

# VIBRANT LIFE



Living  
Vibrantly  
with Barb  
and Bill

### **Resident Council**

Campus group ensures community voices are heard.

### **Main Street Café**

Pastry Chef & Barista, Jill Gardner, shares her love of baking.

### **Activities & Trips**

Kelly Collier inspires Residents to explore and stay active.

# Cultivating a Sense of Belonging



**“Do Residents Have a Voice?”  
At Brethren Village, the answer is clear:  
absolutely. The Resident Council serves  
as a resident-led forum where voices are  
heard, ideas are shared, and the quality  
of life on campus is enriched.**

The Council meets monthly and brings together residents, administration, and team members to discuss topics that matter most; from dining and wellness to activities, safety, and technology. With 68 board and representative members and six standing committees, the Council ensures concerns and suggestions are thoughtfully addressed and acted upon. “Residents have the opportunity to be heard,” notes one member. “You have a voice,” adds another.

The benefits are tangible. Council participation promotes open communication, transparency, and collaboration. Management works closely with residents, listening attentively and responding to feedback, creating a culture where residents and staff truly partner in shaping life at Brethren Village.

From offering recommendations on meals and activities to proposing community enhancements, the Council empowers residents to actively influence their environment. Even prospective residents can see the impact of this partnership: suggestions and concerns flow freely, and meaningful improvements follow.

At Brethren Village, the Resident Council is a cornerstone of community life, ensuring every resident feels valued, heard, and engaged.

Here, being part of the conversation isn't just encouraged; it's celebrated.

# B vibrant Living ... See for Yourself

If you're on our waitlist or just want to learn more about our vibrant community at Brethren Village, we invite you to visit our campus and see it firsthand. Waitlist members can enjoy:

## DINING\*

- Bistro at Village Center, casual dining, open daily
- Main Street Café, beverages, pastries, and ice cream, open Monday – Friday
- Chives American Grill, a sit-down restaurant, open daily

## WELLNESS MEMBERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES\*\*

- Shelly Aquatic Center
- Fitness Center at The Wellness Pavilion
- Wellness Classes in the Studio at The Wellness Pavilion

## ACTIVITIES†

- Off-campus trips

## SIP AND STROLL CAMPUS EVENTS‡

- Sip and Stroll events are a great way to meet others on the waitlist and connect with Residents. You can participate in wellness classes and activities, such as Drumming classes, Christmas in July, art classes and water volleyball.



Not on our waitlist yet? We'd be happy to help you schedule a tour. Just give us a call at 717-581-4227.

\* Visit [bv.org](http://bv.org) for hours

\*\* Call 717-581-4235 or email [wellness@bv.org](mailto:wellness@bv.org) for rates, schedules, and hours.

† Subject to availability. Contact [activities@bv.org](mailto:activities@bv.org) to learn more.

‡ Contact [marketing@bv.org](mailto:marketing@bv.org) to learn more.



# Pastry Chef & Barista, Jill Gardner Creates Treats for Every Palate

For Jill Gardner, pastry chef and barista at Brethren Village's Main Street Café, baking is a way to connect with people. "It's quite enjoyable and a good balance," she says of splitting her time between creating pastries and interacting with residents, staff, and community members.

A Southern Lancaster County native, Jill traces her love of baking back to her grandmother, now 88. "Baking with my grandmother has been and remains my biggest influence," she explains. Then, early experiences at a small bake shop in high school inspired her to attend

York Technical Institute's Pastry Arts Program, where she developed a passion for French pastry.

Before joining Brethren Village, Jill honed her skills at Hotel Hershey, but the long hours led her to seek a more balanced environment. At the Main Street Café, she now bakes everything from scratch, from breads and focaccia to desserts for assisted and skilled living. She also hosts *Baking with Jill*, a hands-on class where residents prepare and bake creations alongside her.

Jill enjoys creating treats for all dietary needs, including sugar-free, gluten-free, nondairy, and



vegan options, including residents' favorites like lemon meringue pie, caramel lattes, and chocolate chip cookies. "I'm vegan, so I don't taste or eat many of the items I bake," she laughs. "Luckily, I have willing staff who participate in sampling!"

For Jill, the most rewarding part of her work is simple: sharing joy through baking and being part of a vibrant, welcoming community.



# Brethren Village Vibrant Living: “Why Wait?”

When Bill (93) and Barb (81) Girocco began considering senior living, they knew one thing for certain: they wanted community. With their children living out of state, they hoped to find a strong support system, without becoming a burden. After attending open houses across Lancaster County,



Brethren Village quickly rose to the top. They joined the waitlist and even began traveling with future neighbors before moving in. A three-day trip to the Hudson River sealed the deal.

