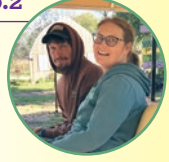




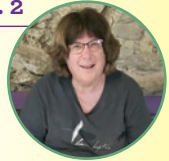
Thanks Beth!
p.1



Grants Awarded
p.2



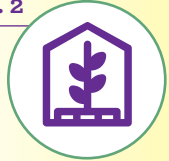
Talks is Chatty
p. 2



Emily Bishop
p. 2



The Big Story
p. 2



Picnicking
p. 3



Golf Tournament
p. 3



Care Farm
p. 3



Photo Album
p. 4



THANKS TO BETH

Homefields would like to acknowledge Beth Herr, a three-term board member and presence at Homefields from the beginning. Beth served on the Picnic in the Fields committee



and volunteered with the golf tournament. She'll be missed but we look forward to seeing Beth at future events!

TAKING NOTHING FOR GRANTED

Homefields' members have been actively pursuing grants to offset operating costs, such as advertising and supplies. This year, these efforts bore fruit.

Homefields gratefully acknowledges the contribution of the **Walters/Unitarian Universalist Church of Lancaster Trust**, an endowment from Arthur and Selma Waters, in underwriting advertising and marketing. In awarding a grant, the UUCL board has acknowledged the contribution of Homefields in achieving the vision of inclusiveness among all humans as well as respect for the dignity and worth of each individual, as promoted by the Walters Trust and UUCL.



Homefields gratefully acknowledges the generosity of **The Donald B. and Dorothy L. Stabler Foundation**. Homefields received a grant for an expansion of our educational series *Talks in the Fields*. This series is open to the public and includes a range of topics; visit our website to see the 2019 schedule. The grant included a provision for a golf cart to utilize to move people around on the farm. The addition of a golf cart will increase accessibility for *Talks in the Fields* attendees, as well as farmers and volunteers.

Note: Homefields recognizes, respects, and depends on people of all abilities, backgrounds, faiths, and identities. We operate as an independent organization, uninfluenced by specific donors or sponsors.

Talks in the Fields Especially Chatty

The Homefields *Talks in the Fields* committee of Carol Welsh, Elyse Jurgen, Linda Ferich, and Kevin Faccenda with support from the Homefields Board and staff, has provided farm-related classes for over 175 adult learners in classes featuring Foraging, Yoga/Tai Chi, Ecological Landscape Design, and our Farmer's Tours. Homefields' classes are open to the public and



are now linked to Eventbrite. *Talks in the Fields* seeks to be both a source of information about growing chemical-free produce, ecological gardening, introduction to featured artists and "Tastes of the Farm," so all ages of attendees have an enhanced experience. New this year are the theme-based farm toy box and books providing safe play for our youngest visitors.

In addition, the committee recently added a *Talks in the Fields Program at Homefields* for School Field Trips. Penn Manor teacher and Homefields Shareholder Katie Harnish helped bring 85 fifth graders and their teachers from Hambricht Elementary School. They arrived at the farm on October 7th for a day of learning experiences, including math to determine the size and depth of a rain garden design, observation of pollinators in the field, art and design related to landscape and nature journaling and plant propagation including preparing native plant seeds and propagation of plants.

Workshop leaders for the day included Penn Manor Technology specialist



Shelby Foster, artists Pat Marion and Moira Fitzgerald, Homefields staff and board member Matt Dille, and the *Talks in the Fields* committee, to provide a wide range of farm experiences.

Penn Manor High School agriculture students



of Mr. Fellenbaum served as support team for the workshops. Linda Strauss and Elizabeth Swope provided support and documentation for the Field Day at Homefields for Hambricht School.

The *Talks in the Fields* Committee welcomes new members and has plans to expand the offerings for adults in 2020, and to develop classes for youth and to seek to provide field experiences for

schools in the Homefields' neighborhoods. Consider joining our *Talks in the Field* Committee to plan for 2020. Contact events@homefields.org or call the office!

