

Homefields Incorporated 150 Letort Road P.O. Box #41 MILLERSVILLE, PA 17551 WWW.HOMEFIELDS.ORG

Residential



Presidential p.1

Welcome Taryn













Home on the Range



This summer, residents welcomed new Residential Supervisors for both homes. Lizz Donnegan keeps the stone house functioning smoothly and Tina Kissinger oversees the ranch home. We are getting to know everyone, and what better way to do that than to

hang out and have coffee? Starbucks has become a favorite spot where the whole group can socialize and enjoy coffee. We have been focusing on getting out into the community, to create opportunities for residents to participate in non-peer activities, meet new people and try new things.

Ted, Victor, Jason, and Mary continue to attend E.A.R.S. (Ephrata Area Rehabilitation Services) during the week. Most days Brian walks across the driveway to his job as a farmer-trainee at "Goodwill at Homefields," the on-site CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) program. Lisa continues to volunteer at Meals on Wheels. This year Brian celebrated 12 years of being a



Volunteer Fireman with Blue Rock Fire Rescue, where he serves in the kitchen during the annual Tomato Festival and is also on the festival committee.

Summer has been a mix of quiet evenings and busy days. The patio glider is well-worn, as Mary and Ted visit it often. They enjoy taking in the sounds on the farm and basking in the warmth of summer afternoons. Victor, Ted and Mary enjoyed a little

friendly competition at Rocky Springs bowling alley. Mary is a fan of country and western music. She loved seeing "Ring of Fire," a musical tribute to Johnny Cash, in Mount Gretna. Mary still talks about her time in Mount Gretna. Lisa visited the Butterfly Garden

> in Hershey, savored ice cream and enjoyed miniature golf at Scoops. Lisa participated in an International Day at Concepts, celebrating different cultures and tasting foods from around the world.

As summer gasped its last breath, we had a

little plumbing challenge in the lower level of the ranch house (we can always count on surprises to keep us on our toes!). Lisa and Ted enjoyed hanging out at the annual golf outing and having lunch with the golfers. Everyone attended "Picnic in the Fields," savoring the music, the meal, and spending time with family and friends. As fall approaches, there is much to look forward to... there is talk of another weekend

in a rented RV, complete with campfire and s'mores! Tina Kissinger

Non-elect Members

Scott Breneman, Farm Manager,

Director, Community Services

Goodwill at Homefields

Liz Snyder, Assistant Program

Erin Graybill, Office Manager

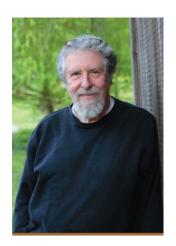
LETTER from the PRESIDENT

THE ORIGINAL GOAL OF THE

people who founded Homefields was to create safe, supported, and future-secured homes for sons and daughters who have developmental disabilities. The place in which we live is undeniably important to all of us, beautiful, peaceful surroundings was the goal.

What else is important to you? Family and loved ones? Your faith? Work-life balance? The environment? I'm sure a few of those things occurred to you immediately. One of the most significant, you must conclude, is your vocation; your work choice, and opportunity to work. The way we spend half our waking hours weighs heavily on how we view ourselves and our sense of well-being.

Our life goals might be modest or ambitious. Most of us will not be elected to office or receive public acclaim. Our "dream job" may hover just out of reach, but the majority of us will eventually find a satisfying



Homefields is now the produce farm it was in the 1800s, only better.

In our culture we are not born into a caste system that determines our future, but what if we were? What if our choices were severely limited because of a mistaken perception of our ability or desire, or simply because of a lack of opportunity?

That opportunity for a satisfying occupational choice was unavailable for over two hundred farmer trainees before Homefields became their reality in the year 2000. Men and women who enjoy working out of doors as much as possible, who love to grow things but faced barriers to employment, came to Homefields to work. They, together with a farm manager and assistant manager, transformed the hard soil of a horse farm back into the produce farm it was in the 1800s, only better. Some trainees stayed for years, others moved on to other jobs. Everyone left his or her mark.

