Christ’s Home Community Center: A Year in Review

By Paul Baur, Director of Community Relations

Well, we have a little over a year under our belts since the Christ’s Home Community Center has opened, and it has been a good year. The new 16,000 square foot Community Center opened in June 2018 and is located right in the center of our Children’s Campus in Warminster. This beautiful facility has enhanced our ability to serve our children in residence, our senior adults and engage the local community in ways we could not before.

The enhanced ability to serve our children and our seniors with this new facility started slowly, almost like, “Are we really allowed to come and use this building?”

In this issue of Frontline you will read about many of these things. And through all of them runs a thread that God is sustaining a legacy of community, day by day, here at Christ’s Home.

If you’ve been sitting on the sidelines, please accept our invitation to join our community through social media and/or attending some of the upcoming events being held in the Community Center. Please see the box on Page 12.

Thank you for being a part of the Christ’s Home Community and all that God is doing here.

John Bryant
CEO
Thankfully, that has passed and not a day goes by that there isn’t someone from either campus using the facility. Sometimes that’s for a planned event and sometimes they just stop in.

What has been equally exciting has been the ability to engage the local community. When I first came to work at Christ’s Home three years ago, there were not many open invitation events to the local community where folks were just invited to our Children’s Campus.

Over the past year we have easily drawn over 1,500 people to our campus, many of whom did not come to learn about Christ’s Home but rather came to attend a special event that either we or an individual or organization renting the facility hosted. These are folks from our surrounding community.

Many shared with me how they have driven past Christ’s Home for five, 10 and even 20 years and never really knew what took place here. By the time people leave, they all have an idea of who we are, what we do and why we do it—and many are blown away, in the best sense. Some want to learn more, a few want to know how they can help or get involved and many of them are just in awe and want to thank us for caring for children and senior adults. They are impressed, both by the facility and the work we do.
In Matthew 5:16 we are told “Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven.” What an opportunity the Community Center has given us to engage the local community, to build relationships and share about the work of Christ’s Home.

Ephesians 2:10 says, “For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

It’s great to wake up every morning and ask God, “What’s on my list of good works for today? Who can I encourage? How can I serve others and let my light shine that You may be glorified?”

Our desire at the Community Center is to shine God’s light as we serve others. And, when we do that well, people know that this is a great place to work, to visit, to be a part of a community. Please keep the Community Center staff in your prayers as we move into our second year as we serve children, senior adults, and our surrounding community.
Mission-Focused Staff

By John Bryant, CEO

We have an outstanding staff at Christ’s Home, dedicated on a daily basis to meet the spirit of our mission statement as we serve senior adults and disadvantaged children with love, dignity, compassion and respect.

Over 200 people regularly serve at Christ’s Home in full-time and regular part-time positions. This is divided between 208 people on our workforce, and approximately 50 people who serve on staff with one of our partner organizations (Dining Services, Therapy Services, Security, etc.). It takes a lot of people, with a variety of diverse skills, to keep the operation of Christ’s Home running smoothly 24/7/365.

It may surprise you to learn that 15 percent of the Christ’s Home staff have served here for at least 16 years. This group averages more than 20 years of service and represents almost every department in our organization. Mr. Bob Liebold (pictured third from left), a member of the maintenance staff at the Retirement Community, leads the group as he is now in his 40th year of service. This group leads by example every day what it means to fully live out the mission of Christ’s Home. We are grateful for their faithfulness and longevity of service.

We thank the Lord for all of our staff. Their commitment to give their best each and every day is one of the reasons why Christ’s Home is known for our caring, compassion, and community. Think of it this way: most of our full-time staff spend more of their daily awake hours each day serving at Christ’s Home than the time they spend in their own home. That’s dedication!

Please pray for our staff, that the Lord may give to them strength for their daily duties and keep them diligent to live out the mission of Christ’s Home.
They each may define it a little differently, but these couples say it’s what they love best about living at Christ’s Home.

Residents of Christ’s Home can sum up why they love living in this community so much in three simple words: peace of mind. Of course, there can be a lot of different ways to define the term.

For Dave Newberry, it’s waking up on a snowy winter morning and looking out the window with your fuzzy slippers on and a cup of coffee in your hand, knowing that you don’t have to go out and shovel or plow your driveway.

Dennis and Kathleen McCann gain peace of mind from having neighbors who care about you.

