

Donor Blessings

Fall 2004

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Mark T. Pile—service first

For Mark T. Pile, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer with Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries, servant-leadership is a model of operation.



Early in his life, family experiences, church and community involvement set him on a path of life-long service to others.

Servant-Leadership is a practical philosophy of vocational service to others and a way of expanding service to individuals and institutions. Servant-leadership encourages collaboration, trust, foresight, listening, and the ethical use of power and empowerment.

Mark believes that in order to lead he must be a servant first. In so doing he strives to ensure that the priority needs of others are being served. For Mark this means designing a business and growth climate for Diakon that encourages others toward their personal best. He sees his calling as one of good stewardship of Diakon's resources—both financial and human potential to maximize Diakon's impact on others. "Every expense we have as an organization must be viewed as an investment in service to others," he says.

Mark oversees all operations within Retirement and Health Care Services, Congregation, Children, and Family Services, and most Diakon support services. He has overseen Diakon's growth as well as its successful reorganization plan to meet the ever-changing health-care and social services environment.

Mark was named Chief Operating Officer for Diakon in 2000 having joined one of the predecessor organizations, Lutheran Services Northeast as Senior Vice President in 1997.

A 1974 graduate of Lycoming College in Williamsport, Pa., he earned his Master of Science in Social Work degree from the University of Pittsburgh. He also holds a Master of Science degree in Health Administration (Executive Program) from the Medical College of Virginia, Department of Health Administration, Richmond, Va.

He has served on the board of directors of Allegheny Lutheran Social Ministries, was chairman of the board and founder of the Somerset Area Food Pantry, and has served as chairman of Eagle Scout Advancement for the Boy Scouts of America. He is a Fellow with the American College of Health Care Executives and a member of the Academy of Certified Social Workers.

As the chairperson for Diakon's recruitment and retention task force, Mark sees one of Diakon's major challenges being to attract, nurture, and retain quality employees in order to enhance the ministries Diakon provides. To accomplish this is servant-leadership at its best. ❖

This publication is prepared especially for you, our treasured donor, in recognition of your partnership in our mission.



DIAKON
LUTHERAN SOCIAL MINISTRIES

"You are the people of God: he loved you and chose you for his own ... Everything you do or say, then should be done in the name of the Lord Jesus giving thanks to God."
- Colossians 3:12-17

The Named Endowment Fund, leave your mark, honor others

Some people leave their mark in granite and stone, Others create a legacy of care for their neighbors that serves the work of the Lord for years to come.

Have you ever considered establishing a Named Endowment Fund?

What is a Named Endowment Fund? _____

An endowment fund is a permanent savings vehicle for not-for-profit institutions. The growth of the portfolio is not subject to tax, and donors receive tax deductions for gifts made to endowments.

How do endowments funds work? _____

Normally an Investment Policy statement—a document that states protocol, such as withdrawal procedure and investment allocation guidelines, governs an endowment.

How is the fund established? _____

A minimum of \$10,000 is required to establish a named Endowment Fund. Gifts of cash, mutual funds, bonds, or real estate may be used to establish the fund. Planned gifts such as a charitable gift annuity may also be used to establish the fund.

How are distributions made from the fund? _____

Distributions shall be made annually according to the Endowment Distribution Policy of Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries. That policy includes an annual percentage distribution of both appreciation and earnings.

Can others contribute to a named endowment fund? _____

Yes, family friends colleagues, and others may make contributions at any time and can be encouraged to do so at times of anniversaries, birthdays, etc.

Here are examples of some recently established Named Endowment Funds:

NAME - The Friends of Buffalo Valley Lutheran Village Benevolent Care Endowment Fund to recognize those who have served and still serve.

PURPOSE – To provide financial assistance for Buffalo Valley Lutheran Village residents in need of subsidized, benevolent, and /or uncompensated care.

NAME – The Nadine Lindquist Memorial Activities Endowment Fund

PURPOSE – To enable the continuation and growth of programs and activities for residents a Buffalo Valley Lutheran Village. ✚

For more information on establishing a Named Endowment Fund or to contribute to an existing fund, contact the Office for Advancement at 610-682-1219 or toll free 1-877-342-5667, ext. 1219.

Ralph and Dorothy Murray —Service Pioneers

Ralph and Dorothy Murray are pioneers in more ways than one. Among the first residents to reside at Cumberland Crossings when it opened nearly 12 years ago, they enjoy a remarkable lifestyle for their years.

