



## Contents

Expansion Update  
p.2



MU Hosts Dinner  
p.2



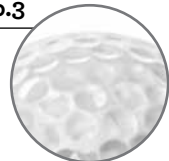
Harley Raffle  
p. 2



ARC Walk  
p. 2



15th Golf Tourney  
p.3



Farm Report  
p.3



PR Campaign  
p.3



## MU Hosts Dinner

The Advocates Committee hosted the Sixth Annual Recognition Dinner on Wednesday, March 15, 2011, at Millersville University. This year we had all our residents and several staff members from both the Ranch House and the Stone House in attendance as well as family members and board members. We tip our hats to the University's hospitality staff, which prepared an outstanding buffet that was enjoyed by all.

This year the board honored Elizabeth Swope for 5 years of loyal service to the farm and Scott Breneman for his 10 years of management to the farm at Homefields. Jay Groff presented gifts to both honorees.



Also present at this year's dinner were outgoing board Treasurer Ben Berhow and his wife. Ben's wonderful support of the board for the past three years and cheerful personality will be missed.

We were also honored by the presence of Aaron Sparks, who represented Senator Smucker's office. Aaron reported that the Senator was interested in learning more about Homefields and our future plans. Jay Groff and Tom Strauss explained the potential for the new farm that we recently purchased.

Overall everyone seemed to enjoy the evening as we looked into the future while honoring our past.

*Suzanne Ollar*



Top: Co-founder Tom Strauss converses with outgoing Treasurer Bennett Berhow. Above and right: A mix of parents, current and former board members, and staff enjoy each others' company.



## EXPANSION UPDATE:

*"We're finding man-eating holes in the barn floor."*

In the last newsletter, I asked people who wanted to serve on a non-profit board to contact me for opportunities, and I must say, the response was far more than I anticipated. We have two new board members, and I still need to interview two more potential candidates. Hopefully, by the time this newsletter goes to press, I will have done just that. I am humbled to be a part of the board, and I look forward to the challenges we face this year.

One of those challenges is the new property we purchased last year. Thanks to Susan Blue at Community Services Group and to Ron Kratofil and John McHenry at Goodwill Industries, our interest payments on the new property have been taken care of until 2012. After that, the Homefields board will have to step up and take over the payments. So the board is currently discussing how we are going to do that. It will be no easy task, and we have some tough decisions to make. I wish we could say that donations alone will take care of it, but they won't. We appreciate everything our readership and donor base does for us, but the property payments are substantial, and it will just take more than we normally receive. That being said, we are looking at several options, and I'm optimistic that it will all come together.

Speaking of the new property, Tom and Linda Strauss, Terry Blue, and I have been working to clean up the barns

at 128 Letort. We have already filled one 20-yard roll-off dumpster, and we have an empty one sitting there waiting to be filled. Two sections of the barn have been cleaned, and we are working on the large center section. So far we have pulled 7 manure spreader loads of loose straw out of that section, and we have only scratched the surface. The straw is being put on the Goodwill compost pile, so it is going to good use. The



straw is 2 feet thick in some sections, and we are finding man-eating holes in the barn floor, which is making the clean up interesting. See photo. Andy Frye stopped in to help us one Saturday, so I want to thank him for his contribution. Tom Strauss has smashed old wire chicken crates with the backhoe and has taken over 500 pounds of metal to the recycler, and there is at least that much still left to smash. If anyone knows an organization that could help us with the clean up, I'd really like to talk to them. I estimate that there are about 120 to 150 work hours needed yet to clean up the property.

Linda had the good idea to call Paul Risk Associates to see if the barns can be salvaged or whether we should bulldoze them under. Paul plays in our fall golf tournament and has helped Homefields in the past with his contracting expertise. Paul was on vacation, but his son Steve met Tom and me at the property and said that the main section of the barn has good bones but some of the

*Expansion Update cont'd page 2*



### Board of Directors

Jay Groff, Pres.  
Allison G. Hawthorne, Vice Pres.  
Kay Welty, Acting Treasurer  
Suzanne Ollar, Secretary  
Courtney Barry  
Terry W. Blue  
Deb Deberdine  
W. Lee Eastwood  
Jeanne Marie Rose  
Thomas E. Strauss

### Honorary Board

James Determan  
Dorothy L. Lyet

### Non-elect Members

Scott Breneman, Farm Manager,  
Goodwill at Homefields  
Melody Edwards, Residential  
Supervisor, Community Services  
Group at Homefields  
Tricia Warfel, Recording Secretary,  
Homefields

### 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.*

## Harley Raffle Rides Into the Sunset

This year the Annual Harley Raffle was held in the Homefields board room on Valentine's Day, upholding a long tradition. The winner was a woman from California. She plans to give the bike to her sister who lives in North Carolina. The drawing was overseen by Homefields President Jay Groff and the winning ticket was drawn by ranch house resident Lisa. Several board members and all the residents attended the drawing.