The trainees start early in the day in all types of weather to be sure display shelves at the barn are filled with freshly harvested produce for shareholders to pick up. Unfortunately, the farmers who plant, grow, and harvest the crops are often gone for the day by the time shareholders arrive. I encourage everyone to get to know the trainees. Come a bit early if you can on Friday and give your hardworking farmers a pat on the back. That kind of recognition goes a long way and you may learn something new about the farm from the folks who give it shape and make things grow.

Your support of Homefields provides this opportunity for meaningful employment.

Tom Strauss President, Homefields

www.extragive.org

Visit the above website before midnight on November 20 and look for us during Lancaster County's biggest day of giving. This annual event is convenient (only online), timely (only for 24 hours), and rewarding (every dollar that's donated is stretched by a \$300,000 pool).

When you give to Homefields during the EXTRAgive, your gift makes a bigger impact for people with intellectual disabilities, for land preservation, and for job training.





Contact Us 717.872.2012 info@homefields.org

Board of Directors

Thomas E. Strauss, President Allison G. Hawthorne, Vice Pres. Andy Hirschmann, Treasurer Heather Conlon-Keller Dr. Rich Mehrenburg

Honorary Board

James Determan

RESIDENTIAL MISSION:

To create financially secure, longterm 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.



Background

In 1995, Homefields invited
Lancaster County vocational and
day program providers to our
property to share ideas about how
the non-residential side could be
converted to an agricultural or
horticultural vocational program.
Keystone Goodwill (formerly
Goodwill Industries) stepped up.
Together, Goodwill and Homefields
engaged a consultant to develop
a plan for the farm. After several
years of bringing the soil into
organic compliance, our first farmer,
Paul Martin, broke ground in 1999.

In 2001, Peter Emerson became the second Farm Manager, and Scott Breneman was hired as the Assistant Farm Manager. In 2005 Peter moved out of the area and Scott became the farm manager. This fall another transition was set into motion when Scott decided it was time to pursue his dream of developing his family farm. We're glad we're not saying goodbye to Scott, as he is staying on in an advisory role.

In September, we welcomed Taryn Hogeland as the new Farm Manager. Next year Assistant Farm Manager Elizabeth Swope will celebrate her 10-year anniversary, providing continuity and support for Taryn's first season. Each farmer has left his imprint on the land, and impacted the farmer trainee program.

Welcome Taryn

Recently Homefields visited with Taryn Hogeland on a busy Friday morning. Here's what she had to say:



HF: Where did you grow up?

TH: I grew up in Newmanstown, in Lebanon County. I have three younger sisters. We are really close and do a lot of things together.

How did you become interested in farming?

I live on my family's 400-acre vegetable farm and have lived there my whole life. It is owned by my dad and his three brothers. The farm was started by my grandfather and then expanded by my dad and his brothers. I have been working on the farm since I was five years old. I have always enjoyed the hard work and being around my family. On the farm we grow

cucumbers, green beans, sweet corn, and potatoes. I was always interested in animals and farming. So when I was in college, I spent my freshman and sophomore summers working on a dairy farm. During my junior year, I started working at the Penn State research farm in Manheim. It was a great internship, I learned a lot and ended up staying for a summer after graduation. Working at both of the farms showed me that agriculture is the path I wanted to take in my life.

Where did you go to school?

Eastern Lebanon County School District. College: freshmen and sophomore year I went to Penn State, Berks. Junior and senior year I went to Penn State, State College. I studied Agricultural Sciences, with a minor in Leadership Development.

Do you do any volunteer work?

During college I did volunteer work at the Penn State student food bank. Students of Penn State in State College were not permitted to participate in the State College Food Bank. Since this was an issue, the students started a food bank for Penn State students on campus.

