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The Villager

Nature Enthusiast Shares her Enjoyment of Raising Butterflies

Resident Spotlight:
Phil Eisemann

2025: A Year of
Kindness & Goodwill



A Publication of

BV BrethrenVillage

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Edna Lewis raises Monarch Butterflies

Edna Lewis has always loved flowers and nature. Since retiring, she has spent much of her time outdoors, walking and caring for a small garden behind Village Garden Apartments.

Since moving into Brethren Village over four years ago, Edna has cultivated a community by sharing her passion for nature, particularly around her love of monarch butterflies. Each year, she looks forward to the busy summer months when her garden is alive with blossoms and butterflies.

Edna's interest in monarch butterflies began with a friend at church and deepened through a campus event. During the COVID-19 pandemic, her friend gave her monarch butterfly eggs. That was the starting point that turned her curiosity into a rewarding hobby.

Wanting to learn more, she picked up *The Butterfly*, a colorful book about monarch butterflies. Later, Edna was able to meet the author during a Green Thumb presentation on campus.

In preparation for the season, Edna gets her garden ready with plants that attract butterflies. Milkweed is a popular choice, and it makes her garden an inviting spot for butterflies to lay their eggs.

She typically begins harvesting the eggs in June, when tiny white specks — the size of a pinhead — appear on her plants' leaves. During this early stage, Edna watches them closely to ensure predators stay away. "I make sure they're safe," she adds.



"I just treat them like I would a human being, and when they fly away, I say bye-bye."

— Edna Lewis



Carefully she collects the leaves and brings them inside where she places them in clean, plastic containers that act as incubators. Within a few days, the eggs hatch into tiny caterpillars. After a week in the incubators, Edna transfers everything into mesh cages where the caterpillars have room to explore. In their larva stage, caterpillars continue to grow and molt as they feed on the milkweed.

Two weeks later, the caterpillars enter the pupa/chrysalis stage. Toward the end of this stage, they will look for a place to hang upside down and will fasten themselves to the top of the cage forming a "J" shape. After about 10-15 days, the chrysalis becomes transparent, so you can begin to see the butterfly inside. When the butterfly is ready to hatch, it will begin to break through the paper-thin chrysalis.

The first year she began raising butterflies, she only had one or two at the end of the season. Last year, she raised 50 butterflies. Since she started this hobby, she released several hundred monarch butterflies.

Edna's eyes light up when talking about the process, and how the monarchs undergo a complete metamorphosis. The entire lifecycle takes about a month and is repeated throughout the summer. "God has a way of making everything beautiful," she says.

Edna enjoys sharing her hobby with her family and friends. Some days, she'll place the cages, along with a copy of *The Butterfly* book, in the lobby, so Residents can learn more about the process. This gives people something to look forward to and has created a sense of community on campus. Residents, as well as Team Members, gather around the cages eager to see when the butterflies hatch. "I just marvel at God's creation," Edna adds.

In September, Edna wraps up things for the season. Last year, she invited individuals to help her release the butterflies into the wild, and 13 people shared in the celebration. "Oh, the joy," she adds. "How glorious to see them fly away."



When Edna displays the cages in the lobby, she also includes a copy of the book, *The Butterfly*, which illustrates the lifecycle of a monarch butterfly.

Resident Spotlight: Meet Phil Eisemann



How long have you lived at Brethren Village?

I have lived here a little over three years.

Where are you from?

I was born and raised in Lancaster County. I was a longtime resident of Ephrata.

What is your favorite part about living at Brethren Village?

Well, undoubtedly the Wood Shop. I'm there six days a week for about four hours. It's an opportunity for the mind to think creatively because the body's occupied and the mind's free, right? And that's part of what I really enjoy doing in the shop.

What have you worked on in the Wood Shop?

