CHRIST’S HOME
Connections

OUR growing COMMUNITY

FEBRUARY 2019

Christ’s Home
Caring. Compassion. Community.
We have completed 115 years of continuous service and the Lord has certainly proven his faithfulness to Christ’s Home from generation to generation. We have much for which to be thankful. I trust that this issue of CONNECTIONS will be a testimony to God’s faithfulness and an encouragement to you.

In January of 2018, we began the year by putting the finishing touches on The ARC – an acronym for The Annex Recreation Center. This 3,000 square foot building is the annex to the Manor House on the retirement campus. Initially comprised of many small rooms, this project involved the complete gutting of the building which involved a master redesign with some engineering feats. The project was directed by Jim McGovern, our Chief Operating Officer. Vernon Morris, our Administrator for Independent Living, assisted in the layout and design of the building along with a committee of residents. The result is a remarkable new space for residents to gather and enjoy a variety of recreational opportunities including: ping-pong, pool, table-top shuffleboard, a craft room, woodworking room, kitchen, and a large-screen TV viewing area. Best of all, this building opened just in time for residents to gather and watch the Philadelphia Eagles win the Super Bowl!

At the same time, major construction was unfolding on the Warminster Children’s Campus as the centerpiece of our 5-Year Strategic Plan rose out of the ground. How exciting it was to officially open our new Community Center on June 19! This 16,000 square foot building provides wonderful new space and amenities to serve children, families, senior adults, and community groups in ways that we could never have imagined in years past.

“For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.” - Psalm 100:5
The Community Center includes a full-size gym/auditorium which can seat up to 400 people, a main lobby for coffeehouse and other gatherings, a commercial kitchen, restrooms with showers, toddler playroom, game room, computer lab, and family meeting rooms. The Center is being used daily and is running smoothly under the leadership of Paul Baur, our Director of Community Relations, and his team. If you have not yet seen the building, feel free to stop by. We’d love to give you a tour.

As the year has come to close we are in the midst of constructing a new maintenance building on the retirement campus. This building will include two large vehicle bays, an office for the maintenance team, storage space, and a woodworking shop for the residents – adding another new amenity to the retirement campus.

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CFO: Dolores Bartolanzo
CDO: Vernon Wright

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.

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
215-956-2270
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.

DONOR CHOICE PROGRAM
Christ’s Home is a qualified member of and participant in the United Way Donor Choice Program. You may contribute to United Way through payroll deduction or by giving an outright gift. Please be sure to ask for a Donor Choice Form. For the Southeastern PA region (Delaware Valley only) our number is: 00981. All other regions must use our national number: 007689

Christ’s Home is a 501 (c)(3) organization. Gifts are deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes.

The official registration and financial information of Christ’s Home, Inc. may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. (Certificate of Registration No. 13865)

Registration does not imply endorsement.
One new focus of our work at Christ’s Home that we have been tracking this year is the area of social accountability. Many non-profit organizations are assessing ways that their presence provides support for the broader community at-large. Some of the ways this is realized include use of the facilities by outside groups and ways that staff and residents volunteer in the community. All of these things add value to peoples’ lives. Here are some of the ways that Christ’s Home has engaged in social accountability in 2018:

- Residents and staff provided more than 2,200 hours of volunteer service. One of the new ways we are doing this is through a volunteer group that serves the first Monday of each month at Hands-In-Service in Warrington, PA. This organization collects quality unsold merchandise from retailers and redistributes these goods to organizations serving people in need all over the world.

- The McKeown Center on the retirement campus hosts monthly support group meetings in conjunction with the Alzheimer’s Foundation, and with Griefshare. Various members of the Christ’s Home staff and residents are engaged with these programs.

- 13 different community groups have utilized the facilities of Christ’s Home to hold meetings. We were glad to provide our facilities at no-charge for these very worthwhile events.
From a financial standpoint, fiscal 2018 was a very good year for Christ’s Home. Our independent auditors once again provided us with a clean opinion on the annual audit. My thanks to our Chief Financial Officer, Dee Bartolanzo, and her team, for their daily diligence in the oversight of our finances. My thanks, as well, to our administrators and department heads who do an outstanding job managing expenses in an ever-challenging environment.

