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OUR VISION

Enriching each life touched by our ministry at Brethren Village.

OUR MISSION

Rooted in the tradition of service within the Church of the Brethren, the mission of Brethren Village is to provide a continuum of services and Christ-like care to support the aging process and to enhance the spiritual, physical, social and emotional wholeness of Residents, Team Members, and community.

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BE SURE TO FOLLOW BRETHREN VILLAGE ON FACEBOOK, LINKEDIN, YOUTUBE, AND INSTAGRAM FOR THE LATEST NEWS AND EVENTS!



ABOARD SHIP

BV Resident Bill Balabanow written by BV Residents Carole Gore and Phil Eisemann

Before June 10, 1919, when the first airplane crossed the Atlantic Ocean carrying a small bag of mail, the only way for anything to cross an ocean was by ship. From ancient times to today, anything or anyone crossing a large body of water is dependent upon merchant mariners. Sinking merchant ships and piracy have started more than one war between mercantile nations. This was particularly true leading up to and after the United States entered World War II. The Nazi U-boats did everything in their power to cut off supplies flowing from the U.S. to Britain. About 250,000 folks volunteered to sail the supply ships during this conflict. Some 12,000 were injured and there were over 9,000 fatalities, one in every 26 died at sea. The Merchant Marines suffered the highest casualties per capita of any branch of the U.S. Services. Without the constant flow of supplies, the Allied Forces would have been useless.

In 1942, a sixteen-year-old named William Balabanow was living in Lancaster, PA. He dropped out of high school to enlist in the Armed Services, but he was rejected because of a curvature of his spine. For the next couple of years, he took odd jobs, until one day in 1944, his mother emphatically told him to get a job or go back to school! Bill and a few friends learned that if they went to Baltimore, MD they could get a job with the Merchant Marines. When they arrived at the Union Hall, two of his friends were accepted, one was rejected, and Bill was informed that because he was not quite eighteen, they would take him if he had a parent sign a release form. He asked for the papers, went outside and forged his mother's name. When asked how he got from Maryland to Pennsylvania and back in only 15 minutes, he falsely explained that his mother was in the car waiting for him and his friends.



After going through boot camp at Sheepshead Bay in New York State, Bill trained as a radio operator. His first berth was on a World War I freighter christened the S.S. Shickshinny. Since it was wartime, there were only two radio operators instead of the preferred three sharing a single cabin. The Shickshinny was built in 1917 so the equipment was much older than that on which Bill trained. The radios were made up of tubes and all communication was in Morse code. It wasn't until the last phases of WW II, that he arrived in Marseille, France with a cargo of military supplies. At the time, the ship was under the control of the military carrying gear to support the troops.

When the war ended, Bill was unable to find work so he re-enlisted in the Merchant Marines. He married Betty Ann Nuss in 1950. For over 33 years, he berthed in ports around the world and sailed in ships as old as the Shickshinny and as new as

the enormous container ships currently plying the seas. His last ship, the Sealand Trade, was experimental with all the bells and whistles available in the last half of the 20th century.

When Bill retired in 1979, he bought a building in Lancaster and opened an electronics exchange, buying used electronic equipment to either refurbish it for resale or cannibalize it for parts and saleable metals. He ran the business for several years until he obtained a rental storage facility and rigged it so he could run it remotely. All went well until he was hospitalized for minor surgery in 2005. Unfortunately, his wife didn't have the computer skills to continue the business so he was forced to sell it and retire. The Balabanows moved to Brethren Village in 2010.

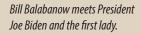
In 1977, the United States Congress passed the GI Bill Improvement Act. This act granted veteran's status to The Woman Air Force Service Pilots and any others accepted by the Secretary of the Air Force. This act, however, excluded the Merchant Marines. As with most matters of this kind, the legislation went through the Federal Courts, and in 1988, sailors who served in the Merchant Marines during wartime were finally guaranteed the same benefits and status as all the other members of the U.S. military.

It was then that Bill began traveling around the country speaking to any group who would have him on behalf of his beloved branch of the service. His apartment in Fieldcrest has award plaques stacked in almost all of the corners. His most cherished memento

is the Congressional Gold Metal awarded to him and other members of the American Merchant Marine Veterans (AMMV) in 2022 by the then Speaker of the House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi. His wife of 72 years passed away that same year.

In the fall of 2023, Bill and five other WW2 Merchant Marine Veterans were invited to join the other branches of the U.S. Armed Forces to attend the Washington, DC Memorial Day concert to honor the many thousands of deceased American veterans. The next morning, Bill and his fellow mariners had breakfast with President Joe Biden where pictures were taken and the president personally spoke to each one of them.







Bill Balabanow, United States Merchant Marine 1944.

In the spring of 2024, Bill attended the thirty-fifth anniversary of the AMMV in Las Vegas, NV where he received an award for his outstanding efforts in promoting the image of the U.S. Merchant Marine.

On June 6, 2024, Bill was privileged to be one of the nine Merchant Mariners to attend the ceremony commemorating the 80th anniversary of D-Day at Normandy Beach, France. Bill Balabanow is the perfect example of what one dedicated person can do if they pour their heart and soul into something they truly believe in.



A New Year's Surprise at Brethren Village

The New Year brought an unexpected adventure to Brethren Village when nine mules wandered onto campus one Sunday morning. Security Officer Chip Patterson was alerted by a Resident and quickly sprang into action.

"I couldn't believe it when the Resident said there were nine mules walking down the middle of campus,"

Chip shared.



