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Jay Gordon

Teen Mother/Baby Program
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Vernon Wright
Cliff and Diana Urbany are sitting with some friends in a sun-soaked room just off the main lobby at Christ’s Home when someone pops the question: Whose idea was it to move into the same continuing care community as Diana’s mother, Claire Miller?

Without hesitation, Cliff raises his hand; his wife has a finger pointed in his direction, too.

“We had looked at other places for our future, and one day on the way home I decided to stop and tour the sample cottage, and I fell in love with it,” says Urbany. “Knowing that my grandmother was part of the original Christ’s Home in Philadelphia, which is one of the oldest memories that anyone here on campus can relate to, that was kind of neat, too. We love our cottage, that’s for sure, and I’m glad we made the move.”

In a day and age when comedians can make a living telling mother-in-law jokes, it might be considered unusual for Cliff to suggest moving into the same community as his mother-in-law. But the fact of the matter is that Christ’s Home has not one, not two, but three family groups, each spanning two generations, living together in their Warminster community—and it is working out beautifully for all parties concerned.

“I love it to no end,” says Diana Urbany about practically being neighbors with her mother. “It is so great knowing I can come down here any time and take her out for a walk, or go to lunch together down at the Bistro. It just means the world to us; I love being near my mother.”

Reba Fichthorn may be one of the newest residents of Christ’s Home, but at 107, she is the grand dame of the community. She moved to Christ’s Home from another facility not long after daughter Judy Stebner and husband Ken came to the Shepherd’s Crossing cottages two years ago. What does it mean to have her daughter living so close to her?

“Honor your father and mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.”

- Exodus 20:12

By Jay Gordon
“It means everything in the world,” she says, gesturing toward her daughter. “She’s it.”

“I am an only child, so I like to visit her quite often,” adds Judy Stebner. “It makes the biggest difference to have her so close. She is well taken care of, and the staff is wonderful. It really is beautiful here—like a 5-star hotel. We are so thrilled, and she is very happy here.”

Ken Stebner lived in the Warminster area for 45 years, and remembers when it was mostly cow pastures and cornfields. “I knew of the place but had never seen it,” he says. “When we shopped around [for a continuing care community] we fell in love here and moved in two years ago.” At the time, Reba was living at another facility, but when Ken and Judy saw the community’s new skilled nursing facility, they knew they wanted to bring Reba to join them at Christ’s Home. “This place is like a cruise ship, except you don’t get seasick,” says Ken. “It’s good for [Reba] to know her daughter is right around the corner, and it’s good for us to be able to keep an eye on her and visit her more frequently.”

Elsie Carl also appreciates having her daughter and son-in-law close by. “It’s hard to explain, but it makes you comfortable inside,” says the 97-year-old, who moved to the personal care facility at Christ’s Home not long after her daughter Betty Doty and her husband Bill purchased a cottage at Shepherd’s Crossing six years ago. “You know all the time that if you picked up the phone, she could be here in a couple of minutes. That gives you a good feeling.”

“It’s a comfort to both of us that she’s here, knowing I can drop in any time, and that I don’t have to travel so far to see her,” adds Betty.

Travel distance was also a factor for Cliff and Diana Urbany. Before she moved to Christ’s Home, Claire lived in North Carolina. “I wouldn’t want to have to go as far as she did to visit me down there all the time,” Claire says of Diana. “I wanted to move to Philadelphia for her sake, and I have been very happy here.”

It’s clear from listening to these three family groups talk about their experiences since moving to Christ’s Home that a big part of the

Continued on next page
attraction for them is the strong sense of community
that residents feel.

“The camaraderie of everyone on this campus is
amazing,” Diana says. “It really is like a motionless cruise
ship. There are so many people willing to help in
whatever way possible. We share things back and forth,
we do things together, and you now that even in the
middle of the night, if something were to happen, you
know your neighbor would be there to help you out. It’s
just a nice, warm feeling.”

Bill Doty remembers the care he received upon
returning home from the hospital after an operation.

“Betty picked up the phone, and the wellness nurse was
here in an instant, helping Betty get me up and showing
her how to care for me,” he says. “It’s nice to know that
help is as close as your telephone.”

