



CHRIST'S HOME



CONNECTION

Children's Services

VOLUME MMXI, ISSUE 3 • 2011

Retirement Community

"I STILL HAVE MY QUILT"

"It was in pretty rough shape after 20 years, so I found a woman who knew how to make some repairs and replace several of the colorful patches", said Matt Kautz, a resident on our Paradise Campus from 1991-1994. Matt came to Christ's Home for Children in Paradise during the summer of 1991 and on September 9, 1991 he gave his heart to the Lord after hearing the message of the gospel from his houseparents Mick and Lori Haley. During a visit to his old cottage on campus, Matt said, "I remember being shown my bed in the boy's large bedroom and there it was, my own personal quilt. All the children received quilts as a welcome gift. That's also when it hit me, 'wow, I'm stuck here!'"

During Matt's three years at Christ's Home he attended the intermediate school where he completed grades 6-8, after which he was able to return to live with his mother in Lancaster. In 1997 he graduated from McCaskey High School and joined the Carpenters & Millwrights Union with whom he earned and still maintains a journeyman's card. In 2001 Matt was hired by PP&L and once again earned a journeyman's license as an electrician. Today he serves as an Electrical Planner for PP&L, which involves drawing plan revisions, preparing job estimates, and field work (which he really enjoys). He is also certified in various aspects of nuclear plant maintenance and repair.

Matt and his wife Adrienne live in Millersville, Lancaster County and have been married for seven years; this August they were blessed with the birth of their first child, a baby girl. Adrienne is an administrative assistant at the Lancaster

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Matt & Adrienne in front of Cottage #2 where Matt lived for 3 years.

THE ROAD TO CHRIST'S HOME

The road to Christ's Home is straight and narrow for some children and for others it is long, winding and bumpy.

When County officials discover there is clear evidence of abuse and the children are in danger, they are removed immediately from their home and placed in foster care. In this case, children, especially sibling groups, frequently find themselves at Christ's Home since we are the premier child care provider for Bucks County. Upon entering the doors of our spacious cottages the process of caring for the wounds of neglect and abuse suffered by these children begins, lasting on average for a period of twelve to fourteen months.

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I STILL HAVE MY QUILT, Continued

offices of the Salvation Army. They attend the Central Manor Church of God where they enjoy assisting with the ministry and activities of the 5th & 6th grade youth group. Matt's interests include supporting the charitable work of a local civic club, hunting and all kinds of music as well as entertaining guests and watching movies with Adrienne.

Matt shared several special recollections from his time at Christ's Home, "I enjoyed playing Skip-bo with our cooks, Mimi and Aunt Beth and certainly remember Santa arriving by helicopter each December. There was also the annual visit by a police motorcycle club from Coatesville around Christmas each year. I learned a good work ethic from Uncle Mick who let me tinker with all

kinds of things on campus. I know I learned some 'cause and effect' lessons that have stuck with me; one incident caused me to lose the privilege of attending the 8th grade Williamsburg Field trip, which I had really been looking forward to, but it was a good lesson." Matt appreciates the people who contribute to the work of the Home, saying "80% of what I have become today is rooted in my time at Christ's Home. The lessons I learned there have helped me through many situations I have faced in my adult life and work."

We want to thank Matt and Adrienne for taking the time to share their story with our readers and wish them the very best as new parents.

THE ROAD TO CHRIST'S HOME, Continued



When a complaint of suspected abuse or neglect is filed with Children and Youth Services, an investigation is begun within 24 hours. Only 20 percent of those cases require further action with a much smaller percentage resulting in the removal of the children. The main reasons that parents lose custody of their children are drug addiction, mental health issues, criminal conduct, and housing deficiencies. These situations land in closed door family court proceedings where a judge hears evidence from the caseworker, and responses by parents, and sometimes the children, and then makes the decision he/she believes is in the best interest of each child.

The 2008 Fostering Connection to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act has prioritized kinship care as the first line of provision for children removed from their home. Once a child is removed from the home, agencies have 30 days to notify all adult relatives in an effort to locate a family member to care for this child. While the importance of family ties is clear, these arrangements can

be difficult in situations where an elderly grandparent is asked to care for an active toddler or a family is struggling with their own issues such as marriage difficulties, health issues, death, etc. In these situations, kinship care may not turn out to be the best solution causing the children to be wrenched from another home.

Some children may not be removed immediately, but when the parents fail to make the necessary improvements to keep them, the children are placed in foster care. Other parents may meet every benchmark set by the court in order to get their children back only to return to old habits that lead to the children being removed again.

Whatever the road traveled, once the children arrive at Christ's Home, our desire is to help them heal and prepare them for the future. We demonstrate God's love, provide counsel on how to handle life's disappointments and teach life skills that will serve them throughout their lives.

Some of the information contained in this article is used with permission from Phillyburbs, The Intelligencer.

ALUMNI CHRISTMAS SING-ALONG

The annual Christ's Home Alumni Association sing-along will be held at Christ's Home Retirement Community's Fellowship Hall on Saturday, December 3rd at 7pm. All are welcome to join us as we sing the carols and traditional songs of the season. Bring cookies for a time of fellowship after the sing-along.



A Generous Thought:

“HELP FOR SAGGING INCOME”

A recent announcement by the Chairman of the Federal Reserve indicated a commitment to keep interest rates at the historically low numbers we've seen for the last three years. This means CDs and other interest bearing investments will continue to return meager income. If you are age 65 or older, now might be a good time for you to consider moving a portion of your bank investments into a Charitable Gift Annuity.

A Christ's Home Charitable Gift Annuity represents a future gift to the work and ministry we perform on your behalf with abused and neglected children as well as needy senior citizens. A Gift Annuity represents a wonderful way to make a charitable contribution that offers benefits that are not available through your will or other planned giving tools. Gift annuities offer another opportunity for supporters to make a gift that might not otherwise be possible during their lifetime and receive a charitable tax deduction with improved income for life.

A gift annuity allows a donor to experience the joy of giving here and now. When our annuitants receive their checks, they are reminded of the importance of giving and the impact they are having on the stability of Christ's Home so that we will be available to serve others for decades to come.

We would be happy to provide you with a complimentary personal illustration for a Charitable Gift Annuity and other planned gift ideas of interest to you. Simply contact Colleen Augustin at 215.956.1885 or Vernon Wright at 717.687.9424 (ext 11) or by e-mail: vwright_chfc@comcast.net. You may also visit www.chgift.org and select **Create Your Own Gift** in the left column.

Many supporters have graciously helped us care for the children of Christ's Home for many years; we encourage each one to consider making a provision in your will to sustain your giving after your lifetime? Many donors have found peace in knowing that their commitment to the services we provide will not end, but will continue for generations to come. For more information on how you can direct such a planned gift, contact Vernon Wright: 717.687.9424 (ext 11), vwright_chfc@comcast.net

CHRISTMAS INFORMATION

Christmas is such a great time of blessing for the children at Christ's Home. Our Warminster and Paradise campuses are grateful for the support the children receive from the community every year. If you, your church or an organization you belong to are interested in supporting the children at Christmas this year, please contact one of our campuses beginning in October:

Warminster Campus coordinator, Amy Neill – 215.956.1882

Paradise Campus coordinator, Carrie Cantrell – 717.687.6072 (x10)

We will be able to provide you with information on how you can support the children and cottages this Christmas, including gift drop-off times and locations.

Thank you again for your generous spirit and display of kindness towards the children during the Christmas Season and throughout the year!

Note: Christ's Home accepts limited quantities of dry goods and commercially prepared food items. Please contact the staff listed above for guidance on current needs. Due to U.S. health regulations we cannot accept homemade food items.

Remembrance Gifts

During the fiscal year that ended on June 30, 2011 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 used this avenue to support the mission and services of Christ's Home, while paying tribute to special individuals in their lives.

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If you notice incorrect or omitted information in the Remembrance Gifts, or if you would like to sponsor a project in honor or memory of a loved one please contact Colleen in the Development office at 215.956.1885, or by email: caugustin@christshome.org.

SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS!

Riding a horse provides a unique, sometimes profound recreational or leisure activity for children who have gone through traumatic and disappointing circumstances in their life. Building a relationship with an animal is very rewarding in many respects; for a child dealing with a traumatic and emotional situation in their family life, the trust and loyalty of an animal demonstrates to the student how important he or she is which can lead to a newly-acquired self-esteem in personal relationships with family and peers. Because of the skills and responsibilities the children learn from interacting with his or her horse there is often a transfer of these skills to their interaction with others, teaching them how to form meaningful relationships with people.

Learning to ride a horse in this controlled setting is a unique and empowering experience. The sometimes-unpredictable nature of animals creates a real-life environment in which a student can confront his or her fears, and learn to adjust to unforeseen situations. The students work on communicating effectively with both the horse and instructor learning valuable life skills in this fun, safe, and social environment.



A young boy and a young horse warm up to each other.

LEGACY BANQUET

An evening of fellowship, music, inspiration, and a delicious plated dinner will be held at the Spring Mill Manor on Friday evening, November 18, 2011 from 5:30 - 8:30 PM. This event will celebrate the retirement community's commitment to quality care for all of its residents with a focus on those who have become financially dependent. The evening will feature stringed music by the Bensing Family from Lancaster,



PA whose talents have earned these young people four invitations to the White House over the last six years, and a special address from Ron Schmidt, Teaching Pastor at Davisville Church. The cost of the banquet is \$25 per person and reservations are due by November 11th; for more information and to make reservations, please contact Colleen Augustin by phone 215-956-1885 or email caugustin@christshome.org.

An opportunity to make a contribution to the Christ's Home Philippian Fund will be provided as the Christ's Home Retirement Community continues its 98 year heritage of providing benevolent care for senior adults.



“For you have not passed this way before”

Joshua 3:4

In Numbers 14, the children of Israel refused to enter Canaan. By human nature, we are sight-walkers, not faith-walkers. We tend to have confidence in only that which we can see – that which we have known. We fear that which we can't see and haven't known. Not only did the Israelites refuse to go into the land because of the giants, they wanted to return to Egypt! Did they not remember that they were slaves there? Did they not remember that they cried out in tears to God for deliverance from Egypt?

The lesson to learn here is that after you have received deliverance from the Lord, you can't go back to your former life. There is nothing there for you but bondage. Your real hope lies in following the Lord of faith and to walk forward. His thoughts and plans for you are not for evil but for good. Become a faith-walker, and give praise to God who knows what lies before you and is more than able to defeat the giants that come into your life.

“Did I not tell you that if you would believe, you would see the glory of God?”
John 11:40

– Pastor Seluta

HELPING HANDS OF THE COMMUNITY

Christ's Home for Children has been blessed to have local businesses, civic groups, churches and individuals raise money in support of the children's program and services. One example is the joint effort of the Addisville Reformed Church, St. Andrew's UMC, Emilie UMC along with other local churches, organizations and individuals in the community who partnered together and held a Zumba-thon on July 22nd which raised over \$1,000.

The Jack and Jill of America Inc. Bucks County Chapter (pictured below with Colleen Augustin), presented a check for \$5,400 which they raised over the past year by holding events such as a Walk-a-thon last Fall.



Christ's Home expresses our appreciation for the planning and hard work performed by these and other organizations each year to support the services to children that we provide.

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— 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.



Children's Campuses
800 North York Road
Warminster, PA 18974
(215) 956-2260

3182 Lincoln Highway East
Paradise, PA 17562
(717) 687-6072
www.christshomeforchildren.org

Retirement Community
1220 West Street Road
Warminster, PA 18974
(215) 956-2270
www.christshome.org

Photos and names may or may not depict the children of the home.

The *Connection* is a publication of the Development Department
Vernon Wright, CDO
Colleen Augustin, Donor Relations Coordinator



— 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.



On Saturday, September 17, 2011 you can enjoy all that Cherry Crest Adventure Farm has to offer plus make a difference in the work of local charities like Christ's Home. Cherry Crest Adventure Farm is hosting the **1st Annual Community Ministry Fair** in conjunction with WDAC 94.5 and WBYN 107.5 FM radio. Between the hours 12-6 p.m., **you can direct \$10 of your regular admission cost to help** Christ's Home, or some of the nine other non-profit agencies from Lancaster County that are participating in this special opportunity.

In addition to all of the regular activities Cherry Crest has to offer, - including 50 farm fun activities, rides and games and the 16th Annual Amazing Maize Maze® - WDAC and WBYN are adding their own mix to the fair with a special guest appearance by ventriloquist **Ryan and Friends**, and photo opportunities with **Bob and Larry of VeggieTales**.

Just mention you are supporting the **Community Ministry Fair** and come on in for a family fun day, also plan to stop by and say hello at our display table. For more information call Vernon Wright at 717.687.6072 (ext. 11). Information on the about the Cherry Crest can be found at www.cherrycrestfarm.com



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