Cumberland Crossings, Carlisle, Pa. became the newest facility to join the Diakon family when it was purchased in November 2003.

Ralph retired forty years ago as a desk editor for the Associated Press. Failing eyesight caused him to leave his career on medical disability. Now blind, 96 years of age, he depends on Dorothy and others to give him navigation clues inside and outside their independent living cottage. Both Ralph and Dorothy focus on the many things he can do, not on the few things he can't.

"I walk a mile every day," he says. "I count my steps and turn around when I am at the end of the driveway. Thirty-eight times up and back equal a mile," he smiles.

Ralph has always loved to cook. Baking bread is his specialty. He bakes 4-6 loaves of bread at a time (no bread machine for this naturalist). "I mill my own whole grain flour," he adds, "but Dorothy makes me do that on the back porch."

Of his wife, Ralph says, "She is still out doing her thing. She was a school teacher and never got over it." At age 90 she continues a life long quest to teach others to read. "I can teach an adult of average intelligence to



The Murray's lead each other to serve.

read in 10 weeks," she says. And she has done this time and time again; using a program she designed

herself. "The Wily Ways of Words" by Dorothy Murray incorporates comprehensive instruction on phonics, sentence structure, spelling, and language appreciation.

Dorothy developed her program over many years of teaching and supervising classrooms in Long Island public schools. After retirement, she taught Vietnamese immigrants and adults in prisons and drug rehabilitation centers. As a private tutor she worked with those who were thought to be too disabled to learn. "I can't learn anybody anything," she tells her students. "Learning is your responsibility."

The Murray's are quick to say that they notice little difference in operations at the facility since Diakon took charge. "We like being here," they say. "There are many wonderful people here," says Ralph. "Everyone is out to help one another."

If the Murray's are any indication, the residents of Cumberland Crossings are a perfect match for the Diakon mission ... "to demonstrate God's command to love the neighbor through acts of service." ❖

Pennsylvania State Representative, Todd Eachus presents a \$5,000 state grant to Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries. The money will be used to provide non-medical assistance, transportation and companionship to people in their homes through a program called Volunteer Home Care. Edith Trash, program director and Any Reinsel, director of congregational ministries accept the grant. ❖





Special events exceed goals and raise needed funds for Diakon programs.

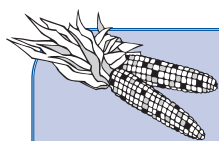
Golfers at the Diakon Tressler Golf Tournament held on September 13 heard the adoption story of Jim and Brenda Wooding and their four children. The event raised a record \$95,470. and benefited Diakon's services to children and families in central Pennsylvania.

A Walk in the Garden, an art show and sale held at The Cafe in Selinsgrove, Pa., raised more than \$11,000 for new outdoor visiting space at Penn Lutheran Village. Landscape design for the project is being provided by Rhoads Landscape Services. Pictured here are John Rhoads and his wife Lisa. John has two grandparents living at the retirement facility.



Grace Lutheran Church, Tipton, Pa., made a gift of an automatic door. Ginny Ebersole, president of the church council, Charlie Spiess, treasurer, and the Rev. David Werley present the plaque recognizing the gift. Charlie Spiess made the frame for the plaque and Sue Fogel, a staff member at The Lutheran Home at Tipton did the calligraphy.

