

LIVING IN TANDEM

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Woodcrest Villa Residents Go "Over the Edge" for VisionCorps

With hearts full of courage, Woodcrest Villa Chaplain Donna Becker and her daughter Julie made a thrilling 10-story descent down the side of the Holiday Inn in downtown Lancaster on June 6. Their bold move was part of the annual Eye Drop event supporting VisionCorps, an organization that empowers individuals with vision loss.

Cheers echoed from across the street, where Woodcrest Villa residents and staff gathered, waving signs and shouting encouragement. Others tuned in from Gamber Auditorium, watching the live broadcast as Donna and Julie safely reached the ground in a powerful show of determination and gratitude.

For the Beckers, the event was deeply personal. In February 2024, Julie became suddenly visually impaired. Thanks to VisionCorps' support and adaptive technology, she was able to return to work part-time. "We were in shock at first," said Donna, "but VisionCorps gave us hope."

Also taking part in the day's event was resident Laura Griffith, a VisionCorps client for over 20 years. Though new to rappelling, Laura accepted the challenge. "Not being able to see may have made it less scary," she laughed. With guidance from Over the Edge staff, she made a smooth descent.

"I loved all the cheers from neighbors," Laura shared. "To anyone considering it—I say go for it! It's a great adventure that supports an incredible cause."

Woodcrest Villa is proud to support VisionCorps, as well as Donna, Julie and Laura who went "over the edge" to give back to the organization that has given so much to so many.



Woodcrest Villa resident Laura Griffith gets ready to scale the outside wall of The Holiday Inn in downtown Lancaster as part of the Eye Drop event with VisionCorps Lancaster. Photo courtesy of VisionCorps Lancaster.



Julie Becker (center), along with her mother, Woodcrest Villa Chaplain Donna Becker (right), discuss scaling the wall.



Woodcrest Villa Chaplain Donna Becker (center) celebrates with the many WCV residents and staff who gathered to cheer her on.

Chaplaincy Corps: Nurturing Spiritual Wellness Through Faithful Service

A ministry of presence and compassion at Tandem Living

Spiritual wellness is a vital part of Tandem Living's mission, and the Chaplaincy Corps plays an essential role in nurturing it. This devoted group of retired pastors—all residents of Calvary Homes—volunteers their time and talents with faith, compassion, and care.

Each week, Chaplaincy Corps members visit residents in Personal Care and Skilled Nursing at Trillium Place, the care center for Woodcrest Villa and Calvary Homes. Their ministry includes Scripture readings, hymn singing, prayers, and heartfelt encouragement, offering spiritual support and companionship while reminding residents of God's abiding presence.

Beyond bedside visits, volunteers lead Wednesday morning devotions in the Calvary Homes Chapel. These gatherings provide residents with a chance to worship, reflect, and

grow together in faith.

The Chaplaincy Corps' presence is a blessing throughout Tandem Living—offering strength in challenging times and joy in everyday moments.

We are deeply grateful for the Christ-like love the members share so generously. Their ministry enriches the spiritual life



Henry Buckwalter (member of the chaplaincy corps) and his wife Millie visit Trillium Place resident, Ellie Showers.

of our community and beautifully demonstrates that faith continues to flourish at every stage of life.

Hearts and Hands Women's Connection: Giving with Purpose

A community of women making a meaningful impact

Since its founding in 2017, Hearts and Hands Women's Connection has blossomed into a vibrant group dedicated to compassion, service, and generosity. Believing in the power of women's time, talent, and treasure, this inspiring community has raised over \$225,000 to support benevolent care at Tandem Living—helping residents in financial need live with dignity and peace of mind.



Resident Experiences Coordinator, Aayla Espenshade shares about Bloom Wellness at the Hearts & Hands Luncheon.

On May 31, more than 90 women gathered at Woodcrest Villa for a special luncheon to learn about joining this remarkable group. With a \$500 gift designated to benevolent care, members enjoy uplifting social events and build lasting friendships, all while

making a real difference.

This year's event featured guest speaker Aayla Espenshade, Resident Experience Coordinator for Bloom Wellness at Woodcrest Villa. Her message, "A Day Without Laughter is a Day Wasted," beautifully highlighted the joy and wellness found in connection and service—for both givers and receivers.

The Hearts and Hands Women's Connection continues to grow, fueled by generosity and shared purpose. Together, these women are creating a lasting impact and enriching the lives of many within the Tandem Living community.

