



homefields

Homefields Incorporated
150 Letort Road
P.O. Box #41
Millersville, PA 17551
www.homefields.org

County Funding Plays Out at Homefields

On February 23, self advocates, families, staff from agencies such as The Arc of Lancaster County, Community Services, Homefields, Friendship Community, and Lancaster County Office of Mental Health/ Mental Retardation, met with elected officials at a home at Homefields to celebrate Lancaster County's receiving \$1.8 million to serve people off of the waiting list. This was truly a collaborative effort between families, advocates, providers, government agencies and our legislators. As one elected official stated, "This is how government should work".



Back row, U.S. Representative **Joe Pitts**; State Senator **Noah W. Wenger**; Executive Director **Ellen Schellenberger**, The Arc of Lancaster County (unseen); Lancaster County Commissioner **Molly Henderson**; State Representative **Scott W. Boyd**; Lancaster County Commissioners **Dick Schellenberger**, Chairman; and **Howard "Pete" Shaub**.

It started back in the summer of 2005 when MH/MR was informed that the \$2.9 million promised by the Office of Mental Retardation was taken away and that we were only going to get \$500,000. That led to outrage by families.

A meeting in September with Kevin Casey, Deputy Secretary of the Office of Mental Retardation, was attended by 134 individuals who expressed their outrage to him. This was followed up by letters, emails, and phone calls from families to our elected officials. Penn Ketchum, Executive Director of MH/MR, coordinated many of these activities. In the end, due to the pressure from families to our elected officials and their determined efforts working with the Center for Medicaid/Medicare Services and the Office of Mental Retardation over 15 individuals will receive much needed services **FAMILIES, YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

Ellen Schellenberger
Executive Director
The Arc of Lancaster County

Strategic Planning

This photo of Homefields' Strategic Planning Committee was taken at the home of board member Allison Hawthorne's parents, Gail A. and Ronald E. Hawthorne, in Mount Joy. Gail took the photo, recorded minutes, and prepared the food for the day, including baking pies!



HELP NEEDED (APPLY WITHIN)

Board and Committee Members are needed. We'd like to talk if you think you'd like to volunteer to help Homefields continue to grow and develop.

COMMITTEE OPPORTUNITIES:

- 1. Development:** Supervise current fundraising and research additional avenues for raising revenue.
- 2. Dinner Out for Homefields:** An annual event scheduled for the last week of March. Participating restaurants donate a percentage of their proceeds.
- 3. Expansion:** To find ways and means for residential and vocational expansion at Homefields
- 4. Golf Tournament:** Organize, promote, coordinate and assist at the annual golf tournament
- 5. Media:** Manage Homefields public relations, community outreach, and marketing efforts across all media.
- 6. Nominating:** Recruit new board members, ensure stability
- 7. Property:** Meet every six weeks to oversee or maintain, repair, and improve the property overall.
- 8. Volunteer and Committee Member Recruitment:** To seek alliances for Homefields by creating networks and relationships with members of the community.

Please contact Ms. Joyce S. Smedley, Board Vice President; Chair of Nominating and Recruitment; Email: jwsmed@verizon.net Phone: 717-871-9643 or send a brief resume to Homefields, P.O. Box 41, Millersville, PA 17551



STANDING AT THE CROSSROADS

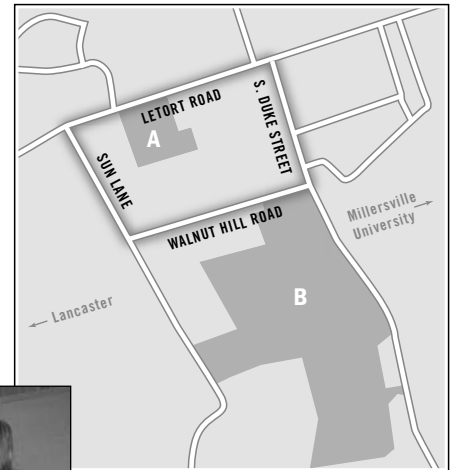
Homefields, Incorporated ("A" on map below) is a farm property that dates back to the early 1800s, complete with an original deed recorded on sheepskin. The fieldstone main house, summer kitchen, and agricultural buildings have survived mostly intact for over 200 years. Original owners grew produce and later, the fields and barn were used to board and train horses. When Homefields settled on the property in 1994, the soil was chemical-free and ready to grow organic produce. Having two homes already extant is a perfect arrangement for six adults with mental retardation. But modern life challenges this history and our future.

