





FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX WITH LIFE ENRICHMENT

OUR LEAD STORY in this edition of Branching Out spotlights the meaningful lives of our residents across all three Living Branches locations – The Willows of Living Branches, Souderton Mennonite Homes, and Dock Woods. I'd first like to say a special thank you to the residents who took the time to sit down and give us a look into their daily lives. You were so open and willing, and for that I am grateful because what better way to understand what Living Branches is all about than to ask the very residents who live here?

While the residents most certainly are what makes living here so special, it is important to note some of the work that goes on behind-the-scenes. The life enrichment team is truly the glue that keeps residents and campuses connected as one, and there is much brainstorming and planning occurring each day to keep things running so effortlessly.

A couple of years back, we put our heads together and said, "How can we even further enhance our existing programs and activities for our residents?"

The solution? Restructuring the life enrichment team to be able to have consistent communication and learning opportunities with one another. Annette Echanis, director of resident engagement, has been instrumental in gelling the various life enrichment coordinators and assistants across all three of our locations together to be one strong force for all residents. Now members of this team are learning different areas of expertise from one another which is lovely to watch – because that means even more opportunities from which our residents can benefit. Maybe a team member at Souderton Mennonite Homes is an experienced painter while a team member at Dock Woods is an experienced writer – now with this new collaboration, all residents can benefit and add a new skill set to their life portfolios!

Sometimes people hear "resident activities" and their minds go right to playing bingo! Well, we do offer bingo, and bingo is great - but "life enrichment" has a deeper and more important meaning to me than just bingo and offering activities for our residents. It's the idea of creating opportunities that spark joy and make our residents feel something special.

I could carry on, but I will let the residents do the rest of the talking! Be sure to read "Life at Living Branches" on pages four to eight.

Edward D. Brubaker

President/CEO

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BRANCHINGOUT

A PUBLICATION OF LIVING BRANCHES

Together we empower older adults and families to lead lives of purpose and joy, guided by the Mennonite tradition of care and service to others.

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Living Branches maintains a mailing list of people who we feel are interested in the activities, events, programs, and services of our communities. If for any reason you want your name removed from this list, please email the editor with your name, address, and request at BranchingOut@LivingBranches.org

Living Branches is a member of:













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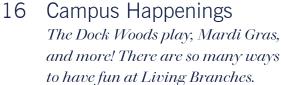
Introducing Sierra Crino, Infection Preventionist

Meet our infection preventionist, Sierra Crino, and learn how she is making a difference in the lives of our residents and team members.

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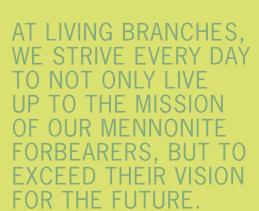


LIFE AT LIVING BRANCHES

LIVING BRANCHES | LIVE & GROW - TOGETHER

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Why? Because our mission statement is to empower older adults and families to lead lives of purpose and joy. When seniors lead a meaningful life, and continue to learn, grow, and connect, it has amazing benefits for their emotional and physical health. Research shows older adults who actively participate in social programs can learn to manage and delay the onset of chronic disease and experience measurable improvements in their physical, social, spiritual, emotional, mental, and economic well-being, according to the National Council on Aging.

It is because of these many reasons we have decided to put life enrichment at the forefront of our mission. As our President/CEO, Edward Brubaker, explained in his welcome letter, life enrichment is so much more than just offering resident activities. It is a dedication that we will improve the lives of residents through strategic planning, collaboration, and creativity.

But we're not the ones who can best explain the impact an active social life can have – let's hear directly from our residents. Kelsey Whalen, communications manager, reached out and got an inside look on what life is like across all three Living Branches locations.

PLAYS, BEACH TRIPS, AND BIRTHDAY PARTIES!

After the monthly birthday celebration for residents at Dock Woods, Ann Sheasley, Dock Gardens resident, was kind enough to take a break in her busy schedule to sit down and talk about her life at Dock Woods.

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Ann has resided in an apartment at Dock Woods for the past 10 years. While she originally pictured herself in a cottage, she realized she'd be too far away from all the fun!

"I love being so close to everyone and everything," she said. "All I have to do is come two floors down and I'm surrounded by other residents and activities."

"Life here is wonderful. I have not met one resident or employee who hasn't been nice. We are all here for each other, and when someone is going through a hard time – we all come together and help them and pray together."

As far as activities go, Ann takes part in water volleyball three times a week, doesn't miss a monthly restaurant outing or a summer beach trip, is a member of the Dock Woods Players and the bike club, and plays shuffleboard five nights a week after dinner.

"I like to try everything," she said.

