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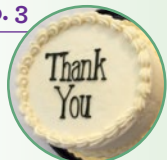
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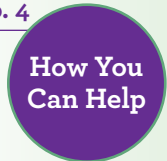
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## Homefields Care Farm by the Numbers 2018

37	Number of independent volunteers at farm
35	Number of supported volunteers
1,184	Number of hours for independent volunteers
849	Hours for supported volunteers
7	Farm jobs
154	CSA farm shares sold
3	Community work days
1	Open Barn

## 2019 Priorities, Homes and Fields

- New Gator
- Golf cart
- Equipment shed
- Ranch house roof
- Stone house painting



Reskinning greenhouse #1: Shout out to Harry Edwards (far right). We could not have done it without your expert guidance! Rimol Greenhouse Systems, Inc., rimolgreenhouses.com



## FINDING A FRIEND

Jason lives in the stone house. I've known him for the past three years. He is a quiet and meticulous young man who takes pride in his appearance as well as keeping his room and home well ordered. Knock on the door of the stone house and it is Jason who comes to welcome you as a guest and announce your arrival. "Helpful" is the word to describe Jason.

Housemate Victor has become a best friend. He and Jason participate in most activities together such as going to see live plays, bowling, choosing to dance or simply to observe at coffee house where peers gather biweekly to socialize. Special for Jason is a summer respite at Black Rock Retreat camp, Quarryville.

Mornings find Jason in the residential van traveling to work at Ephrata Area Rehabilitation Services. Always a hard worker, he gets a little



upset when there is no work at the program. He takes pride in receiving a paycheck, enjoying a life with purpose, and in his supported independence at Homefields.

—NICOLE,  
Residential Supervisor

## MEET OUR SON JASON

We adopted Jason when he was two years old. Our first birth child was born in March of 1975. Jason arrived in August of 1975 which was quite an adjustment considering that I am an only child. Of course our daughter wasn't doing any milestones like walking and such so it was doubly difficult with Jason. He has Cerebral Palsy and wasn't walking or talking or even potty trained at this point.



wash basket and retrieve the laundry, not just get it from the line but also have it folded and ready for me to sort. He would always follow me around the house.

About 12 years ago we thought it was time to get his name on the list for a group home. Not long after that we received

word that he was accepted at Homefields. I was ready but at the same time I was sad to see my child leave the nest. It has been the best decision

We enrolled Jason at Easter Seals and it was the best decision although it meant trips to Lancaster three days a week. Everyone was very helpful and life continued. Jason is and has always been a wonderful child. He finally learned to walk and talk with lots of help from Easter Seals and our working daily on routine things. He was always a happy child and bonded quite well with our daughter. They played their own little games laughing and being happy.

Jason was extremely helpful to all of us around the house. He learned many responsibilities such as setting the dinner table, drying dishes, taking compostable garbage to the garden, getting the mail from the garage and even hanging clothes on the clothesline. Whenever it looked like it would rain Jason would go out with the



ever. He has grown so much living there. And yes I survived his leaving. Now he loves to come visit with us for a variety of activities. Jason is a quiet young man who likes things as they are. Through all of our family additions and life changes he has been a trooper with accepting change. The world could take a lesson from his cheerfulness and willingness to help.

—JASON'S ADOPTIVE PARENTS



### Contact Us

717.872.2012  
info@homefields.org

### Board of Directors

Thomas E. Strauss, President  
Allison G. Hawthorne, Vice Pres.  
Andy Hirschmann, Treasurer  
Matt Dilley  
Beth Herr  
Bruce Sullenberger  
Carol Welsh

### Honorary Board

James Determan

### Non-elect Members

Katie Landis, Farm Manager  
Elizabeth Swope, Farm Supervisor  
Liz Snyder, Program Manager,  
Community Services Group  
Tracy Beck, Office Manager

Linda Strauss, Photography  
Dave Strauss, Design

### RESIDENTIAL MISSION:

To create financially secure, long-term homes for adults with special needs 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 MISSION:

To provide vocational opportunities that are integrated, therapeutic, and where individuals with or without a disability grow together; to cultivate volunteerism within our community.

The official registration statement and financial information of Homefields may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1 (800) 732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.





You may have noticed a recent tweak to the CSA Farm identifier, to better describe what we do at Homefields. "A care farm utilizes the whole or part of a farm to provide health, social or educational care services for one or a range of vulnerable groups of people, providing a supervised, structured program of farming-related activities, rather than occasional one-off visits." This is from the U.S. National Library of Medicine, and we thought that pretty well described what Homefields Care Farm has been doing for almost 20 years.

Homefields began as a place where adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities could live and call home. After the two homes opened in 1994 and 1995 we turned our attention to the remaining acreage and farm buildings.

In October 1995 we invited Lancaster County vocational training providers to our farm, offering them an opportunity to build a place where adults with disabilities and other barriers to traditional employment could work and learn.

Goodwill Keystone Area and Homefields worked together from

1996 through 1999 to develop a business plan. In 2000 Goodwill @ Homefields opened as a farmer trainee program on Homefields' land to provide their employees with a fresh and new vocational opportunity while working in support of community and Homefields' vision. In 2017, Goodwill changed organizational direction and withdrew from the farm.

Homefields was founded as and remained an all-volunteer organization for 19 years. Upon Goodwill's departure, we rose to the challenge and became an employer while sustaining our mission and community that depends on the produce, relationships, activities, and established good will found here.

Last summer a few of us attended the inaugural Mid-Atlantic Care Farm Summit at Red Wiggler Community Farm, Maryland. We returned to Millersville inspired and energized to learn there are other farming endeavors similar to ours where people with or without a disability may flourish together.

Over the winter, we contemplated the 2019 season. Since Homefields is already a place where adults with disabilities and other support needs can learn new skills and experience the benefits of being in nature, and where some folks call home, we embraced the identity Homefields Care Farm.

## 23RD ANNUAL FALL CLASSIC GOLF TOURNAMENT

SEPTEMBER 20, 9:00 START

Of course you know that your friends at Homefields always are active at raising funding for their outstanding programs. At the same time, we are anxious to offer activities to meet a variety of needs and interests. Our golfing friends are not forgotten in this quest. We are now into our third decade of providing a very special day on the links with our 23rd Annual Fall Classic Golf Tournament.

For our 23rd effort this year, we are inviting folks to join us again at Crossgates Golf Club in Millersville for a 9:00 shotgun start on Friday, September 20, 2019. Breakfast and lunch will be provided along with the usual pleasant camaraderie.

All of the unusual and interesting fun and games we routinely offer will



be in place, along with the chance to drive away in a shiny new car or with a big cash prize. As always, sponsorships and donations gladly and warmly are welcomed—as are all of the golfers able to join us.

Information on these activities will follow as the events approach, but please put them on your calendar so you don't miss the fun. After all, nothing says you can't have fun while helping to raise money for a great cause. For more information, contact [golf@homefields.org](mailto:golf@homefields.org). To register, visit [homefields.org](http://homefields.org).

—TERRY BLUE,  
Golf Tournament  
Chairperson



## Meet The New Board Members

Homefields is pleased to welcome Matt Dilley and Carol Welsh as our newest board members. We appreciate hearing new perspectives around the table. Homefields has dual missions, and is a living organization. The board is interested in building and maintaining a dynamic group of folks who can set direction, support the missions, make decisions and help Homefields become a more sustainable non-profit organization. If you find your philosophy aligns with our missions, contact us at [info@homefields.org](mailto:info@homefields.org) or call 717.872.2012

### MATT DILLEY



Matt first came to Homefields 18 years ago, after hearing about us at a Native Plant conference at Millersville University. Peter Emerson was the Farm Manager and Scott Breneman was the

Farm Supervisor. Matt embraces those exasperating projects, the ones that need to be done but who has the patience or time? Over the winter months he pulled poison ivy plants and weeds out of the blueberry rows at his own demonstrable peril and found a perfect use for our excessive supply of bricks. Homefields is always looking for ways to make our property safe and more accessible. Leave it to Matt to build a brick skirt at the driveway entrance and create a pathway for shareholders to access the produce pick-up area.

Matt retired last year and now has more time to explore his passions, including long distance hiking and camping in some of America's most beautiful places. Last year he was a presenter for Homefields' *Talks in the Fields* series. Matt set up a back country campsite and demonstrated skills he uses when backpacking on the Appalachian Trail and out west in Yellowstone National Park. Included in his presentation was knot-making, cooking on the trail, and how to sleep in a hammock.

"Can't wait to start planting in the fields!" Therefore, December found Matt in the greenhouse planting seeds of native plants to germinate as the farm was being put to bed. Transferring seedlings into a larger pot is a gleeful rite of passage. Winter also brought him to the project of tending to succulents which will be given away at Homefields' upcoming events. Matt is really looking forward to spring and planting in the fields.