Christ’s Home Operating Costs
Year Ending 6/30/18

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Retirement</td>
<td>$15,014,116</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Childcare</td>
<td>$3,536,184</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admin</td>
<td>$1,318,393</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development</td>
<td>$344,963</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL = $20,213,656

Christ’s Home Funding Sources Entire Organization
Year Ending 6/30/18

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Receipts for Care - Retirement Comm.</td>
<td>$12,395,695</td>
<td>61.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receipts for Care - Childcare</td>
<td>$2,384,851</td>
<td>11.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Revenue</td>
<td>$1,944,272</td>
<td>9.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>$1,685,850</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred Entrance Fees</td>
<td>$1,609,786</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL = $20,020,454
As a non-profit organization, fundraising is critical and never takes a day off. We are thrilled to share with you that 2018 has been a banner year and we are so grateful for the many people who have given sacrificially to support the work of Christ’s Home. My thanks to Vernon Wright and his team who faithfully present our needs and rely on God to open hearts to respond as God directs. Giving increased this year in every respect, including: annual fund giving, gifts from private/corporate foundations, gifts from vendors, and gifts to our Building Lives, Together Campaign in support of the new Community Center. In respect to the latter, I am pleased to share with you that funds committed and given to this $2 million/3-Year campaign are just under $1.5 million. We are trusting God to provide for additional gifts to help us reach our goal in 2019, our third year in the campaign.

Statistically, it has been a banner year in Senior Services, with a record number of people served – 755 to be exact! Occupancy in independent living also reached a new all-time high. Census in Personal and Memory Care has been strong throughout the year. As I write this article, we are in the preliminary stages of expansion plans for the retirement campus which will add new 2-bedroom Suite Apartments, including a limited number of our newest model – the 2 Bedroom Deluxe. We are aiming for occupancy to begin in the summer of 2020. (For more information, please contact Melissa Nolan at 215.956.2270.)

Census in our Children’s Services program declined a bit this year due to a variety of factors. We are anticipating a rebound in 2019. We would ask you to join us in praying for our Federal, State, and County government leaders as we together process the implications of the Family First Act for Christ’s Home. This was passed as part of the Federal Tax Bill legislation in January 2018. We are currently assessing the potential programmatic and revenue implications for Christ’s Home and are looking to the Lord for His wisdom and guidance. Please join us in praying over this issue.

This year we launched a new program, patterned somewhat from a model that Christ’s Home used many years ago. We call it our Whole Family Program which provides on-campus housing for parents who are seeking to be reunited with children in our care. The purpose is to help the family reconnect with the ultimate goal of having families return to live in the community as a whole and healed family unit. Please pray for our staff as they guide this process of reunification.

“thank you for your support in prayer, in giving, and in participation”

Our support for the orphan homes in Kenya and India continues. In addition to monthly support for operations, we have been engaged to support new construction at the Mahiga Home in Kenya this year. (See Jim McGovern’s update later in this issue.) And, we are so excited to share that nearly every child at Mahiga now has an individual sponsor. In the year ahead, we will be supporting a new building project at Good Shepherd Home in India. It is a real blessing to partner with these life-changing ministries to children.

I am excited to announce that we are about to publish a new book reviewing the history of Christ’s Home. It has been many years since this was last done and much has transpired since the last history book was published. We are anticipating release in January 2019. My special thanks to steering committee members June Maurer (former Board member), Rich Smyth (CEO – Retired), and Patricia Chazin (Executive Administrative Assistant) for their tireless efforts to review historical records, read and proof several drafts, and select photographs for this publication. Thanks, as well, to Cheryl Cirilo (Administrator for Children’s Services) and Vernon Wright (Chief Development Officer) for their counsel and input in the process. Most of all, our very special thanks
to Kelley Royce who served as our writer for this project. I am confident that you are going to thoroughly enjoy Kelley's narrative in recounting the history of God's faithfulness to Christ's Home.

In closing, as always, thank you for your support in prayer, in giving, and in participation. Let me encourage you – if you have not already done so – to join us in our social media efforts so you can stay connected to all that is unfolding at Christ's Home. Plan to also stay informed of all the events at the Community Center and join us this year as we press on into our 116th year of serving the Lord.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and Senior Leadership Team,

John Bryant
CEO

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**Community Center Events**

- **Friday 2/15/19**
  7:30 – 9:00 pm
  **Coffeehouse with the fabulous Philadelphia Mojo Kings Dance Band**

- **Friday 3/1/19**
  6:30 – 8:00 pm
  **Liberty Belles Dinner Concert**

- **Saturday 3/30/19**
  7:00 – 9:30 pm
  **Craig Thatcher in Concert — An Eric Clapton Retrospective**

See our website for ticket information
Christ’s Home’s International Ministries

By Jim McGovern — Chief Operating Officer

In 2012, Christ’s Home began once more serving children internationally. Through relationships with previous staff members, opportunities were presented to serve children in Kenya and India.