For one thing, the Funk Farm and Produce Market is for sale and earmarked for development. This property neighbors Millersville University and is a block away from Homefields ("B" on map). The same family has cultivated these 80+ acres of land for 133 years. It is the home of Amos Funk, co-founder of The Farmland Trust and founder of the Agriculture Preserve Board.

lic sewer are provided by the developer.

Defining the perimeter is Letort Road to the north, Sun Lane to the west, Walnut Hill Road to the south, and South Duke Street to the east. The heart of our community block remains mostly farmland with houses skirting the perimeter. A portion falls within Millersville Borough limits, the majority Manor Township. Public water and sewer has not been extended this far.

The house on Sun Lane is newly constructed and would be ideal as a third home for Homefields' residential



Linda Strauss, co-founder and officer of Homefields' board, addresses the Manor Township Planning Commission.

Homefields is a 200-year-old property but its future is in jeopardy.

Another uncertainty, we lease five acres of farmland from neighbors on Sun Lane. The vocational program has been farming this land for a few years, bringing the fields up to organic standards, but this is a tentative arrangement. If the current owners choose to sell their property and Homefields is not in a position to buy, the vocational program will lose years of hard work.

More importantly, Homefields' farm is located in an area zoned "medium density residential" (see *Smart Planning* on page 2). This means that agricultural, horticulture and forestry uses are permitted or single-family semi-detached dwellings if both public water and pub-

if funding for staff could be secured. Homefields would remain homes connected to fields.

Homefields is a success story in progress. Founding families have the peace of mind of knowing that the nonprofit's supportive directors will keep the homes well maintained and secure for their loved one with mental retardation into the future. Other families wish to become a part of Homefields' residential.

The vocational program at Homefields' farm is likewise a thriving and active business. It is here that adults with developmental disabilities have the opportunity to grow organic produce for the community as they themselves grow in self-esteem and health.

Removing barriers is the founding credo of Homefields, both residential and vocational. For instance, we're located on a bus route because farmer trainees aren't able to drive but can catch a bus in Lancaster and ride to the farm in Millersville. Individuals who live in the homes at Homefields are connected to a stimulating and interactive environment where there are possibilities, not isolated as people with mental retardation so often are. Shareholder customers (125 families and counting this year) are neighbors who find it convenient, healthful, and satisfying to stop at this accessible farm to pick up organic produce harvested just for them.

The potential for these properties combined to benefit a large and diverse community is enormous: Farmland Trust, Millersville University, Environmental Studies for adults as well as children, Native Plant development, and, of course, our programs.

Donations

November 26 2005–May 30, 2006

GRANT AWARDS:

Pennsylvania Department of
Community & Economic
Development—\$25,000
The Lancaster County Community
Foundation—\$14,000
Armstrong Foundation—\$10,000
Goodwill Industries Keystone Area
Foundation—\$5,000

GIFTS:

The Pilot Club of Lancaster, Inc.—\$200

\$10,000–\$5,000

Mrs. Dorothy L. Lyet, \$2,569.71 for
carpeting and vinyl at stone and
ranch houses
General Fund: \$3,000 ranch house /
\$3,000 stone house

\$100–\$499

Jane Shipe Dunlop
Determan Equipment Company,
James Determan
Dennis E. Weber
*Jeffrey A. and Debra A. Gast
Joyce S. Smedley
*Robert E. Trostle
Saint Mark's United Methodist
Church

\$99–\$10

*John Gregory
Beth Herr
William and Judith Koenig
G. Benjamin and Cherie Dillow
Dorothy M. Rebman
James and Cora Gingrich
Hershey Groff, Jr.
Merle and Rick Weismer
James B. and Sharon S. Roberts
Brandt D. Schuller

UNITED WAY:

Albert Duncan, \$520
Steve Gainer, \$52.00
Dorothy L. Lyet: \$1,000

IN-KIND:

*James W. Apple—endowment
Barley Snyder LLC, Attorneys at Law—
courtesy discount
Leon Bixler—Irrigation system
trenching
*Nabil Bouanane—office wiring
Scott Breneman—trees
Sam Brenna—office labor and
materials
*Jay R. Bucher—advice
James Determan—office construction
and irrigation system trenching
Dutch Haven
*Dutch Indoor Village—golf
tournament prizes
*Fabral, Lancaster—office roof
*Gail Hawthorne—strategic planning
minutes and hosting
Justin Nolt—Property
Gary Norton—cedar
Carolyn Semedo-Strauss—material
support and web
Reed Semedo-Strauss—web design
David Strauss—print design
TES, Inc.
*James Thomas—property
*Philip Trimble—property
*Denny Weber—office construction
Willow Valley
*Joseph Ziegler—office dismantling,
construction and Duke St. house
repairs

Special Thank You to Homefields'
board members who donated many
hours of labor toward completing the
office project.

