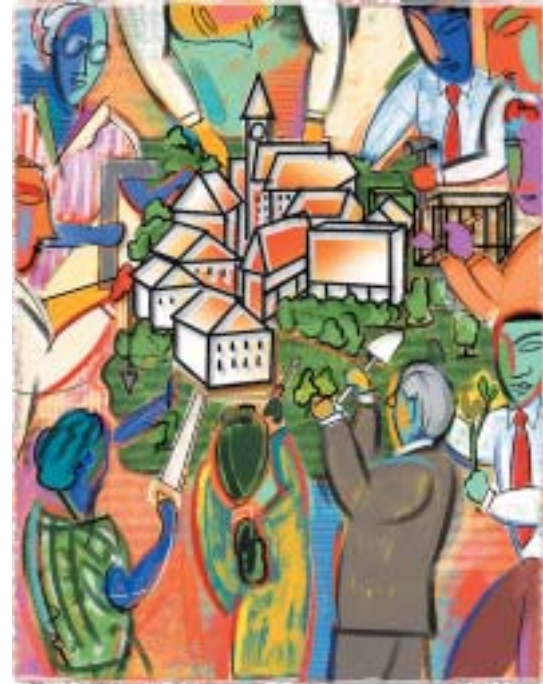


Cornerstones

Recognizing those who give to
Advent Christian Retirement Communities



*This edition of Cornerstones is a special tribute to you
– a member of our extended family.*

The 19th century British poet William Blake wrote, “Great things happen when men and mountains meet.” His words refer not so much to an expedition through the Alps as to the challenges of life.

We live in an age when life’s mountains are not always welcome, however. Our modern culture, with its confidence in technology or entrepreneurial skill, prompts us more towards forecasting and plotting ways around the mountains than in surmounting them when they appear on life’s paths.

Walking roads that are free of obstacles is good if you prize ease and calm above all else. But usually paths like that are only found in graveyards. In contrast, there’s a richness and a vitality that comes from conquering crags and overlooking precipices – the rewards of taking mountains head on. It’s that kind of journey that ends with a real sense of victory and purpose.

More than any year in recent memory the communities of ACRC met

mountains in 2005. Could they have been anticipated and avoided? The point here is, “Should they have?” There are hints that our varied operating and development challenges are part of an invigorating climb whose strains are serving a greater purpose, though the end of the trek is only slowly being revealed.



There were moments of clear triumph this past year. In Vernon, after two years of transforming its building and internal service systems, we transformed Vernon Hall to a licensed Assisted Living facility. With a renewed building and expanded services that enable residents to stay longer in one place, a goal we held for years is now a reality. In addition, expansion of the building allowed for integration of dietary, laundry and housekeeping services with Vernon Green Nursing Home, fostering new operating efficiencies.

Another tremendous gain last year came through the faithfulness of our

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donor family, providing us generously with critically-needed gift income. We surpassed our Annual Fund goal of \$50,000, enabling enhancements to the Vernon Hall renovation and completion of the carpeting project in Kittery. We received new “planned” gifts of \$110,000 from friends committed to our long-term development needs. And the most poignant gifts - those from friends whose passing released bequeathed funds - totaled \$363,000. No words can sufficiently express our gratitude for those who join us with such support - both great and small.

Another important form of support developed in 2005 with the formation of The Nehemiah Circle, a group of friends committed to praying for

“Great things happen when men and mountains meet.”

*William Blake, British poet
19th century*

the changing needs and challenges of ACRC throughout the year. Anyone familiar with our history knows of the markedly spiritual dimension of our mission. That heritage continues with no less need and importance as we go forward.

And going forward we are! In 2005, we accelerated plans for developing a new independent living campus adjacent to our current site. While still on the drawing board, Rosewood at Vernon has taken shape through site planning, market testing and the establishment of a Founder’s Circle whose members have pre-subscribed for tenancy. We are conducting further market testing and financial feasibility assessments this spring before moving to the next stage.

In Vernon, we also continue to explore a radically new approach to nursing home care. Inspired by an endorsement from key state officials, our plan for rendering non-institutional, resident-centered skilled nursing care has gained traction. We will seek state approval for the first stage of that vision this year.

Some of the greatest challenges of 2005 were faced at Meetinghouse Village. Our longstanding efforts to develop the second phase of the South Campus were defeated due to local



Replacing worn-out carpeting well past its prime, the new carpets installed in 2005 have added to the comfortable living experience at Meetinghouse Village. We couldn't have done it without your support.

opposition and conflicting opinions from two town boards. Further, the town of Kittery relinquished our historic fee-for-service agreement in order to assess us with full property taxes, despite our demonstrated charitable and not-for-profit profile.

We continue to engage the town in dialogue and negotiation over these decisions. Ultimately, we are confident that these turns of events represent setbacks and not endings.

While developing our services has been like scaling an unexplored mountain, it's important to remember that a more familiar - though no less challenging - climb took place in 2005: providing over 74,000 “resident days” (the term for one day of service per resident) to a family of seniors with

diverse residential and health care needs. And while our pursuit of improvement is on-going, indicators point to our having performed our mission well. Clinical and resident satisfaction indicators were predominantly positive for the year, capped off by Vernon Green Nursing Home winning its area’s consumer preference award for the fifth year in a row.

This edition of Cornerstones is a special tribute to you - a member of our extended family. Thanks to your respective gifts of time, money, energy and interest we can continue on the upward way, pressing on - as St. Paul said - toward the goal for which God has called us. We trust you'll be encouraged to continue the journey with us. *Great things lie ahead.*

ANNUAL FUND REACHES GOAL

Thanks to our family of donors, we raised over \$51,000 in 2005 for the ACRC Annual Fund. Fund proceeds are used to enhance resident services through improvements to facilities and equipment, and were focused on two principal projects last year.

In Vernon, the government grant that funded the Vernon Hall renovation did not include many of the finishing touches in décor that make the difference between an “average” and an “above average” facility. Gifts to the Annual Fund made the latter a reality. In Kittery, carpeting in the north campus’ Meetinghouse Wing was replaced after almost nine years. The fresh carpet has given our residents a noticeable boost!

This year’s Annual Fund is aimed at replacing an obsolete resident transport vehicle at Vernon and building up the rental assistance fund for modest income residents at Meetinghouse Village.

We’re deeply grateful for the kindness of our donor family in meeting these needs consistently. And yet, our need isn’t the only issue. In addition to gathering support, we’re equally interested in offering others a chance to get in on a secret perfectly articulated by the great missionary Hudson Taylor: “...the more I gave to others, the fuller of blessing and happiness did my soul become.”

So in addition to saying “Thank You,” we want to say “Blessings” to all our donor family. May the giving and receiving continue to be gratifying on both ends!



Every day, residents appreciate the finishing touches in Vernon Hall that were enabled by your gifts last year.



Harry and Edith Morse *Serving through giving*

Harry and Edith Morse have been residents at Vernon Hall for the past two years. For most of his career Harry owned and operated his own auto body business in Brattleboro, VT, while Edith served as a practical nurse and educator for most of hers. The Morse’s became members of “The Eleos Society” last year by establishing a Charitable Gift Annuity with Vernon A.C. Home. In the following interview Harry shares a few retrospective thoughts on their lives together.

1. Looking back, what principles have carried you through life and work?

There are several. First, I always sought to use sound principles in managing finances so that I could adequately care for my wife, family and retirement. Occasionally that involved taking risks, but only after very careful thought. Second, I always sought to respect others and act honestly in business affairs.

2. What aspects of retirement have been most rewarding, and what would you say to someone who is approaching retirement today?

Retirement has provided us with the opportunity to travel. We’ve enjoyed

doing it throughout Canada and the western U.S. It’s also great to be able to work on personal hobbies. Just as important, it’s a time when reduced responsibilities allow for more reflection on life. If I had to advise someone approaching retirement it would be to be sure they know what they’ll find fulfilling in life.

3. What was it about Vernon A. C. Home that prompted your support?

The friendly environment and the care we receive for basic needs, including social interaction. It also helps that there’s room for transition as our needs change. Vernon Home has also helped us to grow spiritually.

4. Were there aspects of the Charitable Gift Annuity that are particularly appealing to you?

It was very easy to complete the arrangement. We could be assured of its legality without resorting to a lot of paid professionals. Monthly annuity payments help with regular cash needs as well. Mostly, it’s assuring to have the confidence that your gift will be used according to your desires and expectations.

What we do

Occasionally, we like to remind our friends of our mission, our roots and of our services. As an outreach of the Advent Christian Church, we provide communities where elders can receive personalized, dignified care at each stage of life – a full spectrum of services that provides the right level of care as needs change.

Independent living

Our apartment-style housing in Vernon, Vermont and Kittery, Maine enables independent seniors to live and socialize in a community of peers.



Meetinghouse Village – Independent Living



The Birches – Independent Living

Assisted living

Our assisted living facility in Vernon provides the reassuring answer for those who need assistance with basic health needs to maintain a good measure of independence.

Nursing care

Our facility in Vernon provides compassionate 24/7 nursing care to the frail elderly.

Specialized care

ACRC also provides physical therapy and Alzheimer's care – both utilizing leading-edge methods and highly qualified professionals to restore elders to the best of their abilities.



The Hall – Assisted Living



The Green – Nursing Care



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