



# Echoes

*from Walnut Hills Retirement Community · Walnut Creek, Ohio*

## Associates Set Walnut Hills Apart

WALNUT HILLS HAS BEEN PROVIDING quality long-term care for 35 years. Meeting that milestone has meant working hard, making changes to meet the needs and preferences of residents/customers, and careful planning for the future.

But the most important variable in the success of Walnut Hills has been the hundreds of people who have given their time and talents into serving our residents...our Associates. Today's Associates reflect the values of our community and management, just as much as our staff of yesterday. Most of our Associates live nearby and are active with their families, community, schools, and churches.

Year after year, our Associates meet the highest expectations of

our industry. Long term care has fairly high turnover (80-percent), but Walnut Hills consistently averages below 30-percent. Attendance is considered a basic expectation, and our Associates have affirmed that with a one-percent absentee rate for many years. Currently, 60 of our Associates have 15 or more years of service (many are pictured below) and the vast majority of our staff has more than five years of service.

Our Associates are considered one of our "customers," just like our residents, families, and community. It's only through their ingenuity, participation, and skills that Walnut Hills will evolve and continue to be a premier retirement community. THANK YOU ASSOCIATES! 🍷



*Many of the 60 Associates who have worked at Walnut Hills for 15 years or more, gathered for a group photo on a nice spring day.*

# WE'RE ABOUT PEOPLE .....

## Independent Living

## Retirement Home

ELTON & BETTY BURBANK



Elton and Betty Burbank have learned not to take things too seriously and to adapt to change.

After many moves in their lifetimes, The COMMONS residents have settled down at Walnut Hills, but they haven't

given up their active lifestyles.

Elton, who is 80, and Betty, who is 79, grew up in New Hampshire about 40 miles from each other. They met when they both worked for the phone company. Their first conversation occurred when Elton called Betty to order some supplies. They discovered they had a mutual friend, and the relationship blossomed from there. They have now been married 43 years.

Elton, who served 38 years with the U.S. Navy and Reserves, retired from the phone company after 30 years of service. Betty retired after 14 years.

They moved to Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, in 1977 and operated a Bed and Breakfast for eight years.

Elton and Betty moved to Walnut Hills in 2004, after becoming very familiar with the area, which they had visited many times on vacations over a 15 year period.

"Everyone is so friendly, and the location is beautiful," says Elton.

They enjoy participating in the many activities offered at Walnut Hills, "especially if it's an eatin' meetin'," Betty adds.

The couple has learned over the years that a sense of humor and staying active are important to keeping them going.

Elton currently works part-time at Walnut Creek Cheese, and Betty works part-time as a tour guide at Yoder's Amish Home and Farm.

In their free time, Betty enjoys counted cross-stitch, while Elton likes to golf. They also have fun with Cody, their Maine Mountain Cat.

Elton and Betty have five children, 14 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

They are members of the Walnut Creek Mennonite Church, and enjoy volunteering at a local food bank.

Their advise to others considering Walnut Hills, "Don't wait until you're too sick to make a move. Do it so you can enjoy it." ❧

EILEEN BURNER



When making a decision to come to Walnut Hills, Eileen Burner struggled with the choice between an Independent Living home and a Catered Living apartment.

Eileen opted for one of the newly renovated apartments on the lower level of the Retirement Home, because it gives her independence with services, but also puts her closer to other neighbors.

"I like it real well at the Retirement Home," she says. "I like to be around people, so this is a great fit."

It's not unusual to see the 79-year-old resident visiting with her neighbors or to hear her chatting with other residents on the phone. Her encouragement is appreciated by all.

Eileen grew up an only child on a farm in Coshocton County. After graduating from Warsaw High School in 1945, she went through two years of business college and did office work and bookkeeping.

In 1948, she married Karl, a factory worker who dreamed of having a farm. For 45 years, Eileen and Karl operated a dairy farm in Killbuck. They moved to a 400-acre beef farm in Missouri in 1997. After Karl passed away two years ago, Eileen realized the farm was too much to keep up with herself.

In three days time in August of 2005, Eileen sold the farm, machinery, and all her household goods, and moved to Walnut Hills to start over.

"The Lord has taken care of me," Eileen says. "I really had to depend on His direction and wisdom."

Eileen has one daughter and two grandchildren.

She enjoys various activities at the Retirement Home, including singing groups and speakers, Bingo, and chapel services. She tries to use the exercise room at the Retirement Home or walk outside on a regular basis. Also, in her free time Eileen enjoys Sudoku puzzles and visiting with her neighbors.

