

View from the Porch

News from Friends Home in Kennett

Fall/Winter
2010



A Day of Service



Volunteers take a break from their work to pose with the raised garden bed they built and filled with soil.

On October 9th 25 people of all ages generously gave their time and energy at Friends Home for “A Day of Service.” The day was sponsored primarily by members of the Willowdale Chapel, Beiler-Campbell Realtors, and Exelon, with extra support given by the Chester County Food Bank.

The volunteers worked on six projects to help the Home, and it was truly amazing how much was accomplished in a single day! By the end of the

day, many areas of the Home had been brightened up and some substantial, much-needed work was accomplished.

A raised garden bed was built with materials and soil provided by the Chester County Food Bank. Two people from the Food Bank oversaw the building and planting of the 21' x 4' raised garden bed, which was placed just outside the screened-in porch of Linden Hall. The bed will be cared for by residents of the Home, and the produce will provide food for both the Friends Home kitchen and the Kennett Area Food Cupboard.

Other volunteers scraped, spackled and painted the front entrance, the employees' entrance, and a hallway in the dietary department. Another group washed all the windows – inside and out – in Linden Hall and in the personal care side of the main building.

One of the supervisors of the crews was a professional arborist. He and a group of other volunteers pruned a huge, overgrown yew bush behind our buildings, adjacent to the residents' garden and our fish

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Another cheerful group painted the Friends Home foyer.



Linden Hall's vestibule sparkled after its windows were cleaned by volunteers.

Life at the Home

A resident shares her story



Meet Friends Home resident Marion Guest.

Marion speaks cheerfully in her comfortable Friends Home apartment of her childhood. “There were eight of us children – we started with a

red-head and ended with a red-head!” Coming from a big family, Marion is quick to point out that she never felt deprived of anything when she was growing up. “And, of course, those were the days before we had bathrooms in our houses,” she chuckles. “I can remember taking a bath in the washtub behind the stove.”

“My parents were of German descent. I remember the Christmas traditions they kept. We children would come to the table and find gifts – clear candy, an orange. That was a big deal back then,” she explains. “My one sister and I were very close in age, so we received similar gifts. She would get the doll baby dressed in pink and I would get the same one dressed in blue,” she smiles.

Originally from Coatesville, the family moved to Unionville when Marion was still a baby. “My father was a custodian at Unionville School – it’s the elementary school now. He was everything: he opened

and closed the school. He even drove the bus.” Marion and her seven siblings had to help their father with his duties, “We swept all of the rooms at the end of the day while he was driving the bus!”

“My siblings and I had a wonderful childhood. I can remember sleeping out on the porch with my sisters in the summer. Our neighbors would sleep on their porch, and we girls would holler back and forth to each other. “When I was about 15 years old a friend and I rode our bikes all the way to Coatesville,” she explains, adding: “My friend had a boyfriend there.”

During World War II, Marion’s four brothers served in Europe and in Africa. “When the boys went to war, the girls played basketball at school. The Unionville girls played the Kennett girls.” Marion also played field hockey, and still proudly has the letter she earned in that sport.

Marion worked for a time at the Kennett Kandy Kitchen – a Kennett Square institution. “I worked there right after high school, and it was a fun place to work.” She also spent some time working in a mattress factory. “A few of my friends and I went to work there. We worked with the springs that went into mattresses - that was a hard job.”

“My husband, Herb, and I met while we both worked for NVE. We were married in 1946 and we had two sons, Steve and Jeff.” Marion beams while talking about her family, “I have four grandchildren and one great-grandchild. He is my sweetheart,” she exclaims. “My granddaughter adopted Jackson from Korea and he is such a dear child.”

Asked why she and her children chose Friends Home in Kennett, Marion replies, “I lived in Kennett, so I knew about Friends Home and always heard good things.” Her review since moving in? “It’s a wonderful place. I have no complaints!”