After being asked about her participation in the Living Branches lifelong learning institute, Living U, she told us without hesitation, "Oh yes, I always do at least five classes. I love nature and birds so I've really enjoyed taking those types of courses."

To wrap up our pleasant conversation inside Fisher Auditorium, just steps away from the cozy fireplace in the lounge area, I asked her if there was anything else she wanted to say about her life at Dock Woods.

She said, "Well you know we just had our play, and I'm always so amazed at everyone involved and what we are able to pull off. I was the narrator of the play every year – this way it can just be fun for everyone and no one has to memorize lines. It's so great because even the CEO makes an appearance in our play, and has a very funny role, too!"



"Life here is wonderful.
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or employee who hasn't
been nice. We are all here
for each other, and when
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PEACE OF MIND, MEANINGFUL STORIES, AND NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Dick and Ginny Close have called Souderton Mennonite Homes their home for only one year – but if you ever meet them you'll think they have been here much longer. Dick has already launched his own monthly program for residents, is a member of the Residential Living Executive Committee, and was stopped three times in Apple Orchard Café by other residents and employees during our morning together. It apparently didn't take long for everyone to know Dick and Ginny!

While Ginny enjoys being a member of the chimes ensemble, Dick has dedicated a lot of his time to a program he has revamped called "On the Front Porch." Each month residents listen to another resident share their life experiences. Dick has a very organized process to select the resident he wants to spotlight, then meets them for a meal or coffee to go over the interview questions, and takes it to the event itself for residents to listen, learn, and get inspired.

"Some people tell funny stories, some share very interesting history, and some have even opened up to talk about some major hardships they have been through – and that takes a lot of courage. I am just always amazed at the people who live here and their backgrounds," Dick said.

Even though Dick does interview his fellow neighbors in front of the other residents who attend, he assured me that the environment is very laid back and cozy. They even sit in rocking chairs just like many used to do back in the day while spending time with family and sharing stories.

The program has been very well received, and Dick said he never struggles getting people to participate. In fact, while sitting with Dick and Ginny in the café, his next guest, Paul Long, walked by and Dick reminded him that he will be in touch soon to talk about possible interview questions. Paul smiled and made a play-on-words back to Dick, "It's going to be a long story."

Both Dick and Ginny spoke a lot about the idea of senior living homes and what that means to them.



"We are some of the youngest people here. We really are ahead of ourselves and did not have to make this move so soon. A lot of our friends are still in the mindset that they will never need to move to a place like this," Ginny said.

They further explained that they wanted to move here, even though they didn't need to, and that's what makes it so great – their children will never have to worry about how they will care for them between taking care of their own children and careers.

This thought made Dick recall a recent visit with his granddaughters who joined Dick and Ginny for dinner in their apartment. He told me "I work out at least five days a week in the gym here, and my granddaughter calls my gym friends my "gym bros." Dick continued that he has made a lot of friends simply by going to the gym!

As we wrapped up our lovely morning together I asked them both if there was anything else they wanted to speak to, and they both complimented Heather Scattergood, life enrichment coordinator at Souderton Mennonite Homes, for her work and dedication to the resident activities and lives.

"She told me her goal is to add one new program they have never offered before each month to keep things new and exciting, which is just great," Dick said.

And as for Ginny?

"I have a new analogy for what living here is like. If you've ever taken a cruise, well, living here is like being on a cruise all of the time. You wake up every morning, you check the schedule for the day, and you decide if you want to do everything, nothing, or something in between. There are always so many choices," she said.

Dick noted that leaving their previous home to move into an apartment was a little nerve racking at first, but his son said something that changed his perception. He said "Dad, it's like you're living in a condo." And that made Dick realize that this really is more like a vacation than anything else.

Dick also spoke a lot to how important it is for seniors to be doing things that are meaningful, no matter how old they get, whether that's attending a new program or just keeping yourself healthy at the gym. "I often run into my 101 year old neighbor in the gym. How great is that?" he said.

OPENING THE DOOR TO PERSONAL GROWTH AND FRIENDSHIP

Bob Michener resides at The Willows of Living Branches, the only Living Branches campus that is specific to Personal Care (more commonly known as Assisted Living). Recently he sat down with Christina Paul, life enrichment coordinator at The Willows, and was happy to describe his experience and daily life.

During his very first night at dinner nine years ago, Bob recalls meeting other residents who are still his great friends today. Now he repays that warm welcome by acting as a resident council member and welcome ambassador, greeting new residents with a friendly hello, smile, and introduction.

Bob further explained that his days living alone in his house consisted of "grocery



shopping and laundry." Now, he says, "I like to do everything."

