

# CHRIST'S HOME Connections

*A Season of Gratitude  
& Growth*





# Connections Magazine

Fall 2025

## *A Season of Gratitude and Growth at Christ's Home*

Jim McGovern, CEO



As the leaves turn and the air grows crisp, we're reminded once again that every season brings its own beauty, its own rhythm, and its own reason for gratitude. Here at Christ's Home, the fall season has been one of remarkable growth, joyful celebration, and heartfelt connection.

### **New Homes, New Beginnings**

In July, we broke ground on six new Independent Living Cottages along Christ's Home Drive—another step forward in expanding our mission of care and community. Behind these homes, a park-like amenity space is taking shape—complete with a walking path, water feature, exercise stations, pavilion, bocce courts, putting green, and inviting benches. It will be a place where residents can walk, rest, laugh, and enjoy the peace of God's creation together.



In September, we hosted a luncheon for future cottage residents, giving them the chance to meet their new neighbors and hear updates from our architect and builder. Seeing the excitement on their faces reminded us that Christ's Home is not just a place to live—it's a community where new friendships and stories are constantly being written.

### **Honoring Lives Well Lived**

October brought an incredibly special celebration as we partnered with the Bucks County Area Agency on Aging to host a Centenarian Birthday Celebration for local residents aged 100 and older. Thirty one Centenarians and their families joined us, including four World War II veterans. We are especially blessed to have four Centenarians currently living at Christ's Home. Their stories of resilience, faith, and love inspire all of us (See Page 13).

## Looking Ahead to the Holidays

As we look forward to Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's, our hearts are full. The coming months will be filled with the warmth of family gatherings, festive meals, and cherished traditions that bring our residents, staff, and children together in celebration.

Through every event and every season, one thing remains constant: ***Christ's Home is a place where lives are touched, hearts are encouraged, and hope is renewed.***

## A Year of Blessings

As 2025 draws to a close, we are humbled by all the Lord has done. This year, He has entrusted us with the privilege of serving more than 1,000 senior adults and disadvantaged children, each life a precious reminder of His love and provision.

Season's Blessings,  
Jim McGovern  
Chief Executive Officer

***"Thank you for being part of this ministry through your prayers, support, and faithfulness. May this season fill your heart with gratitude, your home with joy, and your spirit with peace."***

### MISSION STATEMENT

The heart of Christ's Home is to serve the Lord by providing services to senior adults and disadvantaged children in an atmosphere graced with love, dignity, compassion and respect.

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### CORPORATE OFFICES

800 York Road, Warminster, PA 18974  
215-956-2260

Children's Services – Warminster  
215-956-1882

Children's Services – Paradise Campus  
717-687-6072

Senior Services – Warminster  
215-956-2270 • [www.christshome.org](http://www.christshome.org)

***Photos and names may or may not depict the children of Christ's Home.***

***CONNECTIONS is a publication of Christ's Home. Please contact the Corporate Office with any comments or questions.***

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# The Little Dress That Changed Everything

Patricia was born in Jamaica, the second of eight children. Her father, a minister in the remote hills of the island, served faithfully despite the family's extreme poverty. Their only support came from a small group of churches scattered across the Caribbean.



In 1953, a missionary friend from India told Patricia's parents about Christ's Home in the United States, a place that could send clothes for the children. Soon after, boxes began to arrive from America filled with neatly folded clothes.

Patricia still remembers the day she opened one of those boxes and pulled out the most beautiful, stylish little dress she had ever seen. She loved it instantly.


**Wearing that dress made her feel seen, valued, and special—**

feelings rare for a child growing up with so little. From the age of 11 onward, she cherished each package from Christ's Home.

One day, moved by gratitude, Patricia told her mother, "When I grow up, I'm going to give back to Christ's Home for all the years they helped us." Her mother's eyes filled with tears. She knew they could never afford to give back to Christ's Home, but hearing her young daughter's promise touched her deeply.

Patricia's journey was not without challenges. In 1958, when it came time to test for high school, her teachers doubted she could pass and were reluctant to let her try. But Patricia prayed earnestly, promising God that if He helped her succeed, she would serve Him for life. On exam day, she froze during the math section, until, in her words, an "angel" appeared beside her, guiding her through the answers. Against all odds, Patricia became the only student from her district to pass and was able to attend high school. Patricia excelled, graduating at the top of her class in Kingston, Jamaica. She later became both a Registered Nurse and a Doctor of Pharmacy.

In 1976, Patricia was recruited to work as a nurse in America. It was hard to leave her mother and younger siblings, so she traveled back and forth for years before finally settling in the U.S. in 1981. She never forgot her childhood pledge, and in the late 1990s, she made her first gift to Christ's Home. She has been giving faithfully ever since.



*“My father taught me we are here to occupy the world with our gifts until the Lord calls us.”*

Her siblings sometimes ask why she continues to give to Christ’s Home. Her answer is always the same:

*“You didn’t make the pledge to God to give back to Christ’s Home one day—I did. We are each responsible for how we honor what God gives us.”*

Patricia eventually left nursing in New Jersey to work as a pharmacist. Today she lives in Clermont, Florida, with her family. She has a son, who is a chiropractor, and two grandchildren.

Now 80 years old, Patricia still tends to her garden under the warm Florida sun. She believes retirement doesn’t come until God calls us home. “My father taught me we are here to occupy the world with our gifts until the Lord calls us,” she says. “The blood of Jesus is on my heart, and I don’t want anything

to come between me and Him. God has always been my provider.”

And to this day, every time Patricia gives to Christ’s Home, she thinks of that little dress—the one that made a poor girl in Jamaica feel loved, and inspired a lifetime of generosity.



*Pictured left to right: George Zauflik, Patricia, John Bryant*



# Intergenerational Event Brings Both Campuses Together

Who doesn't love Family Feud? We recently hosted a Family Feud intergenerational game featuring our Independent Living residents from our retirement community and children from our children's campus.

Teams were split up evenly and everyone had a blast participating in front of a packed crowd in Smyth Hall. Vernon Morris, Administrator of Independent Living, was an excellent game host and got the crowd involved early and often.

The theme for the Family Feud event was summer trivia questions as each team went back and forth answering the questions to the best of their ability. It was amazing to see the smiles and cheers whenever someone had a correct answer.

It's always a sentimental and blessed time when we bring our senior and children together for an event. It reminds us of the importance of our Mission and our goal of Caring, Compassion and Community.

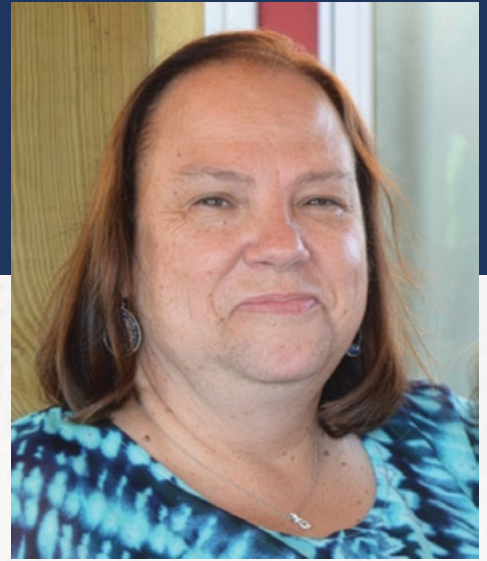


*Our seniors and children together.*

# Honoring Peggy Rodgers:

## A LIFETIME OF SERVICE AT CHRIST'S HOME

We would like to take a moment to honor someone truly extraordinary. Peggy Rodgers recently retired after an incredible **40 years** of devoted service to our organization as a medication technician. Hired in 1986, Peggy has been a cornerstone of our community, and her retirement marks the end of an era filled with grace, dedication, and unwavering commitment.



**Forty years!** That's not just a career, it's a legacy built on love, consistency, and quiet strength. Peggy has been a steady light through seasons of change, growth, and challenge. Her presence has shaped our workplace in ways that go far beyond words. She's touched lives, inspired hearts, and led by example every single day. Success isn't always about grand gestures, it's about showing up, giving your best, and staying true to your purpose. Peggy embodies that kind of greatness. Her journey is a testament to the power of faith and service, and we are all better for having walked alongside her.

There have been many amazing changes since Peggy began working at Christ's Home.

From a brand new skilled nursing facility to the construction of the first Independent Living cottages, Peggy was there every step of the way, leading by example and making the entire team proud.

Outside of work, Peggy loves to travel, watch her grandchildren with her husband, and is an avid couponer. She also loves spending her summers at the beach in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

Peggy has lived out the mission of Christ's Home with humility and compassion, dedicating her life to serving others in the most beautiful and selfless way.

We wish Peggy a happy retirement!



# The Lifelong Impact of House Parents



This month marks a very special milestone for Sharyl and Hyggens: their 33rd wedding anniversary. For all those years, they have served side-by-side as house parents in more than a dozen states, faithfully following God's lead and praying before every move. Today, Christ's Home is blessed to have them here, where their love and dedication are helping shape young lives every single day.

Life in the Cottages at Christ's Home looks much like any family. Alarms ring in the morning, lunches are packed, backpacks are zipped, and prayers are whispered before the children head off to school. But what happens in between those daily rhythms is what makes the role of house parents so vital. Sharyl and Hyggens step into the gaps created by trauma and brokenness, providing guidance, structure, and the steady presence of love.

Their work is not babysitting; it is life-shaping ministry. They are intentional about teaching life skills, modeling healthy relationships, and showing children what a safe, nurturing family looks like. They partner with therapists, attend school events and sports practices, pray with the children daily, and walk alongside biological families during visits. Even mealtimes become lessons—opportunities for children to ask questions, practice critical thinking, and discover that their voices matter.

"You are never really off duty," Hyggens reflects. "Every hug, every prayer, every conversation plants seeds. God gives us only a short window of time to pour into these children's lives, and those moments matter."

One recent victory shines brightly. Two children, ages 7 and 11, arrived at Christ's Home behind in school and struggling with mental health challenges. Over the course of a year, Sharyl and Hyggens worked with the children's mother, her case worker, and the children to build stability and strength. When their mother overcame addiction, the children were joyfully reunited with her—healthier, more confident, and ready to face life's challenges. When asked what he would miss most, one child answered simply: "Sharyl's hugs in the morning, and when she would say, 'Be the best you can be today.'"

Stories like this remind us of the heart of Christ's Home. House parents create sacred spaces where healing begins and hope takes root. And yet, they do not do this alone. Donors—through prayers, financial support, and encouragement—are part of the village raising each child. Your gifts ensure that house parents like Sharyl and Hyggens can continue their calling and that children can discover what it means to be loved, valued, and equipped for the future.



# Point of Grace Performed At Our Fall Anniversary Concert!



On Thursday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, we were happy to host Point of Grace in our Community Center.

Over 300 concertgoers joined us as we celebrated our 122nd anniversary of providing life-changing services to disadvantaged children and senior adults. One of the largest events in the seven-year history of our Community Center, concertgoers traveled from all over the East Coast to listen to Point of Grace live.

In what was a beautiful night of music and worship, concertgoers had fun with friends

and family, made lifelong connections, and heard about the amazing work God has been doing here since 1903!

“When our Community Center opened seven years ago, we had no idea it would be used for so many great events,” VP of Corporate Relations George Zauflik said. “It’s truly an amazing facility and Point of Grace did not disappoint.”

What an exciting night of music, fun, worship, and connections!

# Meet Allysa Carilla,

## CHILDREN'S CHAPLAIN AT CHRIST'S HOME

Allysa Carilla joined Christ's Home earlier this year as our new Children's Chaplain, bringing with her a heart for ministry and a passion for walking alongside children and teens in their journeys.

Allysa earned her bachelor's degree in music therapy from Immaculata University in Chester County. Her first position was with Recovery Centers of America, where she worked with individuals battling addiction, a population she felt deeply called to serve. After three years, she experienced a shift in direction and accepted a role at Penncrest High School, coordinating their Student Assistance Program (SAP). It was there she discovered her love for working with children and developed strong leadership and administrative skills.

While serving at Penncrest, Allysa continued her education and earned her master's degree in counseling from Liberty University. Today, she works part-time at a Christian counseling service as an adjunct professor, and part-time as the Children's Chaplain at Christ's Home, a position she first heard about through Cross Court, the young adult pickleball and

fellowship group that meets on our campus each Saturday night.

Since beginning her role at Christ's Home, Allysa has focused on building authentic relationships with the children. Her days are often filled with prayer, worship sessions, recreation, shared meals, music lessons, and even help with homework. She spends time with the teen moms over dinner and leads one-on-one Bible studies. Together, with the children, she has organized Chick-fil-A Nights, pickleball tournaments, field days, and talent shows—all ways to build trust and create an atmosphere graced with love, dignity, compassion, and respect.

Looking ahead, Allysa hopes to build community partnerships that remove barriers for the children to engage in fellowship. She also plans to orchestrate small groups





centered on God's word to give the children more opportunities to grow in faith. She also dreams of starting a music exploration program, allowing children to experience the joy of improvisation, creativity, and expression through sound.

Allysa's presence has already made a meaningful impact, and her compassionate spirit continues to inspire both the children and staff at Christ's Home!



