

# *The Villager*

## Fidget Blankets: Residents helping Residents

Get to Know  
Your Neighbors

Spotlight  
on Generosity



### 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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# Fidget Blankets provide sensory stimulation for Residents

You don't need to be on campus long to see that Brethren Village is a community of helpers. No matter where you look there are Residents and Team Members who are willing to pitch in and help those in need.

Earlier this year, Team Member Laura Miller reached out to Volunteer Services with a special request aimed to help Residents in The Courtyards. She pitched the idea of fidget blankets, which could benefit Residents in memory support.

Who stepped up to fulfill this request? Volunteers from BV's sewing group, including Lois Snader, Gloria Grubb, Erma Miller, Lynne Buckwalter and Marie Bachman.

"Many Residents in The Courtyards have dementia," said Laura, a Therapeutic Recreation Manager. "One thing that can happen with dementia as it progresses is that Residents have more sensory needs."



Commonly called fidget blankets or activity mats, these therapeutic tools can help calm anxiety and provide stimulation for people experiencing cognitive challenges. The lap-sized blankets and mats are made from different fabrics and can incorporate zippers, buttons, snaps and even Velcro. These interactive elements combine to stimulate the senses through different textures and activities.



(Back row, left to right) Anne Galovich, Lynne Buckwalter, Marie Bachman, Gloria Grubb and Erma Miller. (Front row, left to right) Lois Snader and Edith Herr.

"Making a fidget pad was very interesting and very much needed," added Erma.

"I received a phone call from Lois Snader with the sewing group that they had three fidget blankets completed, and they are working on more," said Laura.

Not only did the sewing group do all the handiwork on the blankets, but they also did some research before they got started. One thing they learned was to use fabric that had a soft backing, so the blankets would stay comfortably on people's laps. Another important thing was to ensure items were securely fastened. The group learned that textures and sounds were key elements to include. They incorporated squeakers, stitched in pockets, attached buckles and included marble mazes for individuals to work through.

"Making the mats was a creative craft," said Lynne. "It was fun, and I loved the process."

"[The sewing group] actually inspired me to try to make my own at home," added Laura.

*"This is a great example of how we have come together as a community to show Residents that we care."*

The project, which started with a simple request, proved to be a fun and creative volunteer opportunity. In the end, the group made over a dozen fidget blankets.

"Our Volunteers keep BV strong and vibrant with their servant hearts," said Joanna Rudisill, Director of Volunteer and Retail Services.

"We are blessed to have over 300 volunteers that desire to give back to help make every day better for our Residents and Team Members. The reason I made the fidgets was to help, and I really enjoyed doing them. I put my love on each of them," added Gloria.

Check out the video to learn more about the fidget blankets and how the project helped Residents. Scan QR code below to watch the video.



# Resident Spotlight: Meet Allan and Carole Gore

The original interview was conducted  
by Phil Eisemann

How long have you lived at Brethren Village? 6 years

Where did you grow up?

Carole: I was born and raised in Trenton, NJ.

Al: I grew up in Northeast Philadelphia.

A unique turn of events brought you together in 1965.  
How did you meet?

Al: I injured my ankle playing basketball at Temple University and was limping around on crutches when my friend invited me to a party in Trenton.

Carole: I was supposed to meet a classmate in New York City during spring break, but when I fell ill the day I was supposed to meet her, I called the whole thing off. My high school friend subsequently invited me to the very same party that Al was going to attend. The rest is history.

What did you do for a living?

Carole: I went to Ithaca College in New York state and earned a bachelor's degree in Physical Therapy. For 34 years, I worked as a Registered Physical Therapist in hospital settings and then in home health care.

Al: I went to the Temple University School of Pharmacy for one year. I completed my education at Philadelphia College of Textiles and Sciences, that subsequently merged with Jefferson University, with a double major in Textiles and Chemistry and minors in math and physics. I started off working in the carpet industry, then rose through the ranks of the textile industry until ending up at the Bollman Hat Company in Adamstown. In 2005, I was offered an

early retirement package and later rehired by Bollman as a consultant to direct the startup of a manufacturing facility in China. Following that, I took a management position in quality assurance at the former QVC facility in Hempfield Township.

