



Donations

December 2006—February 2007

\$1,000
Mrs. Caroline S. Nunan

\$500
Mark R. Fahnestock, M. R. Fahnestock
Fine Carpentry

\$300–\$400
Saint Mark's United Methodist
Church

\$100–\$200
Determan Equipment Co.,
James Determan
Jane Shipe Dunlop
Michael E. Sahn
Joyce S. Smedley
Robert E. "Tack" Trostle
Kay A. Welty

\$25–\$50
Cora Lynn Gingrich
John Gregory
Hershey Groff, Jr.
*Cindy Jennings
Lloyd N. Miller
*Brandt D. Schuller
A. Tamasin Sterner
Dennis Weber

\$5–\$10
Tony Legenstein
*Fawn Lilly
John Meehan

ENDOWMENT / LEGACY DONATION
\$100
Judith S. Sandt

\$50
William and Joyce Smedley,
In Honor of James Determan
and Dorothy Lyet
Thomas and Linda Strauss,
In Honor of James Determan and
Dorothy Lyet

IN MEMORY
\$50
Joyce S. Smedley, In Memory of
Nancy Neff Tanger

IN-KIND
Carolyn Semedo-Strauss—material
support and web
Reed Semedo-Strauss—web design
David Strauss—print design
Linda Strauss—newsletter writer,
editor, and photographer
*Colin Wright—PowerPoint
presentation for Homefields
*Thomas W. Wright—PowerPoint
presentation for Homefields

*Indicates new donor or new level of giving

Founders Determan and Lyet Honored

Beginning this year on the warmest of notes, 34 people representing the many facets of Homefields gathered at a dinner on January 16 to honor and pay tribute to Mr. James Determan and Mrs. Dorothy L. Lyet, Founding Parents.

Mr. Determan is the parent of Mary Beth Determan, a woman who lives in the ranch house at Homefields. Mrs. Lyet is the parent of Victor and Theodor Lyet, residents of Homefields' stone house and ranch house, respectively.

Ms. Joyce S. Smedley, President, Board of Directors, Homefields spoke of the remarkable decade plus years of dedication, unfailing support, and devotion both Mr. Determan and Mrs. Lyet freely gave to promote the success



of Homefields. Although financial support was crucial at the outset, it was their continuing involvement with the residents, board, and property that truly helped to make Homefields homes and fields the special places for special people our community knows it to be.

Following the dinner, President Smedley presented a special plaque to each honoree, stating: "This commendation is presented to an individual who has performed eminent service to Homefields or who has made outstanding contributions to our missions".

President's Message

Homefields is in transition. It is an exciting time... It is a time for reflection on the past... It is a time for examination of the present... It is a time for vision for the future... what has been, what is, and what is possible. As the first "non-founding" President of the Board of Directors, I am both honored and challenged.



Joyce S. Smedley, President, Homefields

WHAT HAS BEEN
Homefields is unique, a prototype. It is a remarkable accomplishment by a small group of very dedicated founding members. They should be celebrated. Let's have a party. Let us know if you will help to plan it.

The history of Homefields developed by volunteers should be documented while the founders are still available. We have already lost one.

Archives of Homefields' history need to be established to be available for reference for others with similar needs and dreams. This would be an interesting project for the right person. Perhaps a student could fulfill a course requirement. Perhaps a history buff could incorporate it into Manor Township's legacy.

It is a story worth preserving. It needs to be told now.

The volunteer Board of Directors is managing Homefields quite well. Recognition and support have been received from foundations, legislators, politicians, and county administrations. Mortgages are being reduced; equity is increasing. The property is well maintained; Goodwill at Homefields is flourishing. The office is almost ready for occupancy. The state of Homefields Incorporated is good.

TRANSITION

As original Board members decrease involvement, the office must be furnished. Procedures and policies need to be formalized, committees need to

Knowing that our residents regard Homefields as their real home reinforces me.

be strengthened. Volunteers need to be increased; fundraisers need to be expanded. Change to the future plan needs to be extended to the next 15 years.

THE FUTURE

While the state of the Corporation is good, the future requires our attention.

The immediate need is for viability of the organic farm program, that is, to increase the number of shareholders. Additional acreage is required. The Board must find a way to make this possible. This is a daunting task. As the founding members found a way to develop Homefields, so must the present Board find a way to obtain more land.

To assure the existence of Homefields in perpetuity, an endowment needs to be established.

(story continued on reverse)



WHAT IS

The residents are living in lovely homes where they are well served and where they thrive according to their own desires and abilities.