—Dr. Carol Welsh, Board member and *Talks in the Fields* Committee Chair



At top: Kevin Faccenda giving a talk on foraging; Tracy Beck and a member of the **Spinning and Weaving Guild** displaying techniques; Carol Welsh journaling. Clockwise from above: Linda Ferich of the **Lancaster Conservancy** speaking about wildlife habitats, wildlife corridors, and the food web; Gene Baur, co-founder of **Farm Sanctuary** and proponent of veganic farming,



explaining potential for growth and change in the animal-based food industry; A **Hempfield High School** student presenting her watercolor of fall foliage; A **Hambricht Elementary** student displaying his rainwater runoff calculations; Elizabeth Swope and Amy Finnegan leading a Tai chi and yoga class by the blueberry bushes.



Contact Us

717.872.2012
info@homefields.org

Board of Directors

Thomas E. Strauss, President
Allison G. Hawthorne, Vice Pres.
Andy Hirschmann, Treasurer
Matt Dille
Dr. David Henriques
Dave Strauss
Bruce Sullenberger
Dr. Carol Welsh

Non-elect Members

Katie Landis, Farm Manager
Elizabeth Swope, Farm Supervisor
Peggy Myrtill, Program Manager,
Community Services Group
Tracy Beck, Office Manager

Linda Strauss, Photography
Dave Strauss, Design

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 vocational opportunities that are integrated, therapeutic, and where individuals with or without a disability grow together; to cultivate 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.



A Conversation with EMILY BISHOP

HF: What did you enjoy most about working at Homefields?

EB: I loved being a part of the community of people that support Homefields, I met lots of great people!

HF: Can you tell us why you were interested in working as a farmhand?

EB: I was always super interested in local and organically-minded produce, so I was excited to be a part of the growing process. My mom and dad have always had a garden so I had a little bit of knowledge to help me be successful at Homefields.

HF: Did Homefields' dual missions play a role in your decision to apply for the position?



workday routines?

EB: Everyone takes lunch at the same time so we can coordinate the work. I loved eating lunch with everyone, especially on days when the folks from Occupational Development Center (ODC) and Meaningful Day Academy (MDA, Friendship

Community) were volunteering. *Note:* Homefields has enjoyed the support of the Bishop family for many years, although we only just connected the dots recently. Ned Bishop, Emily's grandfather, has been golfing in our golf tournament for 23 years. Jenn Bishop, Emily's mom, joined the *Picnic in the Fields* committee this year and has been volunteering at the farm this season.



EB: The homes on the property and the idea of providing opportunities to individuals with Intellectual Developmental Disabilities

(IDD) definitely factored into my interest in the job. I'm going to school to become a teacher, so I want all the experiences I can get to prepare to handle any situation that could come my way in a classroom, or in life. My mom was a Therapeutic Support Staff, TSS, in the classroom, I learned about patience from her.

HF: Can you talk about key experiences at Homefields that you will carry with you?

EB: The very first time I met Brad, Brian and Christina. Setting up irrigation all by myself! And stringing tomatoes! When Brian showed me the Paw Paw trees and explained how to pick them and handle them.

HF: Favorite task? And least desired or hardest tasks?

EB: I love weeding and hoeing because it makes harvesting so much easier in the long run! Stringing tomatoes also has to be done, but it is so tedious. You have to weave string in and among the tomatoes, it takes patience and the whole team working together for a few days.

HF: What will you miss most about working at Homefields?

EB: Even on the longest, hottest days it never felt like work! I already miss the farm.

HF: You are a busy person, do you have any down time?

EB: I love to read! One of my favorite books is *Still Alice*. I'm only half way through it and now I'm back in school so I don't know when I'll finish it.

HF: What are you looking forward to in the New Year?

EB: Continuing my education! I love, love, love being in school, I'm excited to see what another semester will bring!

HF: Can you talk about how working at *Homefields Care Farm* impacted you personally?

EB: Because of Homefields I added Inclusive Education to my secondary education major. It also changed my understanding of challenges that people with disability face.

HF: What was your hardest lesson as a new farmhand?

EB: Giving feedback to the farmhands for the first time. I was working with Brian and Christina on harvesting strawberries.

HF: What will you miss most about the

BENEFACTORS

March 2019–
September 2019

Grants Received

Sierra Club of
Lancaster • Stabler
Foundation •
Unitarian Universalist
• Church of Lancaster

\$1000 and above

Christopher McGee

\$201–\$500

Al Duncan
William Kiehl
John B. Stipe Jr.
& Joan Stipe
Unitarian Universalist
Church of Lancaster
Carol Welsh

\$10–\$200

Robert B. Davis Jr.
Allison Hawthorne
Marshall & Susan
Matthews
Kathleen Meade
Sardina
Dental Group
Jack & Ginjr Robinson
Andrew Senkowski

Thanks to those who gave via United Way's payroll deduction program, Amazon Smile, Charity Navigator, and Network for Good

We make every effort to ensure the accuracy of this list. If we made an error, please advise us by sending an email to: Office Manager at info@homefields.org or send a note to P.O. Box #41, Millersville, PA 17551.

United Way Day of Caring

Shout out to the **Millersville University** students and professor Dr. Cynthia Taylor who came out on United Way Day of Caring 2019! Their help was instrumental in getting the property in shape for our upcoming Picnic in the Fields. Millersville students have made Homefields an annual destination and it's always immensely helpful to have their help.

In addition, Millersville University president Dr. Daniel A. Wubah and provost Dr. Vilas A. Prabhu toured Homefields and enjoyed outdoor time with their students.

"I was delighted to be able to spend some time at Homefields on the United Way Day of Caring," remarked Dr. Wubah. "Their vision and mission resonate with me as I believe it is important that, as a society, we learn to value and respect all individuals. I believe that we will be judged by the compassion we show in providing the best quality of life possible for each of our citizens. In addition," noted Wubah, "the food they grow is delicious!"

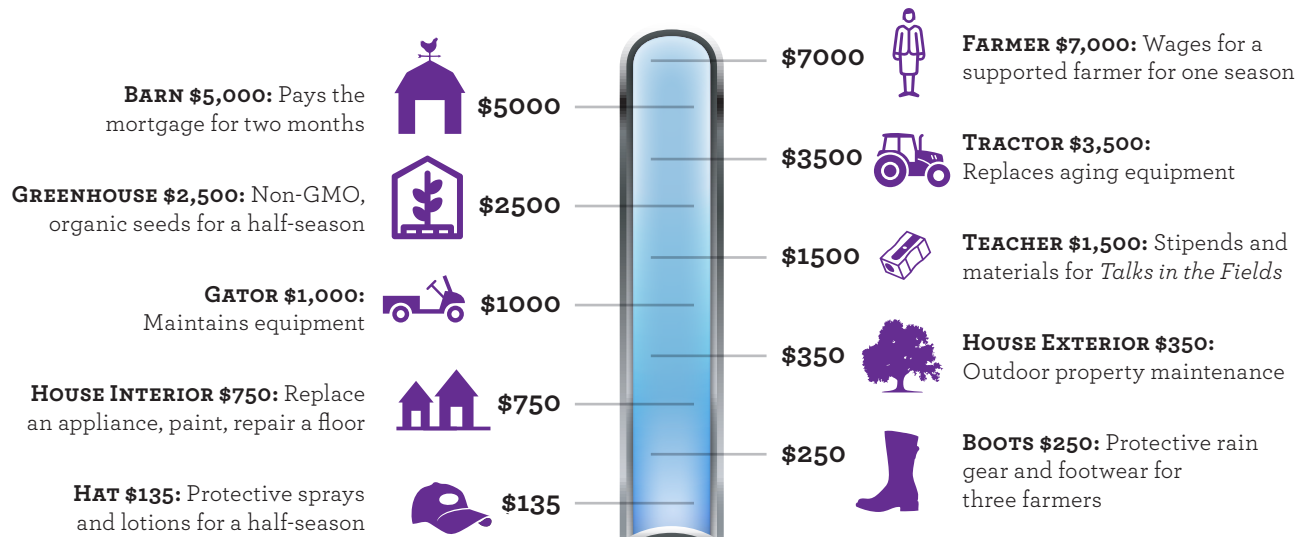


Left and above: Millersville students weed the grounds before picnic tables go in place.

Right: Millersville University president Dr. Daniel A. Wubah tests out the Gator while provost Dr. Vilas A. Prabhu rides shotgun.



FUNDRAISING GOALS 2019–2020



PLAY A (BIG) PART IN

THIS STORY

DONATE

We rely on your donations to support day-to-day operations, plain and simple. Annual fundraisers go a long way to close the gap and build community, but donations fuel our missions.

The easiest way to make a donation is through the Donate button on our homepage. From there, you can give by credit card and set up a recurring (monthly) payment with one click.

The graphic above breaks our costs into real numbers. For instance, a gift of \$7,000.00 covers the seasonal wages of a farmhand with a disability. By "supported" farmer, we mean that

Homefields provides ongoing coaching and training to that individual throughout the season. Consider Funding a Farmer!

Smaller donations go directly to fixing the homes, maintaining the property, and providing day-to-day supplies.

When you volunteer, enjoy a *Talks in the Fields* event, or become a shareholder of Homefields Care Farm, you also benefit the larger community. Homefields Care Farm donates leftover produce every Monday to *The Loft* (our local food bank), but we'd like to expand our giveback. We

encourage community members to buy a share for local folks in need. A half-share will cover a household of two adults, a full share will meet the basic food needs for two adults and two children.

Local churches have identified members in need and supplied them with shares of our produce.

Talk to us about how you can join with your employer, friends and others to make an impactful gift that supports a Farmer or maintains our homes. Homefields is a 501(c)(3) organization. All gifts are tax deductible.

Picnic in the Fields #7



This year's picnickers basked in the warm sun, a contrast to last year's rain! Picnic goers enjoyed familiar favorites, with a menu styled by **Miller's Smorgasbord** AND robust "Taste of the Fields" appetizer station where Chefs Gus Gianopoulous and David Welsh served a bevy appetizers made with vegetables from *Homefields Care Farm*. The Farmer's Cocktail this year was made with blueberries from the farm, lemonade, and *Thistlefinch* vodka.

Guests enjoyed the sounds of local musicians **Bobbi Carmitchell & Friends**. There was plenty of time for selfies and other snapshots with the 1939 N 9 and *Big Orange*, our largest workhorse tractor. Families with children were treated to "Kids at the Barn"



presented by Erin McFalls and her childhood education students from **Lancaster County Career and Technology**, Mount Joy campus. Kiddos enjoyed story time, games, farm animal mask-making and a scavenger hunt in the Pick Your Own fields.

This year picnic-goers and picnic-planners appreciated volunteer support from the Eshleman family, F&M students through the **Ware Center for Civic Engagement**, Taryn Hogeland and her students from **Milton Hershey School** and the **Lancaster Sierra Club**. Students aged 14 to 20 worked together on various pre-production and event services. Check out the photos on our website, under the Events tab.

This annual gathering is more than food and drink. It is an opportunity to meet new friends and to enjoy the surroundings of our farmland. We enjoy sharing Homefields and hope to forge new alliances and gain supporters for our missions.

If you missed this year's picnic, we hope it was for a good reason and we anticipate seeing you next year! Save the date: Sunday, September 20, 2020. We'd love to have you join our planning committee, call the office or send an email to events@homefields.org

—Allison G. Hawthorne,
Chair, Picnic in the Fields



Clockwise from above left: A mix of volunteers surround the **Miller's Smorgasbord** crew; volunteers from the **Lancaster County Career and Technology Center**; **Milton Hershey School** students; a young picnicker experiences arts and crafts.

23RD ANNUAL FALL CLASSIC GOLF TOURNAMENT

The 23rd Annual Homefields Fall Class Golf Tournament was held at **Crossgates Golf Club** in Millersville on Friday, September 20, 2019.

After a cool start, the weather cooperated wonderfully, and a record number of golfers had



a chance to explore a course under repair on a few holes in some very unique and interesting ways. The sponsors, thanks in large part to the work of **Community Services Group**, were as generous as they have ever been. The prizes were plentiful, and many walked away with some new acquisitions, along with the opportunity to share some stimulating special time with their old and new friends. Of course, the food was fantastic, thanks to **Miller's Smorgasbord** and Community Ser-

vices. It would be no surprise if all in attendance likely are looking forward to participating again next year.