A former band leader, he continues to foster his love of music with sing-alongs, creative arts therapy programs, and is a frequent winner at musical trivia. He also loves being an active part of the worship community and says it makes him "feel wanted." He describes himself as fun loving and enjoys the ability to socialize with a wide array of residents in games, trips, and Sunday worship. Bob does regular readings at Sunday worship and has even begun learning a new skill - acrylic painting!





Her journey from LPN to infection preventionist and RN through the Living Branches tuition reimbursement program and nursing scholarship program

SIERRA CRINO has been

making a difference at Living Branches as an LPN for the last eight years, but she now holds a new and very important position within our organization: infection preventionist.

Sierra always knew that she wanted to expand her knowledge and with that came furthering her education. As an LPN at Living Branches, she knew she could go on to receive her RN with the help of the Living Branches tuition reimbursement program and also have the opportunity to apply for the nursing scholarship program.

Well, congratulations are in order for Sierra as she received her RN shortly after her promotion to infection preventionist.

So what does Sierra do in her new role?

"I'm helping our residents in a way that I have never been able to before. I can advocate for them on a larger scale and improve their quality of life through the infection control initiatives I create. I am also helping protect our team members through education of vital infection control practices to keep them healthy as they work with residents," Sierra said.

Some of those larger initiatives include the antibiotic stewardship program and new fit testing procedures.

ANTIBIOTIC STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

The most important project Sierra is currently working on is the antibiotic stewardship program. This program is focused on the overuse of antibiotics, implementing a new criteria that must be met to prescribe them, and creating awareness surrounding the issue.

"This is so important because when antibiotics are overused or improperly prescribed, it makes the antibiotics not as beneficial anymore. If we don't use them properly and responsibly it hurts our entire community because the overuse of antibiotics contributes to their ineffectiveness. Bacteria are smart and can adapt, making them resistant. Many antibiotics that were once very powerful are no longer as potent because of bacterial resistance. Aside from these major issues, there is also the fear that we could run into antibiotic shortages when overused," said Sierra.

This spring Sierra presented information about the new antibiotic stewardship program to the doctors and nurse practitioners who help treat our residents, ensuring the medical professionals at Living Branches are working together on this vital initiative.

FIT TESTING PROCEDURES

Sierra has also recently implemented a fit testing procedure to ensure that all team members who are required to wear an N95 face mask are properly fitted once a year. Fit testing decreases the risk of getting and spreading infection during an outbreak, so having an organized process is important.

How do you make sure over 400 employees have been fit tested once a year? By scheduling it by birth month. "This way, if you know your birthday is coming up, you also know you're going to get an email to come on down for your annual fit testing," she said.

Sierra has made a major impact on the lives of our residents and team members and we hope she can inspire anyone else out there who dreams of a career in nursing or health care. Even if you can't go to a traditional four year college to receive your RN, there are other options. We can help people achieve those dreams and begin making a difference in their community by starting their career at Living Branches.

VISIT LIVINGBRANCHES.ORG/CAREERS/FOR DETAILS.



CONSTRUCTION UPDATE FOR

Dock Woods and Souderton Mennonite Homes

GETTING TO THE FINISH LINE IN PHASE ONE AT DOCK WOODS!

Residents and team members alike are getting closer to the celebratory milestone of completing the first phase of construction in the Health Care community at Dock Woods, Dock Terrace!

This first phase of construction was projected to be the longest – estimated to take about nine months to build the new Country Cottage and connector to the Willow View hallway. Entering phase two is not only exciting because we will get a clear picture of the many benefits residents will experience – 44 more private rooms, improved layout and privacy







"So many generous businesses, residents, and community members have contributed to the campaign, and we cannot overstate how grateful we are for their support." enhancements, and more common areas for gathering and activities - but it will also be a much shorter phase, only estimating to take five months to completion.

On February 25, 2022, Edward Brubaker, President/CEO, filmed an update on the progress we've made for our residents, families, team members, and, of course, the generous donors who have made these life changing enhancements possible. The video is available on our website at livingbranches.org/construction-updates where you will also find an organized timeline and construction updates. Be sure to check it out!

GROUNDBREAKING AT SOUDERTON MENNONITE HOMES

We are excited to announce that this June we will be breaking ground on the future Health Care and Memory Care neighborhoods at Souderton Mennonite Homes. These expansions will create a new Park View Memory Care community with 26 private rooms for residents as well as a new wing in Health Care specifically designed to enhance the lives of residents living with dementia.

OUR WHY

The two major focuses of construction at both Dock Woods and Souderton Mennonite Homes are the ability to 1. expand both private and common living areas for residents and 2. strengthen our creative arts therapy program.