"Karl and I always talked about possibly coming to Walnut Hills to retire someday," Eileen says. ❧

## Welcome... Retirement Home

### The Meadows

Paul & Barbara Ankrim,  
Wytheville, VA

Gladys Aker, COMMONS & Bowerstown  
Pauline Kaser, Sugarcreek  
Ruby Miller, Berlin  
Dorothy Ling, COMMONS & Berlin  
Mildred Weaver, Berlin  
Ethel Grenert, COMMONS & Killbuck  
Esther Miller, COMMONS & Louisville  
Dorothy Fuller, East Canton

### Nursing Home

Della Ramseyer, RH and  
Millersburg  
Dorothy Miller, Berlin  
Ronald Andreas, RH and  
Columbus  
Alma Troyer, Millersburg  
Grace Blacka, Sugarcreek  
Homer Mullet, Dundee  
Mary Troyer, Sugarcreek  
Alvin Conkle, RH and Sugarcreek  
Andrew Miller, Winesburg  
Mary Pedro, Doylestown

Harlan Immel, Sugarcreek  
Anna Marie Hofstetter, Kidron  
Leroy Schlabach, Millersburg  
Emma Schmucker, Millersburg  
Doris Frutig, Dundee  
Opal Hines, Millersburg  
Arnet Lang, Dundee  
Alta Miller, Hartville  
Dorothy J. Miller, Wilmot  
Evelyn Domer, RH & Sugarcreek  
Monroe Yoder, Sugarcreek  
Mary Miller, Dalton  
Samuel Bontreger, Baltic  
Alvin A. Troyer, Millersburg

# HAPPENINGS ON CAMPUS



Students from Kidron Central Christian School helped move a wood pile as part of their Community Service Day activities.

COMMONS resident Jeanette Guscott reads with a student from Walnut Creek Elementary School as part of the "Read with Me" program.



Residents of The COMMONS and Associates gathered to celebrate Leah Higgins' 95<sup>th</sup> birthday.



Administrator Jeremy Kauffman and President David Miller congratulate Mary Yutzy and Carol Renner on their retirements. Mary retired after 14 years as a Nurse's Assistant and Carol spent 26 years in laundry at the Nursing Home.



Arlen Miller shared about his trips to India and Nepal at the annual Volunteer Luncheon. Miller is pictured with volunteers Jim Weigand and Margaret Radiano.



Resident Minnie Stauffer plants some seeds for the Nursing Home garden.

## Flashbacks...



Levi Troyer - 1982



Merle Miller - 1980s



Karen Miller & Deb Miller - 1986

# Spring has Sprung

A T W A L N U T H I L L S



The Easter Bunny stopped in to visit with Monroe Yoder, while making his rounds through the Nursing Home.

The Easter Bunny took a sneak peek at the goodies that local youngsters collected.



The campus was covered with beautiful blooms as seen in this view of the Retirement Home through the crabapple trees.

Independent Living residents enjoyed an Easter Meditation, where pre-service music was provided by Carl and Dorothy Gray, residents of The Meadows.



Retirement Home resident Victoria McPherran helped color 35 dozen eggs for the Walnut Creek Community Easter Egg Hunt.



## Spring Community Day



Del and his wife Martha led an impromptu choir of residents, Associates, and guests in a round of "Church in the Wildwood."



Ruth Schlabach, a resident of The COMMONS, enjoys some of the delicious refreshments at Spring Community Day.



Doris Stutzman, a 30-year Associate at Walnut Hills, poses with Del Donahoo and President David Miller. Stutzman was presented the "Hero of Long Term Care" award from the Ohio Health Care Association during the Spring Community Day program.



Del Donahoo of WKYC-TV 3 in Cleveland shared with a crowd of about 160 people in the Retirement Home lobby on "How a Farm Boy from Iowa Came to Cleveland."

Alma Mast, a 90-year-old resident of The COMMONS, played "Träumerei & Romanze" and accompanied group singing.



## Nursing Home

AMY VAN BRUYN



She may be quiet, but Amy Van Bruyn has made an impact on the lives of many people.

As a long-time school teacher, the 78-year-old resident of the Nursing Home spent years “sowing” into the lives of young people.

“I enjoyed working with children, especially the first and second graders who were so eager to learn,” she says.

Amy grew up in Wayne County with three brothers and one sister. She went to Fredericksburg School and earned an education degree from Eastern Mennonite College in Virginia.

While most of her teaching years were spent in the Wayne County area, Amy also taught in Indiana and at an Indian School in Red Lake, Ontario.


When she was 60 years old, Amy got married. “It was a surprise to me and to other people, too,” she says. They were married for seven years, when her husband, Willem, was killed in an automobile accident.

Amy also made a big impact years ago on the life of a 16-year-old named Shari. After agreeing to be a foster parent to Shari, Amy adopted her. Shari now lives near Shreve.

“God has been an important part of my life, especially in leading me in making decisions,” Amy says.

Amy moved to The COMMONS at Walnut Hills in 2001. She has been at the Nursing Home for about a year and a half.

“I love the beautiful view,” she says. “It’s a good place to spend your retirement years.”