There's a fellow in townhouse where I live by the name of Leon Whiteman. When I first arrived here, he was doing jigsaw puzzles in the sunroom, and it just didn't look right doing a jigsaw puzzle on that kind of table. So, Leon and I started talking, what would be the perfect table for doing a jigsaw puzzle? We came up with this idea and build it. It was really a lot of fun. It's absolutely unique, and they're still enjoying it. It's the satisfaction of seeing your hard work and others enjoying their retirement.

What did you do before moving into BV?

I'm an electrician by trade. I had a degree from Millersville University in education. So, I started teaching electricians. I taught in Vo-techs for 17 years.

You spent some time in Africa. How did that come about?

I wanted to leave the United States in 1965, so I found a job in Nairobi, Kenya. I was there for six years. I taught physical education and history in a secondary school. Years later, when I did retire, my wife and I went into the Peace Corps. In 2004, we lived in the remote village of Malealea, high in the mountains of Lesotho, which is a tiny country in South Africa. It was marvelous, just wonderful. I taught a group of teen boys at the school. Years go by and I'm back in the U.S., and I got a letter on my birthday from one of the students telling me they still get together on Aug. 9, my birthday. I still have that letter. It's precious to me.

How many people have you interviewed so far with the BV Journal?

Maybe 75. It's a lot of people. My academic work was in qualitative research, where you interview people. I've been doing oral histories for 25-30 years. The fun part is once you get the interview set up, who doesn't like to talk about themselves? Most people do. And you get somebody started by realizing that this is just fun.

For more about Phil Eisemann, check out Village Voices, Episode 5 on YouTube at <https://tinyurl.com/BVPhil>.

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July 2025

Margaret Gerhart, Townhouse, formerly of Camp Hill, PA
Charlie & Betty Nauman, Fieldcrest, formerly of Manheim, PA
David Creighton, Townhouse, formerly of Lancaster, PA

August 2025

Carol Degenhardt, Townhouse, formerly of Langhorne, PA
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Jacqueline Hairston, Fairview Meadows, formerly of Lititz, PA
Judy Witowski, Townhouse, formerly of Lititz, PA
Gini Falk, Townhouse, formerly of Lancaster, PA

September 2025

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James Walsh, Townhouse, formerly of Wallingford, PA
Clarence & Carolyn Wenger, Fieldcrest, formerly of Elizabethtown, PA
Ronald Kreider, Fieldcrest, formerly of Mount Joy, PA
Dan & Colleen Farrell, Fieldcrest, formerly of Palmyra, PA
Ron & Carol Mohler, Northside Court, formerly of Lancaster, PA
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December 2025

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Alta Bantz

Mr. & Mrs. David Ashworth

The BPN Team

Deborah J. Davis

Betty S. Denlinger

Beth Ellen Hunter

Mary Kathryn Dietrich

Richard & Nancy Frush

Todd M. English

Mr. & Mrs. Michael R. English

Dr. Charles R. Garrett

Thomas & Linda Blackman

D. Frank Geib

Shirley M. Geib

Anita Ginn's 95th Birthday

Anonymous Donor
Rosanne L. Sietins

Shannon Hagan

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Hagan

John & Joanne Henry

Jim & Rebecca Henry

Doris Hiepler

Darlene J. Greenly

Gerrie & Allen Hurst's 60th Anniversary

Mark Hurst & Tina Pagotto
Mr. & Mrs. Allen R. Hurst
Mr. & Mrs. James E. Spangler
Mr. & Mrs. Robert V. Strausser

The Family of Michael Latschar

Mr. Michael E. Latschar

Joan Miley

Mr. & Mrs. J. Daniel Miller

Jean Mimm

Christine Ludwig

Lenny & Lila Neff

Ryan A. Neff

Barbara Swartz

Michelle L. Scobie

The Residents

Mrs. Ana Maria McKenna

Patricia Wagner

Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Eberly
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth A. Hamill

