

LIVING IN TANDEM

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The Linus Project

Woodcrest Villa (WCV), has many generous and talented people who form interest groups.

One group of ladies known as the Warm Up Lancaster group, gather to knit and crochet blankets for children and adults in need. Since its initial start as the "Critters" in 2006, these ladies have created warm, colorful blankets and donated them to various organizations in Lancaster County such as Claire House, Hospice, and Project Linus.

The Warm Up Lancaster ladies knit or crochet squares and then meet once a month. The squares are given to another member who matches and sews the pieces together, making a beautiful blanket. Pat Burkhart, shared "we try to use brighter colors in these blankets because they are going to children."

Barb Saylor, one of the coordinators of the Warm Up Lancaster group, said "As I sit there working, I wonder who will get this blanket, but then I remember God is waiting for it so I playfully continue my work."



The hands that knit and crochet with purpose.

Project Linus is a national organization with a local chapter in Lititz which serves Lancaster County. Their mission is to provide love, a sense of security, warmth and comfort to children who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need through the gift of new, handmade, washable blankets and afghans, lovingly crafted by volunteer Blanketeers.



The ladies of the Warm Up Lancaster group share the blankets they have created with love that will go to those who need comfort.

The Warm Up Lancaster group donated 31 blankets in 2023, 12 blankets in 2024, and 8 blankets so far in 2025. Whether it is supporting children in foster care, assisting homeless families, or aiding families that are victims of domestic violence, each blanket is carefully stitched by our Warm Up Lancaster ladies.

A Faithful Impact



A hand-made giant whale is inflated and ready for the telling of Jonah and the Whale.

Calvary Homes residents are making a lasting impact on the next generation through an exciting partnership with Bible2School. This unique public-school ministry allows elementary students to attend free Bible classes

during their school day, offering them the opportunity to hear God's Word and learn Biblical truths in a fun and engaging way.

Each week, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grade students from Brecht Elementary School arrive at Calvary Homes, where they are welcomed by dedicated residents and volunteers. Many of the residents have a deep passion for teaching and mentoring, and through Bible2School, they have found a beautiful way to continue that calling. Resident volunteers lead worship, share Bible stories, guide meaningful discussions, and pray with the students.

The mission of Bible2School is to teach the Bible to children attending public school and inspire hope, showing them their unique value in Christ. This life-changing program operates in communities across the country, ensuring that children—many of whom may not have access to church or faith-based learning at home—can experience the Gospel in a nurturing environment. By stepping into this role as Christian mentors, residents are helping shape young hearts for Christ while also forming

deep, meaningful connections with the next generation.

Resident volunteers see Bible2School as the foundation for students to build their relationship with Christ. They believe this program is essential in helping young children discover their unique value in Christ. As one volunteer shared, "This is a wonderful program. Most of us are grandparents, and so we know what we want for our grandchildren. I would like to see that for these children who may not have grandparents, or may not have parents who know the Lord."

At Calvary Homes we believe that faith has no age limit, which is why we proudly support Bible2School. One of the most important ways to support Bible2School is through prayer. Your prayers can make a lasting difference in the hearts of these precious children and their futures. To learn more about Bible2School, visit manheimtownship-pa.bible2school.com.



Students and volunteers of the Bible2School program heard the story of Jonah and the Whale inside a giant play whale.

Impacting The World

A passion for helping others locally and around the world is what drives a group of Woodcrest Villa residents to volunteer at the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Material Resource Center (MRC) in Ephrata, PA.

Each quarter, the group works on various projects that benefit people in need around the globe. Their contributions include quilting, knotting comforters, filling school kits and relief kits, tearing apart books for recycling, and other tasks.

These opportunities allow residents to remain engaged in their community. This partnership also continues the mission of Woodcrest Villa: to enrich the lives in our community and showcase our residents as vibrant, active and engaged people willing to assist others. In addition, working with the MCC MRC increases the residents' awareness of needs in their community and the world.

The residents' faith-based volunteer work helps to make our world a better place, and provides residents with opportunities to minister to others.

MCC's Carol Zook, MRC Manager states, "Our mission is to share God's love and compassion for all in the name of Christ by responding to basic human needs and working for peace and justice. At MRC we put those words into

action as we work at responding to basic human needs."



A young boy poses with blankets made by the hands of volunteers.

Volunteers are invited to quilt, sew, and check kits to see if they contain the correct items. They also knot comforters and help with recycling which protects the environment and raises money for MCC. MRC appreciates their volunteers, like those from Woodcrest Villa, who have a desire to be a blessing. Each person donating their time and energy makes a difference!