To learn how you can be part of this dynamic and compassionate group, contact Kim Peters, Director of Development, at kpeters@tandemlivingpa.org.

Together, Hearts and Hands is building a legacy of love and care—one gift at a time.

Pen Pals Meet in Person: A Joyful Day of Generations Connecting
Woodcrest Villa residents welcome second-grade students from Solanco School District for a memorable visit



Resident, Beulah Jones playing an intense game of cards with her pen pal student.

Excitement filled Gamber Auditorium at Woodcrest Villa as residents gathered with anticipation, ready to meet their second-grade pen pals from the Solanco School District. The visit marked the first face-to-face meeting between students and residents who had been exchanging handwritten letters throughout the school year as part of a heartwarming intergenerational pen pal program.

The program, launched by Chaplain Donna Becker in collaboration with Solanco teachers, was designed to foster connections across generations while encouraging literacy and conversation. It was clear the letters had made a lasting impact—both the students and residents were eager to meet the person behind the pen.

The auditorium was buzzing with energy reminiscent of the first day of school. Round tables were festively decorated and stocked with books, puzzles, and crafts. A tropical-themed photo booth offered a fun way for pen pals to take pictures together, and a quilt-making station allowed each pair to design a fabric square. The squares will be combined into quilts, with one quilt staying at Woodcrest Villa, and the other to be displayed at the school.

"The students were thrilled every time they received a letter," said second-grade teacher Olivia Rainey. "It helped them build writing skills and understand what life was like for someone in another generation."

When the yellow school bus arrived, residents stood and clapped as the children entered. Laughter, hugs, handshakes, and introductions quickly filled the room. Throughout the visit, pen pals played games, read to one another, crafted quilt squares, and enjoyed themed cookies—bright yellow pencils and red apples—baked by a resident just for the occasion.

"Our goal is to help students develop an appreciation for writing letters," added teacher Taylor Holder. "They loved opening their pen pals' notes and learning from them."

As the visit came to an end, students and residents shared goodbye hugs, posed for a group photo, and lined up for a cheerful high-five tunnel as the students boarded their bus.

The memories made during this special visit will live on in both hearts and handmade quilts—reminders of a connection that bridges generations through kindness, stories, and the written word.



Residents created a high-five tunnel outside Gamber Auditorium to say goodbye to the pen pals.

Woodcrest Villa Proudly Sponsors 2025 Lancaster Senior Games
Celebrating fitness, fun, and community spirit

In May, Woodcrest Villa proudly sponsored the 2025 Lancaster Senior Games, a lively multi-day event organized by the Lancaster County Office of Aging. Open to seniors across Lancaster County, the Games encourage active participation in a variety of friendly competitions.

Woodcrest Villa residents eagerly took part—and brought home medals—in events such as bowling, basketball, horseshoes, and billiards. This year's exciting new addition, axe throwing, quickly became a crowd favorite, with resident Pat Carpenter impressively landing a bullseye! Woodcrest Villa sponsored the popular axe throwing competition.

Beyond competing, staff from both Woodcrest Villa and Trillium Place volunteered at the event, providing support, guidance, and plenty of cheers for participants.

The Lancaster Senior Games are more than just competitions—

they're a celebration of health, camaraderie, and the joy of staying active together.

We're honored to support this inspiring event each year and look forward to many more opportunities to keep our community moving, smiling, and connected at every age.



Bullseye! Woodcrest Villa resident, Pat Carpenter shows off her skills at this year's Lancaster Senior Games axe throwing competition.

Cardio Drumming Brings Joyful Energy to Calvary Homes
A resident favorite that blends fitness, fun, and community

At Calvary Homes, wellness is more than a goal—it's a way of life. One of the newest hits on the fitness calendar is Cardio Drumming, a full-body workout that combines upbeat music, movement, and pure joy.

Using exercise balls and drumsticks, residents follow easy-to-learn routines set to lively tunes. No experience is needed—just a

readiness to move, laugh, and enjoy the rhythm. Whether seated or standing, participants move at their own pace, making the class accessible for all fitness levels.

Resident Liz Lackey shares, "This class is the perfect mix of fitness and fun. I feel stronger and happier every time. What a great way to build strength and boost your mood!"