Rev. Earl K. Ziegler

Ken & Doreen Creighton
Karen L. Ungemach



New Wall Recognizes Capital Campaign Donors

A meaningful milestone was recently celebrated at Brethren Village with the installation of the donor wall honoring the Gathering for Generations Capital. Residents, donors, and committee members came together to recognize the generosity and dedication that made this vision a reality. The donor wall in Fieldcrest stands as a lasting tribute to those who invested in the future of our community, ensuring that Brethren Village remains a place of fellowship, compassion, and exceptional care. We are deeply grateful to every donor for their generosity and to the many committee members whose years of leadership, service, and commitment helped bring this campaign to its meaningful conclusion. Their collective support will bless our community for generations to come.



Save the Date

36th Annual Golf Tournament
Thursday, September 17
Iron Valley Golf Club

Mark your calendars for one of the most anticipated days on the greens! Our annual Golf Tournament brings together dedicated sponsors, partners, and friends for a memorable day of fellowship and friendly competition — all in support of the Good Samaritan Fund. Year after year, this special tradition makes a meaningful difference for Brethren Village Residents in need. We are deeply grateful for the community that makes this day so special year after year.

Brochures will mail in early June.

Registration deadline: **August 12.**

More details will be coming soon on our website.

We hope to see you on the greens!

Good Samaritan Spring Celebration

Occurred on Thursday, April 30

Thank you to our generous sponsors, guests, and volunteers who have helped make this year's Good Samaritan Spring Celebration possible. Because of your support, we gathered to celebrate and uplift BV Residents in need of benevolent care through our Good Samaritan Fund.

With music, wonderful food, and cherished fellowship, this special evening reflected the strength and compassion of our community. We are deeply grateful to everyone who contributed to making one of the most meaningful nights on the BV campus such a success.

