

ENGAGED IN CREATIVE MINISTRY

Homewood is engaged in a ministry which is constantly demanding more than has been done in the past or is being done in the present. The challenge is how to carry on creatively a ministry with the aging at a time when they are the fastest growing segment of our nation's population and when there is great need for helping them maintain a sense of dignity and worth. This ministry is not an imposed duty but rather a high privilege. It is a person-centered ministry where individuals deserve every possible opportunity for continual growth toward wholeness. It is a ministry of the "community of faith" supported by that community because God calls us to respond to need wherever it exists.

If we are to be responsive to the challenge of ministry with the aging in today's world, we must always be shaping new ministries such as the Community Center for the Aging at Homewood at Hanover, Pa. We also must be seeking new programs for helping residents live more meaningful lives, such as the Remotivation programs now underway at all of Homewood's locations. In addition, churches and individuals who believe in the ministry of Homewood and have supported it over the years must be planning and working to find new ways of deepening their commitment in this area of concern.

In this **FIRESIDE** we share dreams, concerns, feelings, experiences, and resources with the hope of stimulating greater concern on the part of us all for a more creative ministry with the aging.

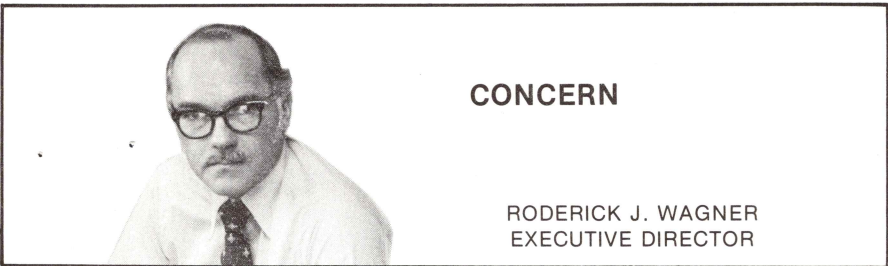


Homewood residents know that part of what gives life meaning is reaching out to help others. The residents in **Homewood at Williamsport** are sending a monthly contribution to the Christian Children's Fund to sponsor a Korean child.

A Dedication Service will be held Sunday, Dec. 5, at 2:00 p.m. for a new communion table and lectern in **Homewood at Carlisle**. These were given by the family and friends of Rev. and Mrs. S. Burman Long in appreciation for their ministry. The Longs became residents of Homewood, where Mrs. Long still resides, in May 1973. Dr. Long died on June 24, 1974.

Spiritual growth is important to the residents at all of Homewood's facilities. In **Homewood at Hanover** a morning worship service is held each Sunday at 8:30 a.m. Many of the residents also participate in services at nearby community churches. Individuals often seek the personal counsel of the Administrator/Chaplain.

Residents of Homewood and staff persons from all departments soon become one big family sharing meaningful experiences with one another. Recently in **Homewood at Martinsburg** a nurse's aide brought her new baby to share a few minutes of life and love with a resident.



CONCERN

**RODERICK J. WAGNER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Homewood is a vehicle for ministry, created by the churches, to provide care for dependent persons from the churches and the community. Homewood, as the agent of the churches in performing a specialized care function, has grown because the churches have provided direction (through the Board of Trustees), personnel (volunteers, including the Auxiliary), funding, and residents.

Homewood is limited in future growth by the ability and inclination of the churches to fund additional facilities and care for the indigent. The Board of Trustees' commitment to a new facility in Frederick will exhaust accumulated capital and force commercial borrowing for the first time in 26 years. The increased costs of delivering health care services, due to the sharp rise in the consumer price index and the professionalism imposed by government, have almost tripled Benevolent Fund commitments to indigent residents during the past three years. Next year Benevolent Fund commitments for present residents will total \$450,000.00, an increase of 400% since 1974.

We are pleased that the churches have looked to Homewood as a resource. We have done our best to meet your expectations to admit residents and to divide the Benevolent Fund among the indigent. However, if Homewood is to expand facilities to accept more of your members, and if Homewood is to add to the numbers of your members who depend on the Benevolent Fund for a portion of their costs of care, more tangible support is necessary.