“It was a good experience,” Barb recalls. The team members and residents were welcoming and helpful from the start.

Now celebrating 44 years of marriage, the Giroccos are fully embracing vibrant living at BV. They participate in three to four wellness classes each week, volunteer on campus and at the BV Golf Tournament, and remain active in travel opportunities that have taken them to Charlotte, Savannah, Boston, Maine, and beyond; even ziplining and snow tubing. Bill enjoys pool tournaments and golf, while Barb serves as Chairman of the Activities Committee.



*“It’s home, and we’re happy. You don’t need to worry about anything, Brethren Village takes care of everything, quickly and efficiently.”*

“Keeping active is the key,” they both say.

Beyond activities, they’ve built close friendships, sharing dinners, celebrations, and everyday life together.

Their advice to others considering the move? “Why wait? The sooner the better.”

# Kelly Collier Provides Meaningful Activities for all who Participate

For Kelly Collier, Director of Residential Activities at Brethren Village, creating opportunities for residents to connect, learn, and explore is her passion. “The most rewarding part of my job is spending time with the residents; engaging in activities we share an interest in, encouraging them to try new things, and sometimes gently challenging them to step outside their comfort zones,” she says.

Kelly began her career in healthcare 23 years ago as a Certified Nursing Assistant and later discovered her passion for activities while serving as a Neighborhood Coordinator. She joined Brethren Village 13 years ago as an Independent Living Activities Coordinator, drawn by the chance to spend meaningful time with residents while planning enriching programs.

Today, Brethren Village offers an expansive calendar of activities, from painting, ceramics, and cooking classes to musical events, educational lectures, and adventurous off-campus trips. “My philosophy is that age is just a number; it doesn’t mean we stop living,” Kelly says. Residents can try everything from ziplining and indoor skydiving to leisurely countryside drives and ice cream outings, with accommodations for those with mobility or cognitive limitations.

fulfillment, helping residents engage with the community and each other in meaningful ways. Under Kelly’s leadership, the program has grown from one or two weekly activities to multiple daily offerings. “If someone says they’re bored at Brethren Village, it’s because they want to be bored, not because there isn’t enough to do,” she jokes.

Activities foster mental stimulation, social connection, physical health, and personal

For Kelly, every day is about helping residents live life to the fullest and making Brethren Village a vibrant, welcoming community.

*“Building relationships with residents is what truly fills my cup and leaves me feeling accomplished at the end of the day.”*



# Our Residents Live *V*vibrantly



**Top:** Residents headed to Zest Cooking School to try their hand at classic bistro cuisine. During the hands-on cooking class, they explored French recipes on Jan. 16, 2026.

**Middle:** Residents took a guided tour of the Susquehanna National Heritage Area, then embarked on the Discovery Boat Tour on Aug. 8, 2025.

**Bottom:** Residents visited Stone Gables and enjoyed horseback riding on Oct. 1, 2025

**Top:** Residents enjoy a trip to Jim Thorpe to see "An Elvis Christmas Show" starring Ryan Pelton at Penn's Peak on Dec. 5, 2025.

**Middle:** Members from Resident Council and BV's Development Team presented the Manheim Township Fire and Rescue Team with a donation to buy equipment on Aug. 8, 2025.

**Bottom:** A pumpkin decorating contest was just one of many activities featured at BV Fall Fest on Oct. 3, 2025.

**Top:** A group used acrylics paints to create wintery scenes on slate during a painting class on Jan. 23, 2026.

**Middle:** Residents enjoyed an adventurous day ziplining at Refreshing Mountain on Sept. 17, 2025.

**Bottom:** BV honored those who served our country during the Veterans Day luncheon on Nov. 11, 2025.

**Top:** Residents enjoy the Passport to Spain Food Experience hosted at Seasons Olive Oil & Vinegar Taproom on Nov. 5, 2025.

**Middle:** Members of Acorn Acres Wildlife Rehabilitation brought two groundhogs, Elliott and Lilly, to campus as part of a special presentation on Groundhog Day on Feb. 2, 2026.

**Bottom:** Residents sold ceramics and other handmade crafts during the annual Christmas Bazaar on Dec. 6, 2025.

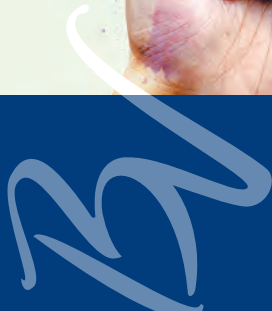
TO BUILD A  
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the next step?



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