Photo by Rhonda Dietz



coming up ... AN EVENING OF THANKSGIVING Dinner and Silent Auction

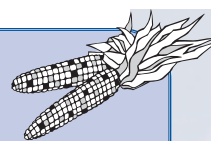
NOVEMBER 14, 2004 • The Pottsville Club

Reception and Auction - 5:30 • Dinner - 6:30

Benefitting Luther Ridge Assisted Living and Volunteer Home Care

For reservations and information contact, Heather Shallcross, at

610-682-1356



Donor Profile

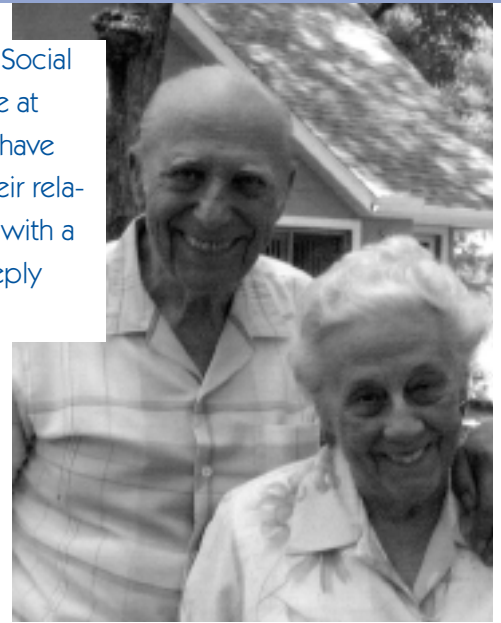
Bob and Bernice Stahle are generous supporters of Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries. Their relationship with Diakon began with The Lutheran Home at Topton in 1999 with a generous gift to Adoption Services. The Stahle's have always cared deeply about people of all ages, young and old alike. Their relationship with Diakon began with The Lutheran Home at Topton in 1999 with a generous gift to Adoption Services. The Stahle's have always cared deeply about people of all ages, young and old alike.

Their incredible compassion for children is further evidenced by their Tower Society donation to the TresslerCare Wilderness Center Capital Campaign and other generous donations benefiting Diakon's work with children who need a second chance to overcome the consequences of bad decisions.

Recently, Bob and Bernice called Pastor Feinour, senior vice-president for Advancement, from their Florida home shortly before hurricane Charlie struck their area. They wanted to discuss the creation of another gift to the TresslerCare Wilderness Center.

Although Bob and Bernice experienced property damage, loss of electrical power and were witness to extensive damage throughout their greater Orlando area, they never lost sight of their goal to create a legacy that would serve children and continue far beyond that of any hurricane.

Cashing in some EE Bonds, they created a Charitable Trust for Diakon's TresslerCare Wilderness Center. The cash from the sale will fund a 5% charitable trust. Their gift will also entitle them to a charitable contribution deduction, and ultimately their gift will provide the Wilderness Center with funds for their ministry.



Gifts from the Stahle's, and other generous individuals and organizations, have made possible the expansion of Diakon's work with troubled youth at the center. A Capital Campaign conducted over the past two years resulted in a new residential facility, a multi-purpose building providing recreation and classroom space, and major improvements in the infrastructure. More importantly, these campus enhancements will strengthen the program that gives troubled young men and women a second chance.

While it may not be possible for Bob and Bernice Stahle to join the Diakon family for the dedication of these new structures on November 11, we know their thoughts and prayers are with us for the success of this important work with children.

Thank you Bob and Bernice for your gifts to Diakon that enable us to minister to these young people. ✚



A state of the art greenhouse recycles waste and provides work incentives and restitution opportunities for the youth..

Tressler Wilderness Center Dedication

November 13, 2004 • 1 PM
Multi-purpose Building

- Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
- Tours
- Displays
- Lunch



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Donor Blessings
FALL 2004!

Giving youth a second chance, the
TresslerCare Wilderness Center
dedicates new buildings.
More on page 5.



Wish List

Diakon programs are in need of Gift Cards to help purchase needed items in emergency situations.

If you wish to make a monetary gift of \$25, \$50, \$75 or \$100 toward the purchase of a Gift Card(s) please use the enclosed envelope for your gift. Thank you.

Donor Blessings is published three times a year by the Office for Advancement of Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries. Comments can be directed to Linda Maxon, 610-682-1220.

Please write to us using the enclosed envelope if you do not wish to receive further fundraising requests from Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries.

GIFT CARDS needed

“They come to us with nothing,” says Lauren Roth, director of TresslerCare Foster Care located at The Lutheran Home at Topton. “We are called to rescue children from situations at all hours of the day and night. Often children must leave everything they have come to know.”

Many of Diakon’s programs use gift cards to purchase items needed in an emergency. There are times when diapers, formula, or food, and a change of clothing need to be purchased that very hour!

Other Diakon programs that make use of gift cards:

Refugee and Immigration Services

for the purchase of food, clothing and household supplies

Family Life Services

for the purchase of prescription medication

Tressler Care Wilderness Center

for the purchase of clothing and personal care supplies

Please make your gift using the enclosed envelope. **Thank You.**

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!

Our summer wish list for Bibles for the TresslerCare Wilderness Center resulted in gifts of \$3,700 or 148 Bibles.