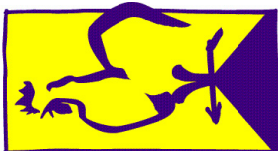




Homefields



Farm Program Takes Root

Vocation:

1. A regular occupation, especially one for which a person is particularly suited or qualified. 2. An inclination, as if in response to a summons, to undertake a certain kind of work; a calling. Important derivative: Voice



This article is for everyone but it is you, truly, you who have planted herbs, picked up fishing worms after the plow passed by, observed the sunshine reflected off the skin of a perfect tomato, experienced how delicious a freshly pulled carrot tastes, or baked a pie using the berries you picked, who will really understand the vocational purpose and the human need for *Goodwill @ Homefields*, a community supported agricultural (CSA) program where people with disabilities and other disadvantaging conditions are the farmers.

If you were a person severely limited by your reading ability or unable to move freely and confidently because you were recovering from a serious accident, born with cerebral palsy, had mental retardation, coped with emotional swings or lived with Down's Syndrome and farming was your calling, what would you do? Where could you find vocational training and fulfillment as an adult, meet with others



and share conversations, ideas and products with your neighbors, and set a goal of independence? Goodwill @ Homefields.

Paul Martin and Mary Comerro were preparing beds of soil in the green house this week and planting clover seeds. The clover will grow and create a path between the rows where others might walk. This is what Paul and Mary are doing, planting seeds and creating paths.

PAUL MARTIN: Martin, a surname common among people who are of the Mennonite faith. Paul's grandparents were Mennonite farmers and his parents grew up on a farm. Paul, after graduating from Hempfield High School, decided to enroll in Millersville University and major in mathematics. The mind learns through all the senses and, one lingering lesson Paul remembered, was how good Mom's tomatoes tasted and the pleasure of sharing her garden chores. And, so, Paul walked away from the university and into the lives of Sam and Katy Reist, a couple who were well known in Lancaster County for their produce stand at Central Market and their 10 acre farm in Washington Boro, PA. Sam and Katy, as stewards of the land, embraced an organic, Community Supported

Agriculture (CSA) and biointensive approach to growing. CSA means that the community partners with the farmer, sharing risks and labor, offering financial support and, in exchange, receiving the bounty of organic vegetables though all growing seasons. Paul asked to become an intern at the Reist farm, Simple Gifts, and Sam, accepting, proved to be a superb mentor, teaching every aspect of farming to Paul. Within one year, Paul was the farm manager. The only thing certain in life is this moment and, tragically, Sam became ill and died. Paul continued to co-manage the farm with Katy for two years, doing everything from advertising to

(story continues on reverse)

Kudos Corner

Donald Trout—a retired electronic engineer who donated his talents and time to design and install the wiring within our first greenhouse

David Pflumm—David donated the time and heavy duty equipment necessary to pull a tree stump out of the path of our new driveway

Don "Bud" Allaband—Bud asked to sell 100+ Harley tickets for Homefields simply because he is a good salesperson and he believes in our mission

Clarence Plummer—for a matching gift

Susan Kreider, for her donation
William D. Brown, Carolyn Heisey, and **Russell A. Tyson**—United Way donors

Carolyn French, Fulton Bank—helping Homefields to restructure a new loan

Goodwill Industries of Southeastern PA—for partnering with us
Winifred McGee—for searching for grant possibilities

Community Services Group—for providing our residents with an excellent staff and making our golf tournament a success

The Lancaster County Office of Mental Retardation—for guidance, opportunities, and funding for residential staff

Paul Risk Associates—for a continuum of construction, advice and support

Penn Manor Servateen Students—for annually dedicating National Youth Day service to the beautification of our flower beds and lawns
Max Films—for donating production time and costs toward our *Steps to a Healthy Lifestyle* video series

White Oak Printing—for ensuring the quality of all our printed materials

Homefields is endowed with profound friendships. The 1999 **United Way of Lancaster County Campaign** brought \$7,934.00 of gifts designated to Homefields. Thank you!

Meet a New Board Member



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thomas E. Strauss, Pres. • Stewart M. Ireland, V.P. • Linda Strauss, Sec. • Christian R. Herr, Jr., Treas. • Leon Bixler • Martha Bixler • Jerry Determan • Allison G. Hawthorne • Stefan Latshaw • Mrs. Dorothy Lyet • Joyce S. Smedley • Brian D. Wassell

Joyce S. Smedley is our most recently appointed board member. Joyce, a retired Professor of Psychology and Director of the School Counseling program at Millersville University, lives in Leaf Park, Manor Twp. with her husband, William, a retired administrator from the Central Dauphin School District. They will celebrate a 50th wedding anniversary in August, and have two children and four grandchildren. Their daughter, Patrice, a psychologist with I.U. 13, lives in Lititz. Their son, William, an agri-sales manager, lives in Dillsburg. Joyce is eager to make whatever contribution she can to the future of Homefields.