As we extend our appreciation for your past involvements, we appeal to you to consider Homewood as a valid extended ministry of your congregation, and with the aging Homewood serves deserving of more significant contributions of time and dollars.

Q. DOES HOMEWOOD STILL ENCOURAGE HARVEST HOME CONTRIBUTIONS?

A. Homewood encourages churches to celebrate the Festival of Harvest Home not only because it continues to be important to our ministry with the aging but also because we believe it is important to the people in the local church. This year many congregations brought food items to our four facilities along with monetary contributions from persons thankful for the harvest season but not involved directly in the production of food items.

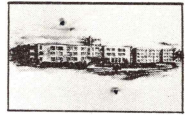
Many factors and pressures have changed the nature of the Harvest Festival as it relates to Homewood, not the least of which are the government regulations which do not permit the use of home-canned items at any of our facilities. We would, however, ask that you continue to remember the needs of Homewood as you plan your yearly observance of the harvest season. Some churches have been promoting the use of a money tree so that funds could be contributed to Homewood and used where they are most needed. Still others have checked ahead of time to see what food items are most needed. Homewood will cooperate in whatever way possible with local congregations to make Harvest Home a meaningful experience for everyone.

Send your questions to the editor of the FIRESIDE.

The FIRESIDE is published in the interest of Homewood Retirement Centers of the United Church of Christ, Inc. The Homewood corporation owns and operates facilities to provide care for the aging at four locations.

Homewood is a non-profit agency which receives support from nine associations in parts of three Conferences of the United Church of Christ. The Conferences are Central Atlantic, Penn Central, and Penn West.

Homewood is an equal opportunity employer and is open to persons of all races, colors, and creeds.



Central Staff

Executive Director Roderick J. Wagner
Resident Relations Director . . . Carole L. Malin
Business Manager Richard L. Eshleman
Associate Executive Director . Donald P. Flick
(FIRESIDE Editor)



President of Board of Trustees
Jacob L. Hoffman

Homewood Retirement Centers
2740 Virginia Avenue
Williamsport, Maryland 21795
301/582-1626



(Christmas and Note Cards with pictures of the unit are available at each location.)



**LEADERSHIP
IMPORTANT
TO
HOMEWOOD**

An important part of the progress Homewood has made over the years is the fine leadership and sacrificial service provided by Christian lay persons.

Dr. Edward W. Ditto, Jr., a member of Christ's Reformed Church, Hagerstown, Md., served as president of the Board of Trustees for the past 26 years. Under his leadership Homewood's capacity to serve grew from 15 to 372 residents and its staff increased from 3 to 252. When Dr. Ditto became president of the Board in 1950, Homewood consisted of one facility at 1817 Virginia Avenue, Hagerstown, Md. Honored for his many years of service and capable leadership, Dr. Ditto has been named President Emeritus of the Homewood Board.

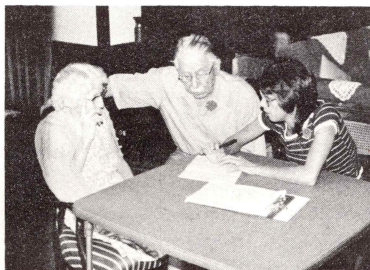
Jacob L. Hoffman, a member of Salem Reformed Church, Hagerstown, Md., is the new Board President. He is an active local businessman who gives a large portion of time to community concerns.

Other officers of the Board of Trustees are Dr. Donald M. Rockwell, First Vice President, Huntingdon, Pa.; Leroy E. Hoffheins, Second Vice President, Hanover, Pa.; J. Vernon Coblentz, Secretary, Middletown, Md.; and Charles W. Karper, Treasurer, Chambersburg, Pa.

Our sincere thanks to the twenty dedicated persons who serve on the Board and to the local churches for sharing these persons to help dream and plan and administer work with the aging as carried on by Homewood.

PEOPLE AND THE NEWS

Each day hot meals are taken from **Homewood at Carlisle**, **Homewood at Hanover**, and **Homewood at Williamsport** to persons in the community. The Meals-on-Wheels project is sponsored by community groups who provide volunteers to deliver meals to persons in their own homes. Homewood works with the community groups by supplying the meals at minimum cost.



