



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

TEAM MEMBERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

EACH NOVEMBER I HAVE THE PRIVILEGE

of meeting with employees on every shift at all three communities. We call these small gatherings "Conversations with the CEO" as it truly is a time for staff to hear directly from me about organization initiatives and then join the conversation, ask questions, and share opinions. Every year as I drive off campus after the last meeting with little voice left, following two straight days of meetings with very early mornings and very late nights, I leave inspired and truly grateful for the persons who work at Living Branches.

Every business and organization has great employees: people who understand the mission and care about the work they are doing. But I truly believe that we have a higher percentage of devoted and engaged staff than most. They are deeply committed to the residents and to making Living Branches a wonderful place to work and live.

This calls to memory a scene I witnessed on a rainy day some time ago. A resident exited the building and happened to walk to the wrong car, as two tan Buicks were waiting out front. After realizing the mistake, they turned to walk to the second car, and unfortunately experienced a fall. Without hesitation, multiple staff persons jumped into action. One called for a nurse. Another ran outside with an umbrella, so the resident would not be waiting in the pouring rain. They never paused and mentally asked, "Is this my job?" They saw a resident in need and acted immediately. This is just one example of the care and love employees show to residents every day.

Our mission to continue empowering older adults and families to lead lives of purpose and joy has guided us to pursue further training for our team members related to customer service and resident-focused practices. We are calling this the "Living Branches Experience" and are working with Red Carpet Learning Systems, Inc. to develop a curriculum that will set the standard for employees in all departments. It is our desire that all staff persons would exemplify our core values and live out our mission in a way that serves each resident, volunteer, and visitor with purpose and joy.

In this edition of Branching Out, you will meet a few employees and hear their stories, both about their lives within the walls at Living Branches and their lives at home. These persons, along with many others, have a clear understanding and interest in our organization, our core values, and our mission. I hope you will be inspired by their stories as I am.

Educk D. Ben

EDWARD D. BRUBAKER President/CEO

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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Contact Branching Out at 215-368-4438 or BranchingOut@LivingBranches.org

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

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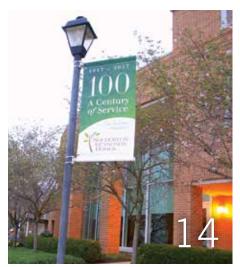


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Dedicated Description of the second of the

STAFF

you ask any staff members about our mission and core values, you'll see faces that light up with passion and commitment. You'll likely hear personal accounts of how the Living Branches core values are what attracted them to working here – and how our mission provides a fulfilling purpose to the work they do.

"The love the Living Branches staff has for our residents – and vice versa – is a tangible joy," said Edward D. Brubaker, Living Branches CEO and President. "You can see it on the face of every team member, as well as through the care they put into every action. They make every day brighter and fuller for all who live here."

In this special Branching Out feature on our Living Branches staff, we are honored and proud to highlight a sampling of our dedicated employees – and the unique contributions they make that encourage our residents to lead lives of purpose and joy.



Years of Service | I'm approaching my threeyear anniversary at Dock Woods. I started working for Living Branches five years ago at Souderton Mennonite Homes in the custodial department. I chose to come here because I've always had a deep respect for the older people in my life. When I was young, I enjoyed peddling over to my grandmother's house on my bike as often as possible, and I learned a lot about life and love from her. Today, it's an honor to serve many who have given just as much to the loved ones in their life.

My Typical Day | My day is filled with details! My responsibilities include payroll, purchasing, scheduling, hiring, training, and evaluating staff. Fortunately, as a team, we are very good at keeping everyone on the same page. I have great team leaders in the housekeeping and laundry departments – and they help coordinate all work to be completed in those areas. Our day includes everything from ensuring the trash gets removed each day, to ordering supplies for the maintenance department, to event setups, light grounds work, and assisting maintenance with light maintenance tasks.

How I Make a Difference | We get a lot of great feedback on how clean Dock Woods is – and we are happy to play a role in the pride

residents take in the beauty of their home. We also support a wide range of events, and it's always fantastic to see the residents come to the event and not have to worry about logistics at all. They can just pull up a chair and enjoy each other – and it's very rewarding to witness that on a regular basis.

I also find joy in serving as a cheerleader for my teams. I believe that promoting an atmosphere of thanks and recognition helps people feel good about what they're doing.