Good Board Members Come in Threes



JAN HARTLE

In January 2007, Jan Hartle was named to the Homefields' Board of Directors. Jan is no stranger to the Homefields' fam-

ily. She has served as a volunteer to Homefields' Annual Golf Tournament for the past several years. She expressed an interest in getting more involved in Homefields. As Jan openly discusses, she wants to give back and contribute to causes that are aligned with her values and beliefs. Being raised on a family-run dairy farm, working together with her parents and four siblings, and participating in agriculturally-focused activities,

provided lessons early on that she embraces. This background has promoted her passion for issues related to conservancy and preservation of our resources.

Jan has also worked in the field of human services all of her life. Since graduating from business school, she has worked for Providers of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities in numerous administrative, programmatic and management roles.

Currently, Jan works for Community Services Group (CSG) where she has been employed more than 28 years.

Jan lives in rural, southern Lancaster County with David Wiegand, her husband. Over the past year, they have been active in the establishment and growth of a non-profit watershed association: Friends of Fishing Creek. In her spare time, Jan enjoys hiking with David and with Phoenix, her Golden Retriever. She also enjoys spending

time outside, gardening and golfing.

Jan looks forward to getting more involved to continue the good work Homefields has accomplished over the past fifteen years. Working with people, to help people is important to Jan. She believes that collaborating and partnering is key to achieving the best solutions.

On February 27, 2007 the Board of Directors ratified the nominations of Suzanne Ollar and Barbara Spiegelberg.



SUZANNE OLLAR

Sister of two of Homefields residents, Suzanne Ollar is a long-standing residents' advocate. She, with her family, has been *(story continued on page 3)*

We've Got the Blues for You... Reds, Greens, and Yellows Too

It seems like we were just washing up the trays from last season a few days ago, and putting our hoes to rest. But here we are facing April and harvesting is not far away. If you could peek in the greenhouse today you would see the farm in miniature. Already the broccoli, cabbage and kale are sprouting up, and calendula, asters, and green onions are soon to follow. These small flats of seedlings that are now sheltered in the greenhouse will go on to fill the beds out in the field and mature to our first harvests.

We are on the cusp of an amazing



growing season and it is truly exhilarating. What could be better than to be reminded of all the good things that were mentioned in our end of season survey. At the top of the list as everyone's favorite crop on the farm: Blueberries! I don't think you would find a bit of argument from your fellow farmers here.

We are reminded that there is so much that this farm is about. "I love the whole concept," one survey said. What members take home, literally, is food. Our shareholders appreciate that this food is grown without chemicals or pesticides, and they know exactly where their produce comes from. They value that it is local, in season and freshly harvested. They enjoy the adventure of being introduced to new foods. Our vegetables are admired for their beauty too, from the shocking red of a Carmen pepper to the grace of a petite bunch of baby carrots, greens attached.

Many of our shareholders have cultivated a love for the landscape of the farm itself. They visit week after week, on glorious sunny days as well as rainy ones. People are able to truly connect with the land, watch the crops grow each week and get to know the people who are growing their food. We farmers are grateful to connect to the people eating our food, too. It changes what we grow, how we harvest, and what we will plan for next year. Many shareholders are glad to complete the harvesting themselves. The pick-your-own fields allow children and adults to linger in the fields, take in the

sunshine, and select their own picture perfect bounty. One surveyor's farm highlight is: "That my children are able to do this with me—they love it!"

Members don't have to find room in their refrigerators for this part of the bounty. We're building community. It begins with shareholders' commitment to support our farm and guarantee jobs for our farm trainees. Many people choose to be here specifically so these jobs are possible. Some shareholders really get to know our trainees and enjoy their enthusiasm directly. They experience first hand the pride, dedication and hard work that our trainees give to make all of our growing and harvesting possible. Shareholders also want to support sustainable farming



directly in their community. And everybody benefits when we take time to actually stop and talk to one another as we cross paths on the farm, to swap recipes, share food storage tips, and make new connections.

All of the comments in our surveys were welcomed and remind us how this farm is able to nourish all of us in many different ways. It is wonderful to see the idealistic visions of community-supported agriculture actually take root and flourish here. Maybe that is why we love the blueberries so much. Many of our shareholders saw them as they were planted, when it seemed like it would be years 'til they would ever bear fruit. This year we look forward to another year's maturity and a bountiful harvest for the whole farm.

