For several years the leadership of Christ’s Home contemplated what to do with the closed Schoolhouse on the Children’s Services campus in Warminster. At first, renovating the building for a renewed purpose seemed to be the best approach. But after considering the significant expense of meeting current building codes and ADA requirements – and realizing that this would leave Christ’s Home with a building that would not serve the needs of children and families in the 21st Century very well – it was determined that another course of direction would be more prudent.

Approximately four years ago Jim McGovern, our Chief Operating Officer, and I began to dream about a new concept – and entirely new building on the site of the Schoolhouse. We began to work with a design/build firm (Schlosser Steel Buildings in Hatfield, PA) and a rough concept was drawn. Over the following two years the concept was refined and a plan was presented to the Board of Trustees for construction and funding. In addition, the necessary approvals from the Township and the County were applied for and received. After several months of review and prayerful consideration, the Board voted unanimously to proceed forward with the Family Learning Center project in November 2016.

Entering 2017 we finalized construction costs, selected a General Contractor (McBrick Construction), and launched our Building Lives, Together campaign. September 7 was an exciting day as we held the official Groundbreaking.

Over these past 8 months much work has been accomplished, including: demolition of the old schoolhouse, extensive site work including construction of a drainage swale along N. Norristown Road, the erection of steel, and now the finishing touches to this brand new 16,000 square foot building. Grand Opening festivities are being planned for mid-June, with a series of special events to follow throughout the summer.
season (see the listing on the next page to see more about our Summer of Celebration). In addition, as of this writing, our Building Lives, Together campaign has reached $1.3 million toward our goal of $2 million. Praise the Lord for all that has been accomplished thus far.

The Family Learning Center provides the opportunity to expand our services, programs, and ministry to children and families in ways that we could not have done before.

Many people have asked me this simple question: “Why are you building the Family Learning Center?” In truth, this building is not about the building. It’s about people – the people who will be served through ministries and programs that the building will allow us to hold. The Family Learning Center will allow us to serve children in residence, our staff, and residents from our retirement community better than before. Equally as important is the great expectation of serving children and families from the greater Bux-Mont region with new programs and ministries. As one Board member put it, “the Family Learning Center provides the opportunity to expand our services, programs, and ministry to children and families in ways that we could not have done before.” And this is very exciting to all of us at Christ’s Home.
While many have watched the building rise up by either visiting the campus and/or watching the construction cam on our website (www.christshome.org), many have wondered what is going to be housed inside the building. The building has been designed to provide a variety of spaces for multiple purposes to build relationship and community. These include:

- A gym/auditorium for basketball, volleyball, indoor sports and a stage to present speakers, films, concerts, banquets and other similar events.
- A commercial kitchen to provide food service from snacks to full meals.
- A welcoming lobby, complete with a coffee and snack bar for gathering and quality conversation.
- A lounge/game room designed with teenagers in mind.
- A play room for the youngest children.
- Two counseling/family meeting rooms which will be very important as Christ’s Home expands service into Foster and Adoption care.
- Restrooms with showers
- An emergency generator when power is lost in our region and the Family Learning Center is used as an emergency shelter for our residents.
- A computer/tutoring lab to support remedial education to help children in our care improve their academic performance in school.

As we move into a new day of expanded service to children and families we envision new programs being developed over the months ahead. Our desire is to plan programs, and provide this new facility to outside groups, in ways that best meet their needs. And, to do so within the context of our Mission as we serve the Lord by serving people with love, dignity, compassion and respect. The Family Learning Center will assist us in the continuous cultivation of our values of Caring, Compassion, and Community.

If you would like to become involved as a volunteer at the Family Learning Center, please visit: http://weblink.donorperfect.com/CHCCvolunteerapp2018.

If you would like a tour to learn more about how we can be of support to you and your group, please visit: http://weblink.donorperfect.com/CHCCtoursignup2018.

For questions, contact our Director of Community Relations, Paul Baur (pictured below), via email at: pbaur@christshome.org or call 215.956.1885.

In closing, please know that the sacrificial giving of many people has helped us tremendously in providing financial support for this project. But, additional support is needed to reach our goal of $2 million. Gifts of cash, appreciated stock, and other vehicles are all ways to help us meet our goal. To learn more about how you can support our effort of Building Lives, Together please visit: http://weblink.donorperfect.com/CHOline. For questions, contact Vernon Wright via email at: vwright@christshome.org or call 717.687.9424.
Editor’s Note: As this issue went to press, Christ’s Home decided to change the name of this new building prior to its opening in June. We believe that the name Christ’s Home Community Center better describes the purposes we envision to both our internal community (children and seniors in residence at Christ’s Home) along with the new opportunities before us to the broader Bux-Mont community. This new name will become official at the Ribbon Cutting on June 19, 2018.

Christ’s Home Community Center
Summer of Celebration Events

June 19th – Ribbon Cutting: 9 – 11 am (Invitation Only)
June 19th – Open House: 4 – 7 pm
Open Invitation, RSVP Required.
Visit: http://weblink.donorperfect.com/SOCopenhouse2018
June 22nd – Independent Living Breakfast: 8 – 10 am
(Invitation Only)
June 24th – Worship Celebration and Dedication: 6 – 7:30 pm
July 16th – 20th – Davisville Basketball Camp
For more details, visit: http://www.davisville.org/

August 8th – Coffeehouse: 7 – 10 pm
Open Invitation, RSVP Required.
Visit: http://weblink.donorperfect.com/SOCcoffeehouse2018
August 25th – Family Fun Day: 3 – 7 pm
Open Invitation, Tickets Required.
Visit: http://weblink.donorperfect.com/SOCfamilyfunday2018

*All Summer of Celebration events are FREE, except Davisville Basketball Camp.*

Contact Paul Baur via email at: pbaur@christshome.org or call 215.956.1885 for questions.
Social Media at Christ’s Home: FAQs

By Annalise Shumski – Public Relations Associate

WHAT is it?
Social media is the use of websites or applications to connect and share with others as a way of social networking. Some of us experience social media by chatting with someone on Facebook, buying an outfit on Instagram, or adding feedback about a product they bought online. Social media connects us with what others are experiencing through the internet.

WHY is Christ’s Home using social media?
While Christ’s Home is well-known by many, we want Christ’s Home to be known farther and wider than ever before. Christ’s Home’s mission to serve senior adults and disadvantaged children is expanding in new, innovative ways.

We are offering more services and programs that can better serve the surrounding community, as well as the already existing Christ’s Home community. We want YOU to be a part of the expansion! Hence, we now post weekly about organizational happenings on our social media pages so that YOU are in the loop and can easily join with us.

HOW do I follow the Christ’s Home Official pages?
1. Search “Christ’s Home” in the search bar of...
   - Facebook
   - Instagram
   - Pinterest
   - Twitter
   - YouTube
   - LinkedIn
2. Look for the official Christ’s Home social media logo (pictured to the right). Find us.
3. Then, click “Follow.”

Not on social media? Opt in for our email updates!
Visit: http://weblink.donorperfect.com/emailssignup2018
What are all the HASHTAGS about? Those of you who already follow us know these hashtags...

#Caring #Compassion #Community #BuildingLivesTogether #CHfaces #MahigaMonday #SummerofCelebration

Christ’s Home uses hashtags to remind our followers of our mission, vision, and values. You will see a handful of different hashtags connected to our posts. Use them and share them with others! All of Christ’s Home’s hashtags link people back to our official accounts.

Hashtags look like this on our social media pages:

#BuildingLivesTogether
Use the hashtag #BuildingLivesTogether with us when you post about Christ’s Home’s events, volunteering, prayer, etc! We would love to hear from you and see how Christ’s Home is impacting your life in this way. The more you like, share, comment, and post with Christ’s Home, the more people find out about who we are and what we do!

Our Official Social Media Account Sites:
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/ChristsHome/
Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/christs_home/
Twitter: https://twitter.com/christs_home
Pinterest: https://www.pinterest.com/christshome/
LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/company/christ’s-home/
YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCB4_Bbs2lyFeHgcdlEKFxXg

Join our e-Lists!
This spring we have launched new e-Lists for you to receive updated, relevant information crafted just for YOU.

Join our NEW & IMPROVED e-Lists by visiting: http://weblink.donorperfect.com/emailsignup2018
Five years ago, as Christ’s Home neared the completion of the largest expansion in its history, Chief Executive Officer John Bryant asked board member June Maurer to accompany him on a tour of the new facilities, which included 125 cottages, 24 new independent living apartments, and a new 90-room Healthcare Center.

They walked together through the main building; the studs were up, but there was no drywall yet, and there were wires everywhere—yet the significance of the moment was not lost on either of them. Back outside, John turned to June and asked her a question: What would your grandfather say?

“He would be pleased—very proud,” June said. “He felt that we needed to do something for seniors, and [this expansion] connected his original vision with the future of Christ’s Home.”

June connects deeply with that vision herself, because the ministry of Christ’s Home has always been a family affair for her. June’s grandfather and grandmother—Frederick and Marie Schwab, immigrants from Germany—joined the work of Christ’s Home shortly after it was launched by Dr. Albert Oetinger and Katharina Krausslach in 1903. And they were on the ground floor when the ministry moved to Warminster in 1907. For years, the Schwabs operated the 150-acre farm on the property; later, Frederick would become the first administrator of the retirement community, and the second director of Christ’s Home after Dr. Oetinger passed away.

