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The Villager



A Promise Made, A Love of Art Discovered

Resident Spotlight: Judy Mellinger

Eagle Scout's final project brings beauty to the campus

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Looking at Pat Matz's paintings, one might think she's a lifelong painter.

However, they'd be wrong.

Believe it or not, Pat discovered watercolors a few years ago.

"I promised myself that when I retired, I was going to study art," she said. "And I did."

Growing up in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, she poured her focus into music and graduated from Bridgewater College with a degree in Music Education.

In her twenties, she and her husband moved to Germany, as part of Brethren Colleges Abroad, a cultural immersion program.

"It was wonderful," she said of her time in Marburg. While abroad, Pat sang in a German choir and studied the organ before returning stateside.

In Chicago, her husband attended seminary, while Pat taught school. After his graduation, Pat's husband worked at a church in Indiana until his career would bring them to Pennsylvania. He became the Chaplain at Elizabethtown College, and Pat taught music and worked as a church musician. During this time, they had a son and daughter.

Years later, the couple divorced. While on her own, Pat juggled multiple jobs, but music remained a constant in her life and would eventually take her back overseas. One day, her doctor called with a unique opportunity. He sang in a local choir that was about to tour Italy, and he asked her if she'd be interested in being the choir's accompanist. Pat said yes and experienced a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. In Rome, she played the organ prelude and the processional hymn in a Papal Mass at St. Peter's Basilica. "It was a stunning experience," she recounted. "It was one of the peaks of my life."



All images, including the cover photo, courtesy of Allie Black, Brethren Village.

With music requiring much of her attention, she didn't explore other interests. However, that changed when she became the manager of the Parish Resource Center's art studio in Lancaster. There, she began to explore her artistic side.

Several years later, her life would take another surprising turn. Like before, everything changed with a phone call. This time, Ken Matz was on the line.



Ken was in the choir at St. Luke's United Church of Christ (UCC), and he mentioned UCC needed an organist. Not only did she assist Ken's committee in finding an organist, but a year and a half later, she became Ken's wife. Then in 2014, Brethren Village became their home.

"I think the campus is beautiful," she added. "I love seeing how well it is cared for."

"I promised myself that when I retired. I was going to study art. And I did."

– Pat Matz

During her retirement, Pat wanted to explore hobbies. She took classes with local artists, including Andy Smith, who nurtured her growing love of watercolors. Admittedly, honing her skills took some practice.

"The watercolors often control themselves," Pat said. "It took me awhile to realize that I need to let it happen. Controlling it isn't always the artistic thing to do."

She enrolled in classes at Pennsylvania College of Art & Design and became a member of the Lancaster County Art Association.

Working with photos and objects, Pat usually paints landscapes and still lifes. "I'll see something, and I'll be struck by the impact that it has on me," she said. "And I'll try to replicate it."

In addition to painting, Pat uses her creativity for calligraphy, greeting cards, and stained glass.

Over the summer, some of her artwork was on display on campus, and it caught the eye of Residents and Team Members. "Recently, a Team Member stopped by my house to fix a maintenance issue and told me that they really enjoyed my artwork hanging in Terrace Crossing," she added.

She finds inspiration in everyday life. "I paint things that I've actually seen, because I feel a personal connection," she said.



One of her favorite paintings is of Ken's belongings. "He had a straw hat with a hole in the front, and I decided to paint it," she remembered. "One day, he was picking spring onions, and I just put the onions down beside the hat and started painting."

Since Ken's passing in 2024, Pat has taken a break from painting. "I'm really trying to get back into it," she admits before sharing an idea she had for another painting.

"I was cleaning out some of Ken's things, and I came across some hats that he loved," she recalled. "One is a cloth hat that he bought on our honeymoon in Bermuda. I'm going to do a still life of the hats."



Resident Spotlight: Meet Judy Mellinger

How long have you lived at Brethren Village?

13 years

Where are you from?

Born and raised in Florin, which is now part of Mount Joy.