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# Tributes

*During the period of July 1, 2025, through September 30, 2025, Christ's Home was blessed to receive many contributions in memory and in honor of people who are important to the lives of our supporters. We extend thanks and appreciation to everyone who chose this avenue to support the mission and services of Christ's Home, while paying tribute to special individuals in their lives.*

## In Memory

### **ERIC ANDERSEN**

Edna Andersen

### **CHARLES and BETTY BEIFUSS**

John Hendricks

### **JO ANNE BLASE**

Gerry Blase

### **BARBARA CANTAGALLO**

Andrew Cantagallo

### **ROY EBERZ**

Barbara Eberz

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Robert Kopcho

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Robert DeHuff

Patricia Musselman

Marilyn Harris

### **OUR PARENTS**

Al and Sue Gibson

### **BARBARA ANN SCHUMANN**

Ron and Shirlee Schumann

### **SLOMSKI, WEBER and TWOMEY FAMILIES**

Claire Slomski

### **JIM SULLIVAN**

Dolores Sullivan

### **AARON SUMMERS**

Timothy and Marilyn Summers

## In Honor

### **OUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN**

Al and Sue Gibson

### **MARY THOMPSON**

James Riggs

### **TOM, AMY, REBECCA AND KIMBERLY PALMATARY**

Theresa S. Palmatary

### **PASTOR LOU AND LYNN PRONTNICKI**

Doris Simon



# We were happy to host Bucks County Area Agency on Aging's Centenarian Luncheon



Christ's Home was honored to host the **Bucks County Area Agency on Aging's** second annual Centenarian Luncheon on October 1<sup>st</sup>. This special gathering celebrated residents of Bucks County who have reached 100 years and beyond—honoring their wisdom, resilience, and lasting contributions to the community.

Surrounded by family, friends, and local leaders, these centenarians were recognized not only for their remarkable longevity but also for the rich legacies they continue to share with future generations.

The world was a lot different when these centenarians were born. In 1925, the world population hit 2 billion people, the Pittsburgh Pirates won the World Series, the most popular movie was *Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ*, a new house was \$7,720, and a new car was \$265! From the television to the internet to artificial intelligence, they have watched the world change before their eyes.

# Maximize Charitable Giving Before 2026 Tax Changes

As 2025 comes to a close, high-income taxpayers and charitably inclined families should be aware of tax law changes taking effect in 2026 that will reduce the value of charitable deductions.

## What's Changing in 2026

- **0.5% AGI Floor:** The first 0.5% of your income given to charity won't be deductible.
- **Reduced Value for Top Bracket Donors:** For those in the 37% bracket, deductions will only offset tax at 35%.
- **Limited Deduction for Non-Itemizers:** Standard deduction filers can deduct up to \$1,000 (single) or \$2,000 (joint).



## Why Give More in 2025

Donations made in 2025 aren't affected by these new limits, creating a final chance to capture full tax savings. Accelerating or "bunching" future gifts into this year may yield greater benefits.

**Example:** A couple donating \$50,000 could save about \$18,500 in 2025 by giving it all this year—compared to only \$16,250 if split between 2025 and 2026.

## Using a Donor-Advised Fund (DAF)

If you don't want to give everything to charities at once, a DAF lets you contribute in 2025, secure the deduction now, and distribute funds gradually in future years.

## Next Steps

1. **Decide** how much to give by **12/31/2025**.
2. **Consider a DAF** to front-load donations while preserving flexibility.
3. **Plan ahead** for 2026—bunching donations in some years may be more efficient than steady smaller gifts.

## The Takeaway

With new rules reducing deductions in 2026, acting now can create meaningful tax savings.

*Kreischer Miller Accounting & Tax Firm contributed to this article:*

<https://www.kmco.com/insights/important-2026-tax-changes-why-2025-is-a-key-year-for-charitable-giving/>



# Creating Community At Lancaster CEO Breakfast

On September 25<sup>th</sup> at Eden Resort & Suites in Lancaster, Christ's Home was honored to host our CEO Jim McGovern and VP of Corporate Relations George Zauflik as they shared exciting updates on the mission and vision of our work with children and senior adults.

“Our CEO Breakfast is a great opportunity for us to reach out to our donors and partners while also building a strong sense of community,” VP of Corporate Relations George Zauflik said.

We are so grateful for the many donors and friends who joined us from the Lancaster region for breakfast and for your continued partnership. Your generosity makes it possible for Christ's Home to impact lives every day. Together, we are building brighter futures!



*Top: George Zauflik presents to a captive audience.*

*Bottom: Jim McGovern engages attendees at the 2025 CEO Breakfast.*


***“Our CEO Breakfast is a great opportunity for us to reach out to our donors and partners while also building a strong sense of community,”  
VP of Corporate Relations George Zauflik said.***

# Christ's Home

Caring. Compassion. Community.

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*"For God so loved the world that  
he gave his one and only Son, that  
whoever believes in him shall not  
perish but have eternal life."  
John 3:16*

In the warm glow of Christmas lights, a child admires the nativity scene—a gentle reminder of Jesus' birth. Amid the sparkle of the season, we remember the true gift of Christmas: God's Son and the peace Christ brings.

Please consider giving a Christmas gift by scanning the QR code here.



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