Do you have any children?

Carole: Yes, two sons. Kevin is an electronic engineer, and Scott is a freelance designer, graphic arts professor, and certified financial coach. Scott is married to Tanya, and they have three daughters and two grandchildren.

You live very active lives. What are some of your interests?

Carole: On campus, we are active members of the Resident Council and are members of several standing committees. Off campus, we are active in Temple Beth El in East Petersburg.

Al: I'm a lifelong singer and have sung with the Lancaster Opera Company and multiple choruses in the area.



# Welcome NEW RESIDENTS

## January 2025

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**Liz Kennedy**, Townhouse, Fieldcrest, formerly of Lancaster, PA  
**George & Jeanne Lorah**, Northside Court  
**Chris Washburn**, Fieldcrest, formerly of Lancaster, PA  
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## February 2025

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**Kathy Hershey**, Fieldcrest, formerly of Gordonville, PA  
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**Wilbur & Judy Rohrer**, Cottage, formerly of Lititz, PA  
**Claudette Steele**, Fairview Meadows, formerly of Manheim, PA

## March 2025

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**Jeanne Glah**, Oakwood House, formerly of East Petersburg, PA

## April 2025

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## May 2025

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**Kathy Simpkins**, Townhouse, formerly of Lancaster, PA  
**Harriette Wilson**, Village Garden Apartments

## June 2025

**Daneen Kemple**, Townhouse, formerly of Lancaster, PA  
**Bob & Carolyn Kramer**, Fieldcrest, formerly of Denver, PA  
**Fred & Kasey Long**, Cottage, formerly of Lancaster, PA  
**Fay Russell**, Oakwood House, formerly of Akron, PA

# Generosity and Golf

It was a gorgeous day for our 35th Annual Golf Tournament at Iron Valley Golf Club on Sept. 11, 2025. Thank you to our generous sponsors, golfers, and volunteers who helped make this year's Golf Tournament a success! Together, we raised nearly **\$71,000** in support of the Good Samaritan Fund.



# Save the Date

**2026 Good Samaritan Spring Celebration**  
**Join us: Thursday, April 30 at 6 p.m.**

It's never too soon to think about spring!

Join us to celebrate the beauty of spring and to support BV Residents in need of benevolent care through our Good Samaritan Fund. There will be music, amazing food, and great friends supporting our community. It's one of the biggest nights on the BV campus. You won't want to miss it. Save the date!

Questions? Contact: Samantha Rineer at **717-581-4316**.

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| Barbara A. Hazlett              |
| James R. Heck                   |
| Chris Ebersole                  |
| Theresa J. Herr                 |
| Mr. John H. Herr                |
| Anita F. Hess                   |
| Mr. & Mrs. Clyde A. Angle       |
| Mrs. Martha M. Bushong          |
| Elizabeth Dahmus                |
| Eurofins Lancaster Laboratories |
| Betsy Gardner                   |
| Mrs. Mary Ann H. Greiner        |
| Richard Heilig                  |
| Jessica Mahoney                 |
| Brent Miller                    |
| Suzanne Morgan                  |
| Teresa Sarisky                  |
| Mary E. Shearer                 |
| Mr. & Mrs. Stephen P. Weaver    |
| Mrs. Louise K. Wolgemuth        |
| Mr. & Mrs. Dale Zimmerman       |
| Martha Hess                     |
| Dick & Martha Coyle             |
| J. Garwood & Lorma R. Holsinger |
| Mr. & Mrs. Steven Holsinger     |

|                               |
|-------------------------------|
| Glenn Hosler                  |
| Jean & David Hosler           |
| Lois Hosler                   |
| Jean & David Hosler           |
| Ron Hosler                    |
| Jean & David Hosler           |
| Warren Hosler                 |
| Jean & David Hosler           |
| Keith E. Hummel               |
| Mrs. Marilyn G. Hummel        |
| David Hunsberger              |
| Doris M. Hunsberger           |
| Donald Hursh                  |
| Mrs. Joyce Boose Hursh        |
| Curtis L. Johnson             |
| Mrs. Ruth Johnson             |
| Earl & Esther Kurtz           |
| Susie Kurtz                   |
| Rev. John P. Layman           |
| Peggie Layman                 |
| Donald & Mary LeFevre         |
| Ruth Ann Erb                  |
| Roy & Julia Longenecker       |
| Paula & Lee Roussel           |
| Loved Ones                    |
| Betty Applebach               |
| Charles Lownsbey, Jr.         |
| Mrs. Doris J. Lownsbey        |
| C. Allen Mannon               |
| Jean R. Eiding                |
| Fannie Markel                 |
| Dick & Martha Coyle           |
| Benjamin Martin               |
| John Byers & Pat Vesper       |
| Kenneth L. Matz               |
| Pat Matz                      |
| Mr. Mark H. Sherfy            |
| Ron Mellingner                |
| Mrs. Judith G. Mellingner     |
| Ammon & Kathleen Mengel       |
| Mr. & Mrs. William Mengel     |
| Galen W. & Lucy J. Miley      |
| Gerald B. Miley, MD           |
| Elva Miller                   |
| Mr. & Mrs. Walter W. Bechtold |
| Lorraine & Catherine Hess     |
| Keri Lituma                   |
| Annette Moyer                 |
| Ralph Z. Moyer                |

|                                                |
|------------------------------------------------|
| Regina Zimmerman                               |
| Mr. Marvin A. Zimmerman                        |
| Barbara E. Music                               |
| Dr. & Mrs. Thomas W. Andersen                  |
| Mabel R. Musser                                |
| Carol Musser Ferris                            |
| Our Parents                                    |
| Russell & Linda Adsitt                         |
| Ralph C. & Mary R. Over                        |
| Phil, Renee & Alan Over                        |
| Parents                                        |
| Judy Coble                                     |
| Walter R. Pfeiffer                             |
| Charles F. Snyder Funeral Homes<br>& Crematory |
| Mary Phiel                                     |
| Grace                                          |
| William R. "Bill" Pierce                       |
| Sheri Pierce                                   |
| Dorothy M. Reitsma                             |
| Charles F. Snyder Funeral Homes<br>& Crematory |
| Betty Risser                                   |
| Martha E. Shreiner                             |
| Thelma Risser & Betty Martin Risser            |
| Carl H. Risser                                 |
| Carlton & Julia Roland                         |
| Mrs. Audrey R. Koller                          |
| Harold Rupp                                    |
| Brethren Village Workshop                      |
| Craig Sargent                                  |
| Mr. & Mrs. Ronald W. Gigl                      |
| Galen Shreiner                                 |
| Martha E. Shreiner                             |
| Glenn & Ruth Shultz                            |
| Mr. & Mrs. Wayne C. Stauffer                   |
| Byron M. Smith                                 |
| Mr. & Mrs. Walter W. Bechtold                  |
| Rita Todd                                      |
| Granville & Lorraine Smythe                    |
| Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Hess                      |
| Carl L. Snader                                 |
| Family                                         |
| J. William Snavelly                            |
| Mrs. Ethel H. Snavelly                         |
| Ann Marie Strickler                            |
| Kelly Wilson                                   |
| June S. Studer                                 |
| Ken & Linda Harnish                            |