What is the best thing about being the new Farm Manager at Goodwill at Homefields Farm?

I think the best thing would be working with the trainees. I love working with the different people, they bring joy and excitement to the farm every day. They enjoy working in agriculture, and so do I.

What do you think will be your biggest challenge?

My biggest challenge will be during the planting season. This is the time when there are many different varieties that need to be put into the ground. It is also the time when I am learning about the

needs of each vegetable. Ensuring that all maintenance needs are met helps veggies to yield their maximum capacity.

So far, what is your favorite farm chore? Least favorite?

My favorite farm chore is harvesting in the fields with everyone! Thursday is harvest day, this is when we prepare for shareholder pick up on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. My least favorite chore is pulling plastic out of the fields. It feels like a never ending chore!

Tell us about your plans for next season? I am excited to continue with the huge variety of vegetables that Farmer Scott grows. I'd like to try adding new varieties, and possibly try different farm management techniques I have learned.

Contact Farmer Taryn at thogeland@yourgoodwill.org or call the office at 717-871-3110.

GW@HF Holiday Gifts



Goodwill at Homefields gift boxes make great gifts for your staff, clients, teachers and family

members that want a taste of Lancaster. They contain local treats, such as Wilbur Buds, College Coffee Roaster's Coffee, Kitchen Kettle apple butter and Snyder's peanut butter pretzels. Selling them helps extend the farmers' season by four weeks. To order: email thogeland@yourgoodwill.org, or visit: www.yourgoodwill.org/grow/homefields-farm

Great Scott!

HF: You're a Lancaster County native. Tell us a little about your family history. SB: I grew up and live on a farm that has been in the family since about 1913. My great grandfather and my grandfather bottled and delivered milk from their Guernsey herd around the New Providence area. As I was growing up, I got to help my dad with his herd of Guernsey cows there, but the dairy has been inactive since the mid 1980s. My wife and I and our four children live on the farm and our children are the fifth generation to live there.

Tell us about your travels.

I spent a few years of my early life in Honduras with my parents who were support staff for a mission program. Between college years, I spent a summer on an Indian reservation in British Columbia, Canada as a mission outreach. My wife and I spent several years teaching English in Japan after finishing college, but we haven't traveled much since starting a family, although we did make a 10,000 mile 'round-the-USA trip camping out of an old Mercury Tracer—memorable!

When did you start working with the Goodwill at Homefields farm program? In the winter of 2001, When I was at a

In the winter of 2001. When I was at a farm conference in 2000, I bumped into Peter Emerson, the Farm Manager. He asked me if I wanted to work at the farm with him and I responded, "No, I don't think so." After going home and talking to my wife about it, I decided to give it a second try and was hired...and the years have flown by.

What did you like most about your role as Assistant Farm Manager?

As the Assistant Farm Manager I was grateful to be working outdoors with people, plants and soil—it was wonderful to be outdoors and doing farm work again after time indoors while teaching.

When did you become the Farm Manager?



In 2005, Peter told me of his plan to study Landscape Architecture and of his hopes that I would assume the Farm Manager role. With a lot of thought and some trepidation I did so and have been the Farm Manager for about ten years.

What was the biggest challenge of that first season?

Ha, well, it's one thing to watch a Farm Manager do their job and work beside him, it's another to take on the role yourself. The biggest challenge was being responsible for the many decisions and the newness of the situation and personnel in new roles.

Can you talk about the joys of the last season?

Last season showed the benefit of accumulated collective experience here at the farm as we had an excellent showing of crops, no grand fiascos and some new tools that we made contributing to our efforts. When I began at the farm I had no agricultural design and fabricating experience and over the past several years, with the help and input of others, we now have a number of appropriately scaled tools such as the carrot and garlic lifter, air seeder, fertilizer dropper and powered weeder that lend a huge helping hand, but keep the essence of farming in our work. We still get our hands in the soil and our hands touch each crop.

What is your vision for the future of Goodwill at Homefields Farm?