Elizabeth Swope
Assistant Farm Manager
Goodwill at Homefields' Farm

Basic Milk Paint Recipe

One gallon skim milk
Two cups Builder's Lime also called Hydrated Lime (Do NOT use Quick Lime)
One quart boiled linseed oil
½ cup of salt
Dye (color) add in as needed

Strain with cheesecloth or fine mesh screen wire
Use within two days of mixing

Makes approximately 1½ gallons milk paint



"The pioneer recipes for milk paint all had two things in common, milk and lime. When combined, they form a natural binding agent that is, in some ways, unmatched by today's modern coatings. Color can be added with any natural substance (rust, berries, etc.). The classic red barns are most likely the result of an abundance of milk and the availability of red pigments in the form of rust (iron oxide). Livestock blood was also added to milk to produce blood paint.

For this recipe, I recommend powdered dyes found at art stores. Experiment with dye quality to achieve the color desired" —painterforum.com

PHOTO BY FLEUR SUJITEN

President's Message (cont'd.)

The question is: How can we emphasize endowment when fund raising for current needs requires all of our effort? If an endowment is to become a possibility, our circle of supporters must be expanded.

WHY VOLUNTEER AT HOMEFIELDS?

The person most aware of my efforts on behalf of Homefields, my husband of 56 years, wonders why I do all of this. "After 36 years in the field of education, you should rest on your laurels," he says.

"I want to give back." is the most frequently heard response from many volunteers.

The sense of accomplishment and good feelings resulting from "giving back" certainly are reasons enough for volunteering. However, association with Homefields for the past seven years has provided much more for me.

I am in awe of the accomplishment of the volunteer founding members who nurtured Homefields from a trickling idea to the Corporation it is today. It required vision, audacity, risk, physical work, unbelievable commitment and dedication. Only outstanding individuals could have done this.

I feel fortunate to know them and to be associated with the type of people who continue to be drawn to Homefields.

I appreciate being a part of the first and only program of its kind. Frequent requests for information from diverse individuals are indicative of the recognition of Homefields as a beacon of light, a ray of hope, for parents wishing the same for the future of their son or daughter with special needs.

Knowing that our residents regard Homefields as their real home, and their parents' home only as a place to visit, reinforces me. Providing this kind of home for our six residents and providing an opportunity for special individuals to be employed on our organic farm are the reasons that the Board and other volunteers are willing to serve.

I enjoy collaborative planning. It keeps my brain from atrophying (hopefully).

I value the opportunity to be a part of the vision for the future. I am excited about helping to refine and develop the organizational structure that will ensure that Homefields lives on long after I am gone.

We are always looking for volunteers. If you believe in our mission and would like to be associated with us, contact me: jwsmed@verizon.net WE ARE A GREAT GROUP!

Joyce S. Smedley, PhD,
Professor of Psychology,
Emeritus, Millersville University,
and President of Homefields

Flatbed Mulch Layer

A flatbed mulch layer is a piece of farm equipment specially designed to lay mulch over cultivated fields. Mulching in the spring keeps weeds at bay and allows plants to grow.

Scott Breneman, Farm Manager, presented Homefields with a list of much-needed equipment in December 2006. This list included a mulch layer and water irrigator, a total of \$8,108. The cost of a new mulch layer as a separate item is \$1,408.

Even though the first quarter is a fiscally thin time of year for Homefields, it is our practice to purchase new farm equipment for the vocational program in the spring. Equipment availability redirects trainee labor toward skills training productivity.

This year we asked Goodwill Industries if they would help defray the cost. As is their history, Goodwill said, "yes". The new mulch layer was purchased in April 2007, a combined \$908 donation from Homefields and \$500 donation from Goodwill.

The vocational program at Homefields' farm—Goodwill at Homefields—is very special indeed because it is designed to give people with special needs a choice of employment otherwise unavailable to them. The skills learned are what is necessary to



make a business grow, from seeds to sales. Because the horticultural vocational program focuses on the farmer trainee, on the person, time to devote to normal farming activity is often a luxury and the weeds grow wild.

Onions are planted just before the "onion snow," an early-spring inevitability in Lancaster County. Because of the Homefields and Goodwill cooperative effort, the onions have a mulch bed to rest in, the trainees can continue to focus on learning new, meaningful skills and Scott is humming along.