# TRIBUTES *(continued)*

1/1/25 to 6/30/25

## In Memory of

**Kenneth D. Sweigart**

Mrs. Nancy L. Sweigart

**Marilyn M. Taylor**

Betsy A. Graver

**Betsy Tomlinson**

Mrs. Ethel H. Snavelly

**John Vesper**

Pat Vesper & John Byers

**Stephen T. Walker**

Mrs. Barbara J. Walker

**Mary Naomi Weaver**

Charles F. Snyder Funeral Homes  
& Crematory

**Julianne G. "Pat" Webber**

Mr. & Mrs. Allan E. Gore

Bruce & Susan Hepburn

**Doug Wenger**

Mrs. Janice E. Wenger

**Robert A. Werner**

Mr. & Mrs. Walter W. Bechtold

Susan Brumaghim

Fieldcrest Corridor "M" Neighbors

Mr. & Mrs. Raymond H. Gerhart

Mrs. Ruth Johnson

Thomas & Nancy King

Mr. & Mrs. Richard A. Mann

Sandy Smith

Dave & Beth Stauffer

Alana R. Werner

Devera F. Wilt

**Terry L. Wilhelm**

Mrs. Arlene R. Wilhelm

**Jaris Woller**

Charles F. Snyder Funeral Homes  
& Crematory

**Barbara L. Young**

Martha H. Hostetter

Harry & Pamela Middleton

**Joseph A. Zelenski**

Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Spaziani

**Emmanuel & Edith Ziegler**

Linda R. Ziegler

**Connie Zima**

Richard & Elspeth Moate

Mr. & Mrs. A. Douglas Wilson

**John P. Zinkand**

Mrs. Linda Zinkand

**Vic Zuraw**

Maggie Zuraw

## In Honor of

**All Personal Care Staff**

**& Residents**

Katie Overly

**BV Administration**

**& Team Members**

Judy Coble

**BV Staff**

Mr. & Mrs. J. David Ebersole

**Daughters, Kate & Amy**

Doris M. Hunsberger

**Dr. Charles R. Garrett**

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas E. Blackman

**Shannon Hagan**

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Hagan

**Marvin Harnish**

Ken & Linda Harnish

**Doris Hiepler**

Darlene J. Greenly

**Allen & Gerrie Hurst**

Mr. & Mrs. Matthew A. Hurst

**Gerrie & Allen Hurst's**

**60th Anniversary**

Laraine L. Montgomery

**Bernard Jacobson**

Mrs. Connie Brown

**Robert C. Kemp,**

**on his 95th birthday**

Mr. & Mrs. Ronald W. Gigl

Charles, June, Brian, Kelli, Nicolas,

Kelsea & Elijah Kemp

**Fran & Barbara McCaffrey**

Rosanne L. Sietins