Mr. John Whitmore, a resident at **Homewood at Hanover**, took it upon himself to see that all the residents were registered to vote in this year's presidential election. Here he watches as Nina Wagner, of the Resident Relations staff, fills out a registration card for Mrs. Alma Parr.

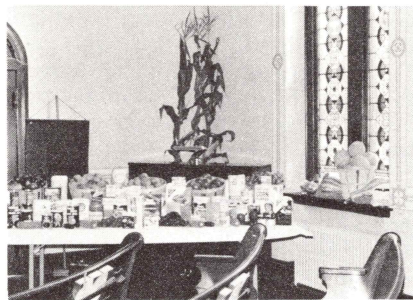


Two Bicentennial quilts were patched, quilted, and bound for sale by the residents of **Homewood at Martinsburg**. These quilts were auctioned off at the annual Strawberry Festival held this past summer, with the proceeds going into the Gift Shop Fund which helps provide special resident-centered activities. The Strawberry Festival draws persons from the churches of the Juniata Association of Penn West Conference and the Northern Association of Penn Central Conference as well as people from the Martinsburg community.

The residents of **Homewood at Carlisle** participated in the Christmas Bazaar held at M. J. Mall on November 11, 12 and 13. Several churches in the Mercersburg Association also helped by providing items for sale as well as volunteers who worked with the residents in selling the items on the days of the Bazaar. Many of the residents have worked since last summer making the handcrafts which were sold at this event. The profits will go towards the craft and activity program.



Miss Grace Cook, a resident of **Homewood at Martinsburg**, was recently awarded a first-place ribbon for neatness for a pillow she made in stitchery. Mrs. Estelle Clark, one of Homewood's faithful volunteers who encourages Miss Cook in her work and keeps her supplied with needed materials, is helping to display the handiwork.



Members of Christ Church, Cavetown, Md., were among many who shared their blessings with the residents of Homewood through the celebration of the Festival of Harvest Home. This is the church of the late George C. Pearson, Homewood's original benefactor.

The Lemasters-Upton Charge, under the leadership of the Revs. Janet and Harry Ray, made a whole day of their celebration. The morning service was dedicated to hearing about the work of Homewood and receiving gifts of food to be taken to the facility at Carlisle, Pa. In the afternoon over fifty persons from the parish boarded a bus to take the food-stuffs to Homewood, tour the facility, and visit with the residents. Church groups are always welcome at any of Homewood's facilities.



United Appeal Day at **Homewood at Williamsport** was October 29. Homewood residents Mrs. Catherine Grape and Mrs. Mildred Thompson assisted in encouraging staff and other residents to make contributions to this year's United Way. Thanks to them, it works!



Janis Wilson from Berlin, New Jersey, a senior at Shepherd College, Shepherdstown, W. Va., is serving as a social service intern in **Homewood at Williamsport**. Janis' involvement at Homewood was arranged in conjunction with her requirements for graduation in the field of social work. She will spend approximately ten hours a week at Homewood working closely with residents. Janis is shown in the picture leading a group of residents in their daily exercises.



Birthdays are special times! Two Leap Year babies celebrated their 1976 birthdays together in an old fashioned way at **Homewood at Martinsburg**. Mrs. Anna Whetstone is giving "the treatment" to Mrs. Violet Hewitt. Mrs. Whetstone was celebrating her 21st birthday, but for Mrs. Hewitt it was only 19! Many church and community groups come to all of Homewood's units and sponsor monthly birthday parties. Our sincere thanks to all who participate in this way.

THE AUXILIARY IS YOU ...

Each local church in the designated support area of Homewood is asked to appoint a Homewood Representative who will be responsible for challenging persons to enroll in the Auxiliary. To prepare for the enrollment this Fall, fourteen meetings were held in various locations. A total of 179 persons representing 111 churches attended the meetings where a packet of resource materials for use by the local church was reviewed. Appointed area chairpersons have been busy distributing the packets to those churches which were unable to have a representative present at one of the meetings.