Cliff Urbany recalls a co-worker of his who spent several
weeks in the skilled nursing community at Christ’s
Home doing rehabilitation after surgery. She was
pleasantly surprised when Cliff stopped by to see how
she was doing, and she raved about the care she
received from one of the night shift nurses. “When
you’re in skilled nursing, you usually want to leave,” Cliff
says, “but she was ready to stay. This place is great!’ she
said. ‘I could live here.’”

The caring community these three family groups have
found at Christ’s Home translates into one thing: peace
of mind. “Both Judy and I were caregivers for our
previous spouses, who both died from cancer,” says Ken
Stebner. “So it was good for me to get back in the
saddle again here, help to care for Reba and manage
her financial matters—all the things she used to worry
about. I’ve been fortunate to be able to help in ways
that give Judy peace of mind.”

“For us, the biggest blessing about being here is our
home, which we hope to live in for the rest of our lives,”
says Cliff Urbany. “But really it’s the whole property, the
community that Christ’s Home is built around. We are
blessed to know that we have a future here.”

Jay Gordon is a free-lance writer. You can reach Jay by phone
at 215.527.7813 or by email at jaygordon217@verizon.net

Amazing Changes

Each of the matriarchs who participated in this interview have been
alive for nearly a century (or, in Reba Fichthorn’s case, more than a
century). Of all the changes they have witnessed in their lifetimes,
which one amazes them the most?

“The telephone,” Elsie Carl says, without hesitation. “What we had was
a candlestick you could talk into. When I see what you can do with a
telephone today, it’s just amazing.”

For Reba, it would have to be computers and digital cameras, says her
daughter, Judy Stebner. “She likes to see the pictures right away!”
Every year in October, Christ’s Home hosts the Legacy Banquet to raise funds and awareness for the needs of senior adults who have outlived their resources. At this banquet we also celebrate the extraordinary service of people at Christ’s Home Retirement Community.

**LEGACY SERVICE AWARD**
The Legacy Service Award is given to a member of the staff who exhibits on a daily basis the mission of Christ’s Home. This individual is dedicated to excellence and encouraging others around them to embrace the mission of Christ’s Home by serving others with love, dignity, compassion and respect.

This year’s winner is Erin Neilson. Erin has been a Certified Nursing Assistant in the Personal Care section of our community for 14 years. In 2007, Erin became a certified med tech to expand her skills and broaden her talents which have truly benefited our residents. Erin is a faithful employee at Christ’s Home who always brings a smile and gracious words to everyone she meets.

In her presentation speech, Brenda Mast, Assistant Administrator for Healthcare Services and Personal Care Administrator at Christ’s Home highlighted what makes Erin special:

"Most days she takes care of a need before most of us even realize there might have been a problem. She doesn’t make a production out of it; doesn’t take credit for it; doesn’t ask for recognition for consistently going above and beyond her job duties."

Erin Neilson truly embodies the mission and spirit of Christ’s Home.

**LEGACY VOLUNTEER AWARD**
The Legacy Volunteer Award is presented to individuals who have served as volunteers with distinction at Christ’s Home Retirement Community. They serve in important and vital ways, inspiring others to join them on the volunteer team.

This year, two individuals received this prestigious award; Gretchen Keller (Shepherd’s Crossing), and Carol Wolf (Garden Apartments). Both women have served in volunteer roles with distinction within their neighborhood and in the Healthcare Center.

Gretchen has been instrumental in leading the Kitchen Committee at the Clubhouse and in leading various cooking activities in the Healthcare Center. Carol has supported the Garden Apartment Residents Council and has provided many hours of administrative office support to the Social Services Department.

Volunteer Coordinator, Barbara Crockett, shared the following about Gretchen: “In my previous role as Director of Marketing, I’ve had the joy of knowing Gretchen since she and her husband moved to Shepherd’s Crossing about 7 years ago. From Day One Gretchen jumped right in to volunteer and serve others in our community.”

Director of Social Services, Tammy Whittaker, shared her thoughts about Carol: “The thing that makes Carol stand out as a volunteer, in my opinion, is her ability to say the right word at the right time. On so many occasions I have heard words of encouragement; ‘You’re not alone, I’m praying for you, have a good day.’ She is thoughtful, kind, and encouraging. Carol Wolf...thank you for being you and for living a life of service as an example to us all.”