* Indicates new donor or new level of
giving

“Homefields is a wonderful place
of opportunity, independence and
promise and now more so because
of the wonderful adaptive use made
of the historic barn facilities on
site. The Historic Preservation Trust
congratulates the Homefields family
for its efforts to incorporate practical
function for residents, volunteers and
staff with these signature facilities
while maintaining the aesthetics of
Lancaster's agricultural architec-
ture. As the surrounding landscape
changes to accommodate modern
development, Homefields has stayed
true to its roots through its preserva-
tion efforts. We wish you continued
success in maintaining the quality
of programs and those architectural
symbols that help to define the es-
sence of Homefields.”

Tim Smedick
Executive Director
Historic Preservation Trust

Building a Future, Preserving the Past



The total cost of construction as of this
writing is approximately \$35,000. An
equal sum has been donated to the
project in volunteer labor and donated
materials. The result is a handcrafted
timber frame building that accurately
reflects the past, this community's
altruistic spirit, and a solid promise
of another 200 years of good work to
come.

The major project at hand this year has been to
build an office for Homefields at Homefields.
With an office, volunteers will be able to
interface, work efficiently, and effectively
implement strategic planning. Communication
and outreach will be opened to a broader
public; the future secured with new volunteer
interest and participation.



Pilot Club of Lancaster, Inc. Improves Lives

Pilot Club of Lancaster volunteers, who
are dedicated to creating an awareness
and prevention of brain disorders and
to improving communities, donated
\$200 to Homefields, Inc. on March
8. Amy Gaston, club member, invited
Homefields' representative Linda Strauss
to attend a meeting at the Conestoga
County Club. Linda presented an
informative overview of the people and
programs at Homefields in Millersville
and accepted the gift.

Pilot International was founded and
chartered in 1921 as an international
service organization. The riverboat pilots
of the early 1900's are the inspiration
for the name. These pilots were admired
for their ability to steer a “true course”
through challenging conditions and
obstacles.

The Pilot Club's focus on brain-re-
lated disorders perfectly compliments
Homefields' service to adults who have
intellectual disabilities.



Grants

The Pennsylvania Department of Com-
munity & Economic Development ap-
proved a single application for assistance
submitted by Homefields in December
2005 “for restoration of existing build-
ing to an office”. A grant of \$25,000
will be released following a review of
compliance.

The award is an avenue toward open-
ing the door to an office for Homefields,
which will directly lead to a larger room
of opportunities for adults with special
needs in Lancaster County.

Note: Homefields previously received
awards of \$14,000 from The Lancaster
County Community Foundation and
\$10,000 from the Armstrong Founda-
tion to assist in the restorative reuse of
two small, connected original buildings
into an office space.



Manor Township County Planning Commissioners **Donald Witmer, James A. Miller, Jr., John R. Ahlfeld, James Henke, and Beth Herr** hear Homefields' co-founder Linda Strauss. Not shown: **Mary Glazier and Scott H. Haverstick.**

Outsmarted by Smart Planning

The County Planning Commission submitted a plan for Smart Growth* and set its tone
and directives, but it is the Townships that must grapple with individual issues.
One consequence of Smart Growth planning is that developer speculators who enter
into limited partnerships are buying all available properties within the designated growth
zones. Many of these properties are small farms. A price for the land is agreed upon and
then the seller receives a certain percentage of each house sold. The more houses built,
the more profit for the seller and developer. Opportunities for imaginative alternatives or
individual homebuilders have all but disappeared
and been out-priced by intense competition.

*Exceptions must
be recognized and
Homefields is one
of them.*

Land similarly developed by a few in one
area and land-farmed by many in the other
with no exceptions or blending is creating
segregated and homogeneous communities.

Homefields has been and continues
to be directly impacted by this trend. In
2000, a neighboring 14-acre farm property
(at 128 Letort Road, between Letort Road
and Walnut Hill Road), was offered for sale.

Planning for the future, Homefields' board of
directors offered \$5,000 to the owner and asked
for a year to raise the entire purchase price. The offer and opportunity was refused.