My Favorite Living Branches Memory | One interaction with a resident definitely stands out in my mind! When I was working at Souderton Mennonite Homes, I was called to help a resident who couldn't reach the pull cord from her bed – and this made her very anxious. I came up with a solution that allowed me to pin the cord right next to where her hand was by the side of the bed. This woman had lost the ability to speak, but the look in her eyes – both relief and thanks – has stayed with me to this very day. It always reminds me that even the smallest of details can make a huge difference in someone's comfort.

My Personal Passions | I have eight children – ages 18 to 36 – so as you can imagine, much of my personal time is spent with my family. Music is also a big part of my life. I started playing the drums when I was six, and I've been a drummer in different bands throughout my life. Lately, I've gotten into music recording, mixing, and mastering. My son went to school for it and got me started – which allowed me to help my wife, who is a composer, create some of her CDs.

An Interesting Fact about Me | Right now, I'm very interested in the smallest of nature's details. I'm a photography buff, and I love using a macro lens to capture tiny features on insects and flowers. There are so many lovely details that our eyes can't see, but are a visual delight when examined on a macro scale.

NURSING SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

By: Bonnie Scott, Director of Human Resources Development

In 2017 Living Branches awarded scholarships to eight deserving employees to further their education in the field of nursing. Two full time, two part time, and four pool employees were awarded scholarships totaling \$9000

This is a great benefit to assist Living Branches employees in the pursuit of their nursing career goals by becoming an LPN, RN, or attaining a bachelor's degree in nursing. This benefit can help anyone - full-time, part-time, or seasonal employees - to work toward their career goals in nursing. Employees can apply several years in a row as long as they are currently in an approved nursing program.

We congratulate the following scholarship recipients:

Erin Conboy

Donna Conklin

Kayla DiGiovanni

Devon Klaumenzer

Morgan Klaumenzer

Heather Russell

Kelly Smith

Crystal Zimmer

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DONNA CONKLIN, RN
CARE COORDINATOR, DOCK MEADOWS

Years of Service | I've served in my current role at Dock Meadows for three years. Before that, I worked in various nursing facilities – always with seniors. I love the

unique environment at Living Branches; our mission and core values make it special compared to other places I have worked.

My Typical Day | I begin my day by reading the 24-hour report, so that I can learn about anything I missed. Then, I get out and start talking with people – the other nurses and staff, the residents, their family members – to fill in any blanks and to put my finger on the pulse of what's happening.

Communication is critical – especially since life is very fluid here. We're always checking in with each other to make sure every resident is getting the right amount of care. To do that well, we spend a big part of our day nurturing relationships, so that both residents and their families feel comfortable talking to us about any issues they're facing.

How I Make a Difference | We all work hard, but I believe you also need to have fun at work, and I do my best to seize those moments whenever possible – both for myself and those around me.

I'm also a big proponent of positive change, and I enjoy helping others through that journey. For example, we've been working together to move many of our processes into an electronic format – which will enhance our efficiency and accuracy. I believe it's very important to be open-minded about new ways that we can serve our residents and the community – and to help each other through the challenges of change to make great things happen.

My Favorite Living Branches Memory | In my role, there is nothing more precious than when a resident living with dementia finds their way to a lucid moment. It is always a treasured gift. I remember one moment in particular when a resident took my hand with such love and gratitude in her eyes and said, "Thank you for all you do. You girls are so good to me." I carry those moments in my heart every day.

My Personal Passions | I love to travel, especially to Disney World. It's a great place to connect with family – including my two sons, who are 16 and 22 – and to breathe in the magic around us. On the opposite end, I also love being in the middle of nature. I enjoy kayaking, hiking – really anything outdoors. For me, there's nothing more relaxing than having a chance to connect with nature and to simply exist in the wild – without any interruptions from technology.

An Interesting Fact about Me | I love riding my bike! Growing up, there was a dirt bike path behind our house, so I learned very quickly how to peddle and fly. I was a pretty daring kid and even took a Greyhound bus with my friends to Minnesota when I was 16 to see a demolition derby. It was a ton of fun, but I would lose my mind if my sons did that at the same age!



KRISTIN BRAMICH
LAUNDRY ASSISTANT,
SOUDERTON MENNONITE HOMES

Years of Service | I'm relatively new to Living Branches; I started working here in February 2016. I didn't have a lot of experience in

laundry, but the team was so welcoming and willing to help me learn that my transition was an easy one. Feeling new here definitely doesn't last long, because the staff and residents go out of their way to make you feel like part of the family.