"I believe in and support the cause for which MRC is committed to. Working alongside a group of friends makes it so much fun!" says Linda Tyson, "It's all a part of 'sharing God's love and compassion in the name of Christ.'"



Linda Tyson (back left) is pictured with other Woodcrest Villa volunteers packing boxes of items at MRC.

It's Grand To Be Friends With A Gator

Some of life's most meaningful connections come from unexpected places. At Schaeffer Elementary and Calvary Homes Retirement Community, a special bond is forming—one that bridges generations and enriches lives, thanks to the dedication of a local mother.

Jill Yingst, an elementary school counselor and devoted mother, never expected to work closely with senior citizens. Her passion had always been with children—until her mother, Marge, a longtime elementary teacher, moved to Calvary Homes in 2018.

When Jill visited, she saw the joy her three children brought to residents. Their laughter and conversations demonstrated the profound impact of intergenerational connections.

Living nearby, Jill and her children frequently visited, often bringing along friends from Schaeffer Elementary. A few residents were former Schaeffer Gators themselves, and the shared history deepened their bond. Wanting to make a lasting connection, Jill wrote a grant proposal to establish Gators and Grand Friends. With support from the Manheim Township Education Foundation, the program became a reality, bringing students and seniors together to share stories, learn from one another and form meaningful friendships.

The program holds a special place in Jill's heart, particularly as her youngest child, now a fourth grader, participates. As he prepares to leave Schaeffer Elementary, she is working to pass the torch to ensure the program's continuity. Parents

express gratitude for the meaningful experiences it provides, especially for children without nearby grandparents, while Calvary Homes residents find renewed joy and purpose in their interactions with students.

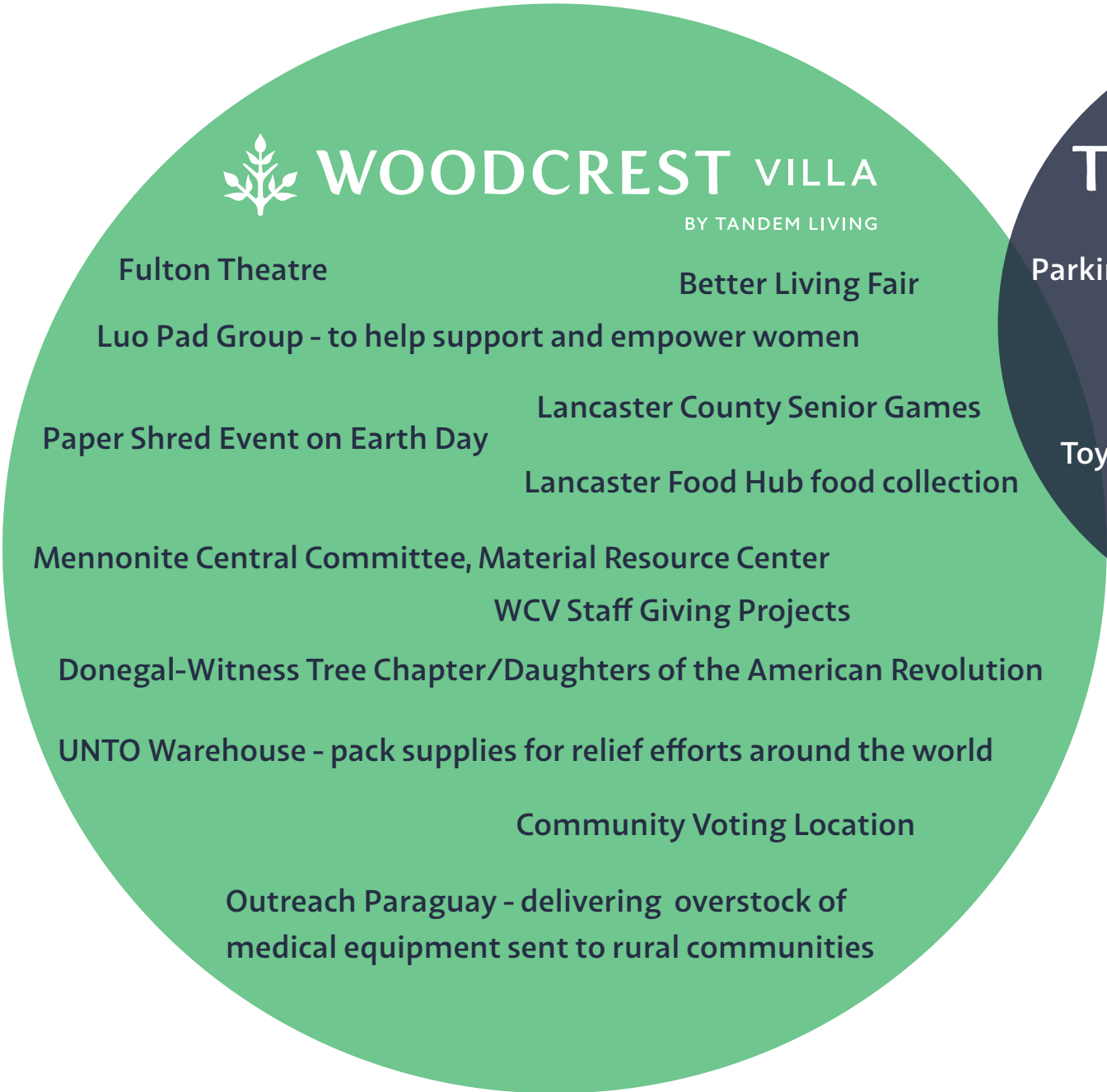
Through the love and lessons passed down from her own mother, Jill has created something remarkable—an initiative that honors her mother's legacy while fostering a sense of