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Once construction is completed, residents will enjoy sunnier living spaces with a significantly increased number of private resident rooms. Building updates are imperative, but creative arts therapy holds equal value to us here at Living Branches. Creative arts therapy has proven to help all seniors, especially those with dementia, live happier and more meaningful lives which is why they are both the focus of our capital campaign.

So many generous businesses, residents, and community members have contributed to the campaign, and we cannot overstate how grateful we are for their support. For anyone interested in making a difference in the lives of our residents and future residents, you can visit livingbranches.org/ donate to contribute.





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Living Branches Experience Returns

In 2018, we were so excited to announce a new customer service initiative and training program for our team members called the "Living Branches Experience." It enables all of us at Living Branches to interact with residents consistently - ensuring we are treating all residents and families and each other by following the TOGETHER principles.

This was a special project, as team members worked together to create a fresh approach to customer service across our communities. You can imagine the disappointment experienced when Covid meant we could no longer meet in person for these training classes.

COMING BACK BETTER AND STRONGER

The positive side to really hard times is that you see things in a whole new light when you come out of them. Here we are in 2023, back to the handson approach to the Living Branches Experience, and we've made it even better than before.

WHAT HAVE WE DONE?

Well, for starters, we've recently created a new position within Living Branches and are pleased to welcome Samantha White, director of talent and culture, to you! Sam has been instrumental in relaunching the Living Branches Experience.

After researching and evaluating the program and the different modules entailed, Sam realized team members could gain the same knowledge and enthusiasm for customer service in one full day instead of three short days. She also changed the training schedule so team members attend Living Branches Experience immediately after their initial orientation. The chances have been well received, as they allow our team members to focus on what matters most, caring for our residents.





Dear Partners in Mission:

Thank you for your continued support of Living Branches. As stated in our mission, we strive to empower older adults and families to lead lives of purpose and joy. We value our partnerships with local businesses, community members, volunteers, residents, families, and team members, as these relationships allow us to do just that.

The last fiscal year ending June 50, 2022, was monumental as we officially began construction on the new Health Care addition at Dock Terrace! Following a lovely ceremony filled with celebration and prayer, the construction team got to work on Phase I. You can see for yourself on page 9 just how far we have come since then, and we are proud of all we are accomplishing to create a brighter and more meaningful future for this community.

We haven't wasted any time since we broke ground on June 17, 2022! As construction continued at Dock Terrace, we finalized planning for the expansion project at our Health Care and Memory Care neighborhoods at Souderton Mennonite Homes. This time next year, those projects will be almost completed.

Of course, expansion on these two campuses and increasing the number of private rooms we can offer comes with a cost. We would not have been able to make this happen without the grants awarded from Representative Steve Malagari and Senator Maria Collett, and the generous funding received from donors through the capital campaign – and we deeply thank you for your support. The capital campaign is a \$3.5 million campaign with the mission to enhance residents' lives through building enhancements and creative arts therapy.

We are grateful to have spent another year alongside wonderful residents, dedicated team members, strong leadership, and many committed partners who join us in our mission. On behalf of our residents, team members, and board of directors, we thank you for your support as we continue to live with purpose and joy.

EDWARD D. BRUBAKER

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President/CEO

JOHN W. DUERKSEN

Chair of the Board of Directors

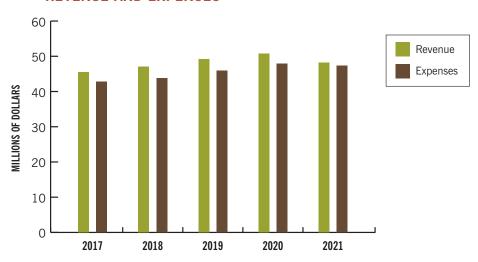
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FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE



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LIVING BRANCHES CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET JUNE 30, 2022

ASSETS

Current Assets	\$7,997,923
Assets Whose Use is Limited	126,657,031
Property and Equipment (Net)	71,654,257
Other Assets	591,224
TOTAL	\$205,194,935



Current Liabilities	\$5,099,697
Long-Term Debt	7,783,574
Refundable Fees and Deposits	24,010,126
Deferred Revenues from Entrance Fees	22,993,650
Other Liabilities	101,480
Total Liabilities	\$59,988,527
Net Assets	\$145,206,408
TOTAL	\$205,194,935

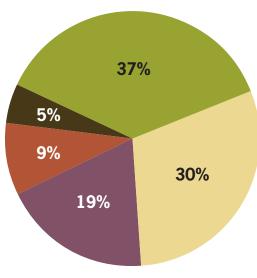


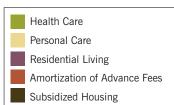






2022 RESIDENT SERVICES REVENUE SOURCES





BENEVOLENT AND UNREIMBURSED CARE

Health Care	\$3,378,602
Personal Care and Residential Living	1,459,294
TOTAL	\$4,837,896

NUMBER OF RECIPIENTS

Health Care	76
Personal Care	37
TOTAL	113

Benevolent and unreimbursed care is provided to residents when their savings, income, insurance, and public assistance benefits are not sufficient to fully pay for the cost of care provided by the organization.