—VOCATIONAL SCHEDULE 2007—

First Distribution of Farm Produce
Thursday, May 31st—Saturday, June 2nd
(weather-dependent)

Fall Potluck
Planning for Friday, October 5

Final Distribution of Farm Produce
Saturday, November 10 (weather-dependent)

Holiday Gift Boxes
Orders taken in November
Final day to order—Friday, December 7
Pick-Up Days—December 17, 18, 19
Contact Goodwill at Homefields' Farm,
Scott Breneman, Farm Manager
(717) 871-3110 • sbreneman@yourgoodwill.org

All Proceeds Benefit Goodwill Industries

HOMEFIELDS' 11TH ANNUAL FALL CLASSIC GOLF TOURNAMENT

Friday, September 21, 2007
 7:30 AM Tournament—12:30 PM Tournament
 Crossgates Golf Club
 1 Crossland Pass, Millersville, PA
 Contact the Chair: Terry Blue
 (twb13@psu.edu) with ideas



With each year, the challenge of the Homefields' Fall Classic Golf Tournament planning committee becomes more formidable. Seeking always to offer an interesting and enjoyable opportunity for old friends to meet and share an afternoon of fulfilling and rewarding good times, the committee offers appeal along with a measure of precision and spontaneity.

At this early point in the planning, the agenda for the 11th is not yet fully developed. The lessons of the past have been instructive, though. The 10th offered morning and afternoon rounds that moved along well. It, too, included some of the interesting twists that give Homefields' day on the links its distinctive character. Special prizes on selected holes and the voluntary intermittent use of persimmon clubs helped shape the feeling of the day. Good weather certainly helped, although the shortened daylight hours posed some small problems with getting the morning group off in time. The Porsche was enjoyed by two of the golfers and their friends for a weekend, but the ZTR tractor made its way back to the showroom. There's always room for even better luck this year.

That luck, along with the skill that improves the odds, will be tested on Friday, September 21. Again, we're going to Crossgates Golf Club in Millersville to see if everyone can improve on last year's scores. This short but very interesting course seems to suit our group, and the experience gained from year to year has made it a continuing

good use of recreational time. Start now to assemble your foursome(s) and to consider seriously how you might support Homefields and its fine work in new, more creative, and even more generous ways.

The planning committee always is looking for novel ideas to keep the interest in the outing right at the cutting edge. We're happy to steal ideas from other outings you've attended so long as we don't have to break any laws to do so. Feel free to fire off clever ideas to twb13@psu.edu for our consideration. We want you to leave Crossgates each year with a smile on your face to match the warm feelings in your heart.

Mark your schedule and look forward to receiving more information on the activities planned for September 21, 2007. Together, we can make the 11th Homefields Fall Classic Golf Tournament our best and most successful yet.

Terry Blue, Chair of Homefields' Golf Tournament Committee

HELP HOMEFIELDS TO GROW

Strategic Planning is a focused effort to produce fundamental decisions and actions that shape and guide what an organization does, will do and why. It requires a broad brush point-of-view, information gathering, exploring alternatives, and an understanding of how today's decisions might impact the future.

The Board of Directors first met to implement a Strategic Planning process in the winter of 1997. Ten winters later, that process faithfully continues. It is on that day that we solidify a plan for the next 12 to 24 months. We also identify concepts for Futures planning, a vision that reaches beyond what we can see in the next five years. This beneficial procedure is an important step to help assure a productive future for Homefields.

Our Founding Board has been transitioning into a Development Board;

Good Board Members (cont'd.)

attending the annual Advocates Picnic at Homefields and familiarizing herself with our residential goals since 1999.

"I attended Lancaster Country Day School until 10th grade; I graduated from Bronxville High School, Bronxville N.Y. in 1973. I attended Elizabethtown College where I met Peter. We were married in 1974. I have 2 children: Elizabeth aged 32 and Peter aged 30. I have one grandson named Owen who was born 5 years ago to my son. I have been with the Columbia Animal Hospital since 1990. I've filled every position from receptionist to surgical technician to my current position as Practice Manager. Peter and I love to travel. We've been to Ireland several times to visit our 'adopted' boys. We met Joseph and Clarke through an exchange program trying to bring the 2 sides of the Irish conflict together. They were 13 years old at the time. They are now 35 and married with children. We also traveled the Alaskan pipeline 2 years ago. Last summer we traveled the Baltics including Sweden, Norway, Estonia, and St. Petersburg, Russia."

Suzanne's professional life, world experience, and commitment to family bring a grounding respect for Homefields' missions to the Board as well as the creative know-how to move us forward.

BARBARA J. SPIEGELBERG



An active volunteer in the Lancaster community for many years, Barbara lives with her husband, Bruce, in Mt. Nebo. They are parents

of two sons, William, a resident at the Selinsgrove Center, and Tom, who lives with his wife and son in Bothel, near Seattle, WA. Both Bruce and Barbara grew up in New York City, but found themselves living happily in more and more rural settings. They learned to raise animals (goats, ducks, geese) and grow vegetables in their organic garden. Now that they are older, they have given up these activities and instead happily participate in the Homefields Farm Shareholder program.