The opportunity to serve children in Kenya came as Christ’s Home learned about a children’s home in Othaya, Kenya. The Mahiga Children’s Home was part of a network of homes that were overseen by Chariots for Hope, a local non-profit organization located in Dresher, Pennsylvania. The former organization that supported the Mahiga Children’s Home changed priorities and was no longer able to financially support the home. Mahiga had nine staff and over 100 children, most of them orphans due to HIV/AIDS. Christ’s Home accepted the challenge and has provided continual support to the Mahiga Children’s Home since 2012.

The Mahiga Children’s Home helps people like Mary, a nineteen-year-old young woman that lives at Mahiga. She never met her father and her mother passed away from HIV/AIDS when she was a little girl. She lived with her impoverished grandparents for several years until they could no longer provide care for her. Mary was placed at Mahiga and has lived there for almost ten years. She sings at church and is studying to be a teacher.

In addition, Christ’s Home partners with Sunshine Ministries in supporting the Good Shepherd School and Children’s Home in Hyderabad, India. Over 220 students from low income families receive a quality education.
and a portion of those children live on campus at the children’s home. Sunshine Ministries also provides occupational training for young women through sewing and computer learning centers. Christ’s Home provides not only operational support, but has provided funding for capital projects in Kenya and India including staff quarters, dormitories, school buildings and vehicles, as well as providing shoes, books, generators and medical supplies.

Christ’s Home staff have visited both ministries and provide ongoing support through prayer and encouragement. If you would like to learn more about these ministries, please visit their websites: www.chariotsforhope.org and www.sunshine-ministries.org.
From Childhood to Retirement: Lola’s Christ’s Home Life

By Vernon D. Morris — Administrator for Independent Living

Christ's Home Mission is to "serve the Lord by providing services to senior adults and disadvantaged children..." On rare occasions, our entire mission embodies one person. Lola Mae Sutton Weisel is one such person.

Lola was born in what is now the Smokey Mountain National Park. Life was difficult enough, and then Lola's mother passed when Lola was quite young. Lola, along with her brother and sister, then lived with their grandparents. Life was still difficult. Lunch might consist of a cold potato and a cold ear of corn. Their first taste of white bread was when some boys at a Civilian Conservation Corps camp gave them a peanut butter and jelly sandwich. Lola recalls never even owning a pair of shoes.

In 1936, at the age of seven, Lola and her siblings were brought by a missionary all the way up north to a place called Christ's Home in Warminster, Pennsylvania. Lola and her sister were placed in a cottage with 10 other girls aged seven to 16 years old. Her brother was placed with the young boys.

Lola fondly recalls life at Christ's Home. As she was being admitted, she was given a gift that she will never forget—a pair of shoes! She also recalls having a wonderful cook who made such splendid meals, sometimes out of items donated by local farmers and churches. One of Lola's funny memories is of everyone wearing aprons made of Mattress Ticking at meals. This came in handy because she was able to use the pockets to hide the scrapple that she disliked. All the children at Christ's Home would help in the kitchen and in the farm fields. Lola recalls digging potatoes. Lola also recalls often walking across the small road we now call Street Road to visit folks at the "Christ's Home for the Aged and Missionary Rest". She cherished those visits.

Spiritual life in the community was also a very prominent part of Lola's life at Christ's Home. The day would start with a prayer from one of the caretakers, prayers before each meal, and then there were the Sundays. There was a morning service, afternoon Sunday School, then, as a youth, evening meetings. At the age of 8, Lola was baptized in the Christ's Home pool. She never left her devotion to Christ after that moment.

Lola attended the Christ's Home School where all the teachers were Christian. They were so impressed with how well Lola was able to recite her Bible verses. Once the time came for her to go to 9th grade, she was enrolled at the Southampton High School. At the age of 15, Lola moved in with a foster family in Abington and completed her education at Abington High School. It was around then that she began to attend Wharton Baptist Church in Glenside, Pennsylvania.

One day after services, Lola looked up the stairs outside and there was a tall, handsome young man in a Navy uniform: Harold (Hal) Weisel. She thought he looked a lot...
like Gregory Peck. Lola just had to meet him. She did, and their first date was climbing up Bowman’s Tower in Bucks County. Lola and Hal had a lot in common, one thing being Christ’s Home. As it turns out, Hal’s aunt owned the farm right across York Road from the Christ’s Home entrance. Hal was very familiar with Christ’s Home from working on the farm and through his church interactions. On September 17, 1949 Lola and Hal were married.