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CAMPUS HAPPENINGS



SOUDERTON MENNONITE HOMES RESIDENTS CELEBRATE THE 46TH ANNUAL VALENTINE'S DAY CELEBRATION!

The Valentine's Day Celebration at Souderton Mennonite Homes has been a much loved tradition for years, and this year we added to the celebration by hosting the Bucks County Women's Chorus to perform for residents! The Bucks County Women's Chorus is known throughout the region for its fun and uplifting performances and is in high demand throughout the Greater Philadelphia area. During the last 10 years, the chorus has presented more than 100 concerts in the local region, and in 2018 and 2019 they sang at the White House Holiday Open House.

Following the performance, hors d'oeuvres, chocolate covered strawberries, and punch were available to enjoy with friends!

Each year the community honors a very special couple here at Souderton Mennonite Homes (pictured left) as they created the Valentine's Day celebration of love and friendship here at Souderton Mennonite Homes 46 years ago.



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EMPLOYMENT OPEN HOUSE EVENTS

The Living Branches human resources team has been hard at work launching hiring events at all three of our locations. We had one at Dock Woods, one at Souderton Mennonite Homes, and most recently one at The Willows of Living Branches!

During these events, hiring managers are available for on-the-spot interviews and even job offers. Of course there is also time for networking, refreshments, and fun. Be sure to follow Living Branches on Facebook at facebook.com/ livingbranchescommunities and the website at livingbranches.org/careers to learn when the next one will be and secure your spot.

DOCK WOODS PLAY

The fourth annual Dock Woods play was another major hit this year. The Dock Woods Players' hard work really paid off, as they had the entire audience laughing and participating. This is because the play was all about the Dock Woods Players returning from their tour in Liverpool, England, where they experience various road blocks to get home, including a flat tire on the tour bus!

Both team members and residents get to participate in this annual play - even Living Branches President/CEO, Edward Brubaker, made an appearance (and a funny one at that).







MARDI GRAS AT THE WILLOWS OF LIVING BRANCHES

The residents at The Willows always find a reason to gather for a party! They kicked off Mardi Gras by making masks, playing games, and of course enjoying some sweet treats. They even had the idea to crown the Queen and King!









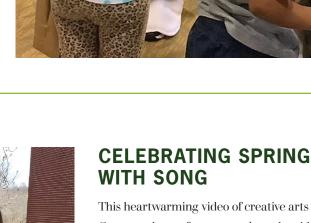
CAMPUS HAPPENINGS





EASTER EGG HUNTS, **BONNET MAKING, AND MORE!**

Easter is always such an exciting time at Living Branches, as we all eagerly wait for that warmer weather to finally set in and celebrate with egg dying, scavenger hunts with friends and family, and even bonnet making!





This heartwarming video of creative arts therapy intern, Grace, and one of our very talented residents at The Willows of Living Branches singing "You Are My Sunshine" together is one you don't want to miss!

VISIT HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/SUZH7A44-LY TO WATCH OR SIMPLY SCAN THE QR CODE ON THE RIGHT.





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The Willows of Living Branches 2343 Bethlehem Pike Hatfield, PA 19440 215-822-0688 Souderton Mennonite Homes 207 W. Summit Street Souderton, PA 18964 215-723-9881

Dock Woods 275 Dock Drive Lansdale, PA 19446 215-368-4438 Non-Profit U.S. Postage PAID Lansdale, Pa 19446 Permit No. 152

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DISCOVER LIVING BRANCHES

Discovery Tours are designed for first-time visitors to Souderton Mennonite Homes and Dock Woods interested in learning more about the opportunities available in Residential Living. Each event begins with light refreshments and a brief presentation to explain the communities and help you become better acquainted with Living Branches. After viewing 3-D videos of an apartment, cottage, and villa, you'll take a short walking tour of the community center and driving tour of the campus.

THERE IS NO FEE FOR THIS EVENT, BUT REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.

Please call Donna Godshall or Nicole Cwalina to register.

Donna Godshall

Souderton Mennonite Homes 215-723-9881

Nicole Cwalina

Dock Woods 215-368-4438

