There is an inherent danger in running an organization like Christ’s Home. Namely, to be about the business of running the organization, taking care of the business of the organization is important for as leaders in the non-profit world often say, “no margin, no ministry.” So, paying attention to Key Performance Indicators and other vital data is necessary to ensure that the Mission is sustained.

But sometimes, in the desire to be a good steward of the business, we can forget that what matters most is people. The Mission Statement of Christ’s Home says nothing about budgets, or regulations, or governance policies – even though we need these things. Rather, it speaks to the heart of the matter which is people. Specifically, senior adults and disadvantaged children. These are the people who drive us to serve with caring and compassion. People are what make us a community.

And, when we keep people as our primary focus and motivation wonderful things happen. The Apostle Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians that God has called us to a “ministry of reconciliation.” This is a calling to minister to people in the name and love of Christ so that reconciliation can take place in relationships, in families, and between people and God.

In this issue of CONNECTIONS you are going to read about real people who are touching the lives of others, or have been touched by the ministry of Christ’s Home. We trust that you will be encouraged as you read. And remember that you play a significant role in what unfolds in and through Christ’s Home through your support and prayers. Thank you!

Sincerely,

John Bryant
CEO

Esther’s Story

By Jim McGovern, Chief Operating Officer

During my recent trip to the Mahiga Children’s Home I had the opportunity to visit several guardians of children currently living at Mahiga. These homes were in rural areas and difficult to access. One of the home’s we visited belonged to Esther, a young widow in her 20’s who has three children at home and a nephew that lives at Mahiga.

Esther with her 3 children, John Murage 7 years, Christine Wanjiru 10 years and Charles Mwangi 12 years.
Esther welcomed us and invited us into her home. It was made from wooden poles with corrugated tin roofing. The floor was dirt and there was cardboard hanging from the ceiling that separated the interior into three small rooms. There was a separate smaller shelter that was used for cooking, it’s interior walls black from smoke. There were several cast-iron pots and pans and a small wooden shelf to neatly organize utensils and other containers. A pot with rice was simmering over a small, smoky fire. There was no electricity or running water.

As our team sat around Esther’s small living room, she began to tell us her story. Her husband had passed three weeks prior to our visit. She did not have enough money for burial expenses, so the manager of Mahiga paid for the burial personally. Her husband was buried on their small plot of land that had several vegetable crops and fruit trees. Since the death of her husband, she had no income, despite rising early each day looking for day labor. Two of her three children were in school, and since she had no money, the children were not

(continued on page 4)
able to purchase school lunches and had to sit and watch the other children eat, while they went hungry. She did not have money for groceries for her home.

When her sister-in-law passed away several years ago, she became the guardian for her nephew that was placed at Mahiga. Listening to her story, it was hard to hold back tears. During the conversation, Esther mentioned when it rained, water poured through the rust holes in her tin roof. I reached up to investigate, and my finger poked through the rusty tin roof.

Esther was despondent and a woman without hope. She was desperate to care for her family, but had no resources and none on the horizon. We had brought a bag of vegetables and bread to the visit, but it seemed inadequate to the overall need. As a team we decided to utilize some funds that had been set aside for small projects and gave Esther money for food for family and the children’s school lunches for the rest of the school year. We also sent laborers to replace her roof and discovered the wooden structure was rotted beyond repair. So we increased the cost estimate to rebuild her
The family is doing well and enjoying the new house.

Upcoming Events at Christ’s Home

Friday 9/7/18
7 – 9:30 pm
Coffeehouse featuring live music by Homestead Collective
A free-will offering will be taken to offset the costs for the evening. Tickets are FREE and can be reserved by calling 215-956-1885.

Tuesday 9/11/18
2 – 7 pm
Red Cross Blood Drive
For more information, contact Paul Baur, Director of Community Relations at: 215-956-1885 or via email at pbaur@christshome.org

Friday 9/15/18
6:30 – 7:30 pm
The North Pennsmen
This is a ticketed event. To get your tickets please go to www.christshome.org. Join us for a great evening of music with one of the regions greatest barbershop choirs.

Please continue to watch our website (www.christshome.org) as more events will be added throughout the Fall and Winter.
If you saw the behind-the-scenes of our cottages you would discover the parenting heart of God. That’s what we hope you will see.

