

DIAKON

Many Hands. One Heart.™

BUFFALO VALLEY *Lifestyles*

SPRING
2009

BUILDING OF NEW HOMES WELL UNDER WAY

Construction is well under way on the first phase of new homes on the Buffalo Valley Lutheran Village campus, Lewisburg, Pa.

“Home construction is moving along very well,” says Amy Solomon, manager of marketing and sales for the Diakon senior living community. “A number are already under roof, with interior finishes being put in place.”

While occupancy of many of the homes in this first phase of construction has been purchased, there are still several homes available, she added. In addition, construction includes a model home to help prospective residents see the quality, value, and design of the new homes.

The construction follows September’s groundbreaking for the new senior living homes. More than 100 staff, residents, and friends turned out to begin this exciting new phase in the growth of Buffalo Valley Lutheran Village.

Buffalo Valley also consists of existing senior living homes—known as the Cunningham and Windsor models—a personal care community, and a nursing and rehabilitation center. “Our campus not only features wonderful camaraderie among residents,” says Solomon, “but also the availability of multiple levels of health care right on campus, should a resident ever need that.”



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Diakon is home for Buffalo Valley resident

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Houses designed for comfort and convenience



BUFFALO VALLEY
LUTHERAN VILLAGE

A DIAKON SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITY

A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Although September marked my fifth anniversary with Buffalo Valley Lutheran Village, a Diakon Senior Living Community, the month brought even more excitement with the official groundbreaking for our new senior living homes.

This is the first expansion at Buffalo Valley in recent years and one that has generated much excitement among the staff and residents. The momentum kicked into high gear later that same day when the construction equipment arrived and began clearing the site. We didn't waste any time! In fact, construction has progressed steadily, and the framing is complete on seven of the nine homes planned for the first cul-de-sac.

As construction continues, I have been tracking its progress through weekly photos. When I look back on them, I am struck by the thought that each of these new homes will be an investment in someone's peace of mind. A peace of mind that comes from knowing they have a full continuum of care available to them no matter what the future brings.

I invite you to learn more about what is happening at Buffalo Valley and to stop in for a tour. The best way for you to understand the evolution that is under way is for you to visit our campus. I look forward to meeting you.

LENNEA BROWN

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Diakon has been a home for Floyd Snyder at birth and at retirement

At birth and at retirement, Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries was there for Floyd Snyder.

The Buffalo Valley Lutheran Village resident had been placed in the care of the Tressler Orphans Home in Loysville, Pa., after his mother died in childbirth. Later known as the Tressler Lutheran Home for Children, the orphanage, which originated in 1868, is one of two children's homes whose heritage of care Diakon continues today.

Snyder says the orphanage was all he knew. "I had over 300 'brothers and sisters.' There was love there."



At the orphanage Snyder learned to play the bass horn and traveled with the regionally famous Tressler Orphans Home Boys Band. After high school he joined the Army and played in the Army Band for 12 years. Later he joined the Air Force and played in the field band. "If I didn't end up in the orphanage, I know I wouldn't have learned to play the horn," he says.

After almost eight years of service in the Air Force, he returned to Lewisburg, married, and worked at a local furniture-manufacturing firm for 30 years before retiring. He had one son. "He was killed in an automobile accident. Then five years later I lost my wife."

Snyder was diagnosed with cancer in 1993, and although now declared cancer-free, his health issues have made him unable to shovel snow or mow grass. "I moved to Buffalo Valley knowing that all of that would be taken care of for me." Maintenance-related amenities are part of retirement life at Buffalo Valley Lutheran Village.

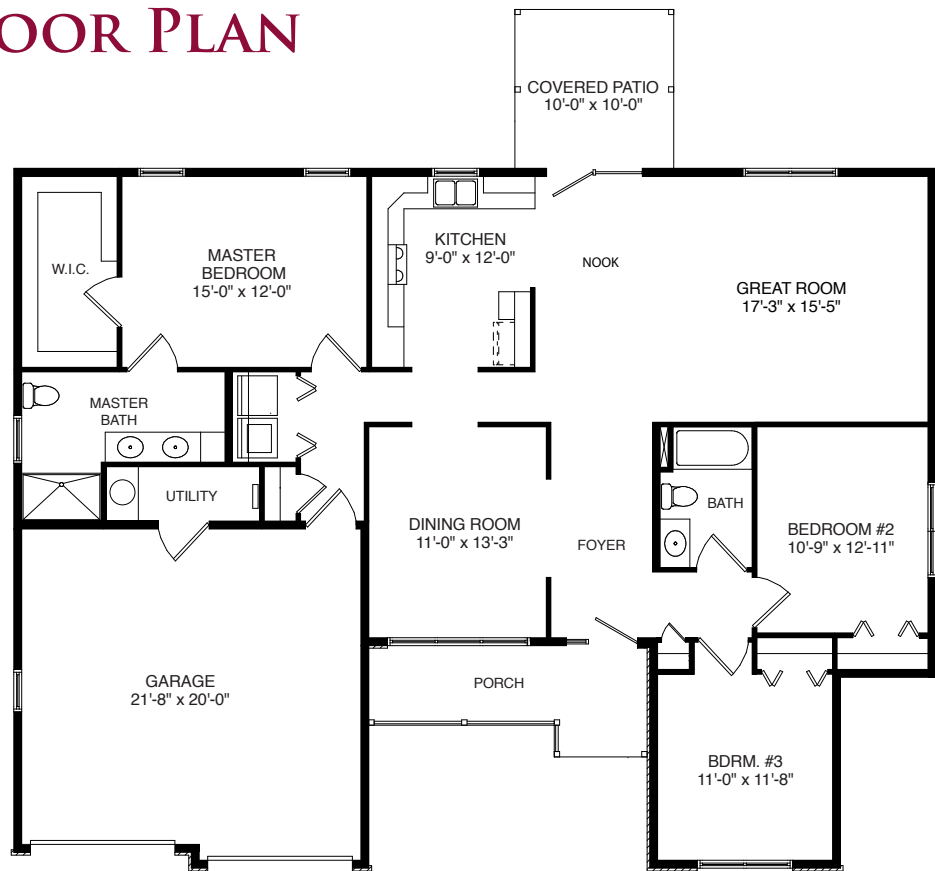
Snyder enjoys that he is again connected with the organization that gave him a great start. "I made a full circle, so to speak."

NEW-HOME FLOOR PLAN

The Hastings

See front cover for more information on new homes at Buffalo Valley Lutheran Village.

For more models and floor plans, please visit our Website at www.diakon.org/buffalovalley.



Sales and marketing assistant has passion for work



Holli Snook was no stranger to work when she joined Buffalo Valley earlier this year. The sales and marketing administrative assistant had served as office manager for 64 independent living apartments and the nursing care center on a long-term care campus.

"I started as a nursing assistant at the facility and slowly took on more challenging roles," she says. "I have a passion for long-term care and the residents. I want to make a difference."

Snook has the opportunity to do just that in her new role.

"I'm actually learning a little bit of everything—marketing of existing homes, new construction. I am also learning to be back-up for nursing care admissions," she says, admitting that one day she hopes to earn her nursing home administrator's license.

In the meantime, she enjoys the rapport she has built with the staff and residents and leaves each day feeling satisfied with what she has accomplished.

"I don't think anybody should take a job in long-term care just to have a job," she says. "It is something you have to be passionate about—the work and the residents."

If you are interested in exploring the possibility of active senior living at Buffalo Valley, contact Amy Solomon today at (570) 524-2221 or (570) 524-5520.



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KNITTING GROUP USES TALENTS TO SPREAD GOOD WILL

When a group of military mothers in a nearby town needed hand-knitted articles to send to the troops last Christmas, Buffalo Valley residents didn't waste any time responding.

A group of 14 volunteers came together and either knitted or crocheted nearly 90 hats, scarves, helmet liners, and mittens.

"They were all done in dark colors to blend in with their uniforms and not stand out at night," says Ruth Drozin, adding that it was a community effort involving many people beyond the Diakon campus.

Not wanting to end their enjoyment, the Buffalo Valley volunteers dubbed themselves the Knit Wits and continued to meet on a monthly basis. Two years after forming their group, they can be found creating lap robes for new residents in the Nursing Care Center.

"They are individualized with each resident's name, and they belong to them," Drozin explains. "We thought it could be a boost for them to have something warm, cuddly, and handmade by their neighbors."



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