**Ralph Moyer**

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth M. Creighton

Mr. & Mrs. George E. Ungemach

Michael & Mary Ziegler

Randall E. Ziegler

**Carl Risser**

Martha E. Shreiner

**Martha E. Shreiner**

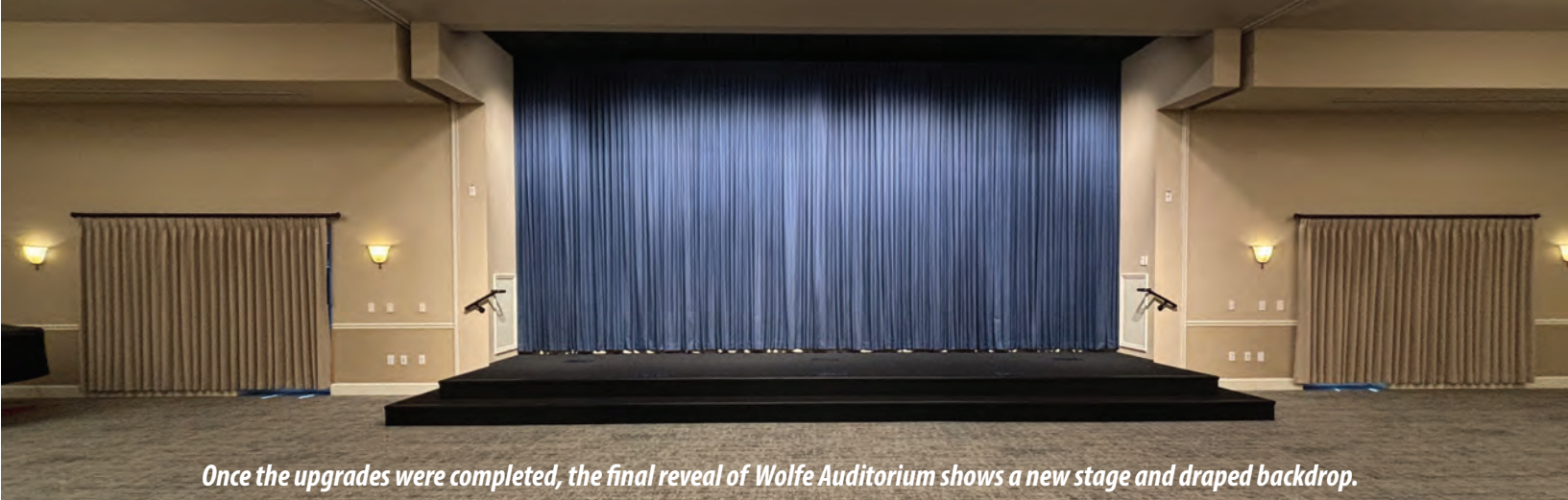
Rosanne L. Sietins

**Pat Wagner**

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth A. Hamill

**Brethren Village Workshop**

Mrs. Louise K. Wolgemuth



Once the upgrades were completed, the final reveal of Wolfe Auditorium shows a new stage and draped backdrop.

# It Takes a Village

Thank you to the many partnerships that made the Wolfe Auditorium remodeling project possible.

Over the summer, Brethren Village's Wolfe Auditorium got a makeover. The transformation included new carpet and paint, an upgraded sound system, a new projector screen and a completely new stage. The renovation project was made possible by a variety of talented, hard-working individuals and businesses.

Brethren Village would like to thank our local partners who contributed in the following ways:

- **B&B Integrations:** Provided audio, video upgrades
- **Builders Specialty Service:** Provided acoustic wall panels behind the stage curtain
- **Cocker's Towing:** Provided trucking service for the screen
- **Commonwealth Fire Protection:** Relocated sprinklers
- **Elite Cleaning Services:** Cleaned the space
- **Enck Brothers Drywall:** Completed the drywall and finish work
- **Good Brothers Builders:** Completed the demolition and general construction
- **Hursh Painting:** Completed all the painting
- **Hurst Electric:** Provided electrical and communications work
- **Martins Flooring:** Installed flooring and curtains; provided interior decorating
- **Schadler Yesco:** Provided lighting design and electrical supplies
- **Signature Signs:** Provided vinyl wrapping of the screen housing
- **Spayd's Industrial:** Fabricated the handrails
- **Sunbelt Rentals:** Provided lifts
- **Todd Kramer Ceilings:** Provided acoustic ceiling tiles



Roofers from Weaver Commercial used safety equipment as they installed new shingles on Village Townhouses.