Do you come from a large family?

Yes, I was the second of seven kids.

What did you do before moving into BV?

I had a 10-year career in banking, which began at the Union National Mount Joy Bank. I started volunteering at BV when my youngest daughter started kindergarten.

Volunteering has always played an important part of your life. How long have you been volunteering?

I've been volunteering for 47 years in different capacities. Prior to volunteering at BV, I volunteered with Head Start in Marietta, Love INC of Lancaster County, Donegal Homes of Hope in Mount Joy, Camp Swatara, and at my former church, Florin Church of the Brethren. At BV, I started volunteering in the old craft room, then moved into the new craft room once it was built. In Founders Hall, I did one-on-one visits with Residents who didn't have any family members living nearby.

Why is volunteering important to you?

I always enjoy being with people, lending a helping hand, and serving others. Volunteering gives me a sense of purpose and brings me true joy. When I can bring a smile to someone's face, that makes my day special.

How did your love for volunteering begin?

Throughout my life, my husband, Ron, and I would volunteer. We did week-long projects with Brethren Disaster Ministries and Habitat for Humanity. One year we rode our bicycles to Richmond, Virginia, for a church conference raising over $2,000 for Brethren Disaster Ministries.

In the late 1970s, I volunteered in Brethren Village's craft room. At that time, only women took part crafting small projects from yarn, glue, paper, and cardboard. When Brethren Village opened its current craft room in Village Center, I volunteered there. Years later, I was asked to take responsibility for buying and stocking greeting cards in the gift shop, and I still do that today.

In 1999, I was awarded the New Era Red Rose for volunteering in numerous nonprofits.

After all this time, what do you find most enjoyable about restocking cards in the gift shop?

I have volunteered in the Gift Shop for 18 years taking over the card buying and restocking the card slots. I enjoy the challenge of searching for new card products and trying to keep the cost at a minimum. It is uplifting when Residents tell me they appreciate the selection and prices of the cards in the shop. Usually a "thank you" follows. It is nice to know there are still Residents here at BV who enjoy sending and receiving cards. It's that personal touch that a card received brings, along with a feeling of happiness and in many cases comfort.

What do you like to do in your free time?

My hobbies include exercise classes, biking, reading, and getting together with friends.

Welcome NEW RESIDENTS

January 2026

Betty Kreider, Fieldcrest, formerly of Ephrata, PA
Josephine Esbin, Townhouse, formerly of Lancaster, PA
Rosene Fisher, Fieldcrest, formerly of Willow Street, PA
Ronald & Patricia Button, Fieldcrest, formerly of Lebanon, PA
Joyce Schnupp, Fieldcrest, formerly of Lititz, PA

February 2026

Robert & Barbara Kuberski, Cottage, formerly of Mount Joy, PA
David & Edith Duckworth, Townhouse, formerly of East Petersburg, PA

March 2026

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Joyce Eberly, Fieldcrest, formerly of Stevens, PA
Gloria Brown, Fieldcrest, formerly of Lancaster, PA
Gale Vancleave, Fieldcrest, formerly of MT Pleasant, SC
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June 2026

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In May 2026, the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) recognized our facilities — The Courtyards Skilled Nursing and the Rehabilitation Center at Brethren Village — as an *Age-Friendly Health System - Committed to Care Excellence*. This designation entails reliably providing a set of four evidence-based elements of high-quality care, known as the "4Ms," to all older adults in your system: What Matters, Medication, Mentation, and Mobility. Age-Friendly Health Systems is an initiative of The John A. Hartford Foundation and IHI, in partnership with the American Hospital Association (AHA) and the Catholic Health Association of the United States (CHA).

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Mr. & Mrs. Walter W. Bechtold
Mrs. Marjorie F. Gerhart

Earl K. Ziegler
Russell & Linda Adsitt
Mr. & Mrs. Clyde A. Angle
Mr. & Mrs. Walter W. Bechtold
John Byers & Pat Veser
Mr. & Mrs. Barry L. Carper
Betsy Gardner
Mr. & Mrs. Henry H. Gibbel
Mr. & Mrs. R. Kenneth Hess
Mr. & Mrs. Harold H. Hohman
Ruth E. Johnson
Lititz Church of Brethren Friendship Class
Mrs. Judith G. Mellinger
Mr. & Mrs. Walton Moyer
Dave & Beth Stauffer

Levi J. Ziegler
Russell & Linda Adsitt
Mr. & Mrs. Clyde A. Angle
Atlantic Northeast District
Mr. & Mrs. Walter W. Bechtold
Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Bingaman
Mrs. Connie Brown
Green Thumb
Paul & Lisa Buckwalter
Mary C. Finkbiner
Steve & Kathy Focht
Mr. & Mrs. Henry H. Gibbel
Norma Griswold
Jeanne M. Heck
Robert & Jayne Lester
Lititz Church of Brethren Friendship Class
Rosanne L. Sietins
June C. Sloat
Dave & Beth Stauffer

Emmanuel & Edith Ziegler
Linda R. Ziegler

Regina Zimmerman
Mr. Marvin A. Zimmerman

John P. Zinkand
Linda K. Zinkand

Vic Zuraw
Maggie Zuraw

In Honor of

All Personal Care Residents & Team Members
Katie Overly

Amy & Wes
Doris M. Hunsberger

Tim & Julie Anderman
Tracy Seiger

Alta Bantz
Mr. & Mrs. David Ashworth

BV Administration & Team Members
Judy Coble

Phil Eisemann
Donna Wise

L. Jean Hipp
Leslie McConnell

Kate, Jim, Jack & Colin
Doris M. Hunsberger

Bob Keller
Mr. & Mrs. Richard F. Savicky

Peggie Layman
Mr. & Mrs. Walter W. Bechtold

Evelyn Meck
Kimberly Shaub

Our Food & Dining Teams
Lawrence & Sandra Wagner

Carl Risser
Martha E. Shreiner

Sally Rohrer
Hilary Grant

Barbara Swartz
Marcelle M. Harris

Village Manor Nursing Staff
Norma B. Millard

Charlotte Savicky
Rosanne L. Sietins

36th Annual Brethren Village Golf Tournament

A Day to Remember

Thank you for your generous support of the 36th Annual Brethren Village Golf Tournament benefiting the Good Samaritan Fund. It was a fantastic day on the greens—filled with beautiful weather, friendly competition, fellowship and fun!

The tournament brings together Residents, Team Members, Board Members and our valued Partners for a special day of community and camaraderie.
We are grateful to everyone who helped make this year's tournament such a success!





Save The Date: Spring Celebration 2027

What a celebration—and what a difference you made! Thanks to the generosity of our Residents, families, friends and community, the **2026 Spring Celebration raised over $115,000 to support Brethren Village's mission.**

Thank you for making 2026 so special.
We can't wait to celebrate with you again.

Save the Date: Spring Celebration May 13, 2027

More details coming soon.

EXTRA GIVE

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION | HIGH FOUNDATION | Murry Foundation

Save The Date: November 20

Don't forget The ExtraGive is right around the corner. For over 14 years,, Lancaster County residents have raised over $120 Million for the community. Last year, $27,247 was raised for Brethren Village during the ExtraGive.



Listen to us on Spotify

Did you know that BV's podcast series is now available on Spotify? In addition to YouTube, you can listen to Village Voices on Spotify. To follow us or check out the latest episode, visit **https://tinyurl.com/BVonSpotify**.



Donations fund new rescue equipment

BV Residents went over and above for Manheim Township Fire and Rescue again this year by raising $23,520 against the goal of $15,000. This is a 12% increase over last year. This donation allowed MTFR to purchase new Pneumatic Lifting Airbags. This kindness has, yet again, made our community a safer and stronger place to live.

In the past 6 months…

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

Your donations **received for the Good Samaritan Fund totaled $496,308.**

That's a total of **652 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

1/1/2026 to 6/30/2026:
= $54,633.



What Makes BV a Generous Community?

The Brethren Village leadership team often marvels at the kindness we see throughout our campus. Day after day, we witness Residents helping neighbors, volunteering their time, sharing their talents, and looking for ways to make life better for someone else.

It makes us wonder: **What is it that makes Brethren Village such a vibrant and special community?**

There may never be one answer—or a way to fully define the "secret sauce" that makes a community feel like home. But the generosity we see every day offers some important clues.

It Starts with the Little Things

Generosity often begins simply with caring about the person next to you. Lending a hand. Offering an ear. Giving a neighbor a ride. Sharing a smile.

These gestures may seem small, but they send a powerful message: **You matter, and you are not alone.**

We Learn Generosity by Example

Many of us learned the importance of giving from parents, grandparents, teachers, friends, and coworkers—through volunteering, supporting community causes, or simply being there when someone needed help.

Generosity is often something we learn by watching others. At Brethren Village, we are fortunate to have a community filled with people who have spent a lifetime learning what it means to give back—and who continue to pass that spirit along.

Time and Talent Matter

"Many hands make light work."

Our Residents demonstrate the truth of those words every day. Some serve on committees; others volunteer in our retail stores, assist in the library, transport neighbors, or share their expertise in the train room or woodshop.

Every contribution matters. When you give your time, skills, experience, or energy, you show your neighbors that you care about the community you share.

Generosity Grows When We Work Together

One gift, one act, or one helping hand can feel like a drop in a very large bucket. But look around BV and you'll see that **you are not giving alone.**

When those contributions come together, the bucket fills. Needs are met. Ideas become reality. Programs flourish. Neighbors are supported. Lives are changed.

Speaking Up Is an Act of Generosity

Generosity isn't always about giving something away. Sometimes, it means **speaking up**—sharing an idea, asking a difficult question, offering a different perspective, or helping us see a challenge in a new way.

Some of our most valuable insights come from our Residents, who experience Brethren Village in a way others cannot. **Your perspective matters, and we are better because you are willing to share it.**

A Community Built on Generosity

Perhaps the greatest lesson is that generosity at Brethren Village isn't one big thing. It is thousands of small things happening every day.

Each act matters.

Together, they create something bigger than any one of us could create alone: a community where people care for one another, contribute to something greater than themselves, and make Brethren Village feel like home.

That may be the real secret sauce.

Generosity is not simply something we do at BV. It is part of who we are.

Recognizing Milestone Anniversaries

Can you image working somewhere for nearly five decades? For Fieldcrest's Concierge Gayle Johnson that milestone is a reality. This year, Gayle is celebrating 47 years working at Brethren Village. And Gayle's not the only Team Member with a longstanding career here. John Baker will be celebrating 46 years, and Martha Lippart has 45 years of service.

To honor these career milestones and thank Team Members for their dedication, BV hosted an anniversary dinner for those celebrating 20+ years of service through August 2026.

The special gathering — for Team Members and their guests — took place on Aug. 13 in Wolfe Auditorium. The Dining Team curated a special menu for the event, and Team Members received a token of appreciation. BV thanks the following individuals for enriching lives for more than two decades:

47 Years **Gayle Johnson**, Administrative Services
46 Years **John Baker**, Affordable Housing
45 Years **Martha Lippart**, Transportation
39 Years **Sherrie Rutherford**, Courtyards - Community
38 Years **Marsha Vital**, Administrative Services
G. Elaine Landis, Dining - Village Manor
Susan Miller, PC - Village Manor
36 Years **Roland Maust**, Technology
32 Years **Jennifer Gerlach**, PC - Terrace Crossing
Yvette Kaylor, Courtyards - Households
31 Years **Tonya Wanger**, PC - Village Manor
30 Years **Juanita Crouse**, PC - Village Manor
Linda Krofcheck, Affordable Housing
29 Years **Dawn Forrey**, Courtyards - Households
Cheryl Forrey, PC - Terrace Crossing
Jeffery Johnson, Facilities
28 Years **Kevin Eiche**, Dining - Fieldcrest
Todd English, Facilities
Kathy Myers, Courtyards - Community
27 Years **Shelly Trupe**, Grounds
Carolyn Reisinger, Courtyards – Households
24 Years **Lisa Groff**, PC - Village Manor
Lisa Melhorn, Security
Melissa Rossos, Courtyards - Households
22 Years **Kurt Schnader**, Dining - Terrace Crossing
21 Years **Laura Todd**, Administrative Services
Lourdes Toro, Courtyards - Households
Sandra Miles, PC - Village Manor
20 Years **Farrah Hummel**, Courtyards - Community
Dana Statler, Pastoral Services
Mellania Byers, PC - Terrace Crossing
Norma Fisher, Accounting





Eagle Scout's final project brings beauty to campus

Ethan Dippner, a Scout from Troop 142, wanted to give back to Brethren Village as part of his final Eagle Scout project. The senior at Warwick High School built two 8x14 ft. garden boxes for Residents in skilled nursing and personal care. The garden boxes were installed on campus on Aug. 10.

Ethan's family has ties to BV. His great grandmother, Dorothy (Dot) Swope, was a BV Resident until 2022. Ethan and his family would visit Dot and participate in BV's annual holiday caroling.

Through successful fundraising efforts, Ethan paid for the project with help from the local community. The project was supported by donations from local businesses such as Bomberger's hardware store and Reiff's Farm Market, as well as a contribution from a current BV Resident, who met Ethan during a prior fundraising event. Ethan's stepfather Curtis Arpey and fellow scouts from Troop 142 provided a hand during the construction phase which occurred over the summer.



Dining unveils winning T-shirt

Congratulations to Melissa Holm on winning Dining's annual T-shirt contest for her design featuring a bowl of noodles and reads, "Pasta la vista, baby."

Melissa, a server at Chives, has worked at BV for 10 years. However, this is the first time she has entered the design contest.

Supportive Living Dining Manager Todd Ribbeck launched the contest four years ago at BV, and it continues to be popular among Dining Team Members. The contest garners about 10 entries each year, and Dining Team Members vote on their favorite design. In the end, the design with the most votes gets turned into a T-shirt. This year's bragging rights go to Melissa. Nice job!



Snapshots of BVibrancy



Freshly-brewed teas and delicious treats were served during the English Tea experience in Fireside Lounge on Feb. 10.



Residents learned needle felting skills during a class on Feb. 24.



Residents participated in Read Across America at Manheim Township Schools on March 2.



BV hosted local first responders for breakfast and to thank them for all they do to keep Manheim Township safe.



In April, BV held its annual Volunteer Banquet at Middle Creek Church to thank volunteers on campus.



It was a packed house for the annual Good Samaritan Spring Celebration. Thanks to the generosity of our Residents, families, Team Members, and friends who supported Residents in need of continued care and services.



Fifty-three Residents participated in the Lancaster Senior Games in May. The team won 113 medals.



Residents enjoyed service projects and activities during BV Summer Camp in May.



Residents enjoyed a lawn concert in front of the Welcome Center on June 5.



Residents toured western New York's lighthouses, vineyards, and the Lucy Desi Museum.



Members of the waitlist were invited to campus for a cookie decorating demonstration as part of Christmas in July.



Residents enjoyed a special "Saturday Night Fever" event in the pool on July 11.

Brethren Village

3001 Lititz Pike, Lititz, PA 17543

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2026 Christmas Bazaar

Join us Saturday, Dec. 5, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Gift giving just got easier. Stop by our Christmas Bazaar for all your holiday shopping.

This year, Brethren Village is expanding the annual Christmas Bazaar to include multiple shopping areas within the Welcome Center and Village Center. 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. If you would like to participate as a vendor or if you have questions, please contact Volunteer Services at 717-581-4271.

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***

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

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY