two brothers. It was home.

At 18, Dill went off to serve in World War II. A member of the Army Signal Corps, he fought in North Africa, Italy, France and Germany. His thoughts often turned to the Ohio farm purchased by his grandfather in 1893. He wondered if he'd see his family again.

Dill did make it home safe. And at age 94, he's living on the family homestead, but this time as a resident of Willow Brook Christian Home, built on land once owned by the Dills.

"I'm back living on the farm," he says.

There were detours. After the war, Dill became a packaging salesman with Westvaco, moved to Columbus, married and raised four children. He visited the family farm often, but change came in the 1960s, when his parents sold several acres for construction of a nursing home. In the 1980s, they sold the rest of their land to developers.

"We only had 64 acres, and that wasn't big enough to continue farming," Dill says. "But my father got life-

time rights to stay in his house."

Years passed. When it came time to retire, Dill knew where to go. Back home.

At Willow Brook, Dill rises early and looks out at busy Route 23, a mud road in his youth. He sees a shopping center where fields and an orchard once were. He beholds Taco Bell, site of his former farmhouse. A rock on Taco Bell's property is engraved with the words of his parents, James Lynas and Lela Fuller Dill: "We are only caretakers of our land for our lives; then it's up to someone else."

In his cozy room at The Home, Dill loves to share scrapbooks of family and war-time experiences. About the war, he says, "We had a job to do, and we did it." A handkerchief he bought for his mother in Paris is pressed onto one page.

Dill also enjoys doing jigsaw puzzles and joining in activities. He could have chosen any retirement home, but the choice was clear. "It was our farm," Dill says. "I was born here."

To learn more, read our Q & A with Mr. Dill at www.willow-brook.org/residents-corner-ron-dill.



Warren Hyer, executive director of the Central Ohio Symphony (right), leads a therapeutic drum circle for Alzheimer's patients at Willow Brook at Delaware Run.

Making Music Together

Willow Brook is a sponsor of the acclaimed Central Ohio Symphony, based in Delaware, Ohio. The Symphony performs five concerts annually on the campus of Ohio Wesleyan University. It also presents dozens of educational programs and supports local composers, one with a Willow Brook connection.

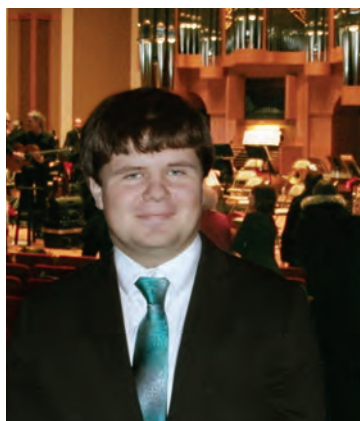
In 2016, the Symphony began hosting therapeutic drumming circles for the Day Out Club of the Alzheimer's Association of Central Ohio. The sessions take place at Willow Brook at Delaware Run.

Participants join in drumming activities that require no musical training and provide health benefits like stress reduction and relaxation, says Warren Hyer, executive director of the symphony.

"Therapeutic drumming promotes the building blocks for creating a balanced and healthy life and a positive frame of mind," Hyer says.

The orchestra also supports the work of local composers, including Noah Goulet, a junior at Hayes High School in Delaware. His original composition, "Welcome Sun," was performed at a December concert. Noah is the son of Russell Goulet, a cook at The Home.

"Noah has remarkable talent," Hyer says. Willow Brook residents, who always attend symphony concerts in droves, were among those who gave Noah a standing ovation.



Noah Goulet at his symphony debut

The Cloud Fisher

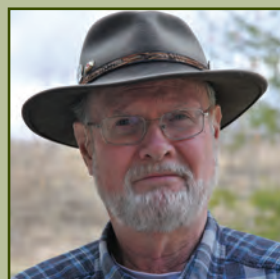
by John Brinkerhoff

Framed by the patio door—
gray clouds as rumpled and smudged
as the underside of sea ice,
and a gusting wind that prophesizes
harshness coming.
The alarms are false for now,
simple warnings to repent
and examine our summer lives.

A glassy black spider toils up high,
legs no thicker than an eyelash
busily weaving and knotting its net
despite the buffeting tides.
It swings, scurries, soars, holds on,
laboring on with heartbreaking resolve.
Why will it not rest—wait for the wind to fall,
wait for the sun to rise on another day?

Perhaps within its sternly governed soul
there is no room for the notion of tomorrow
or trust in the certainty of passages.
There is only the message of this moment,
calling for lines to be cast and strung right now
as they have always been, even in storm.
It was still fussing feverishly as darkness came,
And I drew the drapes for the evening.

In the morning the spider and its work were gone,
carried away by the current.
I looked for it, I honestly did, scanning the eaves,
brushing aside delicately veined magnolia leaves,
peeking under vivid geranium blossoms,
stepping lightly over droplet-beaded grass,
searching for a single perfect creature
amid the perfection of all living things.



The Cloud Fisher won first place in the 2017 LeadingAge Ohio Art & Writing Show. John Brinkerhoff lives at Delaware Run with his wife, Jan, and dog, Daphne.

Reflections

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A Fawn
Elegant, dappled image of spring awakening
Gentle gift to winter weary eyes – a fawn.

*Marilyn Schroeder,
Willow Brook at Delaware Run*

Photo by Joyce Stambaugh,
Resident of Willow Brook Christian Village