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pond. Trimming this shrub opened up the space, which is a favorite spot for residents to sit in good weather.

Finally, one group of volunteers did a major fall cleanup, including cutting back roses at the front entrance, and weeding and mulching various garden beds.

We deeply appreciate the many hours of hard work these volunteers contributed to help improve Friends Home in Kennett. If your group is interested in providing a day of service to Friends Home in Kennett, please contact Executive Director, David Carter at (610) 444-2577, ext. 202.



Many groundskeeping tasks around the Home were enthusiastically tackled by volunteers.

Memorial and Honor Gifts

This is a list of memorial and honor gifts made to Friends Home in Kennett between July 1 and November 30, 2010. Names of honorees are in bold type with names of donors listed under them. We strive for accuracy but sometimes make errors. If you notice a mistake or omission, please contact Brenda Riehl at (610) 444-2577, ext. 219 or briehl@fhkennett.org.

Memorials

Janet W. Heist

John & Anne Waldron

Jean McCaffrey

Joan O'Mara (two gifts)

Paul and David McCann

Bruce, Kim & Shannon McCann

Elizabeth Moore Mitchell

Esther Cooperman

Marjorie Nugent

Carol Murphy

Frances R. Pyle

Marjorie P. Hall

Ana Szekely

James & Elisabeth Kauer

Chrisanthe Treires

Georgiann Knauer

Memorials, continued

Gilda Russo

Rita & Richard Castagna

Anthony & Joyce De Sipio

Kathleen Dix

Leonard & Lucy Drumheller

Marie & Tom Hewes

Evelyn & Don Mills

Clifford & Donna Roberts

Christine & Charles Rodia

Bob & Anne Marie Russo

David Teesdale

Kenneth Melchiorre

Louella Walter

Anonymous

Honoraria

Dorothy James' Birthday

Samuel & Mary Ann B. Wagner

Elizabeth Ford

W. Lloyd Webster

Joseph Cloud

Charles & Louise Wallner

Pat Kotkin's Birthday

Linda & Don Bivens

Karen & Todd Dinius

Jennifer & Aron Gawne

Gene and Linda Mathis

Clinton & Kathleen Norris

Jean O'Neil

Memorial and honor gifts may be made to Friends Home in Kennett at any time. An attractive card is sent to notify the honoree of your generosity.

Many thanks to the following businesses and individuals for their donations to our Holiday Auction.

Terry Abdill
Thelma Abdill
Elaine Amoss
Jacquine Armstrong
Nancy Bagnall
Pam Berten ~ *In Memory of*
Lydia Reischauer
Patrice Bradour
Debbie Brumbaugh
Mary Burton
Marsha Caldwell
David Carter
Bea Dodson
Equinox Jewelry and Gifts

Angie Esposito
Ruth McLean
Nancy Maurer
Cherrie DiMatteo
Gloria Gay
Kennett Square Inn
Orpha and Dave Longenecker
Helene Quiñones
Chuck Raspa
Brenda Riehl
Carmen Rios
Sandi Singer
Mary Beth Verget
Cathy Wetherill



Residents Cora Fitzgerald and Jane Barth preview the many auction items.

Friends Home in Kennett

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www.friendshomeinkennett.org
address correction requested

Presorted
First Class Mail
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Kennett Square, PA

Do You Know?

Your gift to Friends Home in Kennett
makes so many things possible:

- High quality, compassionate care for older adults
- A safe, comfortable residence
- Interesting, engaging activities

There are many ways to give to Friends Home in Kennett:

- A check
- Stocks, bonds, other securities
- A bequest, or “planned gift”
- Gifts in-kind

Your gift can be designated as you wish with options ranging from the Resident Assistance Fund to capital improvements, to special activities and outings, to other creative ideas you may have!

For more information on making a gift to Friends Home at any time, please contact Brenda Riehl at (610) 444-2577, ext. 219 or briehl@fhkennett.org