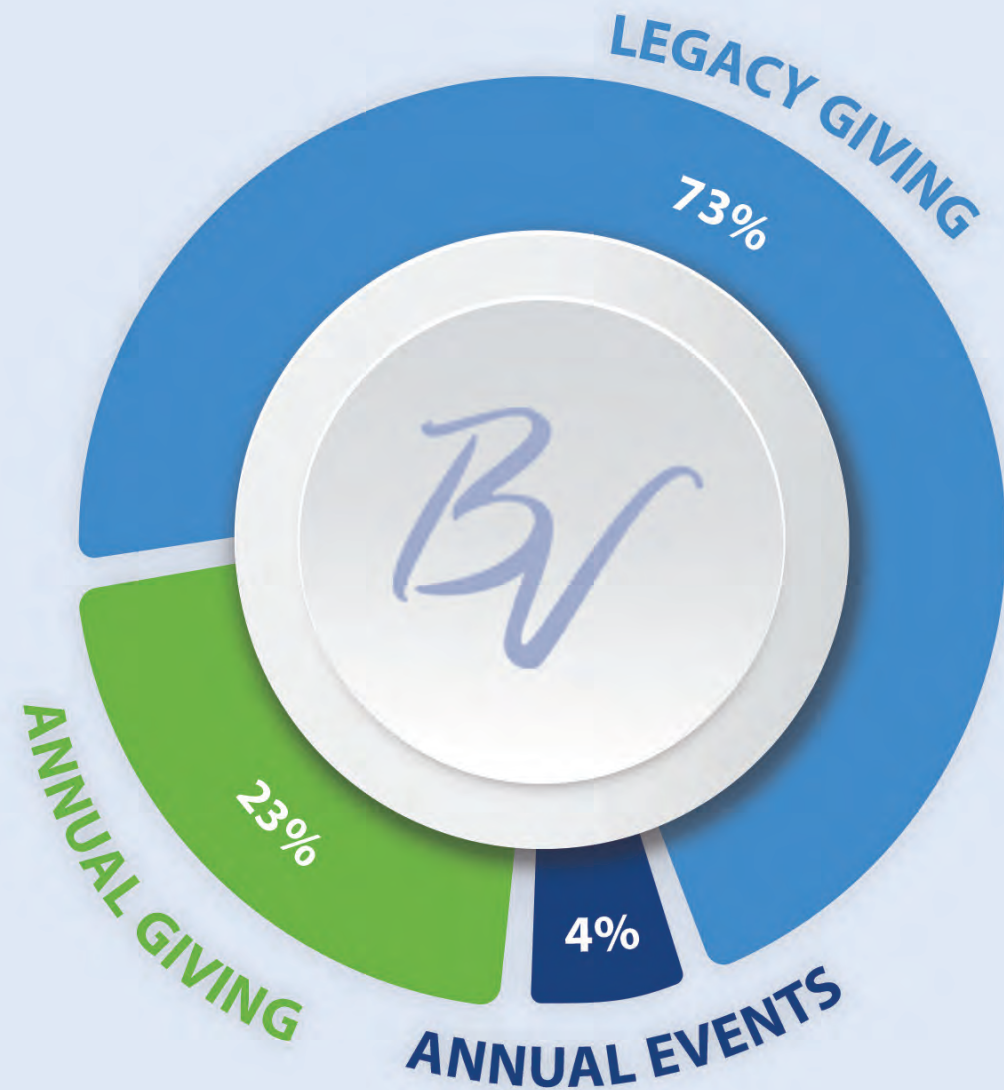


In the past 6 months...

With your help **70 Residents** in *Personal & Skilled Care* have received benevolent care.

Your donations received for the **Good Samaritan Fund** totaled **\$1,417,384**.

That's a total of **517 gifts!**



ANNUAL EVENTS

- Good Samaritan Spring Celebration
- Golf Tournament
- ExtraGIVE

ANNUAL GIVING

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

LEGACY GIVING

- Bequests

BV Shops and Stores

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

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

7/1/2025 to 12/31/2025:
= \$66,384



Your planned gift is your legacy

Your planned gift is your legacy. You likely already give. Planning for a future gift gives you the peace of mind that your giving will be remembered. Make a gift in the future that honors your commitment to caring and provides you with benefits. Benefits might include saving taxes for your heirs, or you may receive income for life. Maybe you will benefit by knowing that you have access to your assets while you might need them.

Here's how it could work for you:

- Keep your assets while you are alive, **including Brethren Village in your will is simple.** You can designate a specific amount or a percentage of what is left. When you no longer need it, your contribution will support the Good Samaritan Fund or Endowment (based on your preference). You will need to have an attorney to create your will.
- **Make Brethren Village a beneficiary of your life insurance policy or IRA.** Whether you make Brethren Village a primary or secondary beneficiary, you will retain use of the asset while you need it. You may save your estate or heirs significant taxes if you give your IRA to a charitable organization. You can make Brethren Village a beneficiary of your life insurance or IRA anytime without consulting an attorney.
- Receive guaranteed income for life. **A charitable gift annuity** provides you with guaranteed income for your life, and usually at a higher percentage than a CD or bank account. Plus some of the income may be tax free. It's easy to start a Charitable Gift Annuity with one of Brethren Village's trusted partners:

Daniel Radcliff
Eder Financial
Director of Organizational Investing
Director of Deferred Gifts
847-622-3363
DRadcliff@eder.org

Elyse M. Kauffman, MBA
Charitable Consultant Everence®
717-653-6662, Ext. 4494
Elyse.Kauffman@everence.com

2025 was an incredible year of kindness and generosity at Brethren Village

Generosity takes many forms — from office appeals and building campaigns to familiar public broadcasting pledge drives. It is always humbling to witness kindness in our region and throughout the world. Yet giving can sometimes feel transactional — tote bags, tax letters, national trends, or the size of a name etched on a plaque.

That is why what happens at Brethren Village is so remarkable.

In Luke 21, we read the story of the widow who gave not from abundance, but from faithful sacrifice. Brethren Village has clearly cultivated a culture of kindness, service, and care for neighbors. Here, the first question is how to help — not what can be gained.

