



# home fields

## COMMUNITY CORNER

Tracey Heckel—staff person in the stone house since opening day—and Paul Hull are proud parents of a 7 lb. 13 3/4 oz. baby girl, born on October 22. Amanda Lacey Hull was 20 3/4" long and has brought new excitement to our Homefield's life. Our congratulations to Tracey and Paul.

Watch for the Homefields fall classic golf tournament, co-sponsored by Community Services Group and local businesses. The tournament will be held October 1 at Overlook Golf Course—keep your eyes peeled for details to



come.

Three Homefields' fathers—Jim Determan, Tom Strauss, and Leon Bixler—excavated a drainfield for the ranch house and day program, and two greenhouse pads, also for the day program. Residents Brian Bixler (above, seated), Ted Lyet (by the door), and Mary Determan, and board member Linda Strauss (with spade) clean the backhoe used for these long-term projects. Furnival-State not only donated the use of the brand-new backhoe, but delivered it and provided instruction for its use.

Although we haven't publicized it, Homefields has been "on the Net" for over a year now. Our web site contains back issues of newsletters, the latest information on the Harley-Davidson raffle, and more. At the time of this printing, we're switching to a more local server and updating the site, but we'll let you know our new address when it's available.



That's resident Lisa Strauss above, with her uncle Dan Strauss, who raised money for new trees at Homefields', selected them, helped plant them, and has continued to oversee their long-term care. The plum, cherry, peach, apple, and pear trees along the far end of Homefield's property are living testaments to his background in horticulture and his interest in Homefields.

## MEET A BOARD MEMBER

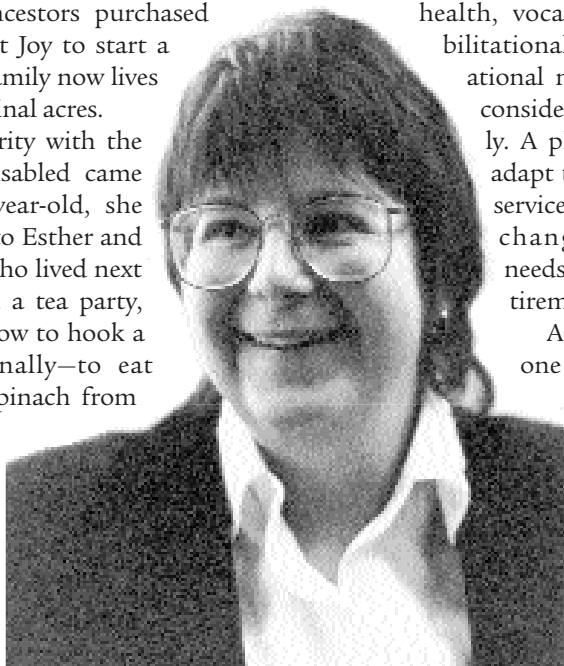
Allison G. Hawthorne, Co-founder and Board Member of Homefields before becoming Program Director of Community Services Group, York and Adams County, PA.

Education: BFA in Related Arts, Communication, Kutztown University.

If there is a person who has roots in Lancaster County, it is Allison. She traces her American heritage back to 1860 when her ancestors purchased 300 acres in Mount Joy to start a new life. Allison's family now lives on three of the original acres.

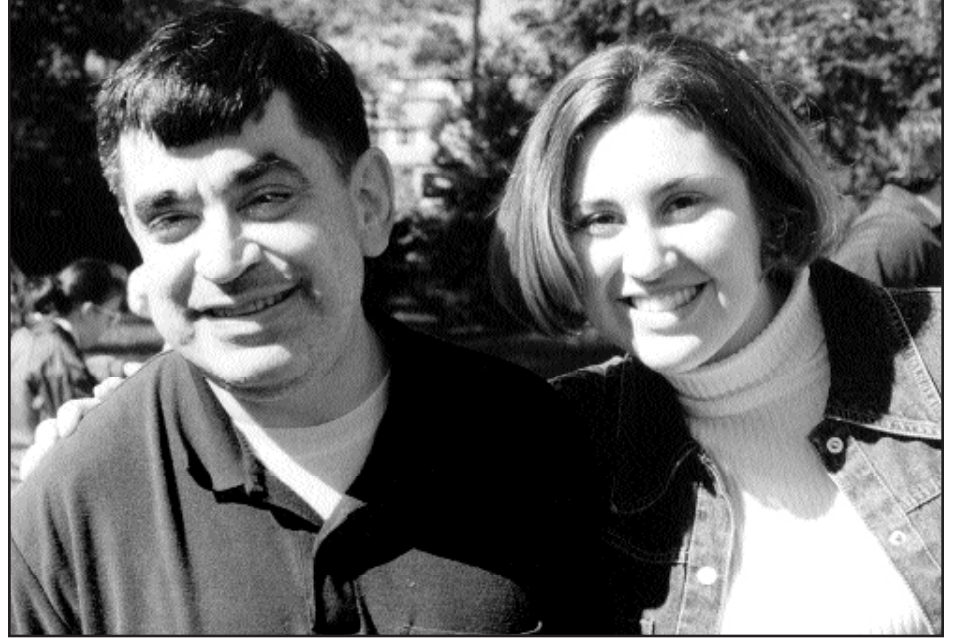
Allison's familiarity with the developmentally disabled came early. As a three-year-old, she loved to walk over to Esther and Kathryn's (sisters who lived next door) and share in a tea party, bake bread, learn how to hook a rug, and—occasionally—to eat warm, unwashed spinach from the garden. What Allison did not know at the time was that Esther was mentally retarded.

