

View from the Porch

News from Friends Home in Kennett

Fall/Winter
2008



Wii Comes to Friends Home in Kennett

This summer, a new activity was introduced to Friends Home in Kennett. The popular video game system, Wii, has been a big hit with our residents.

“It’s wonderful!”

“This is so much fun!”

“Thank you for teaching us this new game.”

These are just a few of the comments made by our residents. So far, bowling has been the game of choice. Many residents recall bowling with friends or on leagues, and are happy to have this opportunity for “virtual” participation in their favorite game.

Both the personal care residents of Friends Home and the skilled nursing residents of Linden Hall have experienced this unique gaming system. The response could not be more positive. “We are continually inspired by our residents’ willingness to try new things,” said Friends Home Activities Director, Patrice Bradour. “This is a great way to keep everyone active. I hope to hold a Wii bowling tournament sometime soon.”



Betsy Bryant, Linden Hall Activities Director, helps resident Dorrit Cook with the Wii remote controller.

Wii is an innovative gaming system that encourages groups of people to truly interact during games. The system is now used in many personal care and nursing homes to help foster social interaction, memory enrichment and physical activity among residents. The controller used for



Patrice Bradour, Friends Home Activities Director, and fellow residents cheer Eleanor Hawthorne as she scores a spare.

all games is wireless, which makes it versatile and allows participants to either sit or stand to play. “The Wii is a great system for our residents,” said Brenda Riehl, Fundraising Director, who helped teach residents how to play. “Although it does take a bit of practice to learn how it works, you do not need to be tech-savvy to use it.”

“I can’t wait to tell my grandson what we have here!” said one resident. “Maybe he and I can play something together when he comes to visit.” In addition to giving residents another way to interact with each other, the Wii also offers opportunities for our residents to interact with groups of young people from community groups and schools. “There are so many possibilities, and we’re excited to be exploring them,” said Betsy Bryant, Linden Hall Activities Director. “Our residents are really enjoying trying these games.”

We are grateful to David Halstead for donating the Wii system and extra remote controller for Friends Home. Our residents derive great enjoyment from your thoughtful gift!

Life at the Home

A resident tells her 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.



“Those are for my little ones,” Elsie Koch says as she points to a basket filled with small boxes of Cheerios and little toys. “They come to see me every Tuesday evening.” She’s talking about her two great-grandchildren, two darling boys whose pictures decorate her room.

“They’re so good. They know that the treats are there for them, but they leave them alone until I tell them to pick one.”

A brief chat with Elsie is all one needs to understand how important family is to her. “They are my life,” she says of her loved ones. “My daughter comes every week and helps me with all kinds of things. She makes sure I have everything I need, and she takes me to all of my doctor’s appointments.”

“I was born in the country, upstate near Mill Hall,” says Elsie. “And in 1940 we moved when my dad was transferred from Altoona to Philadelphia by the

Pennsylvania Railroad.” When her grandmother became ill, Elsie – still a teenager – moved back to Mill Hall to be her caretaker. “It was just the two of us. I loved her dearly and enjoyed being with her. She was a wonderful woman. She grew a big garden and always found things in the woods she could use. I remember her digging up horseradish and sassafras root. She even made wreaths from the branches of evergreen trees.”

Elsie came to Friends Home in Kennett after living in another local assisted living home for one and a half years. “It just wasn’t home to me. There was a day when I was ill and stayed in bed all day. I missed all three meals, and no one even checked in on me. My daughter said, ‘That’s it – we’re going to find a new place for you.’” She found Friends Home in Kennett, where Elsie is happy to reside. “I’m so thankful that I’m here. God’s been good to me,” Elsie beams.

What does Elsie like best about Friends Home in Kennett? “The food here is wonderful,” she said. “There’s always something to do” and “There’s a group of people who give us rides to St. Patrick’s Church for mass” were among her other comments. Then she paused and shared, “And the personal care staff – all of them deserve a medal. They’re right here if you need them. To me, they’re angels sent from heaven.”

Do you want more flexibility in your charitable giving?

Consider making a gift out of your IRA

If you are age 70 1/2 or older, you can make a charitable gift from your IRA up to \$100,000. First enacted in August 2006, the IRA Charitable Rollover has been extended through December 31, 2009. Since this IRA rollover is not included in your adjusted gross income, the gift will be tax-free and have no impact on your regular charitable gifts. At your request, your IRA trustee can make a distribution on your behalf directly to a 501(c)(3) charity such as Friends Home in Kennett.

For more information, contact Brenda Riehl, Fundraising Director at (610) 444-2577, ext. 219 or briehl@kennett.net.



Executive Director's Update

by David B. Carter

It is a pleasure to report that 2008 has been a good year for Friends Home in Kennett. While we are mindful of the fragile state of the economy, the Home enjoys a relatively comfortable financial position. Just like so many others, we have watched our investments decrease in value. However our operations budget income remains higher than expected thanks to a high census.

Recent renovations in our two small apartment buildings have helped to draw in new residents. Several of the units were vacant most of this year,

but are filling quickly following upgrades of kitchenettes and bathrooms. In the coming weeks we will also have new, high-efficiency boilers installed in the two buildings, funded by a grant from the Bequests Granting Group of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. We expect each of our seven units to be occupied by mid-January, thanks to the hard work of Helene Quiñones, our Admissions and Marketing Director.

As we observe the many changes this economy has forced individuals to make, we are reminded of the niche that Friends Home in Kennett serves:



Executive Director David Carter (r) chats with Resident Council President Joe Cloud in the Parlor.

older adults of modest means who choose to live a modest lifestyle. Our Finance Committee continually discusses our resident rates, how our rates compare with other personal care homes, and how we can keep rates in line with the services and amenities we offer.

In an effort to help residents who have financial difficulty, the Home has started a Resident Assistance Fund. This Fund provides modest support to residents with a clearly demonstrated financial need. Income for the Fund comes from interest, dividends and contributions.

Donations to the Fund are welcomed at any time and provide immediate assistance to residents in need.

For the time being, we have decided to put the renovation and expansion of our Dietary Department on hold. The economy has had an impact on capital campaigns across the country, and Friends Home in Kennett is no exception. In the meantime, we will make small capital upgrades as needed, always planning them in a way that will work with the overall, larger renovation project.

We remain optimistic, knowing that 2009 will bring us challenges and rewards. As we meet the challenges and celebrate the rewards, we always remember our purpose here is to serve our residents with compassion and respect, ensuring that they have a safe, comfortable home now and well into the future.

Best wishes to you all for a peaceful holiday season and a healthy, prosperous New Year.

Memorial and Honor Gifts

This is a list of memorial and honor gifts made to Friends Home in Kennett from August 9 and November 30, 2008. 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 or briehl@kennett.net.

Memorials

Opal Cassidy

Pamela Miller

Harriet Eastburn

Anne Lutz

Terry Gallo

Ed and Janet Leo

Jean Giaquinto

Gerard and M. Donna Gray

Mary O. Holmes

Ed and Janet Leo

Martha Lomax

Ken and Nancy Lomax

Anna M. Mancill

Robert and Janet Mancill

Jean McCaffrey

Kathleen Kennedy

Marjorie Nugent

Carol Murphy

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.

Memorials, continued

John V. Postles

Anonymous

William and Margo Allman

John and Margaret Dicristofaro

John and Gail Dziubek

Joe Giaquinto

Eleanor Hawthorne

Pat and Bill Kotkin

Jody Shoemaker

Ana Szekely

James and Elisabeth Kauer

Louella Walter

Bill and Sally Moore

Erna and Arkell Weygandt

Peter and Maria Weygant

Charles Wollaston

Edward and Rhoena Williams

Honoraria

Lewis Hawk

Joy Morris

Frances R. Pyle

Ruth Richards

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

Presorted
First Class Mail
U.S. Postage
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Kennett Square, PA

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

Mary Ann Thomas Armstrong
Artistic Edge
Patricia Bloodgood
Patrice Bradour
Mary Burton
Mary Clark
Bea Dodson
Equinox Jewelry and Gifts

Elaine Fiore
Gloria Gay
Marge Harley
Judith Hart
Rosa Hart
Eleanor Hawthorne
Fran Holmes
Ann Hutton - in Memory of John Postles
Helene Kasparian
The Kennett Inn
Elsie Koch
Orpha and Dave Longenecker
Don Macleary
In Memory of RADM Mary J. Nielubowicz
Larry Parrish
Perry's Auto
Carol Pratt

Helene Quiñones
Pamela Reischauer Berten
Brenda Riehl
Carmen Rios
Robert Russo
Torelli's Mens Custom Shop
Mary Vitale
Cathy Wetherill
Willowdale Country Store

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

Mission Statement

The Friends Home in Kennett is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing quality care in a homelike atmosphere for older men and women of modest means.

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