My Typical Day | I start my day around 7:00 a.m. with sorting the laundry and making sure it goes where it needs to go. With the number of residents we have, laundry is definitely a busy operation! My favorite part of the day is delivering the cleaned linens and clothing to the residents. I enjoy being a

part of their day, and I love that they are a part of mine.

How I Make a Difference | I know the residents appreciate the care we take with their clothes and linens, but it's our daily chats that truly bring us together. I have different conversation threads with different residents, and each day, we have the opportunity to dig a little deeper on the usual topic – or start a new one!

My Favorite Living Branches Memory | This fall, I'm talking a trip to Europe, and in preparation, I'm learning to speak German. Since a large majority of the residents here speak Pennsylvania Dutch – which is closely related to German – I've had ample opportunities to practice my growing skills during laundry deliveries. While the residents aren't shy about correcting my grammar, they've expressed their joy at speaking the language of their youth.

My Personal Passions | When I was a child, part of the Appalachian Trail was right in my backyard. At the time, I didn't realize how much of a tourist attraction it was; for me, it was simply a place that I built forts and ran through the woods. Those early experiences nurtured a life-long love of hiking, and my husband and I both enjoy every opportunity to explore a new trail.

An Interesting Fact about Me | I have two rescue dogs – a white mastiff named Rugar and a basenji named Layla. Basenjis are the only "barkless" dogs – but soon after I adopted her, I very quickly discovered that "barkless" doesn't mean "soundless." She yodels, howls, and whines – and she is the biggest princess there is.



EMMA SCHNABEL
WAITRESS, SOUDERTON MENNONITE
HOMES, CNA, DOCK WOODS

Years of Service | I celebrated my fifth anniversary this past spring. Before I joined Souderton Mennonite Homes, I had been

working at the Franconia Square Café, and at the time, I was looking for an opportunity where I could care for seniors.

This definitely isn't your typical waitressing job – we are serving in the residents' home, and there's a special joy in making everyone feel welcome for meals. And in turn, the residents and the other members of the team make me feel welcome and appreciated. I'm very grateful for the family I have here.

My Typical Day | I start my work day at 6:00 a.m. with breakfast setup – perfect for me, since I'm a morning person! By 6:30, we're taking orders and learning about what groups we'll be serving that day. My favorite meal is usually lunch, because of its hustle and bustle. Even though people are gathering here primarily to eat, there is so much happy chatter – and I usually end up becoming a part of more than one conversation!

How I Make a Difference | Although I currently work primarily as a waitress, I am also a Certified Nursing Assistant – and sometimes, I'm able to use those skills to help out at Dock Woods. One of my favorite things to do is to help people find

new friends. Just recently, I introduced a new resident to another wonderful lady in the dining room, and they really hit it off. I enjoy seeing people come together – and I love playing a role in making that happen.

My Favorite Living Branches Memory | I actually worked for Souderton Mennonite Homes a long time ago – beginning when I was 17 years old. In the eight years I worked here, I served as an aid for many of the residents – some of whom were the parents of the residents who are here today!

My Personal Passions | I am very active in my church in Quakertown – and that relationship offers me many additional opportunities to serve within my local community. I enjoy visiting Ocean City, New Jersey – especially in September when it's quiet. I'm a big fan of most outdoor activities – anything that allows me to feel the sunshine on my face and to witness the beauty of God's work in the world around me.

An Interesting Fact about Me | This may definitely surprise people who don't know me well... I like to watch dirt track racing, especially when my nephew is driving in the race! I helped raise him, and we're very close – and he also happens to be a fantastic driver and competitor. I've attended many races over the past 20 years, and I love everything about the sport itself – the noise, and the dirt, the smell of the fuel – and especially how it brings people together. Best thing to do on a Saturday night!



MICHELLE MORELAND
LIFE ENRICHMENT COORDINATOR,
SOUDERTON MENNONITE HOMES

Years of Service | This summer, I will celebrate my 10th anniversary at Souderton Mennonite Homes. I started as a

part-time evening Life Enrichment Assistant and eventually

moved into the full-time Coordinator role in 2008. I'm also currently on the Safety Committee, the Dementia Care Strategy Team, and the Behavioral Team.