As a new board member Matt currently serves on the Media Committee, Grants Committee, and is working on encouraging new shareholder sign-ups. Homefields needs grants to help further our missions and complete needed



projects like paving, roof replacement and providing another Gator for the farmhands. "It's really rewarding working with all the farmers. As a new board member, it's interesting getting a behind the scenes look at how the farm and residences operate."

### CAROL WELSH

Carol Welsh joined the Homefields circle of friends last year. Diana DeLucca, her friend, described Homefields to

her and thought Carol might enjoy being a CSA member. Turns out friends really do know what we might like, Carol quickly became a familiar presence on the farm. "It was my first experience with belonging to a CSA so I needed to ask a lot of questions about how the shares and the pick your own fields of strawberries, blueberries, herbs and flowers, for example, worked." Carol tells us that as a new shareholder she looked forward to seeing the beautiful presentation of farm produce. Carol continued, saying that having the opportunity to try new things allowed her to have culinary adventures. The mushroom share from Village Crest became a family favorite. "Kale, which I had never tried before, became my personal favorite along with microgreens." When Homefields learned that Carol is a woman of many talents—a lifelong educator, artist, student of botany and native plants—we invited her to offer a workshop as part of our educational series, "Talks in the Fields." Last year Carol facilitated several nature journal-



ing workshops for children and adults. She has a special interest in pollinator friendly environments. Between Carol and Danielle Fredricks-Rhoades (owner of *Belle's Bees Apiary* and resident bee keeper), the farm is hoping to create an even more friendly environment for pollinators.

Carol tells us she is looking forward to learning more about the natural farming methods practiced at Homefields and about how care farming can support our community. "I see that people have a great interest in learning how to grow, gather, prepare and preserve food which is free of pesticides and grown in a pollinator-friendly environment. Perhaps a Homefields Institute is in our future. "Carol joined the board of directors in February 2019, she tells us she looks forward to being part of a team who values diversity, respects both farm and wildlife and serves the community with care.

Carol is a lifelong educator, she taught science and biology, was an Odyssey of the Mind coach, taught ESL with the Peace Corps along with children who are deaf, is currently a presenter at the North Museum and a student of botany and native plants. Among other professional organizations, she is a member of PA Master Gardeners, PA Habitat Steward and PA Environmental Educators Association. Carol is married to David. They are both retired and live close to Homefields. Carol and David are the parents of a son and daughter who both enjoy dining weekly on a fresh share of produce from Homefields Care Farm.



## IN THIS CORNER, IN THE PURPLE SWEATSHIRT, IT'S Katie "Farm Manager" Landis

What does the Farm Manager do in January? You got it, here's Farmer Katie in the barn, poring over seed catalogues and reviewing planting schedules.

**HF:** How did you first get interested in farming?

**KL:** I've always loved gardening and growing my own food and flowers. As a child, my mom had a big garden and my siblings and I loved to help pull weeds and harvest vegetables. As an adult, I had a backyard garden growing staples like tomatoes, lettuce, peppers, carrots and potatoes. In 2011, I was working for a small landscaping and construction company when they purchased a large plot of farmland with the intention of building apartments on it. I was already sick of working at a computer and that was the tipping point, I knew I had to make a life change. I wanted to help the earth and benefit my community. I started an unpaid internship on a local vegetable, herb and flower farm and knew within a week of being there, that I wanted to make a career out of farming. I finished out the season-long internship and was hired the next spring as a full-time farm employee.



for canning and lots of flowers and culinary herbs.

**HF:** We imagine a tired Farmer Katie needing some down time, how do you relax?

**KL:** I love to read. I just finished "Animal, Vegetable, Miracle" by Barbara Kingsolver. I'm in the middle of the Outlander series by Diana Gabaldon, I think my reading days are on hold until I have more free time in the winter! I also love making flower bouquets and drinking herbal tea. I try to make it to the beach every summer, but as a farmer the majority of my vacation time comes in the winter. For the last several years, I've spent a few weeks each winter visiting my sister and her family in Georgia.

**POSTSCRIPT:** Katie has two siblings, a brother who lives with his wife and two children in Lancaster and a sister who lives with her husband and three children in Augusta, GA. Her parents still live locally. Katie lives in Quentin, a small town just south of Lebanon with her partner Ben, his mother Jackie, and a sweet cocker spaniel named Kodie.

## The CSA at 19

We are pleased to maintain the distinction of being the oldest continually operating Community Supported Agriculture farm (CSA) in Lancaster County. As a CSA, we provide our community with fresh, delicious, chemical-free, naturally grown vegetables. Homefields is fortunate enough to have exceptional volunteers and staff to work alongside people with all kinds of abilities. We love seeing the joy that working with plants can bring to people. Being able to harvest a tomato, a handful of green beans or a head of lettuce that just a few months ago was a tiny seed planted in bare soil is so rewarding!