Instead, a developer and engineering firm entered into a contract for the property and
presented plans to the Manor Township Planning Commission to build 32 single-family
residences on this farm. Thus far, building has not occurred because of the limitations
of the property. Homefields' directors are concerned about environmental consequences
and, once farmland is developed, it is gone forever.

Don't get us wrong: As an operating principal, Smart Planning is indisputable. Serving
areas close to cities and boroughs with public water and sewer in anticipation of greater
development density is logical. The Lancaster County Planning Commission should be
applauded for pointing the way to avoiding sprawl.

But exceptions must be recognized and Homefields is one of them.

Linda Strauss, co-founder and officer of Homefields' board, approached contiguous
landowners and other neighbors to discuss the impending housing development and
to seek a zoning change. Twenty-four neighbors signed a petition to rezone to a lower
designation if the current developer lost interest. Linda read a narrative she had written
before the Manor Township Planning Commission on February 13, 2006. Neighbors,
board members, shareholders, partners of Homefields filled the room in support of
protecting the land. Linda opened the floor for others to speak before the Commission
in March, thus making the issues a matter of public record.

Homefields homes and farm business, people with special needs remaining within
their community, and the preservation of neighboring farmland are ideals worth fighting
for and investing in.

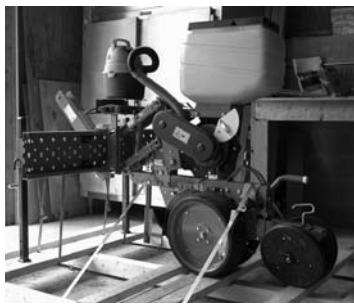
*Note: In 2003, the Lancaster County Planning Commission adopted a Growth Manage-
ment element to its Comprehensive Plan for the county. The plan, called “Smart Growth”,
designates which areas of Lancaster County are to be developed over the next 20 years. The
idea is to contain land development. Boundaries, known as Urban Growth Areas and Vil-
lage Growth Areas, have been mapped out. Manor Township, where Homefields is located,
falls within one of the 13 Urban Growth Areas.

Goodwill Foundation Approves \$5,000 for Homefields

Goodwill Industries Keystone Area Foundation approved a grant request and awarded \$5,000 to Homefields in January. The grant is to be used for operating support of Homefields, Incorporated.

Goodwill Industries Keystone Area Foundation is a newly formed avenue of support and generosity. Mr. Ron Kratofil, CEO, Goodwill Industries Keystone Area and Ms. Ellen M. Smyk, MPA, Senior Vice President of Marketing and Development extended an invitation to Homefields' Board of Directors to apply for the grant.

Homefields Supports Goodwill



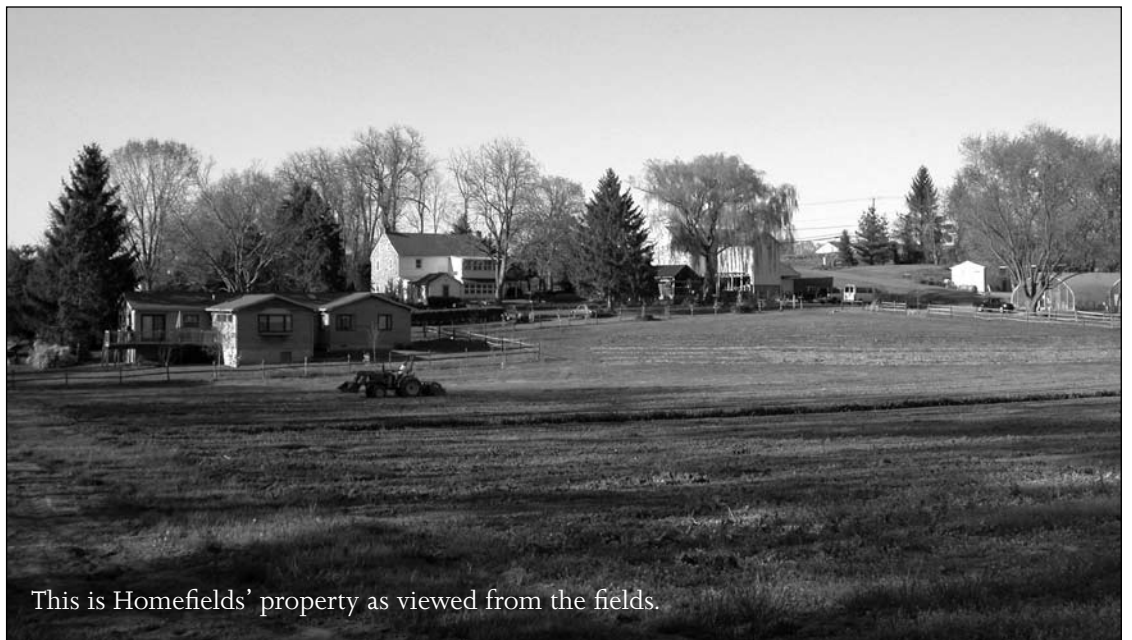
While frost was still on the pumpkins, Scott Breneman, Farm Manager, Goodwill, presented Homefields' directors with a list of equipment needs and wishes for the vocational program, Goodwill at Homefields. Prioritized as urgent were an Irrigation System (\$1020) and Precision Seeder (\$2150). Both requests were granted.

