

DONOR BLESSINGS

SUMMER/FALL 2011

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Lifetime commitment to Diakon and its mission grows from childhood connection

As a teenager, Fae Appleby worked in the infirmary of a local home for children. Little did she realize then that, years later, she would serve on a board of directors associated with the home and help to spur new ways to serve children and youths.

Growing up on a Perry County, Pa., farm, Appleby “worked in the infirmary of the Tressler Orphans Home in Loysville,” she says. “I graduated from high school with some boys from the orphanage and still get together with a few of them.” In fact, she was baptized by the Lutheran pastor at the children’s home.

Those interactions marked the start of her lifelong connection with Tressler, whose ministries are continued today by Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries. And as the organization grew and changed, Appleby’s commitment to serve never wavered.

Through marriage, raising a son and daughter, and careers in the medical and banking fields, Fae Appleby has served Tressler and Diakon as well as the Lutheran church locally, statewide, and nationally. Today, the 81-year-old lives at Frey Village, a Diakon Lutheran Senior Living Community in Middletown, Pa.

The organization has “always been important to me,” she says. “I first got involved on boards and as an officer because someone asked me. Basically that is how it started. There was a need

and I thought I could help.”

Around her Frey Village home, among treasured family photos, she displays numerous cherished items that commemorate her service to Tressler and Diakon: a clock, plaques, and awards, honoring both the length of time she has served and the important positions she has held. From a long list of accomplishments, she speaks proudly of one in particular.

“I was on the board when talk first started about doing the Wilderness School (now the Diakon Wilderness Center in Boiling Springs, Pa.),” she says. “I’m still amazed to think that \$20,000 was given for the school in my honor.”

That honor took place at the Lower Susquehanna Synod assembly in 2003 and underscores the high regard in which Appleby is held. She has been a donor in support of a number of Diakon programs, but what seems to please her just as much are the small ways she is able to help others.

“She sits with residents who are passing, reading to them, holding their hands,”

says Heidi Murray, senior living activity director at Frey Village. “She cares for birds in the aviary and helps at the reception desk, whatever we need her to do. She is a special lady.”

Appleby’s husband, John, passed away in 1992; shortly thereafter, she moved to Frey Village. The move was almost like coming full circle with her Diakon connection.

“There’s not much I haven’t had my fingers in,” Appleby says of her many years with the organization. “I feel fortunate that I have the resources to be able to help.”



There was a need and I thought I could help

Fae Appleby, surrounded by her cherished family photos.

+ IN MEMORIAM +

Colonel Harry David Yoder

November 20, 1915 – May 8, 2011

**Diakon benefactor fondly remembered**

It is with a deep sense of loss that Diakon remembers beloved volunteer, donor, and friend Col. Harry D. Yoder. Affectionately known as Harry by his friends at The Lutheran Home at Topton, a Diakon Senior Living Community, Yoder was a champion for the organization's mission and ministry as he chaired committees, led capital campaigns, co-founded Diakon's annual Benefactors Dinner, referred scores of residents and clients to Diakon communities and services (many in person, door-to-door), and provided an exemplary level of moral support to staff and board.

In 2001, he and his wife, Ardath, established The Col. Harry D. and Ardath D. Yoder Endowment Fund to benefit Diakon children's services located at The Lutheran Home at Topton. The fund supports adoption, foster care, and related services.

Over Harry Yoder's 30-year career in service to his country, he amassed more than 8,000 flying hours in the U.S. Air Force, and received various military honors. He also was owner and president of the Boyertown Auto Body Works and a consultant to National Penn Bank. A lifelong member of St. John Lutheran Church, Boyertown, he served on many boards and committees including Rotary International, Berks County Community Foundation, and the Boy Scouts of America.

Yoder is survived by his wife, Ardath; son, the Rev. Keith D. Yoder and wife, Sandra; daughter, Natasha Barbara Icenhour; and three grandchildren.

**Diakon Adult Day Services at Manatawny receives state grant**

Diakon Adult Day Services at Manatawny recently was awarded a \$21,210 grant by the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare to enhance the center and increase community awareness of adult day services.

Upgrades to the Pottstown, Pa., center included installation of new flooring to create a more home-like atmosphere and addition of a new floor in the center's shower and bathrooms to establish a safe, water-resistant surface.

In addition, the program developed promotional materials such as posters, local newspaper inserts, digital outdoor advertising, and website upgrades including virtual-tour photography.

The program received a \$37,400 state grant last year, with which a new whirlpool tub, medical equipment, and security system were purchased.



New flooring creates a more home-like atmosphere at Diakon Adult Day Services at Manatawny.

Helpful advice from the Diakon Office of Development
Are you really ready for vacation?

Before leaving for vacation, you do many important things—stop the newspaper, arrange for yard care, set up security lighting and alarm systems, and so on. But is your will or living trust ready for vacation? If you can check off each item on this estate-planning checklist, you really are ready for time away from home.

- I have a will or living trust.
- My immediate survivors know where to find my will or trust.
- My executor and alternate executors are still capable and qualified to serve.
- I have appointed qualified guardians and alternate guardians for my minor children.
- My executor knows how to find the information necessary to settle my estate.
- My attorney has recently reviewed my will or trust to ensure its compliance with tax changes.
- My survivors' financial needs have been reviewed and addressed.
- My minor children's financial benefits will be provided for in a trust.
- My survivors know key people they could consult in decision-making situations.
- I have made known my specific charitable wishes and bequests.