“The retirement community opened in 1923, and was originally called Christ’s Home for the Aged and Infirmed,” says June. Mrs. Schwab also worked at the home, preparing three meals a day, cleaning and doing laundry for 40 residents. “My grandmother always seemed tired to me,” June says.

This strong link to the ministry in Warminster would carry through to the next generation as well. June’s father was born in 1907, the same year Christ’s Home moved to Warminster, and he and his five siblings were raised at the children’s home. Her mother, naturally, grew up on the property also, and eventually helped her mother with the daily work of caring for residents.

Fortunately, the Schwabs had a large family, so there were almost always aunts and uncles around to help as well, and June had the joy of spending time on the property with many of her cousins. Her family lived on the second floor of the mission house her father had built, while home-on-furlough missionaries—including some of her aunts and uncles—lived on the first floor. Even after June moved away from the property, she and her cousins would visit every Sunday afternoon to play “Kick the Can” and other games, or just to walk in the fields. “We thought we were in heaven when we were here,” she says. “We felt carefree and safe—like the peace of God was here.”

Re-connecting
June moved off-campus in the 1940s. Some of her aunts retired at Christ’s Home. When June’s husband died in 1991, “they became my life support,” she says. She reconnected with the ministry, and soon after was recruited for the Board of Trustees by former CEO Rich
Smyth. She was reluctant to serve on the board at first, but her family continued to encourage her, and she became a trustee in 1995. “They [family] wanted to be sure Christ’s Home continued to follow the vision that Dr. Oetinger and my grandfather had for the ministry,” she says.

Her 22-year tenure on the board—the longest of any Christ’s Home trustee—was transformational for both June and for Christ’s Home. June helped oversee a transition in which the board evolved from being operations-oriented to one that was more governance-oriented and strategic. The dramatic expansion in senior services completed in 2013 was a shining example of this new direction.

“We thought we were in heaven when we were here.”

But a bold move such as that was not accomplished quickly or easily. The board had to first wrestle with an important question: Would the ministry and mission of Christ’s Home be best served by selling part of the property, or by expanding facilities and services for senior adults? Once that essential question was answered, shepherding the expansion proposal through a myriad of state and local government approvals was an overcomable challenge.

CEO John Bryant says June brought a rare combination to the board: a strong connection and appreciation for the past, but also a clear vision for the future. “Perhaps it was because her own past, present and future is so inextricably tied to Christ’s Home,” he says, “but June has an incredible pride in our past, while also being our biggest cheerleader into the future.”

For June, participating on the board offered an opportunity to ensure that Christ’s Home would continue to be a place that heeded the Bible’s call to care for orphans and widows—a place where children and senior adults would feel God’s love, through excellent facilities and the attentive care and nurture of the staff.

“I feel everyone is looking for their connection with God,” she says. “I am very grateful I found my relationship with God through a long journey that began here at Christ’s Home. The Lord has been by my side all the way.”

“Back at home”

With all of her family’s history tied so closely to the ministry here, and her personal involvement on the board, it is a great surprise to learn that June almost didn’t retire at Christ’s Home.

“I never thought I’d live here as a senior adult,” she says. But once the cottages were completed in 2013, she began considering a return.

“I’m just so pleased and grateful to be here,” she says. “The staff here are wonderful; I hear good things every time I go into the main building.”

June lost two of the great loves in her life, her husband and her son, but is comforted by one of her favorite quotes, “Any situation, appropriately perceived, can be an opportunity for learning and for healing.” It is clear that her involvement in Christ’s Home, which has now come Full Circle, has been a big part of June’s healing.

“I feel like I’m back at home,” she says. “This is a wonderful place.”

This article was written by Jay Gordon, Jr. Jay Gordon is a free-lance writer. You can reach Jay by phone at 215.527.7813 or by email at jaygordon217@verizon.net.
Using your assets for all they are worth

You have worked hard and saved diligently over the years to prepare for and enjoy your retirement. Investments have generally seen solid growth over the last several years to further grow your IRAs, retirement accounts, and investment portfolio. Through the use of charitable planning you can continue to maximize your financial position and minimize taxes. There are creative ways to use your assets for guaranteed income and to help charities like Christ’s Home.

Options & Benefits

Here are some ideas that can help you make the most of your investments through charitable planning.

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<td>Keep cash &amp; Donate from IRA accounts</td>
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<td>Charitable Gift Annuity</td>
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Christ’s Home has been blessed over the years by donors who have employed creative planned giving options. We would be happy to share some ideas with you and how they would benefit the people we serve in our children’s services and the retirement community. Your professional advisors can assist you with final solutions that benefit you and charity. Contact Vernon Wright, CFRE, CAP® by email vwright@christshome.org, or call 717.687.9424 (ext 102).
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Gifts given between January 1, 2018 and April 30, 2018.

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In Honor of June M. Maurer

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