## Thank you to Weaver Commercial

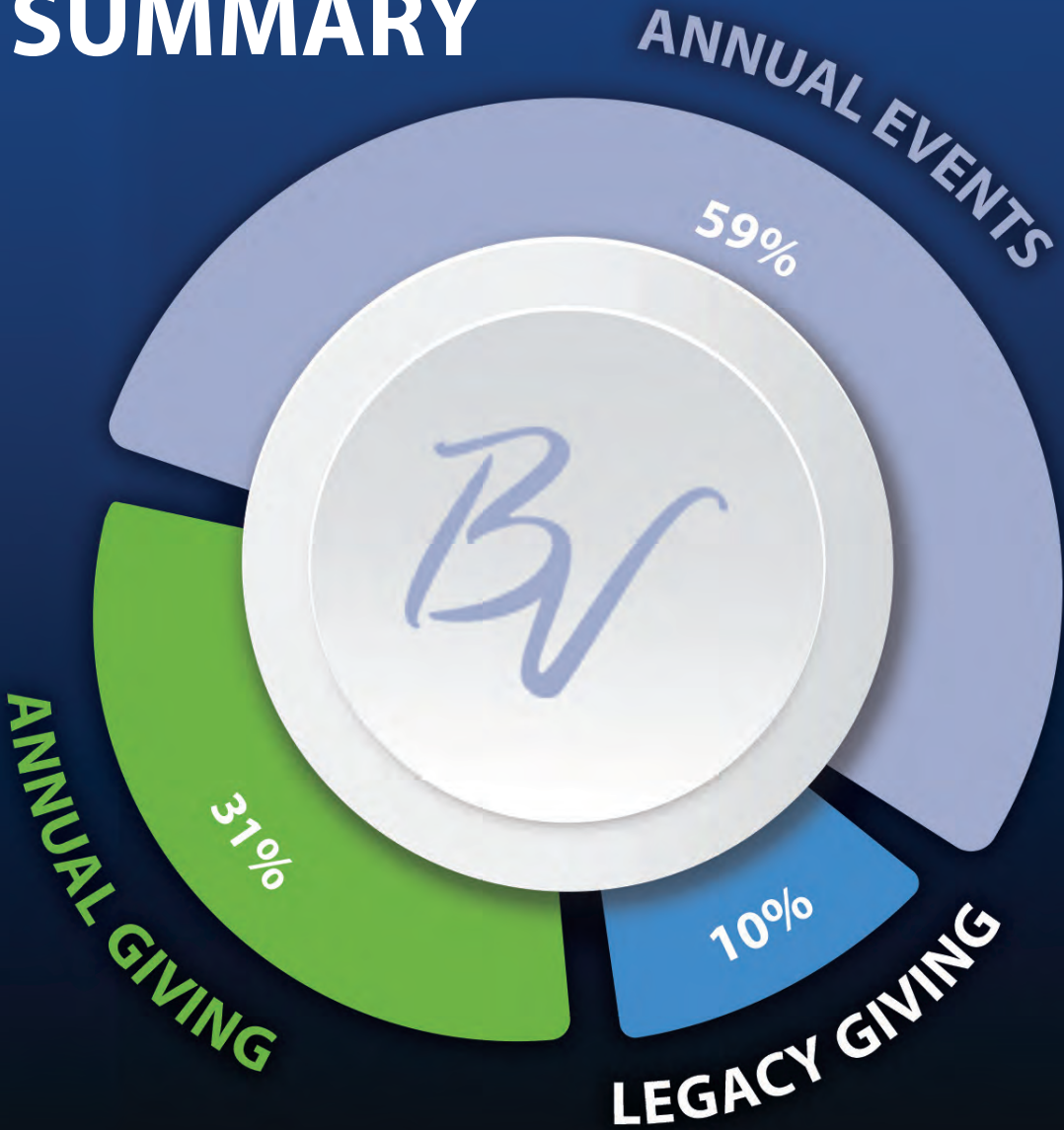
Wolfe Auditorium was not the only area that was upgraded over the summer. A large-scale roofing project was also completed. Hardworking crews from **Weaver Commercial** faced rain and extremely hot temperatures in May and June as they installed new roofs on Village Townhouses. Due to the size of the project, it was divided into five different work zones. Thanks to Weaver Commercial for completing this multi-week project.

# GIVING SUMMARY

*In the past 6 months...*

*With your help 79 Residents in Personal & Skilled Care have received benevolent care.*

*Your donations received for the Good Samaritan Fund totaled \$336,159.80. That's a total of 624 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 Back

The BV Stores are more than just shops—they are a way our community comes together to care for one another. Every purchase and every hour volunteered helps support Brethren Village Residents.

**Total for 1/1/2025–6/30/2025:**  
**= \$49,005.77**



## Ways to Support Brethren Village



Throughout the year, Brethren Village's (BV) Development Team has witnessed the generosity of Residents and community members who help support individuals who are unable to pay for the full cost of their care.

In 2025, BV hosted the annual Good Samaritan Spring Celebration in May, and the annual golf tournament at Iron Valley Golf Club in September. Throughout the year, the Development Team received kind gifts from Residents, who feel that it is part of their walk in faith and their responsibility as a caring neighbor.