The Auxiliary understands part of its role as helping to provide through donations and special projects those "little extras" for Homewood's ministry. From the donations to the 1977 Auxiliary membership drive, a \$500 draw account will be set up for each of the four facilities to provide extra projects or programs for the residents. A second portion of the funds will be used for publishing the Homewood FIRESIDE, and the remainder of the money will be divided among the four facilities by the Auxiliary Board according to priority needs. The goal for the 1977 Auxiliary enrollment is to tell the story of Homewood to at least 10,000 persons and to secure a donation from them for this work.

Another important function of the Auxiliary is to help provide volunteers who will serve in the units, working directly with the Homewood residents. Individuals or groups wishing to consider a person-to-person ministry with the aging should contact the Resident Relations staff of the nearest Homewood facility.

One of the new projects planned by the Auxiliary is the sponsorship of a performance at the Totem Pole Playhouse, near Chambersburg, Pa., sometime next spring. The proceeds from ticket sales will go towards a special project.

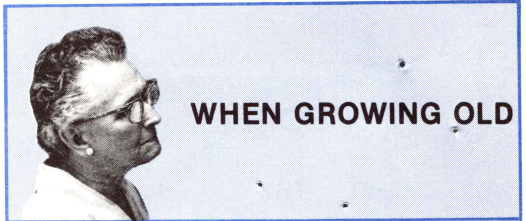
The new Auxiliary Manual, prepared by the officers of the Auxiliary, outlines the POLICIES, PROCEDURES, and PROGRAMS of the organization, and includes the following statement:

Membership privilege in the Homewood Auxiliary shall be extended on an annual basis to men, women, and young people in local United Church of Christ congregations or community persons interested and participating in the program of Homewood and making a donation of \$1.00 or more each year.

If you have not yet enrolled in the Auxiliary, contact the Homewood Representative in your congregation and do so now. The Auxiliary is YOU, helping to carry on an expanding person-to-person ministry among the aging.



The officers of the Homewood Auxiliary are a dedicated group of persons who give generously of themselves to plan and dream of ways to help strengthen Homewood's ministry. The officers for 1976-1977 are, left to right: Mrs. Natalie Richey, Secretary, St. John's Church, Martinsburg, Pa.; Miss Agnes Funk, Treasurer, Christ Reformed Church, Cavetown, Md.; Mrs. Mary Solder, President, Grace Church, Shippensburg, Pa.; and Mrs. Ruth Dorman, Vice President, Christ's Reformed Church, Hagerstown, Md.



WHEN GROWING OLD

O God,
 I know now what it is like
 to be growing old.
 Everything is a bigger effort
 than it used to be.
 I get more easily tired,
 and each job takes longer to do.
 My memory is not so good;
 My mind is not too quick;
 My body is not so strong.
 And yet I've got a lot to be thankful for.
 I have learned
 what is important
 and what is not important.
 I know now
 that there are a great many things
 not worth worrying about.
 I have learned
 to take the rough with the smooth
 and not get upset.
 I have learned
 who my real friends are,
 and how much I owe to those who
 love me,
 and to those whom I love.
 Above all, when I look back
 I can see your hand in everything,
 and when I remember all that you
 have done for me in the past
 It's easy to trust you
 for the days to come.

Isaiah heard God saying:
 Even to your old age I am He
 and to grey hairs I will carry you,
 I have made and I will bear;
 I will carry and save.

Under the shadow of thy throne
 Thy saints have dwelt secure;
 Sufficient is thine arm alone,
 And our defense is sure.

— William Barclay

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POSTER



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AUXILIARY CARD

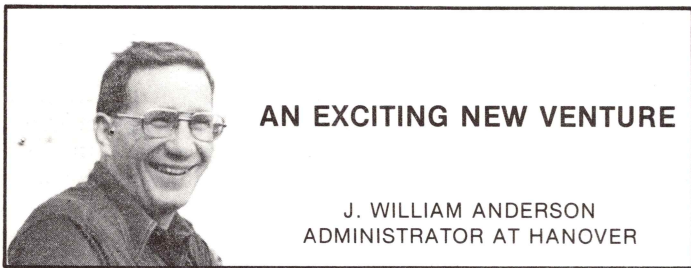


DONOR BROCHURES

MATERIALS AVAILABLE

Homewood Retirement Centers
 2740 Virginia Avenue
 Williamsport, Maryland 21795

We have had several requests for the above prayer which was used as a part of the devotional service at the Auxiliary meetings this Fall. The prayer, along with other such resource materials, can be found in the booklet titled **UNDERSTANDING AGING** published by UNITED CHURCH PRESS as part of the SHALOM church school materials. Local church groups will want to make use of such materials as they seek to be more aware of and responsive to the needs of the aging.



AN EXCITING NEW VENTURE

J. WILLIAM ANDERSON
ADMINISTRATOR AT HANOVER

Homewood now provides an alternative to institutionalization for the aging in Hanover, Pa. The new Homewood Community Center, located in Homewood's Hanover facility, was dedicated for the use of the citizens of Hanover on November 7, 1976.

Attorney Horace G. Ports, a member of the Homewood Board of Trustees for 18 years, a former Moderator of Penn Central Conference, and a past Vice-Moderator of the United Church of Christ, spoke at the Service of Dedication. Mr. Ports expressed the excitement of the Board and the staff in creating a new non-residential program.

The Homewood Community Center will meet the needs of two types of persons. The "day care" phase of the program is designed to provide supportive services to those aging persons who need assistance to meet physical or mental needs. A licensed practical nurse will be employed full-time to help provide this care. The York County Area Agency on Aging has provided a government grant of \$25,000 to fund this phase of the program for 1977. Day Care participants will be limited to ten persons. The "Activity Center" phase of this venture will provide socialization, educational and cultural opportunities, and a hot noon meal for the self-sufficient aging who live alone in this community. This Center will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. seven days a week.

The Center offers many new avenues for the participation of volunteers from the church and community. Volunteers will be needed to help with a variety of activities from cooking clubs to ceramics to just making people feel at home at the Center. There will also be a lot of unmet needs surfacing as the program gets underway which can serve as special projects for individuals or church groups. The staff at the Center would be pleased to answer your questions and share ideas of how you or your group might be of help.

The Rev. J. William Anderson, Administrator, and Ms. Deanna Noble, Coordinator of Resident Relations, will plan and oversee the program.



200 RESIDENTS INVOLVED IN SHARING GROUPS

Homewood has been designated as a Remotivation Training Center by the National Remotivation Technique Organization and the American Psychiatric Association. This designation gives Homewood the opportunity to train staff and volunteers in Basic and Advanced Courses of Remotivation. Leadership and coordination of the program is provided by Ms. Carole L. Malin, Homewood's Director of Resident Relations, who is a Certified Remotivation Trainer.

More than 200 Homewood residents have benefited by regular weekly participation in Remotivation sessions called "sharing groups" since the program was approved by Homewood's Board of Trustees in October 1975. Also, twenty-eight staff persons and volunteers have completed a one-week Basic Course in Remotivation and have been certified as Remotivation Instructors. The Remotivation sharing groups provide intellectual stimulation in a social setting. One of the most enthusiastic resident participants is a retired school teacher whose only previous social activity at Homewood was mealtime. She does not enjoy bingo or ceramics or handcrafts, but she has been stimulated to prepare for sharing and interacting with peers in these group sessions. Sharing group topics are chosen by the resident participants and have recently included such timely subjects as "Fruit" at harvest time and "Presidential Election."



CHALLENGES

VOLUNTEERS

RESIDENTS

AUXILIARY

STAFF

Residents, volunteers, individuals from local churches, and staff are constantly joining forces to seek ways to make Homewood a more pleasant and meaningful place for people to live. The challenges of providing quality care and creative retirement living in today's world cannot be met by any one group; it takes everyone working together in supportive concern. Homewood is not a ministry in isolation; it is the Christian community working in concert to carry on ministry with the aging.

