

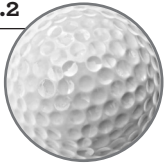


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GO GREEN: Homefields is committed to a responsible and sustainable future. Send your email address to info@homefields.org and we'll substitute an electronic version of this print edition. You'll get it earlier, in color, and our carbon footprint will be that much smaller!

A Tribute to Chris

Chris Herr (Christian R. Herr, Jr.) was a founder of Homefields. As a volunteer, he officiated as board director, president, and treasurer. Unofficially, Chris supported as a talented and true friend for nearly three decades.

Long before there was structure or a name attached to the concept of a family-driven open space agricultural setting and home for adults who have mental retardation, Chris was the person who embraced the idea and brought his broad community of friends to help make it a reality. His great talent was to give definable shape to abstractions and



In this photo dated 2005, then President **Christian R. Herr, Jr.** (far right) gives a souvenir to Pennsylvania State Representative **P. Michael Sturla**, as **Tom Strauss**, Director of Development, looks on.

vague goals. One meeting with Chris over lunch resulted in a bulleted list of action steps that was an organizational blueprint. For more than twenty years, and within days of his passing, Chris was making contacts and building support for the latest expansion.

Reading an obituary of someone we knew but have not seen for some time is saddening, but the sudden passing of a friend like Chris Herr who was a current and present participant has left the Homefields family shaken. Chris's voice, smile, ideas, and helping hands were with us so recently we still speak of him in the present tense. Homefields will remember this man of stature who walked with us and will remain grateful for the example he set.

Linda Strauss



Letter —FROM THE— President

IT IS INCREDIBLE TO SEE THE LAND starting to come alive so early this year. The Homefields office has a wall of windows that overlooks the original farm and homes. It is a great reminder of why Homefields exists; this view gives the board inspiration to continue the dream of the founding members. Homefields is like no other place on Earth. I know people everywhere can say that, but I truly believe Homefields is spiritual. When you stand at the office area

and look towards the fields, there are two weeping willow trees bending and swaying in the breeze. As the hill gently slopes up to the tree line, there are plotted fields and green pathways. The translucent greenhouses are filled with trays of seedlings. The giant stone foundation barn shows its strength with its old, but still bright, yellow wood siding.

To the west of the Homefields office are the two houses the residents of Homefields call home, the stone farm house and the more modern ranch home designed for accessibility. Everyone who comes here—shareholders, board members, or a plumber fixing a

leaky pipe, comments on how beautiful and relaxing it feels to be at Homefields.

Homefields is peaceful, serene and beckons you to forget about life's troubles and just spend some time with her. I want to invite you to come to Homefields, spend 15 minutes here, let her embrace you and fill you with peace then decide if she is worth a couple of your hard-earned dollars.

Homefields Incorporated is overseen by an all-volunteer board of directors. Homefields is the benevolent landowner and collaborative partner with CSG (Community Services Group) and Goodwill Keystone Area. So that the CSA program can provide

for its shareholders, we lease adjacent acreage southwest of the homes. The new land, at 128 Letort Road, is situated on 14 acres east of our original property. The new land includes a home, barn and outbuildings. The cost to renovate the house and barn are significant, and would detract from our primary mission and goals.

Homefields will retain most of the farmland, which will support the growth and development of Goodwill Keystone Area's CSA and farmer-trainee program. We do need to grow our fundraising programs to help pay for the new land, support the current property and improve buildings. We want to ensure that the residents of Homefields have a secure future, and that CSG has safe and up-to-date homes that provide residential support services for the adults who live in the homes. We respect and support Goodwill Keystone Area's program, and we are happy to be part of their dream as much as they are a part of ours.

Jay Groff

“this year has been a year of change and challenge,”



Board of Directors

Jay Groff, President
Allison G. Hawthorne, Vice Pres.
Courtney Barry, Treasurer
Deb Deberdine, Secretary
Kelly Baylis
Doris Russ
Thomas E. Strauss

Honorary Board

James Determan
Dorothy L. Lyet

Non-elect Members

Scott Breneman, Farm Manager,
Goodwill at Homefields
Christine Kortze, Residential
Supervisor, CSG

Contact information

717.872.2012
info@homefields.org

RESIDENTIAL MISSION:

To create financially secure, long-term homes for adults with special needs in safe, family-like settings where there is respect for the individual in a holistic sense, and fun and creativity are revered, as basic human needs.