Giving your will or trust this check-up is an excellent annual practice—even if your next vacation doesn't involve travel. Attention to these issues today can help avoid stress and unnecessary expenses later.

For more information contact MaryEllen Dickey at (610) 682-1219 or via e-mail at dickeym@diakon.org. You also may visit our planned giving website www.diakonpg.org for more information and the free use of an online wills planner.

Tax Relief Act benefits donor



Banking seems to be in Bob Franke's blood. His family founded a community bank in a small Pennsylvania town and Franke and four fellow Western Electric employees established a credit union, for which Franke served as loan officer—in addition to his full-time job—for 13 years.

Though Franke retired in 1984, he has never stopped working. He now teaches computer classes, toils in his garden, and provides wheelchair transportation to the residents of The Lutheran Home at Topton, a Diakon Senior Living Community in Topton, Pa.

He claims the only difference between then and now is that now he doesn't get paid for his work. "I only work for thank-yous," he says.

His family history and personal experience gave him the confidence and knowledge to make smart financial decisions, including his recent gift to The Lutheran Home at Topton's Benevolent Care Endowment Fund. Franke took advantage of the Tax Relief Act, which allows individuals 70½ years of age and older to transfer up to \$100,000 in funds from a Roth or traditional IRA to a non-profit organization without paying income tax on this withdrawal. Typically, individuals withdraw funds from an IRA and then make a gift to a non-profit, paying tax on the full amount of the IRA withdrawal.

Joie Barry, Diakon major gifts and planned giving officer, says a direct rollover from an IRA can be a smart choice for individuals who have not yet taken their required minimum distribution for the year. "Mr. Franke set an example," she says. "I thank him for his insight and his gift."

In Franke's case, a direct rollover was not only a smart financial choice, but also provided the satisfaction of knowing he was helping others by adding to the senior living community's benevolent care endowment fund. "You never know when your money will run out," he says in encouraging others to contribute to the fund.

For more information on how to take advantage of the Tax Relief Act by making a gift directly from your IRA account, readers may contact Barry at (610) 682-1354 or at barryj@diakon.org. To enjoy the full benefit of the act, transfers must be completed before Dec. 31, 2011.



Use of garden results in fresh vegetables for those in need

Patricia Logan of Boiling Springs, Pa., has a garden that she was unable to tend this year. Instead of letting the land sit idle, she donated the use of it to a group of youths from the Diakon Wilderness Center. Under the guidance of Chris Edenbo, counselor, the group cleaned up the garden and planted vegetables. When the vegetables were harvested, they were donated to Project Share, an interfaith, non-profit cooperative food ministry.

At the beginning of the growing season, the Rev. Carolyn DeStephano of St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church in Boiling Springs held a dedication and blessing of the garden. Diakon Wilderness Center staff and students, along with members of Project Share, attended the event.



Richard Diehl, right, presents a check to John Allison, major gifts and planned giving officer.

Auxiliary donates \$1,300 to fund

The resident Auxiliary at Cumberland Crossings, a Diakon Lutheran Senior Living Community, recently presented Diakon with a check for \$1,300 for the Benevolent Care Endowment Fund at the Carlisle, Pa., senior living community. The money was raised through a yard sale on the Cumberland Crossings campus. Over the last seven years, the Cumberland Crossings Auxiliary has raised nearly \$15,000 for benevolent care.

College sorority donates items to children in foster care


The Omega Chi Chapter of the Kappa Delta Pi Honor Society of Cedar Crest College in Allentown, Pa., recently donated toiletries, tote bags, backpacks, and scrapbooking supplies to children served by the Northeastern Pennsylvania office of Diakon Adoption & Foster Care. Pictured with some of the items are, left to right, Allison Fritchman with her son, Emmitt, and Megan Brainard.



Another successful Girls on the Run 5K event

Sponsors and volunteers make it all possible

More than 500 runners and a thousand cheering spectators participated in the 2011 Girls on the Run-Lehigh County 5K event this summer in Allentown, Pa. Girls on the Run is a life-changing, non-profit, prevention program for girls in third through eighth grades designed to prepare them for a lifetime of self-respect and healthy living. The program ends with a 5K running experience, for which the girls train during the season. As a result, they learn that if they can complete the race, they can do just about anything. Many thanks to the sponsors and volunteers who make this program possible each year.

 You, too, can help support this valuable program for girls. For more information contact Samantha Schneck, Girls on the Run coordinator, at (610) 682-1547 or via email at schnecks@diakon.org.



(Left, Top) Members of the Junior League of the Lehigh Valley volunteer their time to "spruce up" the runners with colored hair sprays, barrettes, and other hair accessories donated by Goody. From left to right are Jamie Wilson, Kristina Page, Kirsten Stinson, Cari Stromski, and Sonya Cashner. (Left, Middle) A volunteer from the Junior League of the Lehigh Valley applies colored hair spray to a runner's hair before the big race. (Left, Bottom) Judy Lucci, left, and Kristin Koehler of the Lehigh Valley Educators Credit Union volunteer at the GOTR registration table. The Lehigh Valley Educators Credit Union was the first organization to "Adopt a Team," sponsoring the Union Terrace Elementary School team for the season.

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