Good Samaritan Spring Celebration

As spring brought milder air, it once again brought us together to celebrate the Good Samaritan Fund. Because of the kindness of our Residents, partners, and community, we continue to keep our promise: even when medical expenses grow, you have a home at Brethren Village. Together, you raised \$103,842 in 2025 to support the benevolent care of our neighbors.

Manheim Township Fire & Rescue

We set a bold goal of \$20,000 — and BV Residents surpassed it. With 278 gifts totaling \$20,710, your generosity helped upgrade equipment that serves not only our campus but the entire surrounding community. It was a meaningful way to express gratitude for all they do for us.



Golf Tournament

It was a beautiful day for golf, with 148 participants — more than a 10% increase over last year. Our golfers raised \$98,818 – even donating a few balls to the surrounding woods and ponds! Tournament giving increased by more than 14% over the previous year — a wonderful testament to the continued growth of this tradition.

Year-End Appeal

The year concluded with another inspiring campaign. An increased number of donors stepped forward to support the Good Samaritan Fund, helping raise \$124,676 — a 24% increase over the previous year.

Residents' Council Employee Gift Campaign

Our Residents' extraordinary generosity made the holidays brighter for our BV Team. Residents raised more than \$121,564 for our loyal Team Members — the highest total ever. It was a stunning gift, and our team was truly humbled.



Beyond these remarkable efforts, you continued to support our community in many other ways:

• ExtraGive:

You gave \$27,247.

• Toys for Tots & Food Pantry Drive through the BV Chapel:

Residents and Team Members gave three large boxes of toys and \$9,143 was given through Chapel offerings to support local food assistance efforts.

Above all, we saw meaningful growth in gifts given in memory of Residents, thoughtful bequests supporting our future, and generous contributions to the Endowment Fund. The gifts themselves are extraordinary — but it is the spirit behind them that sets Brethren Village apart.

At BV, giving begins with a smile, a kind word, a noble action, or standing up for a neighbor. From there, it grows to impact countless lives.

We are deeply humbled that you continue to step forward year after year. You are the definition of community. You are the embodiment of what it means to be BV Strong.

Thank you for all you do — and for the many ways you will continue to shape the future of Brethren Village.



Snapshots of *BV* Vibrancy



Residents enjoyed Penny's Ice Cream on Aug. 11, 2025.



Residents enjoyed the horses at Ryerss Farm for Aged Equines on Aug. 22, 2025.



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



Residents created cupcake wreaths before the holidays on Dec. 8, 2025.



It was a wild time at Lake Tobias on Sept. 6, 2025.



Residents in Village Manor and Terrace Crossing enjoyed an indoor carnival on Sept. 10, 2025.



The Wellness Department's Sandy Claus provided a holiday-themed fitness class to Residents in Supportive Living on Dec. 19, 2025.



Director of Chaplaincy Services Dana Statler and Director of Food Services Rick Chambers dropped off items to the food pantry in December.



Residents enjoyed the autumn temperatures and dining al fresco during Fall Fest on Oct. 3, 2025.



More than 100 business partners attended BV's annual Partner Appreciation Breakfast on Nov. 6, 2025.



Residents created handmade bowls during a trip to Inspire Pottery Studio on Jan. 13, 2026.



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.



3001 Lititz Pike, Lititz, PA 17543

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Volunteering is Heart Work

*To all of our Volunteers,
thank you for all you do!*

In 2025, our Volunteers reported an astounding 36,397 hours of service — not including unreported time that likely brings us close to 40,000 hours. With the national value of volunteer time at \$34.79 per hour, that represents well over \$1.2 million in impact and savings. **More importantly**, it represents thousands of quiet acts of care, service, and faithfulness.



Opt-Out Policy

If you would like your name removed from our mailing list and not 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](https://www.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**