Joyce has a B.S. and M.Ed. from Shippensburg Univ, and a Ph.D. from Bryn Mawr College. She was a teacher, counselor, and consultant with the Pa. Dept. of Education

Your Dollars at Work

Your donations have helped jumpstart Homefields' CSA program, as illustrated in the photos below. Being unloaded from the trailer is a Celli Spading machine, an Italian import that does the work of several tools. It digs vertically, obviating the need for a chisel plow, rototiller, and bed maker. Another acquisition is a Mill-creek compact manure spreader, perhaps a less elegant but equally necessary tool in the day-to-day operations of the farm.

The larger picture of the greenhouse's interior highlights a Modine heater and vents, which automatically control the temperature. Your dona-

tions also went towards the gable ends of the greenhouses, composed of Macrolux.

We're currently converting a small outbuilding to a day office, building a pole barn to house large equipment, and replacing an existing shed with a display area for produce. A paved driveway and parking lot are next, allowing access from the main road.

On the list of things to do is to replace the oil burner in the main house with a cast-iron L.P. burner.



It Takes (Nearly) a Village

There are actually twelve top-notch individuals employed by our residential provider, Community Services Group, to staff the homes at Homefields. People who choose to work in a community living arrangement are rewarded through cultivating human potentialities, not by monetary gains. You are looking at the best of human nature; we are thankful that so many noble spirits have chosen Homefields as their place of employment. Clockwise from top are **Bob Gray, Elise Abbato, and Sean Reidel**, who work in the stone house, **Carrie Powers, and Edie Ford**, who work in the ranch house, and **Melody Edwards**, Residential Supervisor.

Inclusion and fun have always been a part of Homefields' mission; making certain life has options available and that diversification is possible. Our residents, **Mary Beth, Stefan, Lisa, Ted, Victor and Brian**, travel to various vocations during the day and, with the support of staff, participate in extracurricular activities in the evenings and weekends. Victor has taken up baking cookies which he takes to senior citizens in a nursing home. Ted works hard all week but still finds time to sort through new and old items donated to a Goodwill Thrift Store. Brian serves the community by volunteering at the Millersville Fire Company, cleaning the trucks with other firemen, attending training meetings and fund raising. There isn't a person living at Homefields who doesn't like to eat and when Saint John's Church, Lancaster, opened their doors for a pancake dinner, our folks were there. Students help to develop artistic predilections through an arts and crafts program at Brooks gym, Millersville University and everyone has chosen to bowl weekly with fellow Special

Mission Statements

Residential: Our mission is to create a financially secure, long-term home in a safe, family-like setting where there is respect for the individual in a holistic sense and fun and creativity are revered as basic human needs.

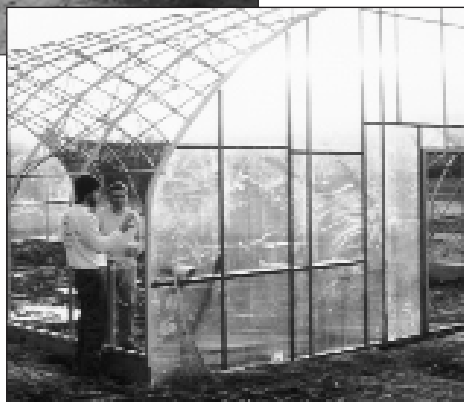
Vocational: Our mission is to provide agricultural/horticultural facilities for individuals who prosper with supported employment; to nurture integration through community interaction and to cultivate a spirit of volunteerism within our community.



◇ Paul Martin (standing) helps Tom Strauss unload the new spader.

◇ Tom connects the new heater in the greenhouse as Paul and Don Trout review the electrical plans.

The morning sun lights ◇ up the new greenhouse's gable ends.



supplying produce to 43 shareholders. By winter's end of 1999, it was time to move on.

Paul is also an uncle. His nephew was born with Down's syndrome, a congenital disorder caused by the presence of an extra 21st chromosome. Paul loves his nephew and takes delight in the way this five year old enjoys life and views the world. Paul, as a student, wrote a paper on inclusion to express how the potential of life belongs to everyone.

Goodwill advertised for a farm manager and Paul Martin was the man. Experience as an organic farmer, an organized, mathematical mind, and a dearly loved nephew all blended together and made Paul the perfect person to create a new, organic and biointensive CSA horticultural program that would train people with disabilities to farm, bring fresh vegetables to the community and the community to the farm. Paul says that Goodwill @ Homefields, is a place where people will work and grow like a garden.