As the new farm manager, I'll be closely following the suggestions from last year's shareholder survey. During the winter I pored over the plans of some of Homefields previous farmers; we are following those plans without much deviation. Some crops I'm looking forward to growing are watermelon radishes and **FRENCH BREAKFAST RADISHES**. Your farmers are looking forward to trying a few crops that are notoriously difficult to grow organically, think brussel sprouts and sweet corn! Look for a return of pumpkins, rainbow carrots, leeks, potatoes, sweet potatoes

and Romanesco broccoli. Watch for lots of pics of this incredible geometric beauty. We will continue our tradition of offering robust Pick Your Own fields, filled with herbs, peppers, tomatoes, blueberries, strawberries and flowers.

In addition to the veggies and fruits we're growing at Homefields, I'm also looking forward to enjoying the offerings from our share partners. Returning farms include: *Village Crest Farm*, mushrooms from our former Farm Manager, Scott Breneman, meat and eggs from *Mirror Image Farm*, fruit from *North Star Orchard*, and *Abendessen Bread!* We also welcome back *Hillacres Pride*, with a cheese share.

The pieces are falling into place and the season is shaping up to be one to celebrate. Join us as we build relationships, grow nutritious food and build community. Not a shareholder yet? Drop in to the Open Barn, call to arrange a tour, watch for more information about sample shares, ask about share a share...

Questions about becoming a shareholder? Contact me at [farmer@homefields.org](mailto:farmer@homefields.org) or call 717.871.3110. If you'd like to volunteer contact Elizabeth at [community@homefields.org](mailto:community@homefields.org)  
—FARMER KATIE



**HF:** Where did you grow up? Where do you live now?

**KL:** I grew up in Strasburg, near the Quarryville line. We had Amish farms on two sides and woods behind our house. When I was 16 we moved into a development in West Lampeter which was great for a teenager just learning to drive. There were lots of other kids in the neighborhood and we were much closer to the school and the movie theater and the mall, all the places valued by teenagers. I continue to garden at home in Quentin, focusing mostly on storage produce like potatoes, onions, carrots and cabbage, as well as tomatoes



### LUCKY #7

Friends old and new will gather at Homefields on **September 22nd** for our 7th annual *Picnic in the Fields*. Look for some familiar favorites and new ways to have fun. Families with children can look forward to Kids Tent, crafts and games for 4 and up, Bobbi Carmitchell and friends will provide the tunes, we'll have tented tables, sunny seating and lawn games too. New this year: A custom Farmer photo board (see it on the cover of this newsletter), surprise Farmer's cocktail, familiar picnic foods and seasonal farm favorites! Children 12 and under are free, Youth 13-17 are \$10, and Adults \$30.00. Accessible parking, seating, and restrooms; shuttle from parking to venue. The menu is being developed; we will unveil it on our website and announce on Facebook and Instagram. Table reservations for parties of six or more. Questions? [events@homefields.org](mailto:events@homefields.org) or call 717-872-2012.

**FARMER'S NOTE:** Our seeds are all non-GMO, most are organic, some are heirloom, and all our growing methods are natural. We control runoff using a variety of landscape management techniques, including planned swales, additional plantings to hold the soil, grading the land, and more. Weeds and pests do plague your farmers. We use drip irrigation, plastic mulch and row coverings, limit tilling, and when desperate, a 30% white vinegar spray.



**EARTH DAY AT MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY, 4/23, 11 AM-1 PM** at the Lombardo Welcome Center. Opportunities to volunteer at the farm where people grow together (see our stand to pick up a free plant!).



**OPEN BARN, Saturday, 4/27, 10 AM-2 PM**  
150 Letort Road, Millersville  
Family friendly, accessible and free!  
**Hayride tours of the fields at 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM.** Take home a plant and visit share

partners *Mirror Image Farm* (meat & eggs) *Village Crest Farm* (mushrooms). Sample *Abendessen Breads* and *Hillacres Pride* (cheese). Take home a do-it-yourself project for kids of all sizes! Refreshments, walking and barn tours, prize drawings every hour, remember to stop by Volunteer Central and learn how you can make a difference. Have more questions? Contact [events@homefields.org](mailto:events@homefields.org) or call us at 717.872.2012  
(On-site free parking, accessible restrooms. Service animals only. Tobacco-free event)

## LOCAL CALENDAR EVENTS: April through June



**MARIETTA DAY, 5/11, 11 AM-3 PM**  
Stop by and meet the Homefields farmers at Marietta Day's first Farmer's Market. Look for us under the purple tents, stop by and pick up your free plant, iced coffee samples and more. Keep your eyes

peeled for special gifts for purchase, CSA sign up sheet, and prize drawings! Representatives from *Mirror Image Farms* (meat and eggs) and *Village Crest* (mushrooms) will be on hand to describe their products. For more information, visit [www.marietta-pa.com/events/marietta-day/](http://www.marietta-pa.com/events/marietta-day/) This is a great way to celebrate Mother's Day!