“Where we both came from, you knew your neighbors, but there wasn’t much interaction,” he says. “Here, it’s entirely different. People are so outgoing towards one another and so concerned about one another. It’s a caring community where people are going to look out for you. That means a lot.”
Carol Wolf uses three different words to describe her Christ’s Home experience—but they all boil down to the same thing:

“Peace, contentment, and safety,” she says. “You can walk around at night, and have no qualms about it.”

Her husband Joe would add a fourth word: freedom.

“I can do what I please. You’re not required to do anything here, you’re on your own. You can get involved, or not get involved. There are great things to get involved with, and great people. That’s peace of mind for me.”

Shepherd’s Crossing resident Dennis McCann agrees. “I’ve told people who were thinking about coming here, you don’t sit around on a rocking chair on your porch. There’s a lot for you to do here; our activities calendar bears that out. That’s a big plus.”

How they got here

These three couples have all found peace of mind at Christ’s Home, yet the journeys that brought them to the Warminster campus were quite different.

Dennis and Kathleen McCann hadn’t seen each other in 40 years, but they reconnected, began dating, and then got married in 2011. Dennis lived in King of Prussia and Kathleen lived in the Warminster area. Realtors sent them information on 55-and-over communities, but many of them had homes that were two stories and the McCann’s were not interested in that.

Dennis saw a sign for Phase Two (Shepherd’s Crossing) and read the Christ’s Home newspaper ads. He was intrigued, but family members pointed out that he wouldn’t own his home, so he put it on the back burner.

“One day I said to Kathleen, ‘Let’s just go take a look.’ So we went to the sales center, and we were just so impressed. I said, ‘That’s it, we’re moving here.’”

The McCann’s loved the plot plan, design and layout of the homes, but also liked that Kathleen could shop at the stores she was used to and keep her local doctors. The icing on the cake: The Pennsylvania Turnpike is close by so they could hop on to visit their grandchildren in Lancaster.

“The name ‘Christ’s Home’ factored into our decision too,” Dennis says. “We felt very comfortable that this is where we should be.”
There is a community feeling here,” agrees Jean Newberry. “I have over 100 friends I never had before—and that’s a neat feeling.”

Using gifts of service and leadership
Another important aspect of life at Christ’s Home that gives residents peace of mind: the opportunity to continue using gifts of service and leadership.

“Jean and I had experienced God’s leading in our lives in business and other areas, and we wanted to know how we were going to serve God in our senior years,” says former marketing executive Dave Newberry, “but when we came here it was like God put the instruction book in front of us.”

That instruction book included an opportunity to use his ministry gifts to help Christ’s Home Chaplain Ron Schmidt. He recently got a call from Schmidt asking him to visit a resident in the late stages of a battle with cancer.

“His wife and son were in the room with him, and they asked me to pray with him.”

Newberry counts it as a rare privilege to share such an intimate and vulnerable moment with a family. “When I left there, I said, ‘It’s pretty clear why I’m here, why I do what I do. You don’t get those opportunities very often.’”

Jean Newberry worked in the healthcare field before she retired, and enjoys relating to families. She loves volunteering with the Alzheimer’s support group at Christ’s Home.

“There is so much guilt and pain when families place a loved one in a healthcare facility—especially Alzheimer’s patients,” she says. “I find that I can help the spouses who are experiencing tremendous guilt. It feels good to use the skills I have to help others.”

Dennis McCann was a volunteer before he even came to live at Christ’s Home. He and Kathleen were one of the first couples to put a deposit on a home in Shepherd’s Crossing; he loved what he saw unfolding there and would visit the sales office regularly for a cup of coffee and updates on the construction. One day a gentleman came in to inquire about Christ’s Home, and McCann wound up giving him “the pitch” even before the Christ’s Home sales team could.

In addition to serving on the Shepherd’s Crossing Residents Council, both Dennis McCann and Dave Newberry volunteer by driving residents back and forth from the hairdresser. “You get to know people, and you establish relationships,” he says. “It’s just rewarding to be able to interact with people and make them feel comfortable. It can be something as small as the touch of a hand; it’s amazing to see how their faces light up!”

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.
Dave Newberry has experienced that reward, too. “Nothing is better than making sad people happy, and making lonely people feel like they have a friend,” he says. “But I’m the one who receives the blessing.”

**Daily decisions align with the mission**

When Dave and Jean Newberry were considering moving to Christ’s Home, their daughter-in-law, a financial planner and wealth manager, wanted to see a balance sheet. “She said, ‘This is a lot of money you’re giving them. What do you know about them?’” Dave recalls.

He procured the most recent financial statement from Christ’s Home and overnighted it to her. “She called back the next day and said, ‘Do the deal. There’s no place like that here in Savannah (where she lives). Your money will be safe.’”

Most organizations have a statement that describes who they are and what they are about. Residents appreciate the high level of integrity reflected in Christ’s Home’s mission statement.

“So many places put a mission statement out there, but it doesn’t always affect the decisions they make every day,” Jean Newberry says. “Here, they live the mission statement.”

That is reflected in everything from the excellent care provided by the Christ’s Home staff to the way feedback from the residents’ council is handled; among other amenities, Christ’s Home residents now enjoy a community garden and bocce court thanks to suggestions from the residents’ council. These are all signs of a stable, well-run organization, residents say.

Joe and Carol Wolf had been living in the Pocono Mountains but were ready to come back to the Warminster area to live out their retirement years, as they were from the area originally and their children and grandchildren lived close by. They had made deposits at retirement communities in Lansdale and Telford, but a friend told Carol how much she loved Christ’s Home.

So they did some “window shopping” at the Garden Apartments and were impressed. An apartment they really liked became available, but they weren’t quite ready to make the move. A short time later, the same apartment came back on the market, and this time the Wolfs jumped at the opportunity.

“It has a nice kitchen, with lots of cabinets, a nice front porch and a good yard,” Carol says.

Joe still misses his two-car garage from time to time, but they love where they are.

“It really was a godsend coming here,” says Joe. “It wasn’t what I pictured for my future; I thought we’d die at our old place. But after some health issues arose, it was obvious we had to move, and I did not want our kids to have to keep us.

“We fit right in here,” he adds. “Plus, sooner or later there will only be one of us left, and this will be a little easier for one person to manage.”
Stability + People = Peace of Mind

Peace of mind can mean different things to different people, but no matter how they define it, residents say they have found it at Christ’s Home.

“Christ’s Home has been here for over 100 years,” says Joe Wolf. “It started out as an orphanage, and it still cares for children. There is a tremendous heritage that provides stability here. It’s a good feeling to come to a place like this.”

“I love the people here. They are wonderful people, and everybody has a wonderful story to tell,” adds Dave Newberry. “It is a thrill to be part of this community. There’s nothing I do here that I don’t love to do.”

For Dennis McCann, the staff and residents of Christ’s Home form a community unlike any other, where the personal touch makes all the difference. It’s not unlike the ministries of great leaders like Dr. Billy Graham, Dr. David Jeremiah and others. “They touched a lot of souls,” McCann says. “We have the opportunity to touch a lot of souls that God has put in front of us, too.”

“It’s like Carol said: You move here and you have 100 new friends,” adds Joe Wolf. “You’ve created a bond with each other, you care for each other. That is comforting.”

In the course of a one-hour interview, residents gave at least 36 reasons why they love Christ’s Home:

- Local shopping
- Local doctors
- Convenient
- Turnpike access
- Comfortable
- Manageable
- No mowing
- No shoveling
- Less cleaning
- Good plot plans
- Good floor plans
- Opportunities to serve
- Opportunities to lead
- Full slate of activities
- Never bored
- Our children are thrilled we’re here!
- Our grandkids love the pool!
- Safety
- Pickleball
- Fulfilling
- Sense of purpose
- Establish relationships
- Quality care
- Caring community
- Sense of family
- Minister to people
- Personal touch
- Touching souls
- Integrity
- Well-run
- Fiscally responsible
- Living the mission statement
- Stability
- Rich heritage
- Exceptional value
- Privacy

How they got here

Dave and Jean Newberry had a large property that was getting to be too much to take care of. Plowing his 240-ft. long driveway was something Dave had begun to dread. Then Hurricane Sandy blew through in 2012, and their property sustained heavy damage. They knew then it was time for them to go. Dave would pass by [Christ’s Home] on his way to work, and mentioned it to Jean. She was convinced the units were too small. Then Dave stopped one day on his way home from work and took a tour. “He said, ‘You have to come see these places, they’re really cute!’” she recalls.

Once she saw the Shepherd’s Crossing cottages, she was sold. “I said, ‘Hey, maybe I could do this!’” she says. “Instead of spending a whole Saturday cleaning my house after working all week, I could clean this in a couple of hours, and we wouldn’t have to mow or shovel. Within a week we put our deposit in.”