MARY COMERRO: Mary grew up in a small and beautiful Pennsylvania town known as Bird-In-Hand. She lived on a farm, her family renting half a house from an Amish family, and, as a child, attended a one-room school.

Always looking for ways to elevate the state of humankind, Mary was at Franklin and Marshall College in the 70s, teaching adults how to read under the auspices of "Right to Read", a federally funded program. Another phase of Mary's

life lead her to Appalachian foothills, Alexandria County, North Carolina, where she worked for the Department of Social Services, Protective Services. Her job, as a social worker, was to aid families at risk. She graduated from Millersville University in 1992 earning a B.A. degree in Anthropology. While a student at Millersville, Mary served as Assistant to the Chairperson of the Women's Studies Steering Committee and did her honors project on the foodways of the Amish.

Mary is the mother of three daughters and a grandmother of two grandsons. She returned to the Lancaster area so that her youngest daughter would know her grandparents and all her children have first hand knowledge of their Lancaster County heritage. Her position as Trainee Supervisor with Goodwill @ Homefields combines her many interests, talents and love of teaching.

Partner:

1. One that is united or associated with another or others in an activity or a sphere of common interest, especially:
a. A member of a business partnership

That's you.

To learn more, write, call or e-mail:

Paul Martin—Farm Manager
Goodwill at Homefields
150 Letort Road
Millersville, PA 17551

(717) 871-3110 or
martinpaul@juno.com



AN EARLY BIRD ANNOUNCEMENT: Homefields 4th annual Fall Classic Golf Tournament will be held on September 20, 2000 at Overlook Golf Course. Please save the date because we'd love to see you on the links!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Telephone _____

Yes! Send me: _____ # of Golf Club tickets @ \$5 each
 _____ # of Harley tickets @ \$5 each
 _____ I don't want tickets, but here's a donation
 _____ Total \$

Check MasterCard Visa Discover/Novus American Express

Card # _____ Exp. Date _____ / _____

PLEASE NOTE: CREDIT CARD ORDERS WILL BE PROCESSED THROUGH MILLER'S SMORGASBORD. IF PAYING BY CREDIT CARD, FORM CAN BE FAXED TO 717-291-1678. IF PAYING BY CHECK, PLEASE MAKE PAYABLE TO HOMEFIELDS, INC. AND MAIL THIS COUPON IN THE ENVELOPE PROVIDED.



◇ Leon Bixler pulls the winning raffle ticket as Ted and Victor Lyet look on.



A Raffle You Can Put Your Heart Into...

Win A 2000 Harley-Davidson Sportster 883
 Drawing Held **Saturday, February 10, 2001**
Proceeds benefit HomeFields, Inc., a nonprofit organization in Millersville, PA that supports a vocational, rehabilitative and residential program for adults with developmental disabilities and other special needs. Winner need not be present • Donation \$5.00

No. 5002 Name _____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

No. 0312 Name _____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

• ONE CALLAWAY GOLF BAG
 • ONE HUNTER GOLF BAG FOR 2 (CASH PRIZE AT Lancaster Country Club & Bent Creek Country Club) as a reward of a member
 Drawing rules and conditions, terms and conditions apply to this sale.
 HOMEFIELDS CHARITIES, INC. is a 501(c)(3) organization in Millersville, PA that supports a vocational, rehabilitative and residential program for adults with developmental disabilities and other special needs.
 *Send no. for payment to: HomeFields, Inc. 2912

Tom Soper of Verona, NJ, was this year's Harley-Davidson raffle winner. He opted to take cash in lieu of the bike, which was raffled off February 13 at a party in Homefields' barn. Approximately 3,650 tickets were sold (for a total of \$18,250) so if you bought even one ticket, your chance of winning was better than one in 4,000! About 4% of these sales were through our website—www.homefields.org.

This year's raffle is for the white Sportster 883 shown above, with steel wheels and dual staggered tailpipes. This bike will be on display at Miller's Smorgasbord, Route 30, Ronks, and will be raffled February 10, 2001 (right around Valentine's Day), so the timing is good to win a Harley for your sweetheart or to give a little love to yourself.

Matt Musser, also shown above, won our 1999 Golfer's Dream raffle, which consisted of a set of Callaway Big Bertha iron and wood clubs and bag, and a round of golf at Lancaster County and Bent Creek Country Clubs. Keep an eye open for the upcoming announcement of this year's Fourth Annual Fall Classic Golf Tournament, slated for September 20.



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

Spring has Sprung at Homefields...