My Typical Day | My days are never the same, and I like it that way. Some mornings begin with a breakfast shared with a small group in the Café, and other mornings start with an interdisciplinary team meeting to discuss each of the residents. I spend a lot of time leading programs

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MENTOR PROGRAM

By: Bonnie Scott,
Director of Human Resources
Development

The average turnover rate for new hires in any industry is over 50%, which means that over half of all new hires will leave the organization before they reach their one-year anniversary.

To help to address this employment reality, Living Branches began a mentor program in July of 2016 to help new employees adjust to the changes that come with a new position. The mentors connect with the new employee to let them know what to expect, answer questions, give guidance, and invite them to lunch. Their role is to guide, support, motivate, inspire, and help their new teammates. We want new employees to have a great experience in their first weeks and months at Living Branches.

One mentor shared that she personally invited one of her mentees to the employee Christmas party. The employee shared that if she had not been personally invited, she most likely would not have attended, because it would have been intimidating to walk into a room full of people and not know anyone. This story really highlights how our mentors help new employees to feel welcome, valued, and important.

2016-2017 Mentors

Lori Borglum Shawn Eagan

Sue Boyer Andrea Metz

Beth Cianciarulo Cameron Mitchell

Kris Clemmer Ryan Richard

Patti Cole Jean Waltrop

Cyrena Deeck

Brent Daubenspeck

Patricia Detweiler

like exercise, trivia, cooking and baking, games, crafts, socials, and community service projects. I also spend time meeting with new volunteers and helping them discover fun opportunities to get involved.

How I Make a Difference | My team and I enjoy discovering new ways to incorporate the residents' interests, hobbies – and even recipes – into our daily calendar, so that our programs are more custom-fit and fun. We are committed to getting to know each resident, and the stories they share with us help highlight their passions. The residents are like family to me, and every morning, I wake up excited about new opportunities to elicit a smile or to make their days happier.

My Favorite Living Branches Memory | I once took a 78-year old resident to get her ears pierced – and it was such a fun experience for us both. She had always wanted to do it, and I spoke with her son, who said "go for it!" So, we hopped on the bus, headed to the mall, and got her ears pierced. She was delighted!

My Personal Passions | My family and friends are the most important things in my life. I've been married to my husband Jeff for 11 years, and we have two beautiful daughters, Madison (7) and Taylor (4), who keep us busy with their social calendars. We enjoy spending time at my mom's beach house in Cape May each summer, as well as day trips to the zoo, baseball games, amusement parks, and local parks.

An Interesting Fact about Me | My husband tells me I should audition for Wheel of Fortune as I can answer the puzzles with only a few letters. (Maybe I will!) And, I also look very different whether my hair is up or down – or straight vs. curly. Sometimes, people don't recognize me when I'm sporting a different style!



ROBERT BUCKMAN
PURCHASING AND SUPPLY MANAGER,
SHARED SERVICES

Years of Service | I was hired on Leap Year Day in 2008, so technically, I've only celebrated two work anniversaries in my nine years here! When I started, my background was more in receiving, and I worked

in both dining services and main facility receiving at Souderton Mennonite Homes for many years. In 2015, our main purchaser retired, and I accepted a challenging opportunity to work as both purchaser and receiver. That dual role offered a great chance for me to fully understand absolutely everything that comes in and out of here.

My Typical Day | On any given day, we handle specific orders for departments, as well as fill all regular supply orders – everything from business cards to clinical supplies. Communication plays a huge part in what we do, because we need to understand staff and resident needs – including when supplies are needed, what quantities, and any needed product specifications.

How I Make a Difference | There's a lot of investigative work in finding the right products – and the right suppliers – because we need to weigh multiple factors.

On the one hand, the more cost effective we are, the more funds we have for other improvements – but we never want to skimp on quality, particularly for medical items. We're always looking for that "win, win" across the board!

My Favorite Living Branches Memory | I used to serve as the auctioneer as the annual Country Auction. I got dressed up like a cowboy and did my best impersonation of a Southern accent. Even though I can't talk super-fast, I tried to make up for it with my cheesy jokes. The residents got a kick out of my goofery – and I enjoyed making them laugh and smile.

My Personal Passions | I'm very focused on my family and in being there for my children, who are 16, 13, and 11. Time is so fleeting, especially when it comes to kids growing up, and I want to do all I can to maximize the positive impact I have on their lives. They are my "hobbies" right now, and I can think of no better investment in my time and energy.