‘You are part of us’

Two times a year, Christ’s Home hosts a memorial service for residents who have passed away. Families are invited to this time of remembrance; their loved one’s photo is shown on the screen, memories are shared, and each family places a rose in a vase to commemorate their loved one. When the spouses of Shepherd’s Crossing residents came up to place their rose, the president of their residents’ council, Dennis McCann, accompanied them and placed a rose in the vase on behalf of the residents.

“That was an incredible demonstration of love, compassion, and leadership,” says Christ’s Home CEO John Bryant. “That gesture says to our residents, ‘You are part of us, part of our group.’ I commend Dennis for that.”
A Generous Thought
Alice fulfilled a long-term dream

Alice loves Christ’s Home, and her heart goes out to the abused and neglected children Christ’s Home cares for on the Warminster and Paradise campuses. She had considered a special gift to Christ’s Home for several years.

In September of 2014, Alice contributed $50,000 to establish a Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA) that would benefit her annual income and support Christ’s Home in the future.

Alice was 73 years old at the time and had $75,000 in CDs reaching the end of their term; these were providing her with just 1% of taxable income annually. After discussing her financial situation with her accounting professional, she decided to commit $50,000 to a CGA and for the last 5 years has received payments at the rate of 5.7% ($2,850 annually), a portion of which is income tax free.

Alice has enjoyed the $11,750 increase to her income as well as fulfilling the desire to benefit Christ’s Home, which she has supported for more than 20 years.

While the rates of return on CDs have been slowly increasing, they currently remain under 3%, so Alice’s decision has really paid off. The gift Alice made to establish her first Charitable Gift Annuity represented less than 10% of her available assets, leaving her accessible reserves for future needs.

If you would like to discuss the benefits of a CGA to you and Christ’s Home, please call Vernon Wright to receive a complimentary illustration in an amount that makes sense for you. You will receive documents that can be shared with your financial advisor and family members.

Vernon can be reached at 717.314.9660 (M), or vwright@christshome.org.

Community Center Events

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<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>October 18</td>
<td>Coffeehouse with Adam &amp; Chris of Under the Oak</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 8</td>
<td>Coffeehouse with the JT Beaver Jazz Trio</td>
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<td>Veterans Day - November 11</td>
<td>“A Salute to our Veterans” 10:00 am With special guest Captain David A. Christian. Everyone is welcome—advance reservations are required as seating is limited.</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 7</td>
<td>Carols and Coffee An evening of acoustic Christmas music with special guests, Craig Thatcher and Nyke Van Wyk.</td>
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For more information please go to the Community Center events page on our site and sign up for our community center email updates
In 2014, Alice contributed $50,000 to establish a CGA. Rates of return on CDs remain under 3%.

Alice supported Christ's Home for more than 20 years.
Good Stuff Thrift

By Vernon Wright, Chief Development Officer

Christ’s Home is honored to be a recipient of generous gifts from Good Stuff Thrift (GST). As a non-profit thrift store, Good Stuff Thrift was started with the express purpose of supporting Bucks County agencies that provide services to improve the health, welfare and education of underprivileged children.

Christ’s Home is so thankful to Good Stuff Thrift for the $231,000 in support since July 2014.

I recently had the opportunity to sit down with Ed Hudson, Good Stuff Thrift CEO, and asked him to share the story of Good Stuff Thrift’s beginnings, guiding principles, and growth with our readers.

**When was the idea of Good Stuff Thrift birthed?**

Interest in starting a Christian based thrift store came about in 2012 as I was serving on the local board for Bethany Children’s Services with Paul Baur, founder of Impact Thrift Store.

**What was the impetus to the idea of opening a new thrift store?**

Both Impact and New Life Thrift Store in Glenside were generating profits and able to give substantial contributions in support of Christian services that focus on the needs of children and families. I was impressed with their income and the sense that there were plenty of donations available from the community that could support another thrift store. A key theme my team heard was to keep overhead to a minimum, so for example, the human resources director and other managers do some work in the store.

**What were the short and long-range goals?**

There were bigger aspirations at the beginning. Some consideration was given to working in a partnership with Bethany which has a nationwide presence. But that was a pretty daunting proposition to take on. A definite goal was to look for low cost per square foot space to lease in good locations.

**How did you choose your market areas?**

Initially we wanted to find something in the Warminster area, but we couldn’t find retail space within our target price range. Interestingly, Doylestown was not on the radar, but we were approached by a company that was locating there and didn’t need the building at the front of the property. We were offered a very low rent, so we decided to open a boutique shop there. Consequently, we were in two locations sooner than expected.

**How did you go about choosing the charities that would benefit from the profits generated by GST?**

Our desire and goal is to help Christian based children’s charities in Bucks County, and there aren’t that many. We have logged over 20,000 volunteer hours in the stores which demonstrates that people like our mission.

**In addition to making donations to children’s agencies, what other opportunities have come along that you didn’t foresee five years ago?**

We have gotten involved with helping some people who are coming out of recovery programs with things like furnishings and clothing. GST has provided training opportunities for handicapped individuals who are many times accompanied by “coaches” from agencies like the Woods Services. Another area of service in the county is providing court appointed community service opportunities for hundreds of kids each year. We have even seen some of these individuals become employees.
What is the total contributions made by Good Stuff Thrift to date?

We have been able to give away $925,000 and expect to hit the one-million-dollar mark by the end of June 2019. Sales have shown strong growth for 2019. We will celebrate this milestone for sure.

*As of July 2019, Good Stuff Thrift hit the one-million-dollar mark.

How can people help GST fulfill its mission?

Donate, shop, volunteer, and spread the word. Visit our website and learn how you can sponsor a collection drive with your neighborhood, church group, civic organization. If the location where you work or your business has room in the parking lot, we are looking for locations to place clothing bins.

When asked what the compelling reason was for choosing to support Christ’s Home Children’s Services, Ed summed it up quickly – “Christian, local, and impacting kids!” Christ’s Home congratulates Good Stuff Thrift in their success and continued growth to the glory of God. Please take time to visit the Good Stuff Thrift stores and their website at [www.goodstuffthrift.org](http://www.goodstuffthrift.org) for more information.
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
   • 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!
What are all the HASHTAGS about?
Those of you who already follow us know these hashtags...

#Caring #Compassion #Community #BuildingLivesTogether #FeatureFriday

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:

Our Official Social Media Account Sites:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ChristsHome/

Instagram: www.instagram.com/christshome/

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/christ’s-home/about/

YouTube: http://yt.vu/+christshome

Christ’s Home Skilled Nursing Rehab

YOUR 5-Star* choice for post-hospital care, providing the highest standard of care in private rooms with private bath.
Remembrance Gifts

During May 1st through July 31, 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

Bill De Benedictis
Robert and Anne Michel

Alexander Galambos
Greg and Katie Thomas

June Dewey Hamer
David and Kimberly Rose

The Kelly Family
Patrick and Kathleen Kelly

Maintenance and Transportation Staff
Patricia Maransky

Margaret J. Rawlings
Willy and Ruth Tauber

Robert Misner
Susan Barbour

Tom and Donna Serino
Jeremiah and Kayla McPherson

Susanna (Shaffer) Slack
Susan and Paul Zakulec

Gifts in memory of

Rev. Guy Bongiovanni
Esther Bongiovanni

Hugh Boyd and Karen Boyd Morss
Susan Boyd-Ridyard

Ashley Deputy Craft
Maurice and Phyllis Deputy

Max and Anna Fraundorf
Edmund Fraundorf

Paul and Susanna Galgon
Bill and Karen Becker

John P. Jablonski
Paul and Joyce Jablonski

Philip Kane
John and Janele Bryant

Howard MacGrady
Mary Lou MacGrady

Jean McGary
Joyce Ann Swoyer

Margaret McNally
Rich and Jeanie Smyth

Donald Mengel
Christ’s Home Alumni Association

Carl R. Mueller
Rosie Mueller

William Perry
Lorraine Dryden

John Rawlings
Willy and Ruth Tauber

Robert J. Scannell
Rich and Jeanie Smyth

Lou Schmidt
Charles and Marcia Schmidt

Minnie B. Sellers
Jane Manning
Joe Wang

Chester B. Smeal
Denise Smeal

Donald Smith
Christ’s Home Alumni Association

Audrey Stevens
Richard Stevens

David and Doris Wright
Vernon and Lois Wright

Charles Wurst
John and Kathryn Wurst
## Annual Sponsorship Appreciation

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<td>Glenmede Trust Company</td>
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<td>Total Turf Landscape Services</td>
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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.