



Photo: Nicole Garrett

Davie and Jose in the Spotlight

When the lights go on and the music begins, the magic unfolds at Willow Brook.

Ballroom Dancing Queen Davie Esau, a resident of Willow Brook Christian Village, and Jose Rivera of Fred Astaire Studios in Delaware have captivated audiences at dozens of Willow Brook events.

They recently performed the Viennese Waltz

at the “Land of Liberty” spring show produced by Activities Director Connie McNeal.

Esau took her first dance lesson at age 82 and hasn’t stopped since. She has won ballroom dancing competitions in Ohio, Texas, Florida and on cruise ships. She traveled to Buenos Aires for tango lessons and plans to dance in Venice this summer. “I can feel the music,” she says. “It comes from the heart.”

When I look at God's creation there is much inspiration in just observing mother birds, mother cats, mother geese – mother anything. Their babies – their children – come first, way above their own well-being.

Janet Harris, Willow Brook's First Lady, from her essay "To Mothers"

At our 30-acre Willow Brook Christian Village, the Courtyard Restaurant is the "hub of the wheel" – both architecturally and socially. People come not only to dine, but to catch up, to yak up, to hear the latest, to see and be seen. Surrounding this grand dining center are four outdoor courtyards, revealed to seated guests through glass walls, each with stone patios, ornate cast iron seating, and lush, almost tropical displays of flora.

In one of these gardens, a mother mallard hatched 14 ducklings this spring. Word spread like a Trump tweet, and four hundred residents and staff suddenly had 14 reasons to step into the restaurant and press up to the glass, even at off hours. We set the little flock up with a wading pool for Mom's swimming lessons, and kept their tummies filled with cracked corn. We planned to let them stay until they sprouted wings and soared out.

The mother duck and her 14 babies were the talk of the Village. Janet and I dined there one evening and were able to watch them during our meal. Free dinner entertainment they were.

Mom was so loving and protective, and proud. In a thunderstorm she gathered them under her sheltering wings and kept them dry while she herself got doused with a driving rain. She kept a watchful eye on them day and night, leading her little feathered cluster to the water, the corn, or the cool shade of a juniper. She was an instructive example of ideal motherly love.

A Mother's Love

by Larry Harris, CEO



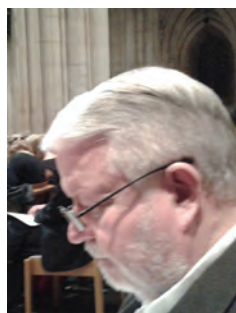
Mom and her 14 babies.

Brilliant move, Mom, to set up your nursery beyond the range of the coyotes and foxes that have been known to prowl the Village acres. The 14 squeaky little puff balls were safe from predators, or so we thought. Boy were we wrong. One dark Sunday night, about six weeks after their hatching, a masked bandit or bandits (raccoons, we suspect) climbed over the roof, grabbed an overhanging tree branch, scampered down to the mulch, and murdered all 14 in one savage spree. Monday morning, when their dirty work was discovered, the courtyard was a wrenching war zone of blood, feathers and sorrow.

No one witnessed the slaughter, but I have to believe Mom put up a valiant challenge to the invaders. I imagine she all but gave her own life in defense of her babies. But in the end her courageous answer to the attacks proved no match for the ruthless killers. As her last baby was butchered, the raiders drew a bead on her. She took wing and barely escaped with her life.

A mother's love couldn't save her children. Mom's bravest efforts failed them. Please don't tell me non-human creatures don't mourn. I have to believe Mom was crushed. If ducks can cry, I am sure she did. Profusely. She returned next morning looking for her babies, searching the corners, craning around landscape boulders, nosing under each bush. They were gone, and there was no denying that fact.

I am grateful to Eric Sattler (Village maintenance) for cleaning up the crime scene and giving the little victims a "Christian burial," as he called it, in our campus woodland. For days, residents and staff were in mourning, hardly believing what violence had been wrought in our peaceful little Village.



Larry Harris, CEO
lharris@willow-brook.org



Willow Brook Voted the Best in Delaware County

It was a sweep! Willow Brook was voted tops in its three categories in the annual Readers' Choice Awards sponsored by *The Delaware Gazette* and *The Sunbury News*. Willow Brook Christian Communities won first place for Best Retirement Community, Best Assisting Living and Best Nursing Home. We are grateful and honored for this community support.

Kudos to Ketron

Nicole Ketron, executive director of Willow Brook Christian Village, has been selected for the Eli Pick Facility Leadership Award from the American College of Healthcare Administrators. Nationwide, only 11 percent of leaders of skilled nursing facilities earn this distinction.



Ketron oversees our Cherith Care Center, which provides skilled nursing care and rehabilitation services.

"While I am humbled to receive the award, it would not be possible without the hard-working team in Cherith," Ketron said. "Together, we work with the mission to serve with compassion, and that makes a difference."

Eligibility for the award is based on three years of health and fire safety surveys, quality measures and occupancy rates. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services collects this data, which is evaluated by an independent third party.



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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Erin MacLellan, editor
Joel Hornsby, designer

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Willow Brook Christian Home assisted living resident Roy Estep and aide Sally Russell share a moment on a summer afternoon. Estep is an elder for the Northland Church of Christ in Columbus, and a founding Willow Brook trustee.

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The background photo is in memory of Dorothy Kelly, a former resident of Willow Brook at Delaware Run

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Kristene E. Wolfe & Family
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Lisa Mack

A Gift to Honor the Living
Carol L. Calkins
Lois Dale

Volunteers Celebrated with Gift of Love Awards

Willow Brook honored three people for their outstanding volunteer service by presenting them with the annual Gift of Love Awards. The winners, one from each campus, were announced at the spring volunteer reception, attended by 135 volunteers.



"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."
— Winston Churchill



Irene Blaszkowiak, a resident of Delaware Run, won the Award for her willingness to serve in any way. She shops for shut-ins, runs errands and prepares meals for the sick. She sews blankets and clothes for sick babies. Blaszkowiak also is an intrepid photographer who generously shares her photos of the campus, opening residents' eyes to the beauty around them.

Michelle Didelot of Columbus was honored for her service at Willow Brook Christian Home. Didelot has led dozens of craft activities, including creating fairy gardens, and she loves to dress in costumes for special events to make life more fun. She also sews lap blankets to keep residents cozy and sends many cards to people.



Lou Ann Giedlinski, who volunteers at The Village, was recognized for her compassion and care. She sends gifts and cards to residents and transports them to special events at The Village. During the Christmas season, she takes residents shopping to buy gifts for the less fortunate children of Delaware.

Lisle Takes Flight

Norm Lisle, Willow Brook board member, was greeted by his wife, Judy, at the John Glenn Airport in Columbus after returning from an Honor Flight trip to Washington, D.C. Honor Flight, a nonprofit organization, takes thousands of veterans to the nation's capital each year to thank them for their service.

Lisle, who served as a laboratory technician at the Wright Patterson Air Force Base for six years during the Vietnam War era, called it an outstanding day, in which he visited many memorials.

"One of the highlights was visiting the World War II Memorial and being greeted by Bob Dole," says Lisle. "He sat in his wheelchair and spent hours shaking hands with veterans."

When the veterans flew back to Columbus, he couldn't believe the crowd. "There were 800 people at the airport; it was just amazing."

More than 40 Willow Brook veterans have flown on Honor Flights in the past 11 years.





Dallas Menges loves reading in the sunroom and likes to discuss history

Day Center Gives Caregivers a Reprieve While Benefiting Clients

It's Tuesday at Willow Brook by Day, an adult day program at Willow Brook Christian Village, and the clients are bowling, knocking down plastic pins with gusto and cheering each other on.

Even Dallas Menges, 88, who loves to read for hours in the sunroom, has put down his history book to join in the fun. Rock and roll music from the 1950s plays in the background, and some of the bowlers take a break to dance. There's Jeep Tausel, 75, taking a spin with David Miller, 65, breezy in his Hawaiian shirt.

"We have a lot of fun," says Tausel.

Busy. Happy. Cared for. That's what people at the center experience. The program gives older adults who are experiencing memory, mobility or other medical concerns the daytime attention, socialization,

stimulation and support they need, allowing them to return home for the evening, according to Sally Gallant, director.

"Some people are shy when they first come here, but they blossom as they make friends and join in activities," Gallant says. "A day at the center gives people an opportunity to be active and have a renewed sense of accomplishment and purpose."

Clients are not the only ones who benefit. Research shows adult day programs reduce caregivers' stress and improve their well-being. That's been the experience of Jan Hoover, whose husband, Dale, attends the program. Dale, 78, has dementia.

"It's wonderful because Dale has things to do all day, and I can use that time to go

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Above: David Miller and Jeep Tausel dancing to the music;

Top Right: Dale Hoover concentrating on bowling a strike;

Bottom Right: Wendell Banks and Emma Norgrove enjoying their day.

Continued from Page 6

to the store or volunteer," Jan says. "I don't know what I'd do without the center."

Caregiver Leslie Menges says the program makes it possible to keep her husband, Dallas, at home.

"He lived in an assisted living facility in Columbus for nine months, but it wasn't the best situation," says Leslie, who felt she could give him better, more affordable care at home. Thanks to the day center, she does just that.

"The Willow Brook staff are wonderful," Leslie says. "I'm a nurse myself, so I know what to look for. They treat everyone like an individual."

The staff consists of nurses, a social worker, activity leaders and aides.

Debbie Hsu credits the

center with giving her mother, Jeep, her life back.

"My Mom has had dementia for 10 years, but last fall, she started declining. She's normally very outgoing, but she withdrew into herself. My sister and I convinced my dad, who is her caregiver, to give the center a try. And almost overnight, things changed for the better. My mom is very happy because she can socialize there, and she has her own life to talk about at home."

The center is open from 7:30 am to 5 pm Monday through Friday. Call 740-369-5447 for information. Transportation can be arranged through the public DATA bus.



The Story Told

by Brenda Spradling

A whisper or a glimpse
Flashing through my mind's eye.
Gone in an instant.
Was it there?
Was it real?

A scrap, a crumb, a nugget
Just big enough
To be remembered, discarded
Or taken up.

Scraps like a quilt being
Designed one piece at a time.
A crumb gathered with others
Completing a dish worth devouring.
A nugget of gold mined for its
Value in affirming my existence.

All surfacing from my past
Binding themselves together.
What has gone before
Comes to life again
Until the memory is complete
And the story told.



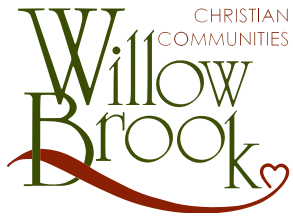
Brenda Spradling is a resident of Willow Brook at Delaware Run

Reflections

Willow Brook Christian Communities
100 Delaware Crossing West
Delaware, Ohio 43015

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Heidi Reed, Delaware Run assisted living director, proudly shows off the license from the Ohio Department of Health for her just-opened \$6 million expansion.