Representative of a larger financial context, the last raffle operated at a loss so the board has decided that this will be the last one, at least for the foreseeable future. We thank all of our supporters from years past, and we hope that all our previous winners enjoy the open road safely with the wind in their faces and a smile in their hearts.

## HF RESIDENT RECOGNIZED BY ARC

Brian, a resident of the stone house at Homefields, was honored in March 2011 for raising the highest dollar amount in pledges when he and fellow resident Jason participated in the Annual ARC Walk in 2010. They had joined over a hundred other walkers and supporters as they braved the cold and blustery weather to support this worthy cause. The event was sponsored by GP Nuclear/Three Mile Island and emceed by Ken Slotnick of WGAL. The Arc is the world's largest community based organization of and for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



## The Big "One Five"

It's that time of year to mark your calendars for some fun in the autumn sun. The Fifteenth Annual Homefields Fall Classic Golf Tournament is scheduled for September 16, 2011, again at Crossgates Golf Club in Millersville.

As we have in past years, the event planners are putting the emphasis on offering a lighthearted but rewarding opportunity for fellowship and for interesting variations on standard golfing practice. Those who have participated in any of the previous fourteen outings probably will have a clear idea of what that entails. Newcomers can sign up to see what all the unusual fun is about.

At this printing, it is unclear whether play will just be in the afternoon or will include scheduling in the morning as well. A clear flow of information will be shared with all on our surface and electronic mailing lists. In the past, the morning round has started at 7:30 am, and the afternoon round kicks off at 12:30 pm. The registration fee for the afternoon or morning round will be \$80, and the charge to play in both the morning and afternoon will be \$140.

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 will be offered for both the morning and afternoon groups, if the number playing in the morning is sufficient. These 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 pace of play quick. We have managed to do that in the past, and we will plan a similar outcome for #15. This, of course, adds nothing negative to the experience.

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

As always, Crossgates clearly is one of the best venues for golf in the area. The course is always in great shape, and the staff is very accommodating. Line up your friends and make your plans to share in what is regularly a wonderful day in the company of other great people. And it's all for a great cause.

Terry Blue

## Expansion Update (cont'd.)



add-ons should be taken down. Again, everything costs, and we need to plan what the priorities are and what time line we are looking at. If you love demolition, contact us and we'll listen to your ideas.

Board member Allison Hawthorne is heading up a task force to discuss financial concerns and property overview and planning. This will determine the direction the board will be going in the upcoming months. The committee will be looking at fundraisers, grants, and just what do we do with the new property and how that fits with our existing property and mission statement. This will not be an easy task, but I believe, in the end, the board will have a better idea as to what and where our efforts should be directed.

Dr. Jeanne Marie Rose is a new board member. She is working with the Millersville students who are developing a Homefields public relations campaign.

I want to thank board member Suzanne Ollar for the Homefields residents' dinner that was held at Millersville University in March. The food and service were great. Everyone seemed to have a good time.



I know the next paragraph is a touchy one right now, but I need to ask for your help. Everything Homefields does costs money, and our two sources of income are you (our generous donors) and the fall golf tournament. This year there are some extra costs with the 128 Letort property, and we lost money with the Harley raffle, so we are about \$4,000 short until the proceeds come in for the golf tournament later in the year. Anything that you can do to help would be greatly appreciated. Even donating time to help clean the barns or cut the brush would save us the money to hire someone to do it. Telling us what you can do will help us build a database of people we can call. We appreciate all that you do for us.

Sincerely,  
Jay Groff  
President, Homefields

## QUESTIONS?

Ask them at [info@homefields.org](mailto:info@homefields.org)

## Donations

Please make checks payable to Homefields Inc. and return in enclosed envelope. Forms are also available online at [www.homefields.org](http://www.homefields.org)

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:

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 MAILING LIST  PLEASE REMOVE ME FROM YOUR MAILING LIST

⇒BENEFACTORS: DECEMBER 2010–APRIL 2011⇒

\$25–\$99

Andrew Adams  
John and Lavon Harnish  
Kurt Breneman  
Lester and Evelyn Herman  
Linda Bradley  
Vivian Spiese

\$100–\$200

Suzanne Ollar  
Zacharian Gieg

\$201–\$500

Joseph Roda  
Linda and Tom Strauss  
William Boyd

## Farm Report

Here's an end-of-winter-into-spring hearty dinner:



### BAKED POTATOES!

Cheese sauce with chopped broccoli  
Crumbled bacon pieces to top it off

It's a cold wet spring as we anticipate the twelfth season here at the farm. Last year for comparison, we were able to start planting in late March, and in mid-April, the ground was still like wet cold pudding. So we continue to watch for a break in the wet weather long enough to dry the soil.

We're excited to be able to fallow (let rest) some of the land that we have used for several years, thanks to Homefields being able to purchase the land next door last October. This avoided the housing development on that land that seemed inevitable during the past decade as multiple developers attempted to prevail. We will also be able to do better and longer term crop rotations to improve the soil health, limit erosion, and deter thistle, an aggressive and persistent

weed that is extremely difficult for organic farmers to control.

I'm pleased to have an excellent farm staff again this season: thank you, Elizabeth, Kim and Law Reh.

The trainees returning are an outstanding group: thank you, Eric, Scott, Glenn, Brad, Shawn, Earl, Patrick, Brian and Matt. We're also looking forward to some new trainees joining us in the coming weeks.

About 130 trainees have participated as farmers in the program to date, and the shareholder numbers continue to grow as well, as we anticipate at least 180 shareholders for this season. The trainees love being at the farm and seeing the work through—from planting seeds to the fruition of the crop. Shareholders continue to tell us that they love coming to the farm, that they feel better eating our food, and that they support what we are doing.

Our methods continue to change as we evolve and refine—we replaced the spader this winter, added a chisel plow, which is a conservation tillage tool, and are looking for funding for a larger tractor that will handle the chisel and transplanter and free up our over-tasked primary tractor for cultivating. We are honed in on proven great varieties of fruits and vegetables like Sangria and Orange-glo watermelons, Carmen sweet peppers, sweet crunchy carrots like Dragon, and amazingly flavored and juicy Jewel strawberries. We expect an abundant, healthful and delicious harvest.

We do have shares available for this season—go to [www.yourgoodwill.org/farm](http://www.yourgoodwill.org/farm) to learn more and to sign up for a share. Thank you for your support. Wishing you an abundant and joyful warm season!

*Scott Breneman  
Farm Manager*



Things are popping everywhere you look at Homefields, inside and out!



## A Flowering Public Relations Campaign for Homefields

Working in collaboration with Millersville University students, Homefields brought some sunshine—sunflowers, to be exact—to an overcast Friday art walk in downtown Lancaster. There, the seven students distributed packets of sunflower seeds sporting the Homefields logo and information about the organization.



Millersville students (l to r): Annie Hill, Shauna Powers, Sarah Signore, Thomas Jones, Ashleen Nice, Brandy Jackson, and Laurie Myers.

The April 1 seed distribution was just one facet of a multi-pronged public relations campaign developed by students in Dr. Thomas Boyle's *Public Relations Campaigns* class. The course pairs student-run PR teams with community clients. Homefields is benefiting from the creative energy of Elite Public Relations, headed by Account Executive Thomas Jones.

To date, the campaign has involved multiple efforts to raise Homefields, Inc.'s visibility in the Lancaster community. Annie Hill, the team's Creative Director, says she's "excited to work for Homefields to build awareness." The group's efforts have included designing and distributing 500 seed packets, developing various informational brochures, recording public service announcements for radio, and organizing a restaurant fundraiser at Friendly's.

Assistant Account Executive Brandy Jackson describes some of the challenges the team has faced. "We want to show that Homefields is more than just a farm," she says. By putting information on seed packets, she explains, people will be less likely to throw it away. It's "something tangible," and the information about Homefields "might sit around on someone's kitchen table."

If the seeds are a tangible reminder of the Homefields mission, the group's new and improved Facebook page is a virtual one. Eager to maximize the organization's online presence, Laurie Myers has been working on the social media component of the campaign. "Social media is an involved process," she says, "but a worthy one that reaches so many people!"

By the time the project wraps in May, those April showers will have brought May flowers (maybe even sunflowers), and Homefields will have a blossoming PR campaign thanks to Elite Public Relations.

*Jeanne Marie Rose*



Find us on Facebook.

# Keep in Touch!

We're feeling distant lately. Sometimes we have something to share—good news, a killer gazpacho recipe—and it takes too long to ink up a press and mail a newsletter. But if we had your email address, there might be a morsel of Homefields goodness in your inbox every now and again!

Would you take a moment and drop a note to [info@homefields.org](mailto:info@homefields.org)? It won't cost a thing and will save us some money as well.

*Thanks!*

Non-Profit Organ.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Lancaster, PA  
Permit No. 1928

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



## FULL SPEED AHEAD!



Don't let the sign fool you, Spring cleaning is moving forward on the new property. See "Expansion Update" on page 1 for more...



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