Landry Yingst (left) enjoys playing games with his mother, Jill Yingst (center) and resident Gregg Smyrl (right).

belonging across generations. It is a testament to the idea that when generations come together, everyone benefits. As this initiative continues, it serves as a lasting reminder that community is built through shared experiences, mutual respect, and the joy of human connection. Thanks to Jill's dedication, Gators and Grand Friends will continue bringing joy to young and old alike for years to come.

Beyond Our Walls: Community Outreach



Residents at Woodcrest Villa, Calvary Homes and staff throughout Tandem Living, give back to our communities in many ways. As illustrated in the diagrams above, each community circle lists organizations that residents and/or staff commit their time and talents to, in order to give back to other non-profit organizations that have done so much for those in need both locally and internationally.

The light blue circle showcases the organizations that residents of Woodcrest Villa have given financially to through campus church offerings. In 2024, residents contributed **\$23,600** to these organizations.

TANDEM LIVING

n's Community Walk

Walk To End Alzheimer's

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 CALVARY HOMES
BY TANDEM LIVING

Lancaster Bible College
Bible2School
Jett Foundation
Gators and Grand Friends
Bandage Rollers
Firm Foundation Academy
Lancaster Catholic
Water Street Food Pantry
Calvary Wood Shop Toy Donations
SPCA - Lancaster
Milagro House
Spring Fling - Community Carnival
Paying It Forward
Habitat For Humanity
Power Packs
Clare House

 WOODCREST VILLA
BY TANDEM LIVING

Rohrestown Fire Company
West Hempfield Fire & Rescue
East Petersburg Fire Company
Tandem Living Benevolent Care
Water Street Ministries
Domestic Violence Services of Lancaster County
Lancaster County Homelessness Coalition/Housing & Development Authority
Salvation Army
Power Packs
Faith Friendship Ministries
Schreiber Pediatric Rehab Center of Lancaster County
Mental Health America
Union Community Care - Welsh Mt. Medical/Dental Center
Friendship Community - Adults with Intellectual Disabilities and Autism
The Nazareth Project - hospital in Nazareth, Israel
Blessings of Hope
Mountville Fire Company
Off The Streets Ministry
Hempfield Fire Company
Mennonite Disaster Service
UNTO
RBC Ministries
Church World Service - Immigration & Refugee Program
Lancaster Cleft Palate Clinic
Lancaster County Food Hub
Mennonite Central Committee

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Tandemlivingpa.org

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LIVING IN TANDEM

Featured on the cover:

Students from Brecht Elementary School arriving by school bus to Calvary Homes campus for the Bible2School program.

Living in Tandem Committee Members:

Susie Confer, Marcia Herneisen, Justin Lewis, Dan Mortensen, Ryan Murray, Kim Peters, Jess Sibbett, and Abby Zarfoss.

To receive information about living at Woodcrest Villa, call Amy at 717-390-4103.

To receive information about Trillium Place, call 717-390-7979.

To receive information about living at Calvary Homes, call Susie at 717-393-0711.

To remove your name from our mailing list, call Abby at 717-735-2647.

TANDEM LIVING

30th Annual Golf Outing

Meadia Heights Golf Club
Monday, June 23

For more information and to register, go to tandemlivingpa.org/giving/golf-outing
Questions? Call Abby at 717-735-2647