On any given day in the Christ’s Home community in Paradise, you will likely see a thin, quiet man smiling silently or quietly calling instructions as he watches the children during the frenzied play activities outside. You might also see a thin, quiet woman with a child clinging to her leg as she makes an endless tower of sandwiches and arranges carrots sticks, pickles and potato chips for lunch. There is always the slight smile, (there’s so much to laugh about life with the children) and a softly spoken word, sometimes between the adults, sometimes between the adults and children, that helps set the tone of the home.

Anthony and Rochelle Ford are not strangers to Christ’s Home. They met thirteen years ago while working at another children’s home. Rochelle left that agency to come to Christ’s Home, working at first as the single relief staff in the girls’ transitional living program before transitioning to help out in one of the primary cottages. Anthony continued to woo her, and she in turn invited him to come use his gifts at Christ’s Home, as she felt that this agency was different than the chaos and discord of the agency they had left. Despite feeling like he was finished working with children, Anthony did apply to Christ’s Home, and he and Rochelle’s subsequent courtship, engagement and marriage, was eagerly followed by staff and resident children alike. Four biological children and years later they remain quietly, consistently, committed to each other and to the ministry of Christ’s Home.

 Anthony and Rochelle freely admit they never planned on working at Christ’s Home for so long (thirteen years for Rochelle in November, 11 years for Anthony) and never expected to have four children of their own, but as Anthony tells it, “the blessing of an environment where we are able to work with each other and raise our children while we are working, is wonderful. Our children love the friends they have around them all the time, which can also make for some great teaching moments.”

“you never know what God is going to do in your life.”

Rochelle and Anthony are people of few words, often making their point by a short sentence or a quiet demonstration. Anthony offered this final summary,”You can’t house parent this long without God carrying you sometime along the way. It took me a long time, but seeing the children through the eyes of God… that is the
real life changer. After I had children of my own, I saw these children in a different light. These lives are truly precious. They are not just some troublesome kids from off the streets. They are individuals, uniquely created and fashioned by God.”

A quiet smile, a gentle shrug, the parting thought, “you never know what God is going to do in your life.”
A Generous Thought

Are your IRA distributions causing you to pay more tax?

Christ’s Home thanks Lancaster County neighbors Chuck and Donna Albert for supporting our Children’s Services for the last two decades. Since Chuck is now eligible to make direct contributions to charities from his personal IRA accounts, he and Donna have decided to use this benefit to continue their support of Christ’s Home and other organizations. The idea was first proposed to the Alberts by their financial advisor who recognized the opportunity for them to avoid being taxed on their Required Minimum Distribution (RMD). Through thoughtful planning and their desire to support their church and local charities each year, Chuck and Donna have discovered a great option for them that includes an income tax advantage.

In general, here’s how it works. Distributions to you from IRAs must be included in your gross income in the year the distribution occurs, however, qualifying contributions made directly from your IRA Trustee to a 501(C)3 charity are excluded from gross income. Please check with your financial advisor or accountant to assess your own situation.

The following guidelines and stipulations apply:

- The donor must be at least 70 ½ years old
- The transfer is not included in taxable income and qualifies for the owner’s required minimum distribution (RMD)
- The maximum allowable transfer is $100,000
- Spouses who have their own IRAs can give up to $100,000 each
- The transfer does not qualify as a tax-deductible gift, but you will receive an acknowledgement for your tax records
- The account custodian must make the check payable to your chosen charity

The gift can be sent directly to Christ’s Home or it can be given to you to deliver by mail or in person, in either instance it is recommended that you provide Christ’s Home with written notice regarding the source of the gift so that we can acknowledge and verify your gift for your tax return.

Chuck and Donna Albert
This tax law opens the door for donors to make substantial gifts to Christ’s Home while freeing up regular income to meet every day living expenses. We encourage supporters with ample IRA savings accounts, who qualify under the terms described above, to consider an IRA transfer gift to Christ’s Home. Again, we recommend that you consult with your tax advisor.

If you need more information on this topic or to discuss any planned gift idea, please contact Vernon Wright at vwright@christshome.org or call 717.687.9424 (Ext. 102).
Our Hosts: Christ’s Home Lead Chaplain Ron Schmidt will be our Bible Teacher for the trip. Laurie Dash, our Human Resources Director, will be our Tour Host. Both Ron and Laurie are veteran travelers with multiple trips to Israel. We are using one of the best Tour Companies in Israel with knowledgable tour guides who reside in Israel.

Trip Includes: Airfare, hotels, most meals and round trip coach transportation from Warminster to Newark, NJ.

Cost: $4,000

SPACE IS LIMITED FOR THIS TOUR. ONLY A FEW SPOTS REMAIN.

For more information contact: ldash@christshome.org or call 215-956-1871
Gifts in honor of:

Mr. and Mrs. William G. Becker, Jr.
In Honor of Ida Ujj

Mr. and Mrs. Willy Tauber
In Honor of Margaret J. Rawlings

Mr. Jere Stauffer
In Honor of Jere Stauffer

Ms. Lauren Johnson
In Honor of Charly’s First Birthday

Mr. and Mrs. Kikendall
In Honor of John Bryant

Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Zook
In Honor of Charlotte Mellinger

Ms. Jean Kelly
In Honor of Rachel Brodsky

Ms. Jennifer Alleva
In Honor of The Wedding Of Jennifer & Kevin

Gifts given between May 1, 2018 and July 31, 2018.

Gifts in memory of:

Mr. and Mrs. Norbert Leska
In Memory of Hilda Doll

Ms. Marian Amann
In Memory of Hilda Doll

Mr. Walter Amann
In Memory of Hilda Doll

Mr. William Jones
In Memory of James Charles Neff

Mr. and Mrs. W. Garry Liddick
In Memory of Hilda Doll

Ms. Nancy Woodrow
In Memory of William J. Mitchell Sr.

Mrs. Marian Mitchell
In Memory of William J. Mitchell Sr.

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Ossowski
In Memory of Hilda Doll

Ms. Carol D. Sutton
In Memory of Hilda Doll

Ms. E. Joy McFerren and Jeffrey L. Lively
In Memory of Hilda Doll

Mr. and Mrs. William Prout
In Memory of William J. Mitchell Sr.

Ms. Nancy Conner-Ward
In Memory of Hilda Doll

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Lembo
In Memory of Hilda Doll

Ms. Marilyn Harris
In Memory of William J. Mitchell Sr.

Ms. Barbara Wiley
In Memory of Hilda Doll

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Denndoeffer
In Memory of William J. Mitchell Sr.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Haines
In Memory of Hilda Doll

Haines Paving & Landscaping, Inc.
In Memory of Hilda Doll

Ms. Ilena C. Medina
In Memory of William J. Mitchell Sr.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Lepoldt
In Memory of Hilda Doll

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Smyth
In Memory of Richard J Dunlap

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Smyth
In Memory of Andrew Rosenfeld

Doll Family Foundation
In Memory of Hilda Doll

Mr. and Mrs. Roger Doll
In Memory of Hilda Doll

Ms. Denise Smeal
In Memory of Chester B. Smeal

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Smyth
In Memory of E. Carson Meeder

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Smyth
In Memory of James Gray

Estate of Margaret Mathes
In Memory of John and Margaret Mathes

Mrs. Evelyn Brown
In Memory of Judith Stryjewski

Mr. and Mrs. John Haney
In Memory of Hilda Doll

Meeo Inc.
In Memory of Patricia R. Walcott

Mr. and Mrs. Pedersen
In Memory of Dorothy Polaski

Rev. and Mrs. James Elliott
In Memory of Donald Jones

Christ’s Home Alumni Association
In Memory of Frank Woolson

Mr. and Mrs. Derel Keller
In Memory of Pauline Specht

Ms. Mary O’Gorman
In Memory of Scott O’Gorman

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In Memory of Scott O’Gorman

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Mr. and Mrs. Marc Simmons
In Memory of Marjorie Straw

Ms. Jane Johnston
In Memory of Duncan Reid Fitzpatrick

Mr. and Mrs. Willy Tauber
In Memory of John Rawlings

Mr. and Mrs. George Kennedy
In Memory of George and Anna Kennedy

Mrs. Lorraine Dryden
In Memory of William Perry

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ayton
In Memory of Charles and Rosalie E. McCall

Christ’s Home Alumni Association
In Memory of Richard Beale

Christ’s Home Alumni Association
In Memory of Brenda Givley

Mr. Donald Grunden
In Memory of Alice Meekins

Mr. Frank Reed
In Memory of Frederick G. Hinkle

Ms. Grace Gasior
In Memory of Frederick G. Hinkle

Ms. Sharon E. Saylor
In Memory of Eleanor Saylor

Mr. Donald Grunden
In Memory of Dorothy Polaski

Mr. Donald Grunden
In Memory of Alice Meekins

Mr. and Mrs. Al Williams
In Memory of John “Jack” Leonard, Sr.
Our new Community Center is open! To reserve space for your groups event, call Paul Baur at 215-956-1885 or email him at pbaur@christshome.org.