The Irrigation System involves 7 hydrants, hose, trencher rental, backhoe, and a plumber's skills. Hoses were buried and connected to hydrants to carry water to all fields plus the neighboring leased land. Costs exceeded the estimate.

The Precision Seeder is a metered tool used to place any size seed precisely at given intervals. No seed is wasted, spacing is accurate, and no thinning is needed (a challenging task for the trainees). The seeder arrived mid-May.

Scott's list continued... 1). Mulch Layer; 2). Harvest Buggy; 3). Ergonomic Prone Harvester for Multiple Users; 4). 3-point Mounted Sprayer; 5). Hay Rake; 6). Flatbed Wagon; 7). Drop Spreader. Total estimated cost of tools and equipment: \$9,285.

The driveways, both vocational and residential, are also in need of an overlay. Cost estimate vocational: \$9,528.00. Your gifts directed to Homefields, P.O. Box 41, Millersville, PA 17551, helps pave the way.



This is Homefields' property as viewed from the fields.



RIDING OUT THE STORM

Kevin Lowe and his family left their home in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana in June 2005 to vacation in Lancaster County. Kevin has a charitable spirit that is always looking

for a worthy cause. When he read about Homefields' dedication to serving adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, he decided to buy a few Harley-Davidson raffle tickets to help raise funds. The rest is Kevin's story to tell:

My mailing address has changed since Hurricane Katrina as I have had to relocate and the new address is Belle Chasse, LA. I'm 47 years old, married and have two children and I work for the local power company, which is Entergy for over 26 years. I love motorcycles and love to get together with friends and ride. On August 29, 2005 when Hurricane Katrina hit Plaquemines Parish it flooded most of the lower end of the Parish, including my home, which was totally demolished along with my 2003 Anniversary 1200 Custom Harley Davidson which was silver and black. I was very surprised and delighted to receive the news today about winning the raffle.

Thanks, Kevin

Kevin lost everything he owned in Louisiana but won a blue, factory new Sportster 883 Custom with ticket number #620. The 11th annual Harley-Davidson raffle drawing was held on February 13, 2006 at 150 Letort Road, Millersville.

See the form below to buy your chances to win a red XLH 883 Custom Sportster Harley-Davidson or go online to www.homefields.org. For twelve years, funds raised through Homefields' Harley raffle have been changing lives one bike at a time.

United Way of Lancaster County Campaign

The United Way of Lancaster County 2005 Campaign announced a designation of \$3,930.00 to Homefields. An additional \$1,000.00 was added to the drive by board member Dorothy L. Lyet.

Contributors listed on the United Way report were: Mr. Albert Duncan, \$520.00, and Mr. Steven Gainer, \$52.00; \$3,358 was pledged by anonymous donors.

To every philanthropic friend who has endorsed the work accomplished by Homefields' volunteers, thank you! The property on Letort Road, once a horse farm, is now intensely used by adults with special needs, the beneficiaries.

Homefields is not a United Way agency. It is necessary to designate Homefields as the recipient of your gift in the "Special Care" or "Optional Giving Choices" section of the United Way enrollment form.