An Interesting Fact about Me | People who know me now may be surprised by this, but I once went through a very

dark period in my life where I felt very hopeless and didn't even want to be around other people. Fortunately, I had a life-changing experience, and both my heart and my perspective were massively changed. I realized God could do amazing work in my life, and He empowered me to really love and value others like never before. Now I know that happiness is a choice, which starts with choosing the right attitude each day, and it's not always easy. Every day I have to decide that I will do my best, and be my best, if I want to make a difference in the lives of others. I am incredibly grateful for my family, and I'm honored to serve at Living Branches, where I truly discovered an extended part of my family.



TASIA COBLENTZ
FITNESS COORDINATOR,
SOUDERTON MENNONITE HOMES

Years of Service | I just celebrated my one-year anniversary! It's been a privilege to combine my passion for exercise and fitness

with the ability to improve the quality of life for the residents in my care. I feel incredibly lucky to be able to use my knowledge to encourage residents to try something new or to reach a new goal. Plus, we have a lot of fun together!

My Typical Day | Because of the variety of our programming, every day is different. We hold classes throughout the week, and in between scheduled activities, I work in the fitness center with residents one-on-one. Together, we work on developing a program that works for their needs, and I make sure they are comfortable with the exercises and machines. I also spend a lot of time planning new activities, because freshness and fun are both critical to a successful fitness program.

How I Make a Difference | There is a big emotional factor in exercise, because let's face it, getting motivated isn't always easy. I am committed to making myself available to support the residents, and sometimes that means simply listening

to a resident talk about what's going on – about their health and in their life.

My Favorite Living Branches Memory | I recently helped create an indoor mini-golf event for the residents – and they loved it! We used two different rooms and a whole lot of pool noodles to design a challenging course. Freddy Hill Golf Course provided the clubs, balls, and scorecards – and we offered both refreshments and fun prizes. About 45 residents participated, and the response was so positive that we plan to make our golf extravaganza an annual celebration.

My Personal Passions | I love running – which probably isn't a big surprise. I competed in track in both high school and college, and I enjoy the competitive aspect of the sport. I also have a passion for serving people with special needs. My mother and her best friend lead a non-profit organization called Special Performers, based in Plumsteadville, and I help volunteer at a monthly dance event for the participants.

An Interesting Fact about Me | I really enjoy modern calligraphy, and I create projects for wedding and interior decorating. I even have a shop on Etsy that's aimed at people planning their weddings. I'm actually getting married myself this year, so I know how wonderful it is to find something beautiful for your special day.

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CHARLENE ROGERS SALES COUNSELOR, DOCK WOODS AND DOCK MEADOWS

Years of Service | I've been the Sales Counselor for Dock Woods and Dock Meadows for over seven years. My husband and I

have always been involved in ministry, and I worked for 18 years at the Philmont Christian Academy – which is where my children went to school.

When the Living Branches opportunity arose, it truly felt like God led me here. By helping residents and their families find peace and joy in discovering the right home and the right level of care, I feel like I'm able to honor the memories of my dad and my mom. My work here has been incredibly healing – and it inspires me at every turn.

My Typical Day | I spend all day talking! I definitely enjoy talking – so it's a great fit – although when I get home, I sometimes don't have much chatter left for my husband!

I meet with potential and new residents and their families, and I also make plenty of follow up calls to see if I can address any lingering questions. Many of my chats are counseling sessions, because most people aren't even sure where to start – or what questions to ask. I try to figure out what the person sitting across from me needs the most – a sounding board, a counselor, a friend – and then I do my best to fill that need and also serve as a welcoming guide for our home.

How I Make a Difference | We plan for every stage of our life – school, marriage, kids – but many people don't like to think about their senior years. I see my calling as helping residents and their families understand that there is still so much living to be done.

My Favorite Living Branches Memory | I can't pick just one! I wake up every morning looking forward to coming here. I see my work before Living Branches as the "sundae" of my career – all fantastic – but my calling here is truly the "cherry on top." Someday, when I leave here, I will do so with a book of a thousand treasured memories, filled with pictures of everyday moments and faces that have touched my heart.

My Personal Passions | My two grown children, Kristen and Dave, live close by and are an important part of my life. Music is also a big passion for me. I led the junior choir at the church where my husband served as a pastor, and when our own kids were younger, we visited different churches and sang together as a family.

An Interesting Fact about Me | My alter-ego is Binkie the Clown! When I worked with the Bible School at our church, I often dressed up as Binkie the Clown at various events. It always seemed like the hottest day in July when I wore the costume – but the best part was seeing the smiles on the kids' faces.

Shoo Fly Pie

Recipe by the late Ruth L. Nice

SHOO FLY PIE

1½ CupFlour1½ CupDark Corn Syrup1½ TbspVegetable Shortening1½ TspBaking Soda½ CupBrown Sugar, Packed1½ CupBoiling Water1Large Egg10 inchPie Crust

INSTRUCTIONS

Combine flour, shortening, and brown sugar. Remove ½ cup of crumb mixture and set aside. To the remaining crumb mixture, add eggs, dark corn syrup, boiling water, and baking soda. Combine. Pour into unbaked pie shell. Top with set aside crumb mixture. Place on sheet pan and bake. For a convection oven, preheat to 325F and bake for 45 minutes. For a standard oven, preheat the oven to 450°F and bake for 15 minutes. Then reduce temperature to 350F and bake for 40-45 minutes.





RUTH L. NICE

Ruth L. Nice devoted her life to serving residents at Souderton Mennonite Homes. She lived and worked here for over 50 years. She began working in the kitchen as a cook, and in her later years, worked in the Dining Room serving tables. She enjoyed making applesauce from apples picked from the orchard on the grounds and also helped can fruit for the winter months. Some of her favorite recipes were oyster stew, baked oatmeal, and shoofly pie. We are grateful for her service and are proud to continue using her recipes today! She passed away in April 2011 and a tree was planted at the main entrance in her honor and memory.

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CAMPUS HAPPENINGS





In April, Souderton Mennonite Homes residents were invited to a special event as part of the 100th anniversary celebration. John Ruth shared pictures, stories, and historical facts about the early days. Then residents enjoyed an hors d'oeuvre reception featuring Pennsylvania Dutch menu selections. It was truly a special event celebrating a century of service at Souderton Mennonite Homes!

EMPLOYEE WALKING CHALLENGE FOR CHARITY (2)

This Spring employees participated in a step challenge facilitated by our friends at Attentive Health. Employees were able to choose one of five charities, then tracked their steps daily, and submitted weekly totals. The charity with the most steps at the end of six weeks would receive a donation from Living Branches. We were proud to donate \$635.00 to Cradles for Crayons, a not-for-profit organization that provides essentials for homeless or low-income children. In total, Living Branches employees took over 62 million steps during the six weeks, which is the equivalent of walking from Pennsylvania to California 13 times!

ELLIS ISLAND (3)

Dock Woods residents took a trip to Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty in May with Perkiomen Tours & Travel. They enjoyed a breakfast buffet at Mastories Restaurant in Bordentown, New Jersey, before arriving at Liberty State Park. They then took the ferry ride over to Ellis Island to tour the pedestal. It was the perfect spring day trip capped off with a stop for ice cream! This trip was special in that current and future residents participated.









Living U, the Living Branches lifelong learning institute, kicked off its first semester in June with a three-part course about chocolate! The first session was taught by Laurie Foote from Equal Exchange, a fair trade company. She shared about the ways her company is partnering with small farms in South and Central America to harvest cocoa. Participants enjoyed her thorough presentation and the chocolate tasting! Other speakers included B.K. Matlick, who worked with Hershey Foods Corporation for over twenty years, Serena Garges, registered dietician at Dock Woods, and Obie Ralphs, Living U Curriculum Council member and Dock Woods resident. We are excited to be offering an extended course this fall and are partnering with Widener University to bring two courses about Presidents and First Ladies!

SOUDA'S FAREWELL (5)

In July we said goodbye to Souda Chirdchung, our IVEP'er (International Volunteer Exchange Program), from Laos. She held a farewell program at each community to share about her one year journey assisting the business office, life enrichment teams, and gift shops. She enriched our lives by teaching us about her culture and country. We would like to express our gratitude to Souda for her wisdom, compassion, and abilities to strive for excellence in her daily responsibilities serving our residents and assisting staff.