Although adding the neighboring land to our farm has not been easy, I am glad to say that there is enough land for the future of the program even if we were to lose access to five rented acres west of the farm.

I want to see people who have a disability enjoying the seed to harvest satisfaction of this farm and people from the neighborhood and surrounding community relishing both this food and this place for all time.

What do you think you will miss most?

I will miss the people the most. There have been, and are, great people involved with this program. Elizabeth and Law Reh are incredible and capable partners in this work, and they pour their hearts into the project. The trainees for their faithfulness and reliability in the often hard and hot farm work and the personas that they bring to the farm. Butch for

many wiring, mechanical and plumbing fixes. Tom for advice, milling lumber, tools, and support from the Homefields side, and Bob for many of the tool engineering projects. As your farmers drove across Donnerville and Letort Roads this week, it was neat to reflect on all of the good neighbors whose businesses we have relationships with: RSC Heating, Quality Machine, Flanagan Welding, Promised Land Farm, and S & H Automotive are



all along that drive and within a relative stone's throw of the farm. I am especially thankful for cousin Kurt, for his help, enthusiasm, know-how and support; Flanagan Welding's "Doc Flanagan" who has donated welding and materials often for repairs and tool projects; and Ed Kelley for welding, trailer hauling and support.

After spending over 33,000 hours on this farm, there is so much of the farm engrained in me. I will miss the routine of it, the development of better ways and tools for our specific needs, the sunrises when coming in to get critical work done, the joy of a difficult crop to grow prospering, the ten o'clock coffee with the crew, and the smiles, handshakes, voices, gaits, and wisecracks.

Tell us about your new endeavors.

I have wished to have an at-home business on the family farm to teach my children and have them work alongside of me—they seemingly go from toddler to teen at the blink of an eye. So it is time for me to pursue farming with my family. We will be growing lettuce in a greenhouse and also setting up mushroom cultivation in the old dairy barn. I got pulled into the fungal world oddly enough, when I wanted to incorporate beneficial fungal organisms into our Goodwill at Homefields CSA soil for improved soil biology and better veggies. Next thing I knew I was trying to grow edible fungi for the table and it "mushroomed" from there.

My family now says that I am a real "fun guy."

Homefields thanks Scott Brenneman for steering the Goodwill at Homefields Farm through challenging times, growing the program into a place that works for everyone and smoothing transitions. We wish you well and remember, Homefields has mushroom in our heart for you!

Talkin' the Talks

The third season of Talks in the Fields is nearing an end. 2015 started off with a Welcome Weekend in June, answering questions for new shareholders & greeting those returning for another season. In July, we hosted a perennial favorite, Art at the Farm, and learned to preserve nectarines with author Marisa McClellan. At September's Picnic in the



Fields, we partnered with Lancaster Creative Reuse (http://www.lancastercreativereuse.org/) sponsoring the kids' crafts and a silly costume photo booth. As we go to press, plans to close the season with a Farewell Farm Day are underway—saying goodbye to Season #20, and most importantly a chance to say goodbye and thank you to Farmer Scott, our farm manager for

the last 15 years.



In 2016, the Talks Committee is looking forward to launching Talks Season #4 with a Second Saturday format. Expect the usual favorites and some new offerings too! Welcome Weekend, an Art at the Farm Day, a Farewell to the Farm Day, and who knows what in between? Perhaps home brewing? Talks in the Fields were launched in

2012, as an outreach and educational effort from our Board of Directors. Everyone is welcome, Talks events are open to the public. Homefields co-sponsors the Talks in the Fields programs, so attendee costs are kept a suggested donation of \$5.00 per event. Share ideas, or lend a hand by contacting us at Talks@Homefields.org or calling the office at 717-872-2012.