The mules grazed near the Short-Term Rehabilitation Center, staying together as they explored. Chip worked to keep them safe and off the busy 501 road. Soon, help arrived—an Amish boy on a workhorse, followed by the farmer on a bicycle and another boy on a scooter.

"When the mules saw the horse, they followed it," Chip explained. The procession moved off campus, continuing toward Penn Cinema before veering into a field on their way home.

Chip reflected, "I'm just happy I could help and be in the right place at the right time."

This charming story reminds us that the New Year often brings surprises—and sometimes, even new (four-legged) friends!

Scan this QR Code to hear the full story.

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September 2024

Michael & Elizabeth Huegel, Northside Court, formerly of Lancaster, PA

October 2024

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Robert & Rosemary Kochubka, Cottage, formerly of Denver, PA
William & Barbara Arms, Northside Court, formerly of New Providence, PA
Diane Lutz, Fieldcrest, formerly of Lititz, PA
Joanne Goebel, Fieldcrest, formerly of Lancaster, PA
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Paula Benson, Fieldcrest, formerly of Lititz, PA

November 2024

Linda Hevener, Oakwood House, formerly of Lancaster, PA **Richard & Judith Bohn**, Fieldcrest, formerly of Myerstown, PA **Michaline Kozlosky**, Northside Court, formerly of Lancaster, PA

December 2024

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Dr. Celia J. Dollmeyer

J. Norman Weaver

Mr. & Mrs. Greg Ebersole

Dale G. Weller

Mrs. Pearl E. Weller

Caleb & Esther Wenger

Mr. & Mrs. Lester E. Wenger

Erika Wubbena

Mr. Jan H. Wubbena

Connie Zima

Rebecca A. Hynicka

Michael & Pamela Studney

Sam & Jean Zurin

In Honor of

Alta Bantz

Mr. & Mrs. David Ashworth

The BPN Team

Deborah J. Davis

Shannon Hagan

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Hagan

Gloria Hertzler

Mr. & Mrs. Ben Hertzler

Renny Magill

Mrs. Gloria M. Denlinger

Joan Miley

Mr. & Mrs. J. Daniel Miller

Carl Risser

Martha E. Shreiner

Brethren Village Workshop

Mrs. Louise K. Wolgemuth

Joseph Zelenski

Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Spaziani





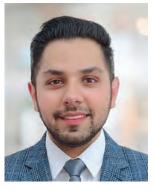
Healthcare on Campus for You!

We're Curana Health Clinic, and we're thrilled to be here to support your health and wellness! Our providers, Saran Patel, DO and Alex Borzok, DNP, CRNP, are dedicated to delivering compassionate, reliable, and expert care—right in your community.

At Curana Health Clinic, we're here to keep you healthy, active, and out of the hospital. Call us today to learn more: 717.220.5561

Curana Health Clinic offers:

- Sick Day & Primary Care Visits Get treated for illness or routine health concerns.
- Diagnostics On-Site Phlebotomy, rapid COVID, flu, RSV, strep testing, and more.
- Walk-In & In-Person Visits Walk-ins are accommodated on a first come, first-served basis, or call ahead to schedule an appointment.
- Coordinated Care We work closely with your specialists and can expedite referrals when needed.



Saran Patel, DO



Alex Borzok, DNP, CRNP





Terrace Crossing Medical Suite Monday-Friday, 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. 717-220-5561

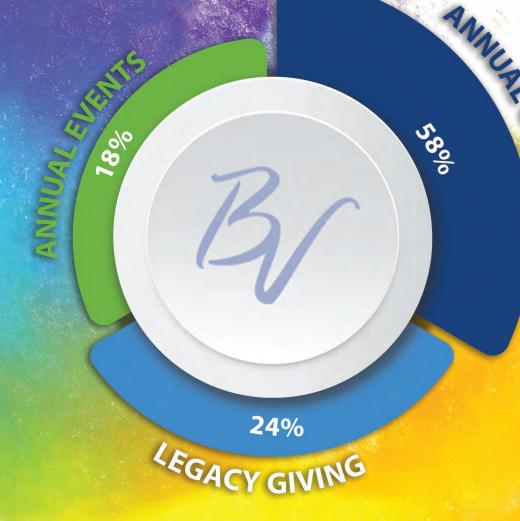
GIVING SUMMARY

In the past 6 months...

With your help
60 Residents
in Personal & Skilled
Care have received
benevolent care.

your donations received for the GOOC Samaritan Fund totaled \$288,286.54.

That's a total of **607 gifts!**



ANNUAL EVENTS

- Good Samaritan Spring Celebration
- Golf Tournament
- ExtraGIVE

ANNUAL GIVING

- Church Giving
- Tribute Giving
- Year End Appeal
- Miscellaneous

LEGACY GIVING

Bequests



BV Stores - Giving

Brethren Village is grateful for the proceeds from the stores on campus. These proceeds benefit Brethren Village Residents.

The total gross proceeds from revenues contributed directly to Brethren Village between

7/1/2024-12/31/2024

= \$54,264.75



3001 Lititz Pike, Lititz, PA 17543

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org. **US Postage** PAID Lancaster, PA Permit #1385



Reservation information to come!

For more information, please visit www.bv.org/giving/spring-celebration/

Opt-Out Policy

If you wish your name to be removed from the mailing list to receive future newsletters or fundraising materials supporting Brethren Village, please send a written request to:

Development Department 3001 Lititz Pike, Lititz, PA 17543 or go to **bv.org/contact**

The official registration and financial information of Brethren Village may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Brethren Village is an **Equal Opportunity Employer**