Fast forward past 51 years in the same house, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, careers, etc. The time came for Lola and Hal to think about where to spend their retirement years. The natural choice to stay around family was Christ’s Home Retirement Community! Lola came home.

Lola and Hal have led a very active life at the retirement community with volunteering, playing the piano, delivering mail, helping their neighbors, gardening, serving on Resident Council, and so much more. In her memoir, Lola ends with the following: My life is a miracle because of God. I probably would not be alive and maybe would not have survived my childhood because there were not adults in my childhood who could or would care about me before Christ’s Home. My life has such meaning and this prayer describes how I feel during my time in retirement at Christ’s Home:

“Lord, help me be a little kinder
Help me be a little blinder to the faults around me.
Help me praise a little more.
Help me be a bit more cheery
When I am weary.
Help me think more about others
And a little less about me.
Help me be a little braver when temptation bids me waver.
Help me strive a little harder
For those that I am striving for.”

The Suite Life awaits you at Christ’s Home

Christ’s Home is expanding by offering new 2-bedroom suite apartments. This long-awaited expansion offers comfortable apartment living with a host of exclusive amenities. Now is your chance to enjoy the retirement lifestyle you deserve. Don’t wait.

Call 215-956-2260 to schedule an appointment.
Christopher Alexander in his architectural book “The Timeless Way of Building” states that every place is given its character by certain patterns of events that keep on happening there.1

Since 1903, Christ’s Home has built its character and reputation by providing ongoing and comprehensive hospitality in the areas of safety, well-being, and permanency for children and their families. We are committed to a strong and continued partnership with local Children and Youth Agencies to ensure that children have a stable place to develop, be nurtured and be supported through their family’s traumatic events. Hallmarked by caring, compassion, and community, the mission-savvy staff of Christ’s Home has served hundreds of children and their families by attempting to reduce the sting of maltreatment that follows a child into care. Driven by those same concepts of caring, compassionate, community, Christ’s Home assumes the duties of providing a safe space for children who have various permanency plans and goals.

Home and family are two of the most poignant words in our children’s vocabulary. While many of them recognize life before Christ’s Home may not have been perfect, as long as they had their mother and father, as long as they were together with their siblings, there was home and the hope that life could be better.

Psychologists often ask children, “If you had one wish, what would it be?” It is not unusual for the children of Christ’s Home to remark, “I wish my parents could live here too.” There was a time in our earlier history, when Christ’s Home could and did help struggling parents to get back on their feet by providing housing and employment so they could eventually care for their children. The question is could we do it again?

That question buzzed constantly in our minds as our staff worked with the parents. It was as much on our minds and hearts as it is the minds and the hearts of the children in our care. Finally, we committed the concept to paper and the Whole Family Program was submitted to the board for approval. We chose a home for use and engaged the staff in identifying possible families for this pilot program. Now, our first family is enjoying the benefits of the supportive community.

In order to be considered for the program, parents (either single or couples) must pass clearances, have the recommendation of the Christ’s Home Staff and County Caseworker, and be willing to commit to the rigorous accountability of the staff.

Once accepted, parents reside on campus in a home or apartment spending as much time as possible in the cottage with their children and the staff, eating meals, helping with homework, playing, and helping with bedtime time routines. Parents are expected to secure/or maintain full time employment as well as participate in individual and family therapy with community providers. Throughout the medical, educational, vocational process, the parents walk side by side with staff and community providers and are held accountable to the goals established by the family and the support communities.

2 https://scotttemery.wordpress.com/2013/01/29/henri-nouwen-and-hospitality/
Henri Nouwen states, “Hospitality means primarily the creation of free space where the stranger can enter and become a friend instead of an enemy. Hospitality is not to change people, but to offer them space where change can take place. It is not to bring men and women over to our side, but to offer freedom, not disturbed by dividing lines.”

Recently, a staff person was describing his interaction with a parent, and he turned with a twinkle in his eye stating, “I feel like I’ve gained another son.”

With the whole family program, our greatest accomplishment has been a return to the focus that has always been part of the fabric of Christ’s Home – a focus on children and their families in a supportive community.

It’s nice to know we are still in the business of hope, home and family.
A Generous Thought

By Vernon Wright – Chief Development Officer

Every Gift is a Planned Gift?