Before retirement in 2000, Barbara spent many years as a real estate agent. Since THEN (her retirement) Barbara has devoted her time to mediation, both as a mediator and as assistant director of the Lancaster Mediation Center. She has served on the Board of both the Lancaster Mediation Center and the Lancaster Area Victim Offender Reconciliation Program. Barbara has also been on the Martic Township Planning Commission for a number of years. Raising William has provided long experience working with the various agencies that oversee programs available to the handicapped.

Barbara brings to the Homefields Board her strong interest in advocating for the needs of those in group homes, and hopes to help expand the work of Homefields and its excellent vision.

Raffles: Past, Present, and Future



February 10 was a fortunate day for B. Miller, NJ. It's the day he won Homefields' 2006 Harley-Davidson Custom Harley raffle, with ticket #0331. Mary Beth turned the drum handle, stopping for housemate Lisa to pull the lucky ticket. Board members and friends gathered around Joyce Smedley, Homefields' President, who made the call to announce the win and explain details. We congratulate Mr. Miller and thank everyone who gave to Homefields by buying a raffle ticket.

Homefields' New Two-Tone Harley-Davidson... Check It Out!

2007 XL 883C SPORTSTER® 883 CUSTOM

- Color: Two-Tone Suede Blue Pearl
- Chrome Bullet Headlight
- Flat Handlebar on Pullback Risers
- 4.5-gallon fuel tank

Drawing: February 9, 2008

- \$5.00 donation per ticket

Please fill out enclosed form and mail to: Homefields, P.O. Box 41, Millersville, PA 17551, or purchase tickets online at www.homefields.org

Proceeds Benefit Homefields

Homefields is an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization providing homes for people who have mental retardation, and is a benevolent landlord to an organic cooperative farm program that provides job training for adults with special needs. All proceeds from a Homefields' event benefit Homefields, Inc.



Raffle and Donations

forms also available online at www.homefields.org

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

___ \$25 ___ \$50 ___ \$100 ___ Other

Please send me ___ tickets for the Harley-Davidson raffle at \$5 each.

Total enclosed \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

email address _____

Method of Payment:

Check MasterCard Visa Discover/Novus American Express

Card # _____ Exp. Date ____/____

Signature _____

PLEASE ADD ME TO YOUR MAILING LIST PLEASE REMOVE ME FROM YOUR MAILING LIST

A Day in the Life...

I am often asked what a day in the life of the residents at Homefields may be like and I simply reply, "The same as it is for you or me on any normal day." They awaken around 6:00 a.m. to start a full day with a long journey ahead. Everyone carools in the same van daily, going in different directions, with their own destination.

Our residents get home around 4:00 p.m., the end to a long day, and a car ride on Friday that is just traffic jam after traffic jam. Once home it is dinner, household responsibilities that need to be done, personal time and outings. So, again, when asked, "What is a day in the life of one of the residents at Homefields like?" I smile and say "A normal day just like yours and mine". But now that I think about it, it sounds like the residents have a much more demanding life then we do, don't you think?

Melody Edwards
Residential Supervisor

Homefields Mission Statements

RESIDENTIAL To create financially secure, long-term homes for adults with mental retardation 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 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.

Board of Directors

Joyce Scout Smedley, PRES.
Allison G. Hawthorne, V.P.
Dennis Dougherty, TREAS.
Linda Strauss, SEC.
Janet M. Hartle
Christian R. Herr, Jr.
Cindy Ledwith
Suzanne Ollar
Barbara Spiegelberg
Thomas E. Strauss

Honorary Board

James Determan
Dorothy L. Lyet



Members of Homefields, clockwise from top left: Megan Ham and Lisa Strauss smile for the camera; Mary Beth Determan awaits her dad to see an Elvis impersonator; Ted Lyet greets a visitor to the ranch house; Edie Ford enters data into the daily residential log; Brian Bixler, Victor Lyet, Stefan Latshaw, and LeAnn Hildebrand, shopping for groceries at John Herr's Market.



Homefields is a non-profit organization, 501(c)(3). Donations are tax-deductible. Letters to the Editor can be sent to: Homefields, 150 Letort Road, P.O. Box #41, Millersville, PA 17551, (717) 872-2012, or to info@homefields.org

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

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A view of the ranch house through the magnolia tree.

Homefields
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P.O. Box #41
Millersville, PA 17551