VOCATIONAL MISSION:

To provide horticultural facilities for individuals who prosper with supported employment, to nurture integration through community interaction, and to cultivate a spirit of volunteerism within our community.

The official registration statement and financial information of Homefields may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1 (800) 732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Driving



September 21, 2012 is the date and golf and fun are the game. Mark your calendar now to join your friends at Homefields, Inc. for our 16th annual Fall Classic Golf Tournament, again at Crossgates Golf Club in Millersville.

Age 16 brought some of the biggest changes to our lives. For most of us, it meant getting a learner's permit and learning to drive so we could garner all of the benefits that full licensing entailed. We at Homefields want to remind you of those happy days by inviting you to join us on a pleasant Fall day

on the golf course in an effort to polish your slightly different driving skills.

We'll take care of all of the paperwork to secure your permit.

We also will provide driver's education with a real pro on the driving range in the time before the afternoon round begins for those with interest (or need). You might even have a chance to work on some irons other than your tire iron.

Those who have golfed with us before know that our event planners put the emphasis on offering a lighthearted but rewarding opportunity for fellowship and for interesting variations on standard golfing practice. Newcomers can sign up to see what all the unusual fun is about.

We again will have morning (7:30) and afternoon (12:30) starts available. The registration fee for the afternoon or morning round

will be \$80, and the charge to Stay & Play all day will be \$140.00 per player. Registration information will be shared early Summer via newspapers, mail, e-mail, and the Homefields website (www.homefields.org).

Breakfast, lunch, and on-course refreshments are included with the morning round. Lunch (at a subsidized price), dinner, and refreshments will be provided for afternoon groups. Prizes include significant hole-in one rewards and chances to win for longest drive, straightest drive, closest to the pin, and lowest score.

A significant effort is made for the Homefields outings to keep the SPEED LIMIT high for a quick pace. We have managed to do that in the past, and we will plan a similar outcome for Sweet 16. STOP to think about joining us, and YIELD to the temptation. It's ONE WAY to have a memorable September day with some old and new friends.

It is our sponsors who contribute selflessly to making this day of golf to the benefit of Homefields possible. We have thanked them each year, and we look forward to expressing our gratitude to them again this year. New sponsors are welcome at any level. Information regarding sponsor opportunities may be found at <http://www.homefields.org>. Questions of any type may be directed to Terry Blue at twblue@comcast.net or 717-684-2379.

Terry Blue

Nate Kaiser and Laura Erb met on opposite sides of the counter at a neighborhood coffee shop, Chestnut Hill Café. He must have held her gaze for at least 8.2 seconds, that's how long research says it takes to fall in love at first sight. About three months after they met and fell in love, Nate and Laura found themselves planning a wedding.

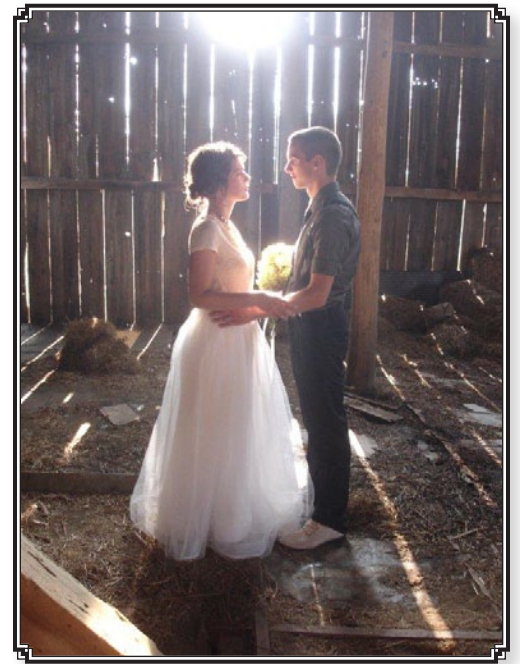
Homefields recently talked to the newlyweds and uncovered the reason they chose a sturdy yet weathered barn on our new property at 128 Letort Road in Millersville.