Amy enjoys reading and participating in Bingo and spelling bees at the Nursing Home. She attends Walnut Creek Mennonite Church. 

## Associate

PAT DUNN



At first glance, it seems like being a chaplain would come naturally to Pat Dunn.

After all, her father was a Methodist minister, and she loves to practice hospitality and visit with people.

However, when she was asked to become Chaplain at Walnut Hills about two years ago, Pat didn’t feel qualified.

“I’m not a preacher or a counselor,” she says. “It seemed overwhelming, but the Lord said you can do this.”

Pat says her job description is basically to be a listener and just spend time with people.


“I love meeting one-on-one with the residents. There are some really neat people here,” she says.

As Chaplain, Pat spends Mondays and Thursdays visiting with residents at the Retirement Home and the Nursing Home as well as addressing any needs of Independent Living residents and Associates. Most of her time is spent listening, but she also tries to encourage residents and prays and reads scriptures with them.

“I try to remind them that they have done some good, that they are important, and can still bless others,” she says.

Working with different personalities can be a challenge, but Pat is reminded that we all have struggles, whatever our background.

Pat has an education degree from Otterbein College. She was a teacher for 31 years in Delaware, Mansfield, and New Philadelphia. Her husband, Roger, also was a long-time teacher at Hiland. They live in Sugarcreek and have six children and 17 grandchildren. They are members of Berlin Mennonite Church, where they are on the visitation team.

In addition to visiting people, Pat enjoys reading, flower gardening, knotting fleece blankets, and babysitting her grandchildren. 

## From the President... DAVID A MILLER

This is the Good News.

There is a new State/Federal program starting in Ohio called the Assisted Living Waiver. It subsidizes residents who have exhausted their personal funds but do not need nursing home care. It enables them to live at a licensed Residential Care facility, like our Retirement Home. Eligibility is primarily for current nursing home residents and Medicaid participants. Most states have this program already, but Ohio is just getting it started in July.

This is the Bad News.

There will be no qualifying facility in Holmes County. One of the requirements for the program is that every private room have its own shower/tub. Even though our Retirement Home has spacious bath suites in each hall, this one stipulation deprives our residents and community seniors from participating. This is another example of the regulators’ rules being just as important as the legislation that created the new program.

Anyone interested in more details about the AL Waiver Program should feel free to contact me.

NURSING HOME  
RETIREMENT HOME  
THE COMMONS  
THE MEADOWS

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## Summer Gatherings for Residents and their Families (A Gathering of the Generations)

### Retirement Home and Independent Living

- Friday, June 23, 6:00 –?? PM

### Nursing Home

- Sunday, June 25, 2:00–4:00 PM

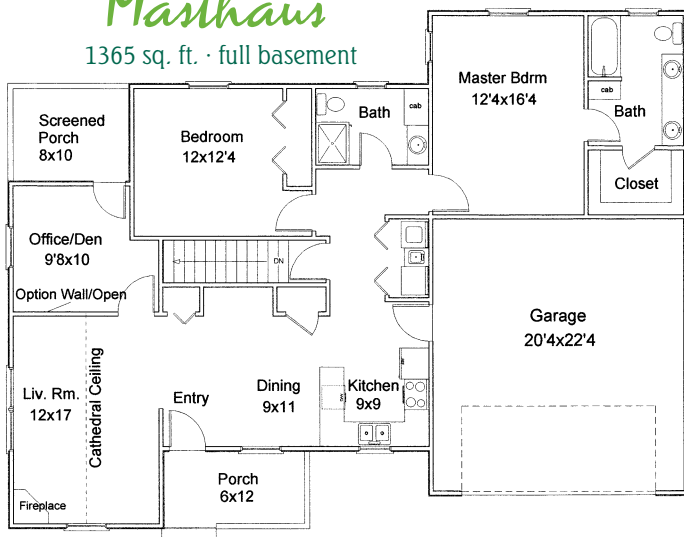
- Delicious Food
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- Face Painting and More!



### THE MEADOWS

## Masthaus

1365 sq. ft. • full basement



Reserve this home for Fall 2006

## Admissions Information—330-893-3200

### Current Housing Options

#### \*THE MEADOWS HOMES

- Masthaus on Hillside Ln  
Fall 2006
- All other sites –  
Reserve for 2007 or beyond

#### \*THE COMMONS HOMES

- Two-bedroom homes  
Available soon or waiting list  
for 2006

#### \*THE RETIREMENT HOME

- CATERED Living Apartments  
– Available Soon
- Assisted Living Suites (newly  
renovated) – Available Now

#### \*\*THE NURSING HOME

- Skilled/Rehabilitation  
– Available Now
- Long-term Care – Available Now

\* *Independent Living and Retirement Home—*

*call Betty Miller, ext. 351*

\*\* *Skilled Nursing Care—call Merle Miller, ext. 310*