Heather Conlon-Keller Chair, Talks in the Fields



Of course you know that your friends at Homefields are always active at raising funds for their outstanding programs. At the same time, we are anxious to offer activities to meet a variety of needs and interests. Our golfing friends are not forgotten in this quest. Our recent and highly successful 19th Annual Homefields Fall Classic Golf Tournament was a clear and enthusiastic reminder of that.

We were thrilled with sponsorships and other donations, bringing the total number of participating businesses to 42! Support ranging from corporate level sponsorships to prize donations added to the reasons we hit for Homefields, and rounded out fun for golfers. For a complete list of sponsors and supporters, please visit www.homefields.org.

For the 20th year, we will be inviting folks to join us again for the Annual Fall Classic Golf Tournament. Again, it will be at Crossgates Golf Club in Millersville with a 9:00 AM shotgun start. All of the unusual and interesting fun and games we routinely offer will be in place, along with the chance to drive away in a shiny new car. As always, sponsorships and donations are gladly and warmly welcomed—as are all of the golfers able to join us.

To prepare for #20, we will be offering two rounds of our ever-popular Night Golf to help you to hone your skills. The first will be on Friday night, May 20, 2016 and the follow-up will be on a Friday night in July 2016. When you golf in the dark only your group is able to see how you're doing! Both will be at Crossgates Golf Club, the scene of our previous Adventures in the Dark.

Information on these activities will follow as the events approach, but please put them on your calendar so you don't miss the fun. After all, nothing says you can't have fun while helping to raise money for a great cause.

Terry Blue, Golf Tournament Director

For more information about sponsorship and donation opportunities or golfing with Homefields, please send an email to golf@homefields.org or call 717-872-2012. Stay in the know by sharing your email address with us!



United Way Day of Caring

On Saturday, September 12th, Homefields welcomed Millersville University students to the property. The class of students and their professor, from the business school, spread out on both the Residential and Vocational sides of Homefields—finding much to do. Deb Weber, professional landscaper, volunteered to supervise the project. Business students may be spreadsheet savvy, but who knows the difference between leaves of three versus helpful plants? Pulling weeds, grooming indigenous plants, and removing debris resulted in a general spruce up. The Professor pitched in too, removing an accumulation of greenhouse weeds and trimming the front lawn. Before the short trek back to campus, everyone enjoyed pizza in the barn. This much-needed outside work helps Homefields prepare to host our annual Picnic in the Fields and keep the farm in order. A robust thank you to United Way Day of Caring and Millersville's Javita Thompson, of Millersville's Non-Profit Resource Center, for keeping us uncovered by sprucing up the landscape and keeping the weeds at bay.

This year marks the 24th year that United Way sponsored its annual Day of Caring in Lancaster County. Over 1,500 volunteers impact over 60 non-profit organizations and less people throughout Lancaster County across two days. Over the years, Homefields has benefited from this community support in several ways. Twenty years ago Wohlsen Construction put on a new roof, **Dutchland Construction** built an accessible ramp for the ranch house, and Millersville University has helped with landscaping projects several times. Hint: We need a new roof!



Our annual dining event had a more relaxed feel on September 27. Ostensibly, picnickers dropped by Letort Road to support our missions (preserving

farmland, providing vocational and residential opportunities for adults with intellectual developmental disabilities and other barriers to employment, and more). But we think the day may have been more about sharing community and good food on a beautiful day.

Over 30 youngsters discovered the fun sponsored by Lancaster Creative Reuse and many were immortalized in the photo booth sponsored by our Talks in the Fields committee



As you can see in the photos, the usual suspects were on hand—Miller's Smorgasbord provided

the comfort foods, Indian Summer Jars the soundtrack, Carmen & David's Creamery the ice cream, drafts from Lancaster Brewing Company, and teas from Turkey Hill. Fantastic volunteers came from UNFI and the Junior League of Lancaster County.

A silent auction included unique items such as handturned wooden bowls from Robert Andrews.

Many thanks to our wonderful patrons, stellar sponsors, and the Picnic in the Fields committee, spearheaded by the indefatigable Allison Hawthorne.