As a nonprofit, the Development Team appreciates donors who help fund BV's mission. If you would like to support the benevolent needs through the Good Samaritan Fund, please consider doing so through one of the following ways:

- **The annual year end appeal:** Keep an eye out for BV's annual year end appeal, which will arrive in the mail this fall. It is one of the main ways Residents choose to support each other. It is a quick and simple way to make a difference.
- **The ExtraGive:** If you prefer to give online, please consider supporting BV through the ExtraGive on Nov. 21. This 24-hour online day of giving, is a perfect way to encourage your family and friends to join you in donating to our Good Samaritan Fund.
- **Qualified distributions:** Did you know that an annual Required Minimum Distribution or Qualified Charitable Distribution from your IRA can also be gifted to BV's Good Samaritan Fund? Reach out to your financial advisor to learn if this choice is right for you.
- **Vehicle donation:** For those who are looking to get rid of your car but are dreading the challenges that come with selling it, we can help. BV has partnered with Charitable Adult Rides and Service (CARS) to launch a vehicle donation program. With a simple phone call or online outreach, you can begin the donation process. Vehicles can even be picked up at your home. As a donor, you will receive a tax write off for the value of the vehicle. The proceeds of the gift help support BV Residents in need.
- **Estate plans:** On a regular basis, Residents will include BV in their estate plans. A bequest — or planned gift — can have a transformational impact on Residents, Team Members, and facilities on BV's campus creating a lasting legacy.

No matter how Residents, community members, and families choose to give, BV is humbled by everyone's kindness and generosity. If you've supported the Good Samaritan Fund already, **thank you!** If you're considering it but need more information, please contact Kevin Ditzler, Vice President of Development, at **717-581-4416**, or Samantha Rineer, Development Associate, at **717-581-4316**.

# BVibrant: How We Live Vibrantly



Our Residents got hands-on in a chunky knit workshop and crafted their own beautiful throw blankets on Feb. 24.



President and CEO John Snader read to students as part of National Read Across America Day on March 2.



Our Residents enjoyed participating in Lancaster County Senior Games at Leisure Lanes.



This summer, BV kicked off its monthly food truck series. Residents enjoyed milkshakes from the PA Dairymen's Association on June 9.



We hosted a special birthday party honoring Residents who are 100 years old (young) and beyond on April 10.



Our Residents participated in a culinary class with our talented in-house baker. The group made delicious chocolate-covered peanut butter and coconut cream eggs on April 9.



Our Summer Camp, "Adventures in Friendship," kicked off on June 2 and featured a variety of workshops, activities, wellness events, crafts, games and ways to connect. Summer Camp concluded on June 4 with an ice cream social, followed by Indoor Campfire Vespers.



In July, our residents enjoyed a drawing class outing with a bus trip to the Barnyard Art Studio where colored pencils become paintbrushes. Residents learned how to blend, shade, and make their drawings pop with color and personality.



Our Residents enjoyed a lovely afternoon of English tea, tasty bites, and sweet treats on April 25.



We were the team to beat at the Lancaster County Senior Games at Spooky Nook in May. We took home more than 100 medals this year. We were the retirement community that had the most participants, and we medaled in 26 out of 39 events.



A group of our Residents enjoyed a memorable trip to the Big Apple, where they had the pleasure of seeing local favorite Jonathan Groff perform on Broadway in "Just in Time" on July 23.



Our summer food truck series included delicious Auntie Anne's pretzels in July.



3001 Lititz Pike, Lititz, PA 17543

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

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Lancaster, PA  
Permit #1385

# 2025 Christmas Bazaar

Join us: Saturday, Dec. 6, at 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.



Need holiday gifts?

Stop by Brethren Village's Welcome Center and check out a selection of items handcrafted by residents and vendors, including jewelry, ceramics, quilts, and woodworking.

Stop by the Thrift Shop or purchase homemade cookies and lunch items. Proceeds benefit Brethren Village residents.

Questions? Contact:  
Volunteer Services at **717-581-4271**.

## 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\*\*](http://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