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Legacy Giving Spotlight

By: Keith Heavene

RESIDENTS HONOR THE LATE KEN WALKER WITH MEMORIALS IN THE WOODLANDS

Kenneth R. Walker, a Dock Woods resident since 2011, passed away unexpectedly on April 4, 2016. He was the husband of Dawn Walker for 59 years, and they lived in Green Lane, PA, before moving to a cottage at Dock Woods. Ken was a very outgoing person and enjoyed building relationships with family, friends, and neighbors. Before moving to Dock Woods, Ken was involved in many different volunteer activities at his church, including trustee, deacon, building committee member, youth sponsor, and choir member. He was also very active in the community, volunteering as a Boy Scout leader, Republican committeeman for Montgomery County, Grand View Hospital orderly, and as a firefighter for both Telford Fire Company and Tylersport Fire Company.

After moving to Dock Acres,
Ken focused his volunteer time
on service to the Woodlands
Committee at Dock Woods. The
Walker's cottage is located right
next to the woods, and it was a
natural extension of his love for
the outdoors to become involved

in the planting and maintenance of the woodlands environs. Ken's signature additions to the aesthetics of the area were the numerous birdhouses and animal figurines he donated to provide interest and a little bit of humor. He spent many hours helping to keep the woodlands area healthy and organized for the enjoyment of the entire community.

H WALKER (1934-2016)

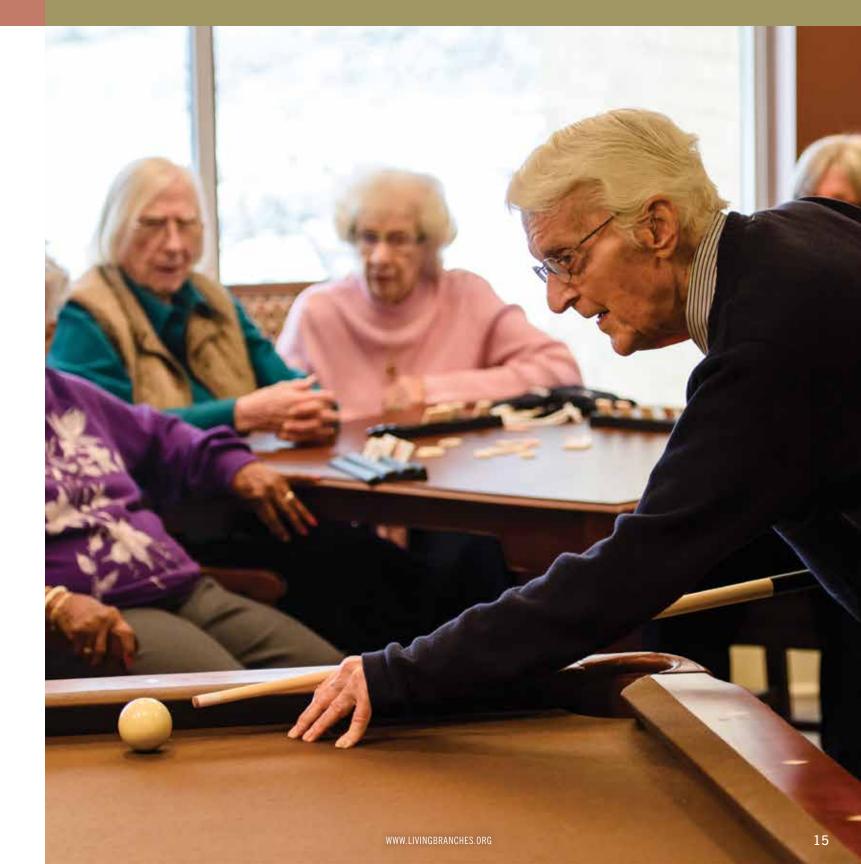
After Ken's passing, a number of residents wanted to provide a lasting memorial for his commitment to the woodlands. Due to the generosity of his neighbors, family, and friends, two items were purchased and a service of remembrance and dedication was held on Monday, May 1, 2017 in the woods he loved so much. A bench was purchased for the pathway and a tree was planted. Both included plaques that honored Ken's contributions to the Woodlands Committee.

Many of Ken's family members were able to attend the service, along with neighbors, friends, and Dock Woods staff. Larry Godley, Woodlands Committee chairperson, and good friend of Ken, presented a number of readings and scripture passages that were a fitting tribute to Ken's character and commitment. Thanks to Ken's efforts, many residents, families, and employees are able to enjoy the tranquility of the woodlands every day.

IVING BRANCHES | LIVE & GROW - TOGETHER



JANUARY 1, 2017 TO JUNE 30, 2017



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