Christian musician Chris Rice penned these words:

“Every day is a gift you’ve been given, make the most of the time every minute you’re living.”

Every day we are given the gift of living. And, life is best lived when we engage with others by serving them. There is great blessing when we live “life on life.”

As this issue of CONNECTIONS came together a theme emerged about daily life at Christ’s Home and the way that people engage with people—making the most of every new day’s opportunity. I was encouraged to read these articles and was reminded that God’s goodness is seen and felt in the community we seek to establish each and every day. While buildings and facilities are important to provide places for connection to take place, the true impact is realized when people engage with people, making the most of the time given to us each and every day.

I hope that as you read this issue you will be encouraged to consider how God can more fully use you to impact the lives of the people around you as you celebrate God’s good gift of each and every new day.

Please continue to pray for everyone at Christ’s Home as we lift up the values of Caring, Compassion, and Community.

Grateful for your support,

John Bryant
CEO

Here We Go—AGAIN!

By John Bryant — CEO

Back in 2005, retired CEO Rich Smyth and the Board of Trustees embarked on the most ambitious expansion of facilities and services in the history of Christ’s Home with an application to Warminster Township to expand the retirement community. Over the next decade a complete transformation of an 84-acre tract of land unfolded. This included:

- Shepherd’s Crossing, a community of 125 cottages constructed in two phases
- Shepherd’s Way Suites, 24 new one- and two-bedroom apartments
- A new Healthcare Center with 90 private rooms. This included an expansion of services for post-hospitalization rehab care, and memory care
• Major exterior improvements and interior renovations to the Garden Apartment section of the campus

• As part of our branding campaign in 2015, we transitioned from referring to ourselves as a retirement community to Christ’s Home Senior Services—believing that this wording better describes the array of services we provide for seniors and the services we envision adding in the future

Over the past two years, additional projects have included the Annex Recreation Center (the ARC), a facelift to the Barn, and our newly opened Maintenance Facility complete with a woodworking shop for resident use.

And now, we are preparing to expand once again!
We are in the process of finalizing architectural and civil engineering plans for additional facilities and hope to present these to the Township for approval in October. Work could start on some facets of the expansion by the end of year and into the first quarter of 2020. Here are the main facets of the plan:

- Construct 26–30 new Shepherd’s Way Suite Apartments. These will be two-bedroom models, and a new two-bedroom with a den floor plan
- New public amenity space, which will include: 1) a Physician’s Office Suite, 2) an expansion of Smyth Hall and our Bistro, and 3) a community/activity room for the Suite residents
- Demolition of the 1923 Manor House, to be replaced with two new Shepherd’s Crossing Cottages
- Construction of the McKeown House for Memory Respite Care

Pre-construction reservations for the new Suite Apartments are now being taken. This is a limited-time offer and we invite all interested persons to make an appointment to visit with Melissa Nolan, our Retirement Counselor, to review the plans. To make an appointment, you can call Melissa at 215.956.1802, or email her at mnolan@christshome.org.

This expansion will add new services for senior adults. For example, the Physician’s Office Suite will provide professional office and examination space for our independent living residents—a service that ranked first in a poll of our residents asking about desired amenities.

We are very excited to add a cutting-edge service in this expansion with The McKeown House. This house will provide short-term visits for seniors with Alzheimer’s—and other memory-loss diseases—so that family caregivers can get a break from the 24/7/365 strain. We believe we are creating the “first-of-its-kind” program to meet this growing need in our society today. Did you know that more than 6 million people in the United States with Alzheimer’s and other memory-loss diseases are being cared for in their home—usually by their spouse and/or family caregivers? A study by Stanford University evidenced that 40% of caregivers actually predecease their loved one with Alzheimer’s. It is believed that this is often due to the physical and emotional strain of providing care 24/7/365. The McKeown House will provide a wonderful service and ministry to the caregivers by supporting their loved one with compassionate care. We are excited about the potential that this new and innovative program provides to meet a growing need in our region.