While we often think of planned giving in the context of wills, trusts, and gifts of stock, in reality, whenever we decide to make a contribution we are making a planned gift. The Bible contains many guiding principles for making plans to give in support of ministry and to help those in need. In 2 Corinthians 8 and 9, for example, it says that giving is a gracious work and proof of a sincere love. It clearly talks about giving as one is able and the importance of making a plan: “Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give…” (2 Cor. 9:7). These are just a few of the many scriptures that address giving intentionally to help others in need.

Over the years, the thoughtful planning of supporters has benefited the vital services provided by Christ’s Home. In addition to contributing annually, we have been blessed by donors who have made transformational gifts requiring some long-range planning. Gifts through wills, trusts, gift annuities and more have provided stability to Christ’s Home, affording the opportunity to expand and improve services.

I can’t say if the founders of Christ’s Home had any idea that what they started by the grace of God in October of 1903 would be going strong 116 years later. Yet here we are in 2019, serving children who need a safe and loving home and senior adults blessed by a community that values them and is recognized for treating residents with dignity and respect. The growth in services at Christ’s Home has required careful planning with attention to needs in our changing world and wise stewardship of the resources God has provided. In keeping with the scriptures that guide us, like James 1:27 and 4:15, we want to serve others and prayerfully follow God’s leading with our decisions.

A key reason for the longevity of Christ’s Home is the faithful support of donors from all walks of life. Contributions from individuals have been a key resource in our ability to provide benevolent care, maintain facilities, and add relevant services. Through thoughtful planning, individuals have made contributions during their lifetime and through their Wills that impacted the
“Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give…”
- 2 Cor. 9:7

formative years of children’s lives and the dignity of some senior adults experiencing financial distress.

In summary, documents like Charitable Trusts and your Will are written plans that express your values and address your desires for distributing various assets to family members and organizations that you have cherished during your lifetime. These important documents make your intentions very clear and serve as a thoughtful gift to your family when you are gone.

Please consider contacting Vernon Wright in the Development Office to discuss ways that you, along with the guidance of your professional advisors, can benefit those receiving services from Christ’s Home now and in the years to come. You can contact Vernon at 717-687-9424 (ext 102), or vwright@christshome.org.
Gifts in honor of

During August 1st through December 31, 2018 Christ’s Home was blessed to receive many contributions in honor and memory of people who are important to the lives of our supporters. We extend our 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.

John Bryant and Christ’s Home Staff
Robert & Jacqueline Morris

Chrust’s Home Staff
Julia Anderson

Dave Culbert
William & Patti Kistler

Zephaniah Doutrich
Scot & Ann Ash

Joanne Hesson
Patricia Maransky

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Rev. Emily Jane Lemole
Arthur & Gail Pasquarella

Louise Mattern
Patricia Maransky

Margaret J. Rawlings
Willy and Ruth Tauber and
Judith Zweig

Monica Yost & Brian Reagan
Brian Dunleavy

Stephanie Zauflik
George & Donna Zauflik

Gifts in memory of

Frank & Ruth Brenner
James & Cheryl Brenner

Elsye Carl
William & Betty Doty

Vincent J. Carnuccio
Jane Johnston

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Kathryn Whalen

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Faith Anne Hutta

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Anna Hartmann  
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Nancy Woodrow

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Christ's Home Alumni Association  
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Lisa Luckner  
Barbara Moyer

Paul Naumiec  
Huff & Lakjer Funeral Home, Inc.

Thomas E. Palmatary, Jr.  
Terry Palmatary

Parents  
Charles & Edith Freeburger

William Perry  
Lorraine Dryden

Martha & Carl Pflaumer  
Emlen & Martha Rile

Dorothy Polaski  
Donald Grunden

Willy & Martha Rilling  
Michael Volz

John Roebuck  
Patrick & Kathleen Kelly

William Rollin  
Mary Rollin

Ruth Saffri  
Otto Saffri

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Ruth Schaffer  
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Thomas & Donna Serino

Samuel Smack  
Greg & Kimberly Burke  
Derel & Gretchen Keller

Margaret Cyliax Smith  
David & Jeanne Newberry

Pauline Specht  
Derel & Gretchen Keller
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**BRONZE**
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Barbara Ann Stackhouse

Beatrice Stahl
Jean Nelson

Marjorie Straw
Cynthia Straw

Wintford Sutton
Christ’s Home Alumni Association

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Jean Nelson

Marjorie Straw
Cynthia Straw

Wintford Sutton
Christ’s Home Alumni Association

Frank Town, Sr.
Franklin & Carol Town, Jr.

Hans J. Trustorff
Lisel Trustorff

Catherine Wheeler
Erica Heverin
Mary Russo

Doris Wolff
James & Jean Sullivan
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
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED