Thiel College and St. Paul Homes have more in common than it may appear at first glance. Both organizations were established around the same time, elsewhere in Pennsylvania—the College in Monaca in 1866 and the Home in Butler in 1867—and later moved to Greenville. Both serve an audience with needs; the College meets the educational and professional needs of students and faculty and the Home meets retirement and professional needs of residents and staff.

Over the years, the two organizations have shared an informal neighborly relationship. For decades, Thiel students have visited the St. Paul’s campus—to entertain orphans at St. Paul Children’s Home, to chat with residents at the Old Folks’ Home, and today to participate in activities with the residents. They also have interned in various capacities.

In 2005, the two organizations collaborated on Joining Generations, a formal program that creates opportunities to bridge the gap between younger and older adults. The program, modeled after one between Ithaca College and Longview Nursing Home in Ithaca, N.Y., gives opportunities to students and residents to develop interpersonal relationships through activities on each other’s campuses. Over the past three years, students and residents have shared a plethora of experiences, made wonderful memories and enriched each others’ lives.

At the heart of the relationship between St. Pauls and Thiel are people. More than 25 of Thiel’s alumni, faculty and staff have

Continued on Page 8
G. Bryan Oro
Executive Director

A team of people continues to work on our History Book project—writing a book that covers the past 90 years of our history. This book will complement our first The History of ST. PAUL’S ORPHANS’ HOME written by Rev. David B. Lady, D. D. and published in 1917. A research team comprised of more than 20 people has worked over this past year to sift through our archives to find significant stories, people, programs, and expansions to our Home. We have built a team of writers who will take that information and create our book. Our greatest challenge is that we have so much to tell—so many stories from orphans through the early seventies, and residents through today. We hope to publish the book sometime in 2009.

It is hard to believe that we have been in The Villas for more than three years now. It has become very comfortable for most everyone and it seems like we have been there forever. Our programs and services continue to grow, largely due to our volunteers. More than 165 volunteers including students gave more than 8,000 hours of their time last year sharing their gifts and talents with our residents and staff. I am grateful for their commitment to help by supporting the many programs and services we offer. Frankly, we could not do what we do without them.

Our Auxiliary continues to be a great support to us as well. This past year the members committed to support the development of a new dental suite. We are designing the suite especially for older adults making it convenient for our residents to stay in-house and receive services as well as have equipment to meet their specific needs. The Auxiliary’s continued support truly enhances the lives of our residents. Over its more than 30 year existence the Auxiliary has raised more than $224,000.00 in support of special projects that directly benefit our residents.

In 2007, we introduced St. Paul Homes Day. Several members of our staff including Rev. Linda Miller-Pretz, have developed presentations to offer churches on Sunday. The message we hope to share is twofold; first, to share our commitment to the Eden Alternative; second, to give you a glimpse into the lives of our residents and the role you can play to make a difference.

The Eden Alternative is a philosophy of care designed to prioritize nurturing the human spirit as well as caring for individual medical needs. It recognizes the plagues of the human spirit, which are loneliness, helplessness, and boredom. It teaches us how they affect all of us, especially older adults. We are committed to this philosophy, which tells us we need to do things differently by giving our residents or those closest to them maximum decision-making about their daily lives look. We strive to provide meaningful opportunities and relationships for our residents (and staff); create opportunities for residents to give care as well as receive it; and incorporate variety and spontaneity in everyday life. The Eden Alternative is a journey—one in which we will always look for ways to make life better!

Your part in all of this, as always, continues to be integral. We count on you to share your time and talents by volunteering at our Home. If you are too far to travel regularly, we invite you to come on occasion and visit residents you may know or make new acquaintances. Plan a special visit and let us help you find ways in which to plug into residents daily lives. If travel prohibits a visit, we encourage you to support our residents by donating items they may need such as prizes for Bingo, nonperishable snacks, toiletries, or greeting cards. Lastly, we count on you for financial support. It is hard to believe that we have been in The Villas for more than three years now. It has become very comfortable for most everyone and it seems like we have been there forever. Our programs and services continue to grow, largely due to our volunteers. More than 165 volunteers including students gave more than 8,000 hours of their time last year sharing their gifts and talents with our residents and staff. I am grateful for their commitment to help by supporting the many programs and services we offer. Frankly, we could not do without them.

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Volunteers Are The Heart of Our Community

In April, more than 100 volunteers gathered for the annual recognition luncheon. Rose Hoffman, director of volunteers, welcomed everyone and thanked them for their commitment and dedication in support of the many programs and services offered at St. Paul Homes. Mr. Jeffrey Wallace, president of the board of directors, echoed Mrs. Hoffman’s sentiments and added that in 2007 more than 165 volunteers gave more than 8,100 hours of service. “For that we commend you” said Wallace. This year’s celebration honored volunteers as the Heart of Our Community.

Pictured (left to right) sitting: Phyllis Chisholm, Erla Maxwell, Evelyn Kaufman, Sandy Ceremuga, Arlene Sadler; standing: Mike Pistolesi, Adele Lehosky, Julia Graham, Shirley Shannon, Elaine Kobeile, Ed Ceremuga and Rose Hoffman.

5 YEARS OF SERVICE
Clint Appleby
Gerald Laird
Nancy Appleby
Adele Lehosky
Julia Graham
Arlene Sadler
Keith Graham

10 YEARS OF SERVICE
Ed Ceremuga
Dorothy Lovesky
Sandy Ceremuga
Shirley Shannon
Phyllis Chisholm

15 YEARS OF SERVICE
Elaine Kobeile
Mike Pistolesi
Erla Maxwell
Catherine Reinhart

20 YEARS OF SERVICE
Budd Headland
Evelyn Kaufman

30 YEARS OF SERVICE
Bertha Heckman
Making a donation to St. Paul Homes this time of year offers an opportunity to honor a parent, either living or deceased.

By making the gift in honor (if living) or in memory (if deceased) of mom, dad, or another family member, that person receives special recognition. Whether in recognition of Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, or a birthday or wedding anniversary of a special person, that person is honored and the person or a family member receives the notice that a gift was made in memory or honor.

Just mark your gift that it is in honor or memory of a person and send to St. Paul Homes.

Executive Director’s Club
Allegheny United Church of Christ, Pittsburgh
Mrs. Dorotha Anderson
Belknap U.C.C. Women’s Fellowship, New Bethlehem
Mrs. Kim Bielobocky
Birmingham United Church of Christ, Pittsburgh
Mr. & Mrs. James Bittel, Jr.  Dr. & Mrs. Donald Bortz
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Brennan
Mrs. Regina Brison
Rev. & Mrs. Ray Brugler
Brush Creek United Church of Christ, Irwin
Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Callahan
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Callahan
Calvary United Church of Christ, Turtle Creek
Ms. Kristina Cascio
Mr. & Mrs. William Celik
Mr. & Mrs. Melford Chapman
Mrs. Phyllis Chisholm
Jim & Lynn Chuey
Dr. & Mrs. Victor Colaiaco
Ms. Sherie Daniels
Derr Industries
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Despoy, Jr.  Mrs. Janice Easler
Emmanuel Reformed U.C.C., Export
Emmanuel United Church of Christ, Warren
Faith United Church of Christ, Ridgway

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Farmer
First Reformed U.C.C. Auxiliary, Greensburg
First Reformed U.C.C. Women’s Guild, Greensburg
First Trinity United Church of Christ, Youngwood
First U.C.C. Women’s Fellowship, Irwin
First United Church of Christ, Pittsburgh
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Fogal
Rev. & Mrs. Edwin Fromm
Mr. Jack Gallagher
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Garland
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Garrison
Ms. Ruth Gongaware
Greenville Savings Bank
Mrs. Virginia Grosscup

Donors gave a total of $12,679 for the 2007 Residents Christmas Appeal at St. Paul Homes.

The appeal provides gifts for residents of the Home, continuing a longstanding tradition.

Among the gifts that residents received were some special items commemorating the 140th anniversary.

The gifts are wrapped by volunteers and a resident’s name attached to each.

On December 24, Santa and his elves, assisted by activities staff and volunteers, distribute the gifts to all of the residents.

“We appreciate the generous support from our donors who play a key role in our being able to provide all of our residents with a special Christmas gift,” noted Bryan Oros, Executive Director. “While most residents receive gifts from their families and friends, there are still a few who receive little other than what we provide.”
Enclosed with this issue of St. Paul News is a letter seeking your support for the annual appeal for the Good Samaritan Fund.

The Good Samaritan Fund assists residents who are no longer able to afford the full cost of their care.

During 2007, over $817,000 in free care was provided to residents by St. Paul Homes.

Please consider giving a generous contribution, and use the enclosed commitment card and envelope to make your gift.
Nearly $45,000 has been contributed to the in-house dental suite project, as plans continue to provide dental care to residents of The Villas and The Heritage without their having to leave the facility.

The lead gift to the initiative comes from a $30,000 commitment made last year by the St. Paul Homes Auxiliary. Their first $10,000 was given during this year’s annual meeting on May 17.

During the meeting, Bryan Oros, Executive Director, reported to the Auxiliary that the Home was able to acquire dental equipment at a lower cost than anticipated. Because of that, the Auxiliary has agreed to redesignate the remaining $20,000 of its commitment to provide a new St. Paul Homes sign that will be located along E. Jamestown Road.

“We appreciate the generous support for the project,” Bryan Oros, Executive Director, explained, “especially the commitment from the Auxiliary.”

“We were fortunate to locate the equipment we need at a significantly lower cost than anticipated,” Oros continued. “This will allow us to use the balance of the funds the Auxiliary committed for the sign project that will not only identify us but include an area for messages.”

The location of the dental suite may be moved to another area in The Heritage to provide a larger, more spacious area.

Offering a larger area for the dental suite will allow ease in transferring a resident from a wheelchair to the dental chair, with a mechanical lift assist when needed.

Continued from page 5

Mrs. Patricia Arledge-Benko
Dorothy Armour
Mrs. Esther Ayibor
Mrs. Evelyn Baer
Mr. & Mrs. James Bailey
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Bankston
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Bargielski
Dr. & Mrs. Richard Barnhart
Ms. Marsha Barr
Mr. & Mrs. C. D. Barron, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Bauer
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Bee
Rev. Dr. & Mrs. Joseph Beer
Mr. Robert Berlin
Mr. Robert Best, Jr.
Mr & Mrs. Franklin Blackstone
Ms. Barbara Bobula
Mr. Roger Bolster
Mrs. Patricia Bomberger
Dr. Thomas Bost, DMD
Ms. Shirley Bovard
Ms. Cathy Boyer
Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Brasch
Ms. Betty Brest
Mr. & Mrs. William Brown
Mr. & Mrs. John Brown
Mrs. Rose Bugden
Ms. Jessica Burnett

Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Callahan, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Cameron
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Carrier
Ms. Pollyanna Caruso
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Cerra
Mrs. Janet Cessna
Chadwick Condominium
Homeowners
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Cianci
Cianci’s Enterprises
Mrs. Mary Rita Clemente
Mr. & Mrs. August Colaiaco
Columbus Comm. U.C.C. Women’s Fellowship, Columbus
Community of Reconciliation, Pittsburgh
Mr. & Mrs. George Cook
Mrs. Jane Covert
Mrs. Margaret Cross
Ms. Ora Dalton
Ms. Joan Danko
Ms. Deborah Datchuk
Denmark Manor U.C.C. Women’s Fellowship, Export
Ms. Madalene DeTulloio
Mr. & Mrs. William Doernte
Mr. & Mrs. A. C. Donehue
Mr. Charles Donner
Ms. Joan Duffy

Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Duncan
Mrs. Esther Durst
Eagles #805
Mr. Dennis Eckles
Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Elliot Dublin
Mr. Paul Ellis, Sr.
Emmanuel U.C.C. Women’s Guild, Warren
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Facemyer
Mr. Robert Farmer
Mr. & Mrs. James Fell
Mr. & Mrs. Hans Fellner
First Trinity U.C.C. Ladies Circle, Youngwood
First U.C.C. Ladies Aid Society, Hyndman
First U.C.C. Women’s Fellowship, Ebensburg
Mr. & Mrs. George Fischer
Mrs. Marion Fisher
Mrs. Matilda Folknerroth
Mr. James Foreman
Miss Irene Forsyth
Miss Margaret Forsyth
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Franke
Mr. Gordon Fry
Mr. Henry Fulton
Ms. Darlene Fyffe
Garland Agency, Inc
Residents at both St. Paul Homes and The Ridgewood at Shenango Valley have established endowments to benefit programs at their facilities.

At St. Paul Homes, Mary Alice Dean created an endowment to support the Joining Generations program. This initiative seeks ways in which residents of the Home and members of the Thiel College community can interact and serve one another.

The Joining Generations program was sparked by Dr. Jim Shaffer, a professor at Thiel College and resident of the Cottage Colony, and Cindy Hanna, who at the time was a student at Thiel and had an internship at the Home.

Through Joining Generations, Thiel students are serving as interns at St. Paul Homes; classes from Thiel are visiting the Home, taking part in class projects and interacting with residents; fraternities, sororities, sports teams and other groups offer special activities and programs. Residents from Cottage Colony are able to audit classes at Thiel at no charge and residents of St. Paul Homes have spoken to classes and taken part in discussion groups.

Through Joining Generations, leadership at both Thiel and St. Paul Homes explore ways to share specialized equipment that one has and both may need as well as seeking other ways to work together.

Mrs. Dean’s daughter and son-in-law are Thiel alumni, and Mrs. Dean is a supporter of both St. Paul Homes and Thiel College.

“Joining Generations is a valuable partnership, not only to Thiel College and St. Paul Homes, but to the community,” Mrs. Dean noted. “There are many opportunities for collaboration.”

“We appreciate the support and involvement that Mary Alice offers,” Tammy Lininger, Administrator at St. Paul Homes, commented. “Funds from the endowment assist a variety of projects related to Joining Generations.”

At The Ridgewood at Shenango Valley, Dot Goodrick has created an endowment to assure that the flags that fly over the facility are always in good shape and that the areas around the flag poles remain attractive and well cared for. Born on June 14—Flag Day—Dot has had a flagpole placed in the memorial garden at the facility a number of years ago. “Our flag is an important symbol of our country and our freedom,” Dot explained. “It should be displayed in a respectful manner and be in good condition.”

Her endowment will also provide for some brick walk enhancements at the picnic pavilion or at other locations at the facility.

“We appreciate Dot’s generous support. She is a very involved member of our community,” said Ron Duez, administrator at The Ridgewood of Shenango Valley.

Endowments Established by Residents at St. Paul Homes & Ridgewood SV

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chosen St. Paul Homes as their place to retire. More than 10 percent of the population living in Cottage Colony, the Homes’ independent living community, are Thiel alumni. Dozens more have family members who attended the College. Six of the school’s alumni serve in key administration roles at the Home. These “people” connections are what truly enhance the relationship between the two campuses. Some of those connections include the following:

Evelyn Carlfelt Baer is a retired English professor with nearly 40 years of teaching at Thiel College. A native of Detroit, Mich., Baer attended Augustana College in Rock Island, Ill. where she received her bachelor’s degree in English. She later received her master’s degree from Syracuse University. She began working at Thiel College in 1951 as the dean of women and an English lecturer.

She served as dean for two years before turning her attention to full-time teaching. Her husband, Robert, was a Greenville native and served as the purchasing agent for Chicago Bridge and Iron, and later as superintendent of the Shenango Valley Cemetery.

Baer recalls several special memories from her time at Thiel. She has given the Opening Convocation, Honors Convocation and Baccalaureate Sermon, and she once was the Commencement speaker—an honor given to her by the students. She received a tribute in one Endymion, the Thiel yearbook, and another edition was dedicated in her honor.

But there is one memory that has stayed with her—and puzzles her even today. “During one whole semester I found an apple on my desk every day before class,” says Baer. “To this day, I don’t know who was responsible.” She admits spying on and even bribing students to reveal the culprit without success. Perhaps a Bell reader will fess up?

Baer’s greatest challenge and joy came from helping students who did not like English come to appreciate and enjoy it. She really loved what she did, she says. In 1997, two years after her husband’s death, Baer moved to Cottage Colony at St. Paul Homes.

Harry Wood received his Bachelor of Science degree in economics in 1947. A native of Oil City, he moved to Greenville in 1936 and first attended Thiel in 1942, which charged him $50 for his first semester tuition!

Wood attended Thiel for one year before entering the Navy’s V-12 program, in which the Navy paid tuition at participating colleges and universities during World War II for men who would later enter the Navy as officer. Through the program, he received further education at Baldwin Wallace and Northwestern University. Upon V-12 completion, he served in the Pacific on an amphibious landing craft.

In 1945, he married Margaret “Peg” Kohler, whose father taught at Thiel. In 1946, following the war, they returned to Greenville where Wood once again enrolled at the College.

During his time there, Wood was a member of the Alpha Psi Omega Dramatic Fraternity and performed in several plays including “Here Comes Charlie” and “Playboy of the Western World.” He was also a member of the Alpha Iota Chi of the Brotherhood of Sadhe Aleph, better known as the “Fish Fraternity” (now Sigma Phi Epsilon).

Following nine years in the industrial supply business, he attended Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Austin, Texas, graduating in 1959. He worked in churches in Arkansas and Texas and held numerous interim ministries before retiring in 1990. Wood and his wife then moved back to Greenville to be close to family.

In 1993, they returned to Texas to be nearer to their children, but three years later they returned to Greenville and St. Paul Homes because of Peg’s challenges with Alzheimer’s disease. In 1996, Wood and his wife moved to Cottage Colony. Over the next 10 years, Peg’s condition deteriorated and she passed away in 2006.

Wood still resides on Circle Drive in Cottage Colony and currently serves on the Thiel Alumni Board of Directors.

James (“Jim”) and Lucy Shaffer moved to St. Paul Homes in August 2005. Jim is a professor of psychology at Thiel, where
he has taught since 1970. Lucy, a 1972 graduate, received her bachelor’s degree in psychology. The Shaffers met at Thiel and married in 1972.

Jim is originally from Beckley, W.V. He is a graduate of West Virginia University where he received his bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees. He came to Thiel directly from WVU because he had enough of a “big school” and was looking for a small, friendly campus where he could get to know almost everyone.

Jim has taught psychology for more than 37 years and still enjoys it. He has been the advisor to Psi Chi, the national psychology honorary, for more than 35 years and was instrumental in its establishment in 1972. He served as the chair of the psychology department from 1991 to 2004.

A Chagrin Falls, Ohio, native with a nursing degree from St. Luke’s School of Nursing in Cleveland, Ohio, Lucy served as Thiel’s nurse while attending classes at the College. She later worked at Greenville Hospital and then the Mercer County Area Agency on Aging.

Today, the Shaffers reside on Circle Drive in Cottage Colony. Thomas and Jean (Bartholomew) Hodge moved to St. Paul Homes in 2006. Tom is a native of Greenville and decided to stay local for college with many of his friends. He attended Thiel on the

G.I. Bill after serving three years in the Navy. He graduated in 1950 with a bachelor’s degree in economics. Tom was a member of Delta Sigma Phi, the German Club and the Thiel Quartet. He remembers “pinning” Jean on Martin’s Walk.

A Meadville native, Jean also graduated in 1950 with a bachelor’s degree in math. She was a member of Sigma Theta Phi (now Chi Omega), the Lutheran Student Organization and the biology and German clubs.

Tom and Jean were married in 1949. Tom worked at Hodge Foundry, starting as a metallurgist and later retiring as its president. He was part-owner of the foundry with his brother and father, and after retirement in 1979, he worked at Thiel in the development office, raising scholarship funds. He also served on Thiel’s Board of Directors for more than 20 years!

After graduation, Tom and Jean started their family of six children. Jean returned to Thiel, taking classes in psychology, and later received her master’s degree in guidance counseling from Slippery Rock University. She served in various positions including Greenville’s Borough Council for 16 years, eight of which as Council president.

In 2006, they built a new home on Woodland Drive in Cottage Colony. Currently, both serve on Thiel’s Board of Associates.

Marguerite (Heise) Werner received her bachelor’s degree from Thiel in 1948. A native of Erie, Pa., Werner says that she was destined to attend Thiel because her uncle was a past president (Gustave Benze). She was happy at Thiel since the high school she had attended was small. She is most fond of the relationships she formed with her professors and the opportunity to get to know each of them.

During her years at Thiel, Werner played women’s basketball, served as a class officer and was a member of Sigma Theta Phi.
She also was both the Homecoming Queen and May Queen, an honor chosen by the student body.

After graduating, Werner married James ’48. Werner taught at various schools for 40 years including Xavier University, the University of Pittsburgh as a cooperating teacher and the Mercer County Vo-Tech. After James left the corporate world in 1973, the Werners moved back to Greenville, purchasing and operating William’s Jewelry Store. James died in 1994.

Werner maintains close ties with the College through the former Thiel Women’s Club, Friends of Art, and the Society of 1866. She has served on the Alumni Board for six years and assisted the College’s past president, Carlyle Haaland, in establishing the school’s Ambassador Program in 1994. The program gave students opportunity to serve as ambassadors for the College offering tours to prospective students and entertaining at the president’s home. Each year, 15 students were chosen to participate. (The program has since been discontinued.) In 2000 and 2004, she accompanied Thiel’s choir to Europe. She was happy to learn through discussion with the students while touring that they, like her, most valued the relationships with their professors.

Today, Werner lives on Stoyer Drive in Cottage Colony at St. Paul Homes.

Jack and Joan (McKee) Brown moved to St. Paul Homes in 2006. A Greenville native, Jack attended three semesters of the A-12 Army Specialized Training Reserve Program at the Pennsylvania Military College in Chester, Pa. He later served in the Army Air Force for 14 months in Tokyo, Japan. He attended Thiel on the G.I. Bill and graduated in 1950 with a bachelor’s degree in math and education. He was a member of Delta Sigma Phi.

Joan is from Pittsburgh and although she did not graduate, she did attend Thiel for one year. After meeting Jack, she left school and worked full-time until they married. She later graduated from Slippery Rock University where she received her bachelor’s and master’s degree in education. Both Jack and Joan remember Thiel for its “friendly campus.” Both have fond memories of the College, particularly of when they first met in German class.

After college, the Browns raised three children. Jack worked for Uniroyal for 32 years and for the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America for 12 years. Joan taught for 27 years in Pittsburgh.

Hartley and Catherine (Hess) Oden moved to St. Paul Homes in 2007. Hartley “Bud” Oden is a 1951 graduate with a bachelor’s degree in math. Hartley is originally from Irwin, Pa., and followed his younger brother Milton’s footsteps to Thiel. He was a member of Delta Sigma Phi, the Lutheran Student Association and the Vikings, an independent men’s group. A naval veteran, Hartley attended Thiel on the G.I. Bill and later attended graduate school at Westminster College. Hartley taught high school mathematics, chemistry and physics for 42 years in Lawrence County, Pa., before retiring in 1993. He was once recognized as Teacher of the Year for Lawrence County.

Catherine “Polly” Oden graduated in 1948, receiving a secretarial certificate. A Knox, Pa., native, Catherine attended the College because of its Lutheran affiliation and family influences—her grandfather was an 1888 Thiel graduate. While there, Catherine was a member of Gamma Delta (her aunt was one of its founders) and the Lutheran Student Organization. She worked at Chicago Bridge and Iron until she and Hartley were married. Later, she worked for the Metropolitan Brick Company and received her teaching certificate from Slippery Rock University along with a bachelor’s degree in education and her master’s degree from Westminster College. For more than 26 years, she taught elementary education.

The Odens met at Thiel and married in 1949. They have four children. Sandra, their oldest daughter, also is a 1971 graduate. Since 1981, Hartley and Catherine have traveled to 96 countries. Today, they reside on Gene Drive in Cottage Colony.
Richard and Patricia Houpt moved to St. Paul Homes in 2006. They both were born and raised in central Pennsylvania. Dick received his bachelor’s degree from Slippery Rock University and, after serving in the U.S. Army, completed his master’s degree at Penn State University. He taught secondary education for 20 years in the public schools and served as consultant at the Pennsylvania Department of Education at Harrisburg. He came to Thiel in 1968 as director of secondary education and assistant professor of education. While at Thiel, he established the Elderhostel program; served as registrar, interim term director, and associate dean of academic affairs; and was a charter member of the International Student Organization. When retiring in 1990, Dick was recognized for his service and for his commitment to students.

After raising four children, Pat attended Thiel and graduated in 1983 with a degree in sociology. She worked in the Thiel Library. Today, the Houpts reside at Stoyer Drive in Cottage Colony.

Other alumni who now reside at St. Paul Homes include Ruby Gaiser and Betty Lou “B. Lou” Artman. Gaiser graduated from Thiel in 1954 with a bachelor’s degree in business, and later from Penn State with a master’s degree in guidance counseling. Gaiser later attended the General Electric Institute at Syracuse University on a scholarship. She taught secondary education and became a junior/high school guidance counselor. She retired from Hickory High School after 35 years. While at Thiel, Gaiser was a member of Sigma Kappa and president of the Panhellenic Council. Since 2006, Gaiser has lived in the Gardens at The Villas at St. Paul Homes. Her good friend of 50 years, Janice Johnson, shared Gaiser’s story as Alzheimer’s disease sometimes challenges Gaiser’s memory.

Artman graduated in 1943 with a bachelor’s degree in history and within three hours of graduation accepted a teaching position at Hickory High School. (She later earned a master’s of education at the University of Pittsburgh.) Artman retired after more than 45 years in the Hermitage School District where she served as a teacher, guidance counselor, psychologist, and director of pupil and personnel services. In 1990, Artman began serving St. Paul Homes as a member of the board of directors. Since then, she has served as the board’s secretary and on various committees, including development, personnel, and ethics. She has remained connected to the College as alumni advisor to Sigma Kappa sorority and as a member of the Alumni Board. In 1990, she received Thiel’s Professional Achievement Award, an award that recognized her commitment to education as the founder of the Betty Lou Artman Hermitage Education Foundation, which supports staff and students in Hermitage through scholarships.

When asked why these Thiel alumni and faculty chose St. Paul Homes as “their home” they offered various reasons. Evelyn Baer wanted to live in a caring neighborhood and a place where someone would know if she needed assistance and could provide that assistance. The Browns liked the environment, the lifestyle and “the fact that we could bring our dogs, Amie and Bonnie.” The Odens knew the area, have friends who lived here and liked the conveniences of nearby shopping. The Shaffers liked the culture in Greenville (The Thiel Players, The Greenville Symphony and The Friends of Music at Holy Trinity Church) and knew they wanted to stay in the area once they retired. They also appreciate the fact that they are not far from two major cities. The Hodges enjoy the open space and visiting with friends and neighbors.

Along with the variety of opportunities for socializing, meeting new friends, and reconnecting with old, sharing their time and talents, and volunteering available at St. Paul Homes, these residents enjoy the fact that they have come full circle, spending their retirement years in the same place that they enjoyed their college relationship. Whether it’s a “Thiel dinner” at the Hodges’ or catching a Thiel Choir performance, these alumni have re-ignited their relationship with their alma mater. What connects these campuses most are these people, who have created both a special bond between the campuses and a new extended family.
Thiel College

MISSION STATEMENT
Thiel College, an academic institution in the Lutheran tradition, empowers individuals to reach their full potential by assuring educational excellence, stimulating global awareness, promoting ethical and responsible leadership, and preparing students for careers so that lives inspired by truth and freedom may be committed to service in the world.

STATEMENT OF IDENTITY
Thiel College, an independent institution related to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and established in Western Pennsylvania in 1866 as a co-education institution, educates students in the liberal arts and professional studies for service to society.

THIEL’S HISTORY
Thiel College, located in Greenville, Pennsylvania, was founded by German Lutheran pioneers who came to the western part of the state in the early decades of the 19th century. These hearty people had a common heritage of language, culture and religion. The influence of the church, particularly the newly formed “Pittsburgh Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church,” had a profound effect on the early academies, which flourished briefly and led to the founding of Thiel College.

The start in 1866 of Thiel Hall, soon to become Thiel College, followed a meeting between the Rev. Dr. William A. Passavant and A. Louis Thiel. Passavant was educated at Jefferson College, a Presbyterian institution in Canonsburg, and at Gettysburg Seminary, and proved to be God’s man at the right time and right place. His zest for truth, beauty and mercy led to the establishment of numerous churches, educational institutions, and hospitals in the Midwest.

St. Paul Homes

OUR MISSION
The mission of St. Paul Homes, formed and sustained by the Judeo-Christian faith, and historically related to the United Church of Christ, is to provide meaning, richness of life and health care services for those who seek our facility.

OUR VISION
Our vision is to create a sense of belonging and purpose by providing a place to call home for everyone who chooses to become part of our family.

ST. PAUL’S HISTORY
St. Paul Homes, historically related to the United Church of Christ, has been serving the needs of residents of western Pennsylvania and the surrounding states for 140 years. Originally created in 1867 in Butler, Pennsylvania, to provide care for orphans of the Civil War, St. Paul Homes moved to Greenville over a century ago.

While caring for orphans remained a primary focus during most of the Home’s first 100 years, it broadened its mission to serve the elderly in the early 1920s. Initially housing the elderly in homes along Eagle Street in Greenville, this portion of the Home’s service was moved to the campus along PA Route 58 in 1946.

The orphans’ and children’s care program ended in 1971 and the focus shifted to services and accommodations for older adults. In 2006, The Home completed its largest expansion adding a state of the art nursing home and aging-in-place apartments.

Today the retirement community is comprised of independent living in Cottage Colony, aging-in