Much credit for this success goes to the Golf Planning Committee and to the many volunteers who worked so hard to make the above success possible. This annual event takes most of a year to plan, organize, and carry out, but no one is complaining. All couldn't be happier to serve the interests of Homefields in such an important and very significant way. The only thing that could have made it better is if someone had won the \$23,000 hole-in-one prize.

Stay tuned for news on #24, planned for September 2020!

—Terry Blue



—SAVE THE DATE! The 24th will be on Friday, 9/18/20—
Email golf@homefields.org with questions or feedback

CARE FARM CSA



As we wrap up our 19th season here on the farm, I am thankful for a spring, summer and fall spent working alongside some amazing people. Our farm hands, volunteers and shareholders are what makes Homefields truly special.

The weather this spring delivered timely rain, but not too much of it. We used floating row covers to prevent our spring brassicas from getting eaten by the bugs. The row cover stayed on for about 5 weeks, it worked until the weeds got too tall and pushed the cover off. We were able to get good harvests off the early maturing brassicas like collards and kale, but the later ones, like broccoli and cauliflower succumbed to bug damage.

Late summer brought some drier weather which was perfect for ripening squash and melons which are prone to disease in wet weather. The dry soil also made harvesting potatoes easier and gave us a break from the constantly sprouting weeds that are unavoidable on an organic farm. When our fall brassicas were planted in mid-August, row cover would have made field conditions too warm. I worked with our former farm managers Taryn Hogeland and Scott Breneman to come up with a safe way to manage pests. These crops were sprayed

weekly with *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt, a biological insecticide), and kaolin clay.

These organically certified pest control measures did not eliminate the pests, but did reduce the amount of bug damage to our tasty brassica crops.

While this season was great, our

team is interested in improving the shareholder experience. I've been taking notes and making plans for ways to make season #20 even better. We will continue to improve our weed control which will reduce competition for water and nutrients, and reduce insect pressure.

We will be implementing a more structured irrigation schedule to ensure that all our plants receive adequate moisture regardless of the weather. Our CSA management software will soon be obsolete. We will be switching to user-friendly software that will give shareholders some choices on what veggies are in their shares.

Next year will be our 20th season and we're ready to celebrate! Make sure Homefields is here for the future; check out "Play a (Big) Part" on page 2. I hope you're excited to join us in 2020! See you at Open Barn next spring!

—Katie Landis, Farm Manager
farmer@homefields.org
farm office: 717.871.3110



If you didn't get this newsletter in your inbox, we don't have your email address! Send yours to info@homefields.org and we'll keep you in the loop.

HOMEFIELDS' PHOTO ALBUM

We crossed paths with so many people in the last few months that it's impossible to document it all, but here are some snapshots of moments. As things go quiet over the winter months, we have these memories to fall back on!



Clockwise from above: Tom, Katie, and Elizabeth attend a concert benefit for Homefields, sponsored by **Music for Everyone**, at **Tellus 360**, performed by the **Willie Marble Experience**; Hostess Susan Mathews greets farm shareholders during opening weekend; a plein air painter takes up an abbreviated residence outside the greenhouses; **Franklin and Marshall** college students spend a day harvesting and prepping produce; State representative Brett R. Miller and Jen Miller picking up their farm share.



Missions: Go!

To make your tax-deductible contribution, use the handy coupon below or look for the "Donate" button at homefields.org to give securely by credit card.

DONATE



Yes, I'd like to help Homefields with my tax-deductible contribution:

___ \$25 ___ \$50 ___ \$100 ___ Other Total enclosed \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

email address _____

Method of Payment (Please make checks payable to Homefields Inc.)

Check MasterCard Visa Discover/Novus American Express

Card # _____

Exp. Date ___/___ Security Code (3- or 4-digit number on front or back) _____

Signature _____

PLEASE ADD ME TO YOUR EMAIL LIST _____

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When you live and think healthy, you never know what might turn-up!

See what we did in 2019 (so far).

