

View from the Porch

News from Friends Home in Kennett

Fall/Winter
2006



New Look, Same Quality Care



The Parlor was refurbished by a Board Committee that was inspired by the late Helen Profita, Friends Home resident and Board member, to make the Home more comfortable for all residents.

In October the staff of Friends Home in Kennett hosted an open house, which gave many the opportunity to see our recent improvements. "The open house introduced so many people to the Home, many of them professionals who work in the retirement field and will hopefully collaborate with us in the future," said Helene Quiñones, Admissions and Marketing Director.

In 2001 the Friends Home in Kennett Board of Directors, as part of its five-year strategic plan, created a plan for renovations to improve the Home's appearance and comfort. The first priority was upgrading the heating and cooling system. Next was installation of private bathrooms in all resident rooms. "The Home operated as a boarding home for many years, and our boarders simply needed affordable room and board. Now we operate a licensed Assisted Living home as part of our mission and the needs of our residents have changed. We responded to their needs with these renovations," said David Carter, Executive Director.

A capital campaign was launched to raise the money needed for a new heating and cooling system and to start the bathroom project. In 2003, the Board closed the successful campaign, which raised \$1.1 million. Contributions to the campaign came from 248 individuals, foundations, organizations and local businesses. "Support for the capital campaign came from a wonderful mix of sources," said Brenda Riehl, Fundraising Director. "We also had 100% Board participation."

In addition to the new heating and cooling system and new private bathrooms, many other improvements have been made. They include:

- Parlor, Sun Room and Library refurbishment
- New call bell enunciator system installation
- Fire alert system upgrades
- New Health Center, featured in the Summer 2006 issue of *View from the Porch*
- New carpeting installed in many areas of the Home
- New public restrooms
- Beauty Parlor improvements
- New resident store

Built in 1843, the original section of the Home's building has retained its historic character while offering residents comfort and convenience. The building has been added onto through the years:

- **1912** the west wing
- **1952** the J. Warren Marshall Wing
- **1959** four Marshall Wing rooms added
- **1980** Linden Hall built
- **1984** dining room enlarged, three rooms added on second floor

Residents of the Home appreciate its homelike feel, and its commitment to quality, compassionate care. Physical improvements are made in an effort to support our residents in a high quality of life.

If you or a loved one is interested in admission to Friends Home in Kennett, call Helene at (610) 444-8785.



Admissions and Marketing Director Helene Quiñones helps new resident Marianna Tull settle in. Marianna's room was upgraded during the Home's renovations.

Life at the Home

A resident tells his story

The below article has been used in the Home's recent advertising. You may have seen it in the Daily Local News and The Kennett Paper.



For 82-year-old Charlie Wollaston keeping active is a lifestyle priority. And he says there is no better place to stay active and make new friends than Friends Home in Kennett.

Charlie enjoys participating in a wide range of the activities offered. He says he especially enjoys being a member of the Friends Home in Kennett Choir which practices at least once a week and performs throughout the year at other retirement communities and at the Kennett Square Senior Center.

"I love being able to travel around the area, meet new people and give them the opportunity to enjoy our performances."

And speaking of traveling, Charlie says he tries to take advantage of many of the trips the Activities Program offers. "Two of my favorites have been a tour of Highland Orchards where we got to see the vineyards as well as the orchards, and a visit to the Brandywine River Museum."

"I worked my whole life on my family's 70-acre family farm in New Garden Township," he commented. "It is my son's farm now, and I enjoy visiting and seeing the next generation's way of farming. I get to stay involved in the local agricultural community, too, by attending Grange meetings held here at Friends Home."

Wollaston credits the excellent care he receives from the staff for keeping him on the go. "They are friendly, kind and very professional," he smiled. "These nurses and aides have been the best at helping me manage my diabetes and stay healthy."

And there are even more reasons for Charlie to stay healthy and active — 22 of them to be precise.

He proudly states, "I have six children, 15 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. And, family members visit me and my sister, who is also a resident at the Friends Home in Kennett, at least once a week.

"I have to be somewhere," he laughs. "So I'm very happy it's here."

Executive Director's Update

by David B. Carter, NHA



"The Home is a wonderful blend of old fashioned comfort and modern convenience."

"I've been to the Home many times before and have always appreciated it, but it really looks wonderful now."

"Friends Home is a part of Kennett Square history: it has retained the historic feeling and uniqueness of a 150-year-old building, while also being a great place to live today."

These are just a few of the comments our guests made during our October open house, when we celebrated the completion of a series of extensive renovations that featured adding private bathrooms to a majority of our resident rooms. We also made improvements to hallways and common areas, installed new carpeting and lighting, created a new gift shop, and enhanced our beauty shop. These accomplishments marked the completion of a significant 5-year program of improvements at Friends Home, developed by the Board of Directors to provide enhanced quality of life for our residents and efficiency for our staff.

These renovations were made possible in large part due to generous contributions from caring individuals, members of the Friends Home "family," Friends Meetings of the Western Quarter, and local foundations. We are deeply grateful for this thoughtful support and for the inspired leadership of our Board, which has helped to ensure the Home will continue to be a leader in providing quality housing and services for older adults in our community.

Our next major improvement in the coming years will focus on upgrading and reconfiguring our kitchen, which serves those living at Friends Home and Linden Hall. These improvements will allow us to provide more efficient, timely food service, and help us to maintain the high quality, personalized meals that are characteristic of the Home. In addition to kitchen renovations, we will relocate and upgrade our food and supply storage areas, which will also make greater staff efficiency possible.

W.W. Smith Charitable Trust Makes Grant

In September we received a wonderful phone call from the W.W. Smith Charitable Trust: they had approved a \$75,000 grant to Friends Home in Kennett. "I was overwhelmed when I got the phone call. It is humbling to accept a grant of this size, and encouraging to have the Trust provide this support to our residents," said David Carter, Executive Director. This grant is designated for the Home's Dietary Department and will be used to provide nourishing meals for our residents.

This is the third consecutive year that the W.W. Smith Charitable Trust has funded the Home. In 2004 a \$30,000 grant provided a new call bell system and new ice machine. In 2005 a \$45,000 grant provided renovation of the Personal Care

Station, now called the Health Center, and equipment for the Dietary Department including a new convection oven, new table linens, and partial funding for a new plate warmer.

"We are delighted to have the support of the W.W. Smith Charitable Trust," said Brenda Riehl, Fundraising Director. "The improvements these grants have provided make a difference in the lives of our residents every day."

The W.W. Smith Charitable Trust is a private foundation established by William Wikoff Smith. The Trust is specifically focused on areas involving basic needs for food, clothing and shelter for children and the elderly, higher education scholarship programs, and medical research.



Residents Virginia McKelvie (l) and Ruth Wollaston with server Leona Worth in the Friends Home dining room.

Grant funding such as this helps to keep the Home's monthly rates among the most affordable in Chester County. "We are committed to providing a high quality of care at a reasonable cost," said David Carter. "With the help of our many friends in the community, we will remain a resource for older adults and their families for many years to come."

Memorial and Honor Gifts

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.

Names of honorees are in bold type with names of donors listed under them.

This is a list of memorial and honor gifts made to Friends Home in Kennett from August 16 to November 30, 2006. We strive for accuracy, but sometimes make errors. If you notice a mistake or omission, please contact Brenda Riehl at (610) 444-2577 or briehl@kennett.net.

Memorials

Annie Colten

Gary Walton

George F. Garrett

Marian L. Barry
Ken and Sara Beth Cammie
David and Rosi Pizzuto

Harold E. Groves

Nancy Butler
Faith Presbyterian Church
Eleanor W. Hawthorne
James Hightower
Yin and Yit Hong
Ann Lytle

Norma Hood

Charles and Joanne Patton

William C. Jones, Sr.

Tom, Jill and Mindi Baker
Ken and Nancy Bell
W. Ronald Brinton
Ron and Madelon Coates
Robert and Janet Jones
Robert A. Mercer
Robert and Virginia Polk

Memorials, continued

Estelle Leaf

Anthony and Ann Caruso

Martha Lomax

Julie A. Demgen
Joseph and Kathyne Mitchell
Alfred and Dorothea Morse

Jean McCaffrey

Joan O'Mara

Sara Phillips

Donald Phillips

Frank Waltz

Nancy W. Hopton

Pennock J. Yeatman, Sr. and

May L. Turner

John A. Yeatman

Honoraria

Eleanor M. Foster

Wayne and Patricia Bloodgood

E. Joel Strawn

Charles and Jane Brosius

Ann Lytle

Harry F. Brown, Jr.

Wilmer & Martha Hannum

Mary Faye Glass

Friends Home in Kennett

Friends Boarding Home of Western Quarterly Meeting

147 West State Street
Kennett Square, PA 19348

www.friendshomeinkennett.org

address correction requested

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

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Belak Flower Shop
Bove Jewelers
Patrice Bradour
Burton's Barber Shop
Marsha Caldwell
Colledge Tire and Automotive

Bea Dodson
Eckerd Drugs
Equinox Jewelry and Gifts
Gwendolinda's
Karen Halstead
Marge Harley
Deb Hart
Rosa Hart
Kennett Square Inn
Orpha and Dave Longenecker
Larry Parrish
Perry's Auto and Truck Repair
Claudia Peters
Picone Beauty and Wellness
Carol Pratt

Helene Quiñones
Brenda Riehl
Cora Jean Riehl
Carmen Rios
June Scheffler
Marian Silverman
Chip Smedley
Torelli's Men's Shop

Best Wishes for a peaceful holiday season and a healthy New Year

Mission Statement



The Friends Home in Kennett is dedicated to providing quality care for the aging in a homelike atmosphere at a reasonable cost.

We encourage independence and respect the individuality and dignity of all in keeping with the concerns of the Society of Friends.