**FIRST FRIDAY:** May 3rd, 5-8pm outside of Mio Studio, 154 N. Prince St., Lancaster. Take a plant! Buy a tee shirt! Get information about Homefields Care Farm and opportunities to volunteer in support of the farm's endeavors where people grow together.



### OPEN STREETS LANCASTER

**OPEN STREETS LANCASTER** Sunday, 5/19 - 11 am-3 pm  
Water Street from Conestoga Street to James Street from Water Street to Mulberry Street...celebrate healthy living, local businesses, love your community! Find us under the purple tent, pick up a plant, learn about Homefields Care Farm, check out CSA specials. Visit [www.openstreetslnc.org](http://www.openstreetslnc.org) • [www.facebook.com/openstreetslancaster/](http://www.facebook.com/openstreetslancaster/)



**NIGHT GOLF Friday, 6/21** at Crossgates in Millersville. Registration begins at 7:15 PM. Play begins at 8:15 PM. Registration fee of \$45 per player includes: two glow balls and light refreshments. Sixsomes enjoy nine holes of golf under the light of the moon. Glow sticks and other glow wear adorn the carts and dress the holes. To help reunite you, glow balls stay lit for 8 minutes. **Registrations accepted through Monday, June 10th.** Single players may register and we will pair you with others to make a six some. Register at [homefields.org](http://homefields.org) or call us at 717.872.2012. Have a few questions? Contact [golf@homefields.org](mailto:golf@homefields.org)



If you didn't get this newsletter in your inbox, we don't have your email address! Send yours to [info@homefields.org](mailto:info@homefields.org) and we'll keep you in the loop.

## Other Ways to Help



Attending a Golf, Picnic, or Talks in the Fields event are fun ways to support Homefields. And donations are the most direct way to power our missions. But you know Franklin's saying about "time is money"? Volunteering your time and experience is a boon for Homefields. Staff an event! We also have administrative needs. Don't be shy about asking what's needed now.

If you shop Amazon, look us up on Amazon Smile (which will donate .5% of your order at no cost to you). And keep in touch daily by Friending us on Facebook or following us on Instagram.

### ⇒ BENEFACTORS ⇒ October 2018–February 2019

#### \$10–\$200

Thomas & Yvonne Dilley  
John and LaVon Harnish  
Lee W. Jackson  
Carole B. Jennings  
Structural and SolidWorks  
Design Service  
Carol A. Thomas  
United Way of Lancaster County  
Anne Wallace-DiGarbo  
Carol Welsh

#### \$201–\$500

Robert & Jo Andrews  
Anonymous  
Michael K. Burnley,  
Kitchen Kettle Village  
William Kiehl  
Richard Levengood,  
The Ginko Foundation  
Kay Welty

#### \$1000–ABOVE

Thomas & Linda Strauss, Jr.  
Lyet Family Trust

*Thanks to those who gave via United Way's payroll deduction program,  
Charity Navigator, Amazon Smile, and Network for Good*

We make every effort to ensure the accuracy of this list. If we made an error, please advise us by sending an email to: Office Manager at info@homefields.org or send a note to P.O. Box #41, Millersville, PA 17551.



## You Make Our Missions a Go

To make your tax-deductible contribution, use the handy coupon below or look for the "Donate" button at homefields.org to give securely by credit card. Your contribution goes directly to fulfilling our residential and vocational missions, making a real and immediate impact.

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

\_\_\_ \$25 \_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_ Other Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

email address \_\_\_\_\_

*Method of Payment* (Please make checks payable to Homefields Inc.)

Check  MasterCard  Visa  Discover/Novus  American Express

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_/\_\_\_ Security Code (3- or 4-digit number on front or back) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE ADD ME TO YOUR EMAIL LIST \_\_\_\_\_

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



**Open Barn**  
SAT., APRIL 27

**Night Golf**  
FRIDAY, JUNE 21

**Fall Classic**  
FRIDAY, SEPT. 20

**Picnic**  
SUNDAY, SEPT. 22