More than just exercise, Cardio Drumming fosters connection and community. Each session leaves participants energized and smiling, embodying Calvary Homes' commitment to whole-person wellness.

With energetic music, encouraging instructors, and a room full of rhythm, it's easy to see why Cardio Drumming is quickly becoming a beloved activity. At Calvary Homes, wellness has never sounded—or felt—so fun!



Keeping the beat and working on cardio. Residents at Calvary Homes, with drum sticks in the air, keep the beat in this fast-paced cardio drumming class.

Life Enrichment at Trillium Place: Purposeful Living Every Day

At Trillium Place by Tandem Living, Life Enrichment is at the heart of resident well-being. More than just daily activities, it's a thoughtful approach to enhancing lives across Personal Care, Skilled Nursing, and Rehabilitation.

The Life Enrichment team ensures each day offers meaning, connection, and joy. With creativity and compassion, they plan inclusive programs that support social, emotional, and spiritual needs—helping residents of all ability levels engage and thrive.

From bingo and birthday celebrations to live entertainment and surprise visits from baby goats, activities spark joy and foster community. Residents form lasting friendships and look forward to shared experiences that brighten their days.

"Life Enrichment gives our residents something to look forward to with purpose—the team plays a key role in their lives," says Josh Bashore-Steury, Nursing Home Administrator.

As part of Trillium Place's commitment to resident-centered care, the team is expanding opportunities for community involvement and new experiences. Their work continues to shape a vibrant, connected, and joyful environment for all.



Velma Hess (resident) enjoys interacting with her new friend held by Linsey Wood, team member, during an ice cream social and goat hugging event.



Charlotte Neuer (resident) with team member, Petra Son mixing ingredients during a baking class.



Paul Cramer enjoying some goat cuddles during an ice cream social and baby goat hugging event.

Bible Jeopardy Brings Faith and Fun to Calvary Homes

A joyful twist on spiritual wellness

At Calvary Homes, spiritual wellness is an integral part of everyday life—and Bible Jeopardy has quickly become a beloved new tradition. Led by Chaplain Mike Derus, this engaging game-show style event combines faith, fun, and fellowship.

With his warm presence and creative spirit, Chaplain Mike transforms each session into a lively gathering filled with laughter, learning, and meaningful connection. Residents eagerly test their knowledge of Scripture and faith-based trivia, sparking friendly competition and joyful participation.

More than just a game, Bible Jeopardy offers a space for shared stories, thoughtful reflection, and deepening community bonds. The relaxed, interactive format allows residents to connect with

Chaplain Mike and one another in a personal and uplifting way.

This event is a reminder that spiritual growth can be joyful, interactive, and inspiring. At Calvary Homes, faith isn't simply practiced; it's celebrated together.



Calvary Homes residents gather to test their Bible knowledge during Bible Jeopardy.

Bocce Court Renovation at Woodcrest Villa

A gift of safety, fun, and community well-being

In Fall 2024, a thoughtful Tandem Living donor approached Kim Peters, Director of Development with an idea: refresh the resident bocce court at Woodcrest Villa and improve its accessibility. Their vision included not only a new court but also a stamped concrete path around the playing area for added safety.



The bocce court on The Plaza at Woodcrest Villa now has a stamped concrete surround, which allows a safe experience for residents with different mobility challenges.

In Summer 2025, that vision became a reality. The original court was completely removed and replaced with a redesigned space featuring a beautiful, easy-to-navigate walkway. This renovation enhances safety and ensures residents can enjoy the game comfortably.

Bocce Ball offers numerous benefits for older adults. Physically, it supports balance, flexibility, and gentle movement—helping reduce the risk of falls. Mentally, it encourages strategy, focus, and quick thinking. Socially, it creates an inviting environment to connect with others and enjoy fresh air and friendly competition.

The court's location at the heart of the community, on the Plaza of the VIVA Centre, makes it a popular and accessible gathering spot for residents of all skill levels.

Thanks to the generosity of a caring donor, residents will enjoy a revitalized space that promotes wellness, connection, and plenty of fun.

TANDEM LIVING

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Featured on the cover: Woodcrest Villa Chaplain, Donna Becker gives the camera person a wave at the rooftop's edge of the Holiday Inn, in downtown Lancaster before she safely propels to the ground during VisionCorps Lancaster's Eye Drop event on June 6, 2025.

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To remove your name from our mailing list, call Kim at 717-390-4105.