Pictured are a resident of Homewood at Williamsport, Md., a Volunteer from Church of the Holy Trinity in Halfway, Md., the Vice President of the Homewood Auxiliary, and Miss Anne Bushong, a new staff member who has her masters degree in social work, planning for the best way a new shopping cart at the Williamsport facility can function to be of the greatest benefit to the residents. Such groups meet regularly at all of Homewood's facilities for planning. High on their priority list is getting individuals and groups from church and community to become more involved on a person-to-person basis with the residents.

MESSENGERS AVAILABLE

A resident's newsletter titled the **MESSENGER** is printed and distributed monthly at each Homewood facility. The **MESSENGER** includes reports on resident activities and programs as well as a calendar of events for the month. Copies of these newsletters are available to interested persons from the unit Administrator upon request.



AN EXPANDING MINISTRY

HOMWOOD AT FREDERICK

Homewood has plans to expand its ministry into the community of Frederick, Md., where the Board of Trustees purchased the Francis Scott Key Hotel on September 3, 1975, at auction for a bid of \$360,000. The plans are to remodel the hotel into one of western Maryland's most complete health-care facilities at an estimated cost of 1½ million dollars. It is hoped that renovations can begin in January 1977 and that the facility will be ready for occupancy early in 1978.

Application has been made to the Maryland Comprehensive Health Planning Council for approval to renovate the hotel to provide space to care for 170 residents. The facility will provide supportive services at four care levels: Skilled Nursing, Intermediate A and B care, and Domiciliary accommodations. There is an abundance of common space in the building which will be maintained and used for programs designed to reach out in meaningful new ways to the aging in the community.

Members of the Homewood staff have been working closely with the judicatory leaders of the Catoclin Association of the Central Atlantic Conference in planning for the financing of this new facility. The Board of Trustees, at its semi-annual meeting on October 21, adopted a proposal which calls primarily for a public relations effort among the churches as this new project gets underway. There will be no organized effort among the churches to raise funds for the remodeling of the hotel, but opportunity will be provided for individuals and/or church groups to make contributions. Memorial Gifts and Gifts of Honor would be appropriate ways of making contributions to this project, and a listing of items and costs will be available when architectural plans for renovation are completed.

The projected amount of money needed from outside sources to complete the renovation of the building is \$750,000. Contributions toward this amount will help Homewood continue to provide the best possible care at the lowest possible cost. Gifts toward the renovations at Homewood in Frederick may be made over three calendar years. Checks should be made out to Homewood Retirement Centers and designated for Homewood at Frederick, Md.

Informational meetings will be held during 1977 to acquaint interested persons with the details of this expansion of Homewood's ministry.

CHRISTMAS IS A TIME FOR GIVING

Christmas is a time for giving gifts and time for spreading the "good news, of great joy." As you plan your giving this year consider giving a gift to Homewood or to a resident of Homewood.


If you or your group want to share the spirit of Christmas in a personal way with the residents of Homewood, you could plan to provide gifts for one or more persons. At each facility the Department of Resident Relations has prepared a list of items desired by residents, each of which would cost about \$3.00. Interested individuals or groups can contact the staff at the facility nearest them for names and items desired. Gifts should be purchased, wrapped, and clearly marked with the resident's name and taken to the facility for distribution. This is a wonderful way to spread the joy of this blessed season.

A gift to Homewood's Capital Fund will help provide additional facilities for serving a greater number of aged persons needing care. A gift to Homewood's Benevolent Fund will help provide care for residents who do not have sufficient funds to pay for the care they need.

May your celebration of Christmas be blessed because you have found a way of sharing the "good news" of love and joy and hope with others.

VISIT A HOMWOOD GIFT SHOP

THERE IS ONE LOCATED IN EACH FACILITY



HOMWOOD
RETIREMENT CENTERS
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
2740 VIRGINIA AVENUE
WILLIAMSPORT, MARYLAND 21795

MEMORIAL

 GIFT OF HONOR

Please find enclosed \$ _____ to be designated in memory/honor of

FULL NAME: _____

CITY AND STATE: _____ ZIP _____

Please notify:

FULL NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY AND STATE: _____ ZIP _____

Given by:

FULL NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY AND STATE: _____ ZIP _____

Additional Information:

This form can be used to make a contribution in memory or in honor of someone. Any size gift is appreciated and will be recorded in a permanent historical record.