"We wanted a simple wedding, intimate with family and friends," said Nate. He continued, Homefields is near the home of Laura's parents, Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Erb. To Nate and Laura, the barn seemed at once graceful yet sturdy—a fitting way to start their new life together.

On September 11, 2012 under the shelter of gnarled chestnut beams, Nate Kaiser and Laura Erb became Nate and Laura Kaiser. Surrounded by 29 wedding guests and bathed in the sunlight, their new life together began.

Homefields wishes the couple a life filled with adventure and joy.

(Chestnut Hill Café is located on the same block where two of our founders made their home for over 20 years. <http://chestnuthillcafe.com>)



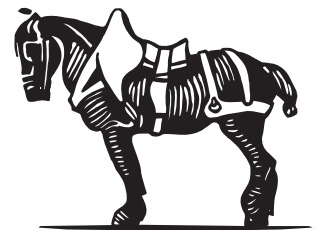
Stay Tuned

In 2013 we plan to host a **unique event under the sky**. Know why? Get to know us better, give us a taste test, share the land, and share your gifts. Guess what it is, and be our guest at this special event! Send your best guesses to info@homefields.org

Keep your eyes open for our **Share the Land** giving program coming this fall.

Coming in soon to a golf course near you, another round of "Homefields After Dark." Last year our fearless Golf Tournament Committee coordinated three Night Golf Outings at Crossgates, a first for the golf course, and for Homefields. Glow-in-the-dark apparel, balls, caddies and carts bounced and rolled across the course until the last ball was found. It was a fun way to get in a round of golf! Watch your "in" box for a **Night Golf announcement!**

New land update at 128. If you want to get married in our barn, or have anything else in mind, call us soon... we are preparing to sell the house, barn and a little land. For more information, call the office at 717-872-2012.



—BENEFACTORS: MAY 2011—MARCH 2012—

\$501—\$1000

Merk Construction

\$201—\$500

Michael Burnley

Joyce Electric

Frank Sahn

Eugenia Sander

Joyce and Bill Smedley

John and Joan Stipe

\$100—\$200

Susan and Terry Blue

Community Services Group

Joseph T. Breneman II

Henry and Leslie Brubaker

Joseph and Anne Digarbo

John and Lavon Harnish

Richard and Lynda Levensgood

Andrew and Margaret Lutz

Henry and Abby Rudisill

Judith Sandt

Robert Schroeder

Tom and Linda Strauss

Annelouise and John Adee and

Annemarie Strickler

Trout, Ebersole, and Groff

\$25—\$99

Edward and Christine Bitzer

Robert and Janel Brown, Jr.

Margot Brubaker

Patricia Burnley

Margaret Clark and Tom Scheiber

Beverly Farmer

Rufus A. Fulton, Jr.

Jeffrey and Debra Gast

Edgar and Sandra Grove

Ronald and Gail Hawthorne

Lois Landis

Jeffrey Lefevre

Bernard and Anne McGrann

Kathleen McGrann

Stephen McNamara

Don Mowery

Daryl and Vick Peck

John and Jeanne Pontius

Melinda Roda

Leo and Mary Shelley

Robert and Jane Slagter

Mary Stehman and John Fitzkee

James and Ann Thomas

Danielle Tillman and Jennifer

Birchough

Marcia Trach

George and Ann Weaver

Kay Welty

Wayne Work

2011 GOLF SPONSORS

HOLE-IN-ONE

Friends of Homefields
Susan and Terry Blue

\$350—\$499

Arraya Solutions
Susan and Terry Blue
Inservco Insurance
Services
Paul Risk Associates,
Inc.
True Edge Performance
Solutions

\$100—\$349

D.A.D.'s Landscaping
PenTeleData
Pro Solutions Inc.
Shred-It
Tom & Linda Strauss
Kay Welty

GOODIE BAG DONATIONS

Allison G. Hawthorne
Community Services
Group
Rubinstein's
Verizon Wireless

\$3,500 Community Services Group

\$1,500—\$2,000 Interstate Fleets

Mrs. Dorothy Lyet

\$1,000—\$1,499 Breneman Printing

Brown & Brown Insurance
CBHNP

Corporate Synergies
Group

Emory Hill & Co.
Gibbel, Kraybill & Hess

Goodwill Keystone Area
Heritage Floors

Link Tech Inc.

Premier Companies

Rubinstein's

Simon-Lever LLP

Trout, Ebersole and Groff

Tsoules, Sweeney, Martin
and Orr, LLC

Verizon Wireless

\$500

Capital Blue Cross
Hanes Mechanical
The Phillips Group

DONATED PRIZES

Allison G. Hawthorne

Community Services

Group

Dell, Inc.

Insight

Personalized

Commercial Cleaning

The Phillips Group

Rich Kettering

Rubinstein's

Sacunas Integrated

Communications

IN-KIND DONATIONS

Community Services

Group

Ettline Foods

Feesers Foodservice

Distributors

Hometown Provisions

Kauffman's Fruit Farm

Scheid Produce

Sysco

1.1 MILES of SPUDS

GOODWILL AT HOMEFIELDS FARM PLANTED 6,000 FEET OF POTATOES. Welcome to Season 13.

Today Brian reported, "We planted 6,000 potatoes!" We also learned that returning farmers include Glenn, Brian, Eric, Brad, Scott and Patrick. These guys really know the farm, so if you want to know—ask them! All the farmers are enthusiastic about their work, and have been very loyal workers. When you stop by the farm this season, please be sure to say hello to the farmers who help bring food to your table.

Farmer Scott Breneman tells us that the weather has been kind this year, which has helped farmers to get off to a great start at the farm. Winter planning, preparation and



repairs have given way to the bustle of trainees joyfully planting seeds in the greenhouse, mulching the blueberry patch, pruning blackberry and raspberry canes and, this week, cutting up 800 pounds of seed potatoes and planting them.

This year, CSA members will have an opportunity to purchase fruit shares. Farmer Scott coordinated the fruit share program with North Star Orchards, a family owned and operated farm in nearby Chester County. North Star farm operates a CSA program, sells to produce-only farm markets, uses sustainable farming methods and partners with other CSAs to bring fruit to your table.



(l to r): Farmer **Scott Breneman, Del, Elizabeth Swope, and Brian** take a break from the fields to pose.

Farmer Scott endorses the succulence of the fruit... he must have had a few samples!

A number of farmer trainees keep coming back for more, having been here for many seasons and never getting enough of the work and the land. Seeing their work through from seed to completion, literally to fruition with the harvest, is why trainees love being here at the farm so much. Learning is a continuous process, with trainees and staff learning the art of pruning, weed identification, repairs and construction, and greenhouse management, just to mention a few things.

CSA members appreciate that we are serving and training people with disabilities and appreciate the farm-grown, fresh organic food that travels only a few hundred feet. The farm has become a destination for people to experience local farming and food and to see where their food comes from. Healthy soil, healthy plants, healthy people.

Thank you for supporting us as friends, shareholders, Homefields board members, and neighbors as we grow plants, people, and community.

Farm shares for the 2012 season are still available; we offer individual and family shares. There are many options for becoming a CSA member, including payment plans, share a share, or donate a share. Call us at 717-871-3110 to sign up or for more information about the farm, or visit us at:

http://www.yourgoodwill.org/farm/homefields_membership.php

Scott Breneman, Farm Manager, and Allison G. Hawthorne



Find us on Facebook.

New Residential Supervisor

Homefields recently welcomed Christine Kortze as the Residential Supervisor, employed by Community Services Group (CSG). There are two homes on the property; Christine manages the two teams of Direct Support Professionals

who provide services to the adults with disabilities who live in those homes. We recently talked with Christine Kortze about her role as the Residential Supervisor at Homefields.

Christine received her a B.A. in Psychology from Kutztown University, and she holds a Master's Degree in Education and Elementary Education from Millersville University. She has also completed graduate work in Clinical Psychology.

Christine came to CSG and Homefields because, as she says, "I

was looking for something challenging and rewarding, in a peaceful atmosphere." Daily life in the homes can get a bit hectic, what helps you stay centered and motivated? "I love being able to solve issues within the home that make the lives of the individuals better."

Part of the role of Support Professionals is to offer opportunities and experiences to those they support. Christine shared how seeing individuals enjoying themselves because of something she helped them accomplish feels like a gift... these are the rewards of service. "I love being able to help them do things that they can't do on their own, and introducing them to other aspects of life."

What are the challenges you face on a day-to-day basis? "I think keeping staff all on the same page is the most difficult." All managers and leaders work to blend diverse people into a working team. There has been a consistent team in place at Homefields for a long time, which lends a feeling of security and

safety for individuals who live at Homefields.

Christine continued, "I want the staff here to look forward to coming to work, [it can be hard to create a consistent] environment where we all see eye to eye." Sometimes shar-

ing different perspectives is what makes a more complete picture. Christine says "A happy staff makes for a happy home!"

How have recent state budget cuts affected daily life at Homefields? Christine shared that at times she'd like to offer reliable and trained

staff more hours, but budget constraints require staffing decisions to stay within a planned schedule. Christine commented, "CSG mostly always has good, solid staff who cover shifts, but constant change can be hard for the individuals we support."

Christine finds opportunities where others see challenges. She continued, "I am finding other ways that both homes can remain relaxed, and a place where

the individuals look forward to coming home to every day because it is a serene and peaceful atmosphere."

We think Christine sounds pretty busy, what do you do in your off time? "I love spending time with my kids, Madison, Christian and Cameron. Cameron now works for CSG too. "I'm a farm girl at heart, I love animals. I like to read, and I love creative gardening, crafty stuff and yoga." We have two dogs, Buster and Chill, who is a foster dog; they both love visiting Homefields.

Thanks, Christine, for the visit, and for sharing your experience and knowledge with Homefields. Christine wraps up, in looking for that quality of life job, sounds like she found it, "Homefields fit the bill perfectly!" We look forward to seeing you help the residents who live at Homefields grow and enjoy their lives.

Allison G. Hawthorne



A panoramic of the property from the main barn shows the greenhouses on the left and the ranch house on the right. The fields are toward the treeline.

QUESTION: ARE YOU A FAN?

If you're reading this—the answer is yes.

Friends from afar and neighbors near have supported Homefields' mission for nearly 20 years. We have been surprised, grateful and encouraged by your support. Some of you have hit for Homefields in our annual Fall Classic, or helped with landscaping chores around the homes and barn, hosted fishing trips, supported the annual fall potluck at the farm, served on committees, made phone calls or picked up your pen and written checks in support of our mission. We always appreciate your support and are encouraged by it.

Our most recent project, at 128 Letort Road, offers 14 additional acres on which to grow new opportunities. This new land is contiguous with our existing property. Last spring, *Goodwill at Homefields* farmers planted cabbage, kale and other crops in the southeast field of the new land.

The farmhouse on this property received new inhabitants this fall, who spruced it up with fresh paint and new flooring. While Homefields has tithed some of the acreage to *Goodwill at Homefields* farm, there is plenty of extra land to cultivate new ideas and new partners for future projects.

Homefields facilitates unique opportunities for people. We are a small Board of Directors which raises funds to maintain the land and buildings where people with disabilities live and work. We collaborate with Community Services

Group, which provides residential services, and Goodwill Keystone Area, which provides the Vocational Farm program and operates the Community Supported Agriculture (CSA), program.

We are pleased to announce our new **SHARE-BUILD** giving program, which will be shared with our fans late this spring. The first part of this giving program is called *Share the Land*, and gives you the opportunity to be a part of Homefields in a new way. Next month will bring more information about our **SHARE-BUILD** program.

The initial goal is to raise \$250,000 dollars. There are several ways to participate in the Share program. Families and friends can combine resources, which multiplies your donation, or a larger gift can be divided into a multi-year commitment. Sound interesting? Keep your roving electronic eyes on your "in" box, and keep your eyes open when you sort your mail. Next month will bring more information about this three-part giving program.

The new land brings new possibilities for us to create opportunities for people with disabilities and for Homefields to build new community collaborations. The board of directors is interested in growing our board and our committees. We

need people who are ready to make new contributions to the community. Some of the skill sets we are interested in are *Financial, Legal, Grant Writing, and Marketing* skills, which includes experience with multimedia platforms.

