



home fields

CSG NAMED AS PROVIDER OF RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM

Community Services Group (CSG) has been providing services to adults with developmental disabilities in the community since 1972. CSG started out in Lancaster with 18 employees serving 32 clients at four different sites. Today, the company has grown to a staff of 650 employees serving 850 clients in 14 counties within the state of Pennsylvania. CSG not only provides residential services to adults with mental retardation but also offers residential and day

gram.

Management staff for the *Homefields* Program is now in place. It includes:

- **Rebecca Zercher**—Residential Program Supervisor. Becky has been with CSG for almost eight years. She currently supervises a program for six adults living in an Apartment Program. Becky will be the supervisor working on site directly with the staff and residents of *Homefields*.

- **Jean Devitto**—Assistant Program



COMMUNITY SERVICES GROUP

program services to adults with mental health problems. These services include vocational rehabilitation, partial hospitalization, intensive care management, and specialized support to individuals in personal care homes.

In Lancaster County, the Community Living Arrangements Program component of CSG serves 85 individuals with developmental disabilities at 30 different sites. These living arrangements cover a broad spectrum with regards to supervision. These range from group homes with overnight staff seven days a week to persons living in their own apartments and having staff visit only one day a week. The *Homefields* program will be a part of the Lancaster Community Living Arrangements pro-

Director. Jean has been with CSG almost five years and will supervise Becky in the *Homefields* Program along with two other existing programs within the CLA Program.

- **Patrick Flaherty**—Program Director. Pat has been with CSG almost nine years and is responsible for overseeing the entire Lancaster County CLA Program, including *Homefields*.

Community Services Group is now in the process of interviewing qualified Direct Care Staff to work on site with the six *Homefields* residents. CSG is excited to be chosen as the residential provider for this new program. All the families involved have worked very hard to bring this dream into reality, and CSG would like to commend this type of family involvement and support. □

KUDOS TO TROUT EBERSOLE & GROFF



THE TWO SMILING GUYS IN THE above photo have good reason to be pleased. Leon Brubaker (left) and Steve Kahler, partners in the accounting firm of Trout, Ebersole & Groff, have been successful in their efforts to secure a tax-free, charitable status for Homefields. The application process is not an easy one and the standards grow more difficult each year. If it were not for Leon's confidence in Homefields' objectives and Steve's expertise in non-profit organizations, Homefields' organizer would likely have been daunted by the whole pro-

cess. Tim Brown, a partner in the law firm of Barley, Snyder, Senft & Cohen, worked closely with Steve and Leon. Our thanks to all three of them for hours of cheerful counsel and sound, down-to-earth advice. Without their help, the ability of Homefields to grow would have been much more limited. □



Brian Bixler—a future resident—removes electric fence wire while his father (Butch) and Steve Latshaw remove fence posts so Jim Determan can plow the field.



After a 40-year hiatus, Jim Determan returns to farming. Above, he plows a field fallow for 20 years, on a tractor that has seen nearly 30.

GROUND-BREAKING NEWS AT HOMEFIELDS

by THOMAS STRAUSS

Lancaster County has 240 developmentally disabled individuals on wait lists as currently funded day programs stretch limited re-

sources to reach as many as possible. As a result, there is no present funding for Homefields' day program. This condition jeopardizes our success, because the day program is what will

attract the larger community in which residents can meet new people and engage in social activities, and it is what will give residents the potential to be self-sufficient. In short, the day program is what will set Homefields apart from purely residential settings, yet funding is unavailable.

Undeterred by this outlook, Jim Determan merely shrugs his shoulders and says, "You've got to start somewhere." Jim's farming experience tells him that before anything can grow, the ground must be turned, irrespective of weather conditions or other external factors.

As you can see from the photos above and below, it has been a mild winter. Ground that lay fallow for 20 years was broken in the first step towards crop growing. Residents, parents, and staff gather weekly to prepare the property for future inhabitants. Inspectors have concluded their assessment of conditions, and minor electrical work is almost completed. A new water softener—donated by the Neffsville Jaycees—is in place. Carpeting has been removed to prepare flooring for resurfacing. Interior painting is underway, and groundwork has eliminated external hazards such as electrical fencing and obstructed sightlines. The residential program is nearing completion, with a June startup expected.

As far as the day program goes, the lack of funding may appear daunting to people accustomed to five-year plans and timetables. It would be reassuring to have a map to follow; a set of plans or blueprint with a series of tried and true

steps leading to a definite final result. But

Homefields was never a paint-by-numbers, it was a blank white canvas. Each idea, each aspect must be invented. For the families and volunteers who believe in

the goals of Homefields, the process is as exciting as it is frightening. □

The day program is what will set Homefields apart from purely residential settings.

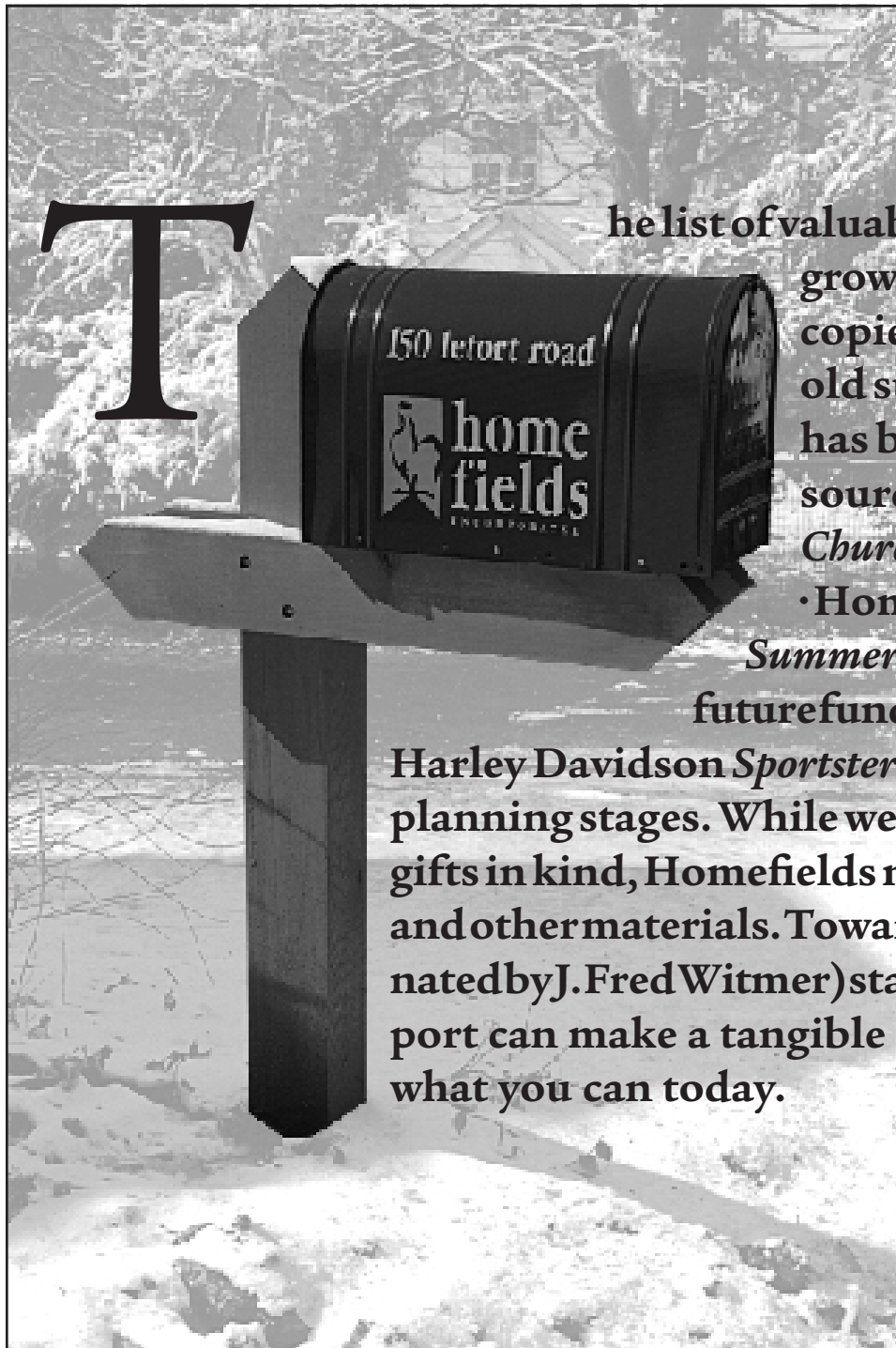
Odds & Ends

- The Governing Committee of the Lancaster County Foundation has approved a \$7,000 grant to underwrite the installation of a greenhouse at *Homefields*.



- In this edition of the newsletter, we would like to thank **Hammel Associates Architects, The Lancaster County Office of Mental Health/Mental Retardation, The Special Education Department of Millersville University, and Thomas E. Strauss, Inc.** for adding their time and talent to Homefields.

- In a continuing series of bureaucratic achievements, *Homefields'* day program has met the approval of the Millersville Code Enforcement Officer.



The list of valuable items donated to Homefields continues to grow; a Macintosh computer, color monitor, printer, copier, and cabinetry await the remodeling of the old summer kitchen into a new office. Equipment has been offered on loan from *Ace Rents* and other sources. Volunteers from *The First Methodist Church* in Millersville have offered to paint the barn. Homefields' application for workers through the *Summer Youth Employment Program* awaits uncertain future funding, and exciting fund-raising efforts such as a Harley Davidson *Sportster* Motorcycle raffle and Open House are in the planning stages. While we work to maximize community resources and gifts in kind, Homefields must buy building supplies, paint, fuel, seeds, and other materials. Toward that end, our new mailbox (the paint job donated by J. Fred Witmer) stands ready to receive your donations. Your support can make a tangible difference in the lives of many—please send what you can today.