

Directions

A Biannual Newsletter of The Hickman

Spring 2021

The Hickman Celebrates 130th Anniversary

“A Home for Friends of limited circumstances, where they might have the comforts which they could not have unaided.” These are the words spoken by co-founder of The Hickman, Lydia H. Hall 130 years ago when she and her co-founding partner, Sallie A. Sharpless, brought their concerns to the West Chester Preparative Meeting. Understanding the great need senior women had at that time for affordable housing, Lydia and Sallie dedicated their lives to opening the Friends Boarding Home of Concord Quarterly Meeting at 445 North Walnut street, on April 1, 1891. Mary M. Taylor was the first to move into the rented home, which was large enough to house 7 residents. Due to great interest in the concept, plans were quickly made to obtain land and build a permanent home which would comfortably house up to 20 women. A mere two years later, the building was completed and filled with eager residents. The early years were bursting with rapid growth and an annex was built within the next five years to house married couples or single men. Residents of The Friends Boarding Home formed a tight knit community, all were Quakers and members of the Concord Quarterly Meeting.

Now, as we continue to personify the Quaker values of Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community, Equality, and Stewardship, also known as Quaker S.P.I.C.E.S, we welcome individuals of all faiths, culture, and representation of the human family. Each individual, whether staff or resident, offers a unique mix of these qualities to make our community comfortable and safe. As we look back on past achievements and challenges, we see a connection to our current circumstances. Our past residents were confronted with the Spanish Flu in the early 1900s, just as our current residents are displaying extraordinary resilience to the challenges of COVID-19. Leadership is currently evaluating our buildings and grounds to determine needs for expansion and improvements, just as our Quaker Friends did in the past.

(cont. on p. 2)



West Chester Borough Council President Michael Galey and resident Mary Jo Launi display the proclamation read in honor of The Hickman's 130th Anniversary.

Toni Kelly Assumes Role of Interim Executive Director

This February, our Executive Director, Jen Karsten, made the decision to move on from The Hickman and pursue a new direction. We are thankful for her accomplishments and commend her leadership in navigating the numerous challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Hickman is positioned for continued success due to Jen's efforts in shaping a strong and collaborative management team. We thank her for her valuable service and wish her much success!

After careful deliberation, The Hickman's Board of Directors chose Toni Kelly to serve as the Interim Executive Director to guide our 2021 goals and strategic plans. Toni is no stranger to The Hickman, having served as Director of Resident Services since July 2018. She is a licensed Personal Care Home Administrator, Nurse, and Certified Professional in Aging Services Risk Management. As a former co-owner and director of an adult day center, she brings invaluable experience to the role. Her lifelong commitment in service to seniors demonstrates her passion for the care of this vulnerable population. Each day, Toni can be seen interacting with residents and staff while she makes her rounds. Extremely personable and supportive, she has her finger on the pulse of daily life, which benefits our community in the form of resident-centered care and services. The dedication Toni exemplifies and expects from all staff contributes significantly to the “when you're here, you're home” feel of The Hickman! *(cont. on p. 3)*

Interim Executive Director, Toni Kelly, celebrates “herd immunity” at The Hickman's vaccine clinic with Infection Preventionist, Monica Nearey.



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Newsletter prepared by:
Monica Nearey

Message from the Desk of the Interim Executive Director

Has there ever been a more welcome springtime than this one? We are not only emerging from winter, but carefully recovering from a dangerous and deadly pandemic. And nowhere are the signs of renewal more visible ...*and more necessary*... than among the residents we serve at The Hickman. Over the past 12 months, our residents have felt the brunt of this pandemic, not just in terms of illness and lives lost, but in the continued isolation that so many of us felt.

Most welcome is the renewal of spending *in-person* time with loved ones, which was disrupted by COVID-19. At a time of year traditionally associated with hope, we have seen immense progress with the vaccination of our residents and staff, allowing us to re-emerge from isolation and reunite family and friends whose only previous contact had been by phone or video conference.

Our achievements highlight the progress we can make together when we prioritize and put strategic goals in place. Throughout our 130-year history, we have periodically repositioned our goals and mindset to stay relevant and thriving. Last year, we faced challenges similar to ones we faced in the past. Rest assured, at The Hickman, quality resident services will always be on the forefront of our decision making, and like in prior years, we will rely on our Quaker values and the assistance of the greater community to help guide us to a better future.

My colleagues, who I truly consider to be heroes, and I are dedicated to keeping

our residents safe and engaged as we push through this unprecedented time. As in the past, we know much of our success depends on support from our donors. Your investment in The Hickman will ensure that we have a way forward with adequate PPE, robust programming, and enhancements to our infrastructure to continue providing quality care and services for our beloved residents each day.

I am surely *grateful* for the return of the spring season. I am *grateful* for the amazing resilience of our residents. I am *grateful* for the dedication of our staff over the past year. I am also *truly grateful* to serve The Hickman, its residents and staff, in any capacity, to keep our community prospering. I hope you'll join me in welcoming this springtime thaw, celebrating the reunions taking place in our community and across the country, and in showing your thanks to The Hickman in any way that you can. We welcome volunteers and community-based projects as well as your generous financial support.

As we prepare for the remainder of our 130th year, your gift will help us continue on the path of renewal and toward a brighter future. All of us at The Hickman Thank You for your previous support and hope we can depend on you again this year.

Wishing all who read this good health and frequent moments of joy!

~Toni

(cont. from p. 1, left)

The Hickman on this, its 130th Anniversary, is grateful for the continued opportunity to provide the finest care and services to our valued residents. We remain prepared to meet the challenges of modern society. Now, as in the past, we are fortunate to have enthusiastic support from the West Chester community, the Quaker Block, resident families, and dedicated Hickman Board of Directors, leadership, and staff. Please join us in celebrating the longevity and success of an idea hatched well over a century ago by two determined and resourceful women!

~Monica



RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT: Enjoying all things Hickman!

(left to right)
 Marjorie celebrated her 100th Birthday this past January, the same week she received her first dose of vaccine!
 Susan's smile says it all! It's great to be out of our rooms and exercising with neighbors!



(left to right)
 What a lovely photo of Lydia among the tulips & sweet treats!
 Myrtle was our first fully vaccinated resident, paving the way to "herd immunity" in The Hickman community!
 Donna is energized with exercise!

(left to right)
 Happy Valentine's Day, Stan! Always up for a good conversation, Stan's the man!
 What a great photo of Josephine as she prepares to leave the dining room after a delicious meal.
 Dick listens to music every day in our Hickman building lobby, greeting all who pass by!



(left to right)
 Our CVS pharmacy team was wonderful with all of our residents. Diana was vaccinated in a flash!
 This action shot of Mary Jo is a great illustration of the creative minds of The Hickman's activities staff.

(cont. from p. 1, right)

Please join us in welcoming Toni to her new role! We remain committed to the same Quaker values and beneficial programs that have served our residents over our 130-year history and look forward to all that is to come. For a few words from Toni, as we enter the spring season of renewal, don't miss her "Message from the Desk." Happy Reading!

~Monica



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