Since then, her professional, vol-



unteer, and private time has been devoted to people who are handicapped. Allison's life experiences and desire to change shortcomings in the system came together in the concept of Homefields. She sees art as an integral part of life and recognizes Homefields as a creative, holistic environment for people with mental retardation. A place where health, vocational, rehabilitational, and recreational needs are not considered separately. A place that can adapt to fill gaps in services or to meet changing client needs, such as retirement issues.

Allison was one of the first people, after hearing Homefields' founding concepts, to work toward making them a reality.



## THEY'RE BUDDIES (AND PALS AS WELL)

We are pleased to announce that Homefields is a new host site for Best Buddies, a group that pairs students and persons with mental retardation to form supportive and sharing friendships. Millersville University is the local chapter, board member Linda Strauss is the host site coordinator for the Millersville Chapter, and Andrea Michael is the Chapter President of College Buddies, the collegiate branch of Best Buddies.



Andrea Michael Sophomore, Millersville University. Majors: Special Education & Psychology Home away from M.U.: Philadelphia

Andrea says that she doesn't have anyone with exceptionalities in her family but she is one of the most special people we've met. As far back as she can remember, Andrea has cared about people who often appreciate a little extra attention. A younger Andrea, still living in Philadelphia, met a teacher who worked at Widner School, a school for exceptional students. This teacher was looking for a capable babysitter and Andrea accepted the job. Andrea grew to love her charge, a little girl who had autism. The reward was great for Andrea; her experience crystallized predilections into a lifetime goal.

During her senior year at high school, a co-worker's parent, a special education teacher, noticed Andrea's obvious capabilities. The teacher learned of Andrea's interest in people with developmental disabilities and introduced her to Martin Markovitz, the then PA Director of Best Buddies. Andrea learned from Martin that there was no Best Buddies chapter in Lancaster County, where she would be attending Millersville University. Given the direction of Martin, the enthusiasm and support of Liz Simpson, (the then Field Director of Best Buddies, PA), Andrea was set to start a pilot chapter at Millersville.

By the fall of 1996, Andrea had the Best Buddies Chapter at Millersville University in place. After all this work, she was nervous now that it was time for everything to come together. But just a half mile away were six Buddies living at Homefields, ready to accept new friends into their lives. And Andrea was doubly blessed by finding support in Homefields' Residential Provider, Community

Services Group and Supervisor, Becky Zercher. Becky, along with staff, guided Homefields' residents and College Buddies through the intricacies and complications of beginning a new relationship. Now everyone at Homefields has a College Buddy and Andrea has a friend in Victor, a very social man who loves telephone conversations and visits with Andrea. He's looking forward to sharing a train to Philadelphia with her, and he likes

frequent bus trips with his Buddy.

Andrea says, "Usually friends can't be made in professional life. My friendship with Victor is unencumbered and uninhibited." She says she's lucky but we know how hard she's worked. Thank



Here is Vivian Del Rossi in Harley Davidson in Sinking Spring, PA—has everything Vivian needs, from jeans to helmets, to enjoy the red Sportster she won from Homefields on December 14. Raffle funds will be used to develop a horticultural/agricultural day program, and have already provided for a new well, a drain field, and foundations for greenhouses.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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- Thomas Strauss, Vice President
- Dennis Steiner, Treasurer
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- Allison G. Hawthorne
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- Dorothy Lyet
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Look inside for the story on the red Harley just raffled off. Here's our third one, also a Sportster 883. This one's black, and is on display at Miller's Smorgasbord, Rte 30. Tickets are available at Miller's as well as at *Your Place*, Rte 30; *Plain & Fancy Farm Restaurant*, Rte 340; *Gast Classic Motorcars*, Rte 896; and on the Homefields' web site.