Upcoming Events

HARLEY-DAVIDSON MOTORCYCLE RAFFLE

MODEL: XLH 883 CUSTOM SPORTSTER

WHEN: FEBRUARY 11, 2006 (Drawing held at Homefields)

\$5.00 donation per ticket

Please fill out the enclosed form and mail it to: Homefields, P.O. Box 41, Millersville, PA 17551 or Purchase tickets online at www.homefields.org

"PERFECT 10" GOLF TOURNAMENT

DATE: Friday, September 22, 2006

WHERE: Crossgates Golf Course, Millersville

New

Two Shotgun Starts—7:00 am start and 12:30 pm start OR

Stay and Play All Day, all meals included—\$120

Single tournament golfer registration fee—\$75

6:00 am registration for morning tournament

11:30 am registration for afternoon tournament



Breakfast—6:00 am—7:00 am

Lunch—11:30 am—12:30 pm

Dinner—5:00 pm

Lunch and Dinner provided by Plain & Fancy Farm, a 10-year sponsor

Homefields is an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization providing homes for people who have mental retardation, and is a benevolent landlord to an organic cooperative farm program that provides job training for adults with special needs. All proceeds from a Homefields' event benefit Homefields, Inc.

Raffle and Donations

forms also available online at www.homefields.org

Yes, I'd like to help Homefields with my tax-deductible contribution:

___ \$25 ___ \$50 ___ \$100 ___ Other

Please send me ___ tickets for the Harley-Davidson raffle at \$5 each.

Total enclosed \$ _____

Your Information:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

email address _____

Method of Payment:

Check MasterCard Visa Discover/Novus American Express

Card # _____ Exp. Date ____/____

Signature _____

PLEASE ADD ME TO YOUR MAILING LIST

PLEASE REMOVE ME FROM YOUR MAILING LIST



Field Fare

The farm program is planting away in preparation for the seventh season of operation. It exists to provide training in farming and horticulture as well as a meaningful work opportunity for people with disabilities. In order to support

this mission, the farm program sells memberships, known as "shares" to anyone in the community who would like to eat garden-fresh, chemical free produce and support what we are doing here.

It is easy to see how the farm improves the quality of life for the trainees here: spirits are lifted, we find ourselves losing the "winter 15," new skills are learned, and trainees feel a sense of ownership of the progression of things here on the farm. It is a great thing to be a part of, and we are glad for your support and enthusiasm for what we are doing.

Scott Breneman
Farm Manager,
Goodwill at Homefields' Farm

It is never too late to buy a share of produce, tell a friend, give a gift and support the people who work at the farm. **2006-07 SEASON SOLD OUT! WAITING LIST AVAILABLE.** Full Share \$550 • Half Share \$250. Organic produce distributed weekly from June–Nov.; Sat. charge.

For information (717) 871-3110 or sbreneman@yourgoodwill.org
Proceeds benefit Goodwill Industries Keystone Area



Blueberry Drizzle Salad

Ingredients:
2 tablespoons sliced almonds
2 cups blueberries
2 tablespoons sugar
1 tablespoon water
2 tablespoons lemon juice
¼ cup olive oil
1 clove garlic
1 tablespoon Dijon mustard

Method:

- Simmer blueberries with 1 tablespoon or sugar and 1 tablespoon of water until syrupy consistency is achieved. Let cool.
- To make dressing: combine lemon juice, olive oil, garlic, 1 tablespoon sugar, and Dijon mustard. Mix well.
- Pour cooled blueberries and dressing over mixed greens.
- Sprinkle with almonds and serve.

Homefields Mission Statements

RESIDENTIAL To create financially secure, long-term homes for adults with mental retardation in safe, family-like settings where there is respect for the individual in a holistic sense, and fun and creativity are revered as basic human needs.

VOCATIONAL To provide agricultural/horticultural facilities for individuals who prosper with supported employment, to nurture integration through community interaction, and to cultivate a spirit of volunteerism within our community.

Board of Directors

Christian R. Herr, Jr., PRESIDENT
Joyce S. Smedley, VICE PRESIDENT
Linda Strauss, SECRETARY
Dennis Dougherty, TREASURER
Allison G. Hawthorne
Cindy Ledwith
Dorothy L. Lyet
Thomas E. Strauss
Denise Ziegler

Honorary Board

James Determan

Cast of Characters

Here are some of the people you may meet on any given day at Homefields' property (left to right). **Victor Lyet** (resident) and **Brian Bixler** (resident and farmer trainee), **Eric Rooney** (farmer trainee), **MaryBeth Determan** (resident) and **Glenn Weaver** (farmer trainee).



Non-Profit Organ.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Lancaster, PA
Permit No. 1928

ISSUE TWENTY · JULY 2006

Homefields
150 Letort Road
P.O. Box #41
Millersville, PA 17551



Lisa Strauss and Ted Lyet, two of Homefields' residents, bask on the steps of the ranch house.