For nearly 116 years, God’s Story has been unfolding at Christ’s Home. God has proven His faithfulness over and over again, and we are grateful. (NOTE: If you’d like to learn more about our history, please contact us to receive a copy of our recently published book HIS STORY). We are excited about this next chapter of growth in both facilities and services as we continue to strive toward the values of Caring, Compassion, and Community.
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 215-956-1802 to schedule an appointment.
Apart from providing opportunities for spiritual growth such as worship, Bible studies, devotions, prayer times, special events and such, I have the privilege to come alongside people to meet their needs, encourage them and keep them focused on our great Lord and Savior. Our team ministers to those in Independent Living, Personal Care, Skilled Care, Memory Care as well as a large staff.

Every day we are meeting new people who come into our skilled care unit for rehab. They come from all walks of life. The challenge for me is to build a bridge or a point of contact so I can relate to them and encourage them.

My professor in seminary one day challenged us with these words: “You can impress people at a distance, but you can only impact them up close and the closer you get the greater the impact!”

I remember one day coming into a man’s room and after introducing myself noticed a special tattoo on his arm. When I asked about it, he told me it was an Armenian cross and that the Armenian forefathers were essential in the establishment of Christianity. I immediately obliged by telling him that in the old city of Jerusalem there are four quarters—the Jewish quarter, the Christian quarter, the Islamic quarter and yes, the Armenian quarter. I have shopped in all of those quarters and find it fascinating every time. Well, we connected! He then went on to tell me that his grandfather was beheaded by the Turks in Armenia and his father was captured and escaped three times.

Every day is an adventure serving our Lord with our chaplaincy team, and I love it. The last part of our Mission Statement motivates me as I serve: “in an atmosphere graced with love, dignity, compassion and respect.” That says it all.
By this time, I could see tears in his eyes. I said, “If I understand it right, if your father had not escaped, we would not be having this conversation because you were born in America.” He just nodded and gave an appreciative smile. Through that point of connection, we developed a wonderful friendship and I was able to follow up with him later when he was in the hospital. Yes, those words from my seminary professor are so true: “…the closer you get the greater the impact!”

Every day is an adventure as I meet people and ask them to tell me their story. I always look for a way to connect with them and remind them of God’s great love that would send His Son to the cross for them. I try to keep it simple—keep it Jesus! It is rare when someone refuses to let me pray for them. Most cherish the opportunity. I use that time to bring the presence of God to bear upon them and bless them and make them a blessing! Just this past week I was revisiting someone in skilled care, and she said that my last visit brought her peace. Wow, it’s humbling to be used by our Living God. Never get over the miracle that He can use you too!

Ron Schmidt (right) and Marg Schubert, a resident in personal care who wants readers to know she is “very grateful to be here.”
My wife, Ambra, and I have worked in the Teen Mother/Baby Program for the past three and a half years and have been the Primary House Parents there for the past year and a half.

The program is designed to nurture young women who are pregnant or who have a child and have been placed into the program through the Children and Youth Programs within the State of Pennsylvania. The ministry of house parents in the TM/BP is designed to mentor young mothers into independent mothers who lovingly care for their young children. We find the girls to be genuine in their desire to love their children. They simply, often, have not had the fortune of loving, positive, parenting examples in their own lives, and, therefore, they are eager to learn and are receptive to our care and guidance.

The mothers are kept busy as they are generally still in high school. They attend school on a daily basis, Monday through Friday, while their children are in daycare. Then, after school, they will often work part-time in local restaurants or stores to begin saving for their housing when they leave our program. They come home in the evening to get their child out of daycare; feed, bathe and play with their child; and get their child ready for bed.

The girls will also share cooking responsibilities with the aid of the female house parent. They plan the menus and write a list of items they need for the week. I will do the shopping for them while they are in school.

On the weekends, they spend quality time with their babies, do their laundry and housecleaning, attend church with the house parents, and sometimes, when the opportunity is there, they will have family visits and/or weekend passes to see their extended family.

As house parents, we find relationships are established with the young mothers and their babies that are a blessing to both the girls and ourselves. In the day in which we live, it is a blessing to see young single women face the challenge of raising a child without the care and assistance of a husband/father figure until that time comes later in life.