Hope to see you at the next one! For more information or to participate in the next annual dining event, send an email to events@homefields.org



centerpieces before the big



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 notified of upcoming events.

■ BENEFACTORS ■ October 2014-September 2015

\$25-\$50

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Robin and Jeff Beazley Lorena Breneman Jane Cray Joy Dietrich Michael J. Galluppi Gail Hawthorne Erma and Carl Horning Rein Mutso George Novak Virginia Robinson Thomas Simpson and Daniela Ciceri

Thomas and Judith Kruse Lydia and Doug Martin A. Jeanne and Edwin Pruitt Beverly and Edward Rand Wayne and Yvonne Smith Natalie Lascek-Speakman and William Speakman Vivian Spiese Kristin and Joel Young Allison Hawthorne Kyki Bobotas Dr. Richard and Stephanie Mehrenberg Tracy and Stephen Beck Stacey Conrad Kathleen Gray Cecelia and Bob Harrington Janet Hartle

Andrew and

Heather Hirschmann

Sharyn Kreider Rob and Janet Lenahan Linda Reis Sharon Roberts Timothy Roschel Harriet Rosenstein

\$60-\$75

Laurie and Tom Martin Mary Z. Stehman and J. A. Fitzkee, Jr.

\$100

S. Marie Breneman Scott Breneman Brett Buckwalter Marian Clapper Joseph R. DiGarbo Jr. and Anne Wallace-DiGarbo LaVon Harnish Beth Herr Peggy S. and Steve Herr Peter A. Joyce Heather Conlon-Keller and Mark Keller William Kiehl Padmini Mongia Carlos Noguera and Erika Iskowitz Regina Pollock William and Joyce Smedley

Donald R. and Martha D. Turner Julie and Brad Weaver Kathy Wallace Wee and Robert Wee

\$125-\$200

Jesse Robinson Darrell Yoder Timothy A. and Margaret S. Ryan Tim Martin Barbara May Elspeth Naramore Kay Welty

\$250-\$400

Robert and Jo Andrews Michael and Deb DeBerdine Terry and Susan Blue Maggie and Michael Weidinger

\$500-\$1000

Matthew Dilley John B. and Joan E. Stipe Thomas and Linda Strauss

\$2000 and over

Pauline Pittenger Richard and Lynda Levengood

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.

Charles N. Stewart

David Strauss



MEETING of the **MOMS**

In early October, Homefields welcomed 14 moms from the Lancaster Mom's Meetup Group (www.meetup.com/ Lancaster-Moms-group/) and 17 little ones for a tour of the farm. We visited the greenhouses for some Indian corn. checked in at both Insect Hotels, and even made it to the pumpkin patches on our newer acreage! Favorite parts included hunting pumpkins, waving to the

farmers as they removed irrigation tubing and snacking on Asian pears straight off the trees. Lots of little farmer fun—thanks for visiting with us!

THE HOMEFIELDS **COMMUNITY LIBRARY**





Have books to donate? Contact us at 717.872.2012 or email heather@ homefields.org

This summer brought two new items of interest to the farm. They started as unused metal newspaper bins, generously donated by Lancaster Newspapers, Inc., and slowly (VERY SLOWLY...after weeks applying seven coats of paint, and waiting for good drying days in between coats of paint) these former newspaper boxes became our own Community Library bins. One bin currently features children's books, and the other is chock full of gardening books, thoughtfully shared by Farmer Scott Breneman. Please feel free to "take a book, give a book!"

We accept donations simply by adding them to the library, and there's no late fee—just return when you can, or put another in its place! After Farewell to the Farm weekend, check out the Homefields Community Library bins for new decorative touches by the kids of Homefields. And, be sure to join our community of readers! The Homefields Community Library will be available throughout the year, so feel free to visit to borrow or donate.

Heather Conlon-Keller, Library Steward



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