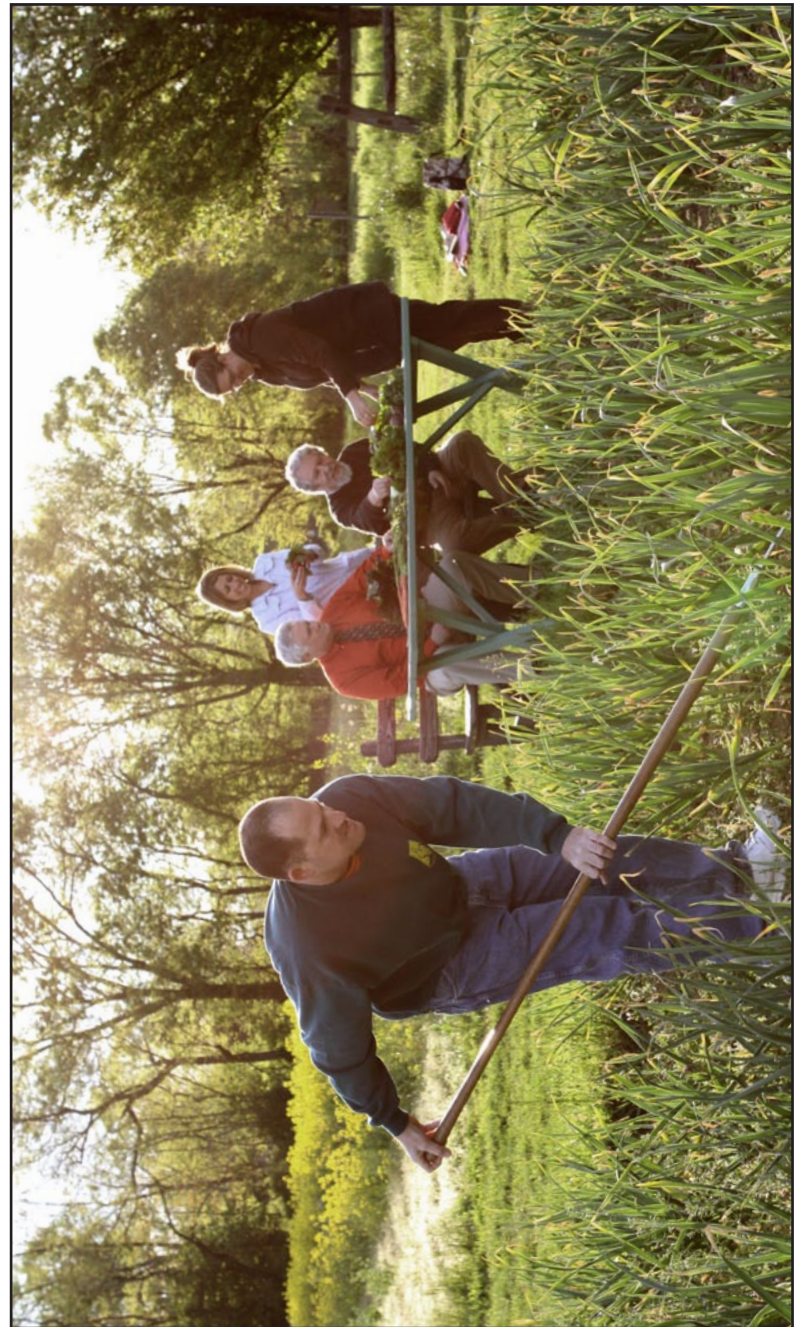
Are you in career transition and want to try something new? Have you recently graduated from college? Thought about ditching Facebook and LinkedIn for some contact with people? Are you looking for an Internship? Are you a student in need of a real project? Recently retired and still raring to go? Do you want to be part of real change in your community? Are you prepared to make a difference for people?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, or if you have questions about board service, please give the office a call at 717-872-2012, or contact

info@homefields.org for more information about serving on Homefields Board of Directors, or serving on a committee or staffing an event. To arrange a tour and orientation to Homefields call Allison at 717-332-7676, or email at aghawthorne@gmail.com



An aerial photograph compares the size of our existing property (8 acres) to the 14 acres supplied by the recent acquisition.



Homefields
150 Letort Road
P.O. Box #41
Millersville, PA 17551