We encourage you to pray for us and the lives we impact on a daily basis through our lives and words. It is our desire that the Teen Mother/Baby Program fulfill the mission statement of Christ’s Home Children Services in a very real and practical way.
Ron and Ambra have served at Christ’s Home for eight years, and have been used by God in significant ways to serve young ladies in our Teen Mother/Baby Program. They retired from Christ’s Home on May 31, but will be continuing to serve the Lord in their retirement years through a variety of ministry opportunities across the USA. We thank them for their dedicated service, and invite you to join us in praying for God’s blessing in this next chapter in their lives.
Summer at Christ’s Home
Children’s Services
And How You Can Help

By Cheryl Cirlio

There’s always a wistful sigh and a slight look of expectation and exacerbation when you ask the house parents of Christ’s Home about the encroaching reality of summer.

You can almost see their minds mentally calculating the logistics of managing eight different schedules, eight different personalities and 80 days of summer vacation, or what the rest of the world sees as “unstructured time.” If asked to explain, they begin to tell you:

“Johnny will need to go to summer school to make up for the amount of school that he missed before he came to us. Samantha is going to a different school in another district. The schedules aren’t exactly the same, so we’ll have to make sure we’re coordinating transportation and other appointments. Of course, there’s the summer reading program—all the children have books they have to read before school starts next year; that means trips to the library…”

“On Tuesdays, there are two therapy appointments—the others go on Thursday and alternate Wednesdays. There’s doctor’s appointments, service plan meetings, and did I forget family visits? And jobs, a lot of our older kids will be getting summer jobs…”

“We’ll go to the YMCA to swim on sunny days—and go to the Community Center on the not-so-sunny ones. There’s baseball games, game nights, picnics, fireworks and a trip or two to an amusement park or down to the shore. Then there’s usually a vacation Bible school or two.”

I ask, “What do you wish for; what do you want to happen?” and, like any parent, their first thought is for their children. “I really hope I can find a summer camp for Tim, because he really likes drawing and art and I’d like to encourage that. Or a sports camp for Bailey. Or a job for Margaret.” As the list goes on, they remark, “We are blessed. We are blessed.”

Another sigh, with a half-smile, the sparkle of possibilities and anticipation of frailties competing for 80 days of the relaxation of summer vacation. In many ways, it’s just a normal family’s schedule in a normal summer and yet, in many ways numerous opportunities to see the provision of God in the lives of our children.

Gratitude comes from knowing that while the job is overwhelming in its complexity, it is simple and true in its promise that God is present in this place. Despite the
craziness of competing schedules, He has provided us with children who fill our days and blessed us with people who give to make our children’s childhood possible and enjoyable.

130 community volunteers donate 1,099 hours of service to our children in the form of tutoring, laundry folding, donation management, house cleaning and mentoring. 29 community groups provide game nights, movie nights, concerts or other events for the children. We are often asked by people how they can help—caring, compassionate community members who give their time and resources to sponsor an activity, play with our children, donate tickets, donate toward camp, support Christ’s Home, and pray.

It’s enough to make the hardest heart grateful and goes a long way to making Christ’s Home feel like home.

“Our gratitude comes from knowing that while the job is overwhelming in its complexity, it is simple and true in its promise that God is present in this place.”

Our kids in the Community Center with one of our community groups on a Saturday morning.
Therapy Solutions at Christ’s Home

Since 2015, Christ’s Home has partnered with Benchmark Therapies to provide comprehensive physical, occupational and speech therapy services to our Healthcare Center patients and independent living residents with the personalized attention and care they deserve. This provides residents with top-tier rehabilitation services to support post-hospitalization care and a return to independent living as quickly as possible.

Physical therapy addresses concerns related to mobility such as walking, taking stairs, fall prevention, the safe use of mobility aids, etc.

Occupational therapy addresses concerns related to ADLs (Activities of Daily Living) that can affect independence, such as: dressing, grooming, bathing, eating, transferring from bed and chair, etc.

Speech therapy addresses concerns regarding improved speech after a stroke, and swallowing issues such as choking and safe food/liquid consumption.

A decline in independence and function does not have to be a “normal” part of aging. Therapy services aid in fall prevention, memory improvement, the ability to safely complete everyday activities like driving, cooking, dressing, tracking medication and much more.

Under the leadership of Benchmark’s Rehabilitation Manager, Laura Kuhn, our therapy department is staffed by a passionate team of professionals who make it their life’s work to provide the highest quality rehabilitation programs that are uniquely designed for every patient.

Benchmark Therapies staff from left to right: Back Row: Susan Wacker, Jill Wabs, Sara Bergman. Front Row: Timothy Kasperitis, Sherry Abraham, Laura Kuhn, Elisa Corson, Daniel Finger.
Thank you to Steve Green for a great Spring Dinner 2019.
Remembrance Gifts

From May 1st through April 30, 2019 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.

Gifts in honor of

- **Ann Shigo**
  - Dan and Nancy Butterfield

- **Florence Uhlig**
  - Jim and Joan Scandlin

- **Kristin Dunleavy**
  - Kathleen Beatty
  - Allison Burgwald
  - Celeste Carosella
  - Lisa Cassidy
  - Libby Cavallaro
  - Angelo Cavallaro
  - Drew and Kacey Damico
  - Amy Deeter
  - Erika Derks

- **Brynn Donnelly**
  - Alice Dunleavy
  - Brian Dunleavy
  - Joanne Dunleavy
  - Nancy Dusing
  - Gregory Fala
  - Lori Flor
  - Marta Forney
  - Theresa Gregorio
  - Patti Jewett Dowse
  - Melissa Morgano
  - Anne Neudecker
  - Kathleen Niewinski
  - Michelle Niewinski

- **Walter Niewinski**
- **Alison Pironti**
- **Joan Sambuco**
- **Bridget Sanelli**
- **Earl Snyder**
- **Sherry Solana**
- **Cliff and Denise Taylor**
- **Kelly Vyzaniaris**
- **Martin Wnukowski**
- **Maria Wolf**
- **Monica Yost and Brian Reagan**
- **Sean Karpel**
- **Mr. and Mrs. Shertzer**

Gifts in memory of

- **Benjamin Negley**
  - Richard and Jeanie Smyth

- **Carol Keyser**
  - Louis Belasco
  - Eleanor Dunlap
  - Edythe Edwards
  - Mort and Ruth Feder
  - Adam and Kristen Giocondo
  - Brian Hochberg
  - Frances Knodt
  - Elaine Kochanski
  - M. Delores Ludman

- **Michael Materasso**
- **Curt Miller**
- **Carl and Jane Pfeiffer**
- **Joseph and Alice Piechoski**
- **Richard and Jeanie Smyth**

- **Carolyn and Norman Glenz**
  - Joan Glenz

- **Charles Curtis**
  - Richard and Jeanie Smyth

- **Christ G. Lapp**
  - Bertz, Hess & Co., LLP
  - Jim and Darlene Byler

- **Mary E. Clark**
- **Do Nothing Club**
- **Stuart and Johnna Friedman**
- **Donald and Dorothy High**
- **Robert and Lori Kepiro**
- **Richard and Michelle Ritter**
- **Elmer and Carol Ann Stoltzfus**
- **Betty Stumpf**

- **Christine Dickerson Good**
  - Glen and Ruth Good

- **Frances Russell**
  - Robert and Kathryn Russell
John M. Kaiser
Jane Corcoran

John Rawlings
Willy and Ruth Tauber
Judith Zweig

Joshua Garland
Richard and Jeanie Smyth

Louis Evangelista Jr.
Dean and Carol Leib

Mabel C. Handzlik
Raymond and Meg Neitz
Priscilla Reardon

Marion Galambos
John and Donna Collins
Donald and Dorothy Fernandez
William and Kathy Martin
Jacqueline Nunziata
Elaine Sample
Gregory and Katie Thomas

Mary McDevitt
Roseann Petrilla

Mary Schneider
Frank and Luanne Baratta
Patricia Mills
Robin Morris

Stephanie Park
Richard and Jeanie Smyth

The Fitz Maurice Family
Mary Elizabeth Logan
William Cressman
Christ’s Home Alumni Association

Thanks to Brendan McGill, CEO and President of Harleysville Bank, and the Bank employees for their generous donation to Christ’s Home.

Community Center Events

June 14
Coffeehouse featuring Ever Since Summer

June 19
Grandfamily Expo

July 8–12
Reach Basketball Camp

July 19
Coffeehouse featuring Fare Thee Well

July 22–25
Glenn Dolton Basketball Camp

July 29–August 2
Rising Stocks Basketball Camp

August 16
Coffeehouse featuring Adam and Chris of Under the Oak

For more information, visit christshome.org
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED