

View from the Porch

News from Friends Home in Kennett

Spring 2007



Louise Price and Mary Porter pose next to one of the many sewing machines that have been donated to the sewing group.

For any non-profit organization, the generosity of donors can make a big difference in day-to-day operations. Friends Home in Kennett is fortunate to have a diverse group of donors who contribute financially and in kind. Many gifts are made in memory of former residents or in honor of staff members who provided care above

and beyond the call of duty. The following story is just one example of how a few donors are giving of their time, means, skills, and compassion.

In December a group of women known casually as the London Grove – West Grove Sewing Group contacted Friends Home in Kennett to ask how they could be of service. The group, started in 1949 to provide items to the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), needed a new project. They had learned that AFSC would no longer be able to accept the clothing and quilts they were making. When asked why they chose Friends Home in Kennett, the consensus was, “Because they needed it.”

This group of six ladies meets each week at the West Grove Meeting House. Originally a 26-member group, today’s sewers note that interest has waned over the years. Fortunately for the community, enthusiasm hasn’t. Currently they are making quilts to sell to benefit AFSC, sewing hospital gowns for children served by Operation Smile, and making walker bags for residents of Friends Home in Kennett. “Helen Profita, a former Board member of the Home, was instrumental in

Donations Make a Difference

having this sewing room built for us. She also made sure a few of the cabinets in the kitchen were set aside for us,” said Jane Brosius.

This group of women is continuing a tradition of serving the greater community. “many of our mothers sewed in this group,” one of them offered. It is clear that they are pleased to offer handmade items to comfort and aid others.

The next project will use donations to Friends Home in Kennett from many different donors, which have come together to serve the same purpose. “Our Choir has worn vests for years – it gives them a uniform look and makes the members feel like part of a group. Now we have this wonderful group of offering to make vests for our Rhythm Band.”

Many of the donations made to the Home’s Activities Program were in memory of Norma Hood, a former resident. Her daughter, Joanne Patton asked that the memorials be designated for the Activities Program. “She enjoyed the many activities Patrice planned and went to as many as she could,” said Joanne. “I was so touched when Joanne told me how she wanted her mother’s memorials to be used. Norma played with us in the Rhythm Band, so I thought making these vests in her memory was the perfect tribute,” said Patrice.

Another generous gift earmarked for the vests was received from an anonymous friend of the Activities Program.

“These women are a gift to us,” Patrice said of the sewing group. “I can see the joy this brings to the residents, *and* to the sewers. We’re delighted to have them creating these lovely items for us.”



Ann Lee and Louise Price arrange patches to decide how best to arrange and sew them.

Life at the Home

A resident tells her story

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



“I want to stay very involved in life and contribute as much as I can to the community.”

That is a philosophy Friends Home in Kennett resident Virginia Gunn lives every day. From teaching English as a second

language, to being an active member of a Chester County Shakespeare Club, to Bible study, singing with the Home's choir and sitting on the International Relations Committee of the League of Women Voters – the bi-lingual 85-year-old native of Woodstock, NY is never at a loss for interesting events and activities.

And Friends Home in Kennett, she says, fits her lifestyle perfectly.

Virginia and her husband had lived in a large house in Nottingham and after he passed away she eventually moved into a condominium in Kennett Square. Then she put herself on a waiting list for Friends Home.

“I knew people who lived here and loved it,” she explains. “I liked the idea of a Quaker community and assisted living and skilled nursing services being available if I should need them.

“The staff members are the warmest, friendliest people you will ever meet,” she continues. “Everyone respects you as individual and you can always do what you want at your own pace”

Her active pace began when she was just a baby and her father moved the family to France where Virginia lived until she was 12. After graduating from Swarthmore College in 1942 her language skills helped her get a Washington, DC-based job. That job took her to Nigeria, France and England where she met and married her American husband.

The couple and their three children settled in Chester County when Virginia's husband got a job teaching anthropology at Lincoln University, where she taught French part-time. She is also very proud that the couple was involved in the Civil Rights movement during the 1960's.

Grants Spotlight

Building on grant seeking that started in mid-2004, the Development office of Friends Home in Kennett secured several grants in 2006. Fundraising Director Brenda Riehl is pleased to report the following funding:

May 2006	\$5,350 from the Sara Bowers Fund of Kennett Monthly Meeting for Health Center renovations
June 2006	\$18,925 from the Anna T. and Joseph Jeanes Fund for aid to individual residents and upgrades to the Home's fire alert system
September 2006	\$1,500 from Kirk/Plumsock Farm Trust of Willistown Monthly Meeting for training of Personal Care Assistants
October 2006	\$75,000 from the W. W. Smith Charitable Trust for support of the Dietary Department
December 2006	\$28,000 from the Crystal Trust for replacement of bathtubs with accessible showers
	\$9,980 from the Scholler Foundation for Linden Hall medical equipment
	\$4,000 from the Hoxie Harrison Smith Foundation for Dietary Department equipment

One of her fondest memories, she recalls, was being in Washington, DC in 1963 and hearing Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. deliver his “I Have A Dream” speech.

Virginia enjoys sharing these memories and discussing many issues and events with the friends she has made at Friends Home.

Virginia welcomes her English language student to her apartment twice a week and also takes her turn hosting the League of Women Voters' International Relations Committee meetings.

“There are many interesting people who work and live here. I am very happy a friend of mine encouraged me years ago to come and visit Friends Home. It is just a wonderful environment here.”

For the Health of the Home

In November, Friends Home in Kennett coordinated our annual Influenza Vaccine Program for the 2006-2007 flu season. Flu vaccines were offered to staff and residents as part of the Home's commitment to reducing the incidence of influenza illness and its associated complications.

This year, the program was developed by three Personal Care Assistants (PCAs), all in various stages of their nursing education. Under the supervision of June Scheffler, RN, Assisted Living Coordinator and Cherrie DiMatteo, RN, Director of Nursing PCAs Allison Wallace, GN, Debbi Hammond, SN, and Gina Frontera, SN planned for and administered flu shots to staff and residents.

During the two-day program each resident and staff member was greeted by one of the student nurses and asked to answer basic health questions and sign a consent form. When receiving a flu shot from Allison each "patient" was advised that mild flu-like symptoms are normal following this inoculation, and all were encouraged to drink plenty of water. While benefiting our community's health and well-being, this program offered leadership and teamwork experience for these PCAs – valuable skills for those entering the nursing field.

We thank Allison, Debbi and Gina for their commitment to the care of our residents and wish them continued success in their studies and future nursing careers.

Allison received her BS in Nursing from West Chester University in May 2006. Debbi and Gina both continue their studies at Delaware Technical and Community College and Brandywine School of Nursing, respectively.

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 December 1, 2006 and February 28, 2007. 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

Patricia Devereaux

Anonymous
Helen Bendell
Katherine D. Bird
Joseph and Christina Carroll
Catherine Dardozzi
Phil Fredricks, Sr.*
Karen D. Halstead
Eleanor W. Hawthorne
James Lees
Ann Lytle
Emilie McIlvain
Chris and Tom O'Hara
Elizabeth L. Peterson
Randy and Dorothy Romberger
Lorraine and Paul Schmidt
Joyce Plumb Smith
Mary Ann and Samuel Wagner

Margaret C. Lockhart

March Walsh

**Designated for purchase of an American flag to be flown in front of the Home*

Honoraria

Joel Strawn

Thomas and Tamara Brosius

Bea, June and all of Dad's friends and caregivers

Tom and Carolyn Comitta

Phil Fredericks, Sr.

Philip and Joan Fredricks

Ruth Darlington Palmer

Karen D. Halstead

Ana Szekely

James and Elizabeth Kauer

Joe Cloud

Charles and Louise Wallner

Bob Wylie

William and Abigail Wylie

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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First Class Mail
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Mark your calendar...

Friends Home in Kennett residents will be presenting their original photography during the First Friday Art Stroll on July 6th

We hope you will join us

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.