Congratulations to all of the Legacy Award Winners for 2015! We applaud and thank you for your faithful service to the Christ’s Home community.
Christ’s Home, which opened its first Teen Mother/Baby Program in Warminster in 2012, is proud to announce that it will be opening a similar program in late October/early November at its Paradise Campus in Lancaster County.

Christ’s Home Teen Mother/Baby program has successfully met the needs of teen mothers in multiple ways, including: training the teens to be mothers, assisting them to finish their high school education, helping them find gainful employment and eventually transitioning the teen mothers to live with their child in a self-sustaining way.

During meetings with Lancaster County officials just over a year ago, management at Christ’s Home discovered that Lancaster County no longer had a placement option for teenage mothers who wanted to give birth to and raise their babies with needed support. Lancaster County officials, aware of Christ’s Home successful Warminster program, asked Christ’s Home to institute the same program in Lancaster County.

“We saw this as a great opportunity for our organization and for the teen mothers of Lancaster County,” said Christ’s Home CEO John Bryant. “Our mission is all about empowering the children and adults we serve to live the fullest life possible and to provide life-changing care and support.”

With unanimous approval from its Board of Trustees, Christ’s Home will be renovating “Cottage #1” on its Paradise campus to serve as its second Teen Mother/Baby Program location. All children in Christ’s Home Primary Program will be served in “Cottage #2” while the Transitional Living Program for teenage girls will also continue on the Paradise Campus.
Christmas Information

If you, your church or an organization you belong to are interested in supporting the children at Christmas this year, please contact one of our staff below for information between October 1 – November 16, 2015.

Warminster Campus coordinator, Amy Neill
215.956.1882

Paradise Campus coordinator, Leah Yarnell
717.687.6072 (X 26)

We will be able to provide you with information on how you can support the children and cottages this Christmas, including gift drop-off times and locations.

Thank you for your generous spirit and display of kindness towards the children now and throughout the year!

A Generous Thought - “The Ideal Gift”

By Vernon Wright

Bill and Betty Doty have thoroughly embraced the Christ’s Home community since they moved into Shepherd’s Crossing about seven years ago. In addition to living at Christ’s Home, they also enjoy the close proximity to Betty’s mother who is a resident in the community at Shepherd’s Way. In their time at Christ’s Home they have become interested and involved with our services to children. Betty, with the help of others, organized a ministry to the Teen Mother & Baby cottage on the Warminster children’s campus. Together they have supplied this program with all the disposable diapers and wipes that were needed for the last three and a half years.

Bill and Betty have also supported the benevolent care that Christ’s Home provides to their senior adult neighbors each year, and have invested in the long term viability of benevolence through Charitable Gift Annuities (CGA). They are taking advantage of the higher returns available through a CGA as compared to CDs and the low dividends from certain investments. Bill calls a CGA “the ideal gift that keeps on giving to all involved”. The two life CGA “provides us with lifetime income, and after we are both gone, Christ’s Home can use the remainder for ministry to others.”

The rate of return for a CGA is based on the age of the annuitant(s) receiving the payments. One example is a couple ages 75 and 78. They would receive a 5.2% rate of return for as long as one of them is living. The single life rate is 5.8% for age 75.

Here is a simple comparison between a three-year bank CD and the two life Charitable Gift Annuity.

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<td>36 Month CD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christ’s Home CGA</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>5.2% return</td>
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Christ’s Home would be happy to provide you with a free personalized illustration of a Charitable Gift Annuity. **Contact Vernon Wright at 717-687-9424 (ext. 102) or vwright@christhome.org.**

*Note: Christ’s Home CGAs are not available in all states. Call for information.*
During the fiscal year that ended on June 30, 2015 Christ’s Home was blessed to receive numerous contributions in honor or memory of people who are important to the lives of our supporters. We extend our thanks again to everyone who used this avenue to support the mission and services of Christ’s Home, while paying tribute to special individuals in their lives.

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Christ’s Home will receive a proportional share of the matching funds based on the dollars given by donors. Starting at 12:01 AM on November 20, 2015, all you need to do is log on to the LCCF website (lancfound.org) and follow instructions for making your credit card donation to Christ’s Home. To learn more about this matching gift opportunity contact Vernon Wright at 717.687.9424 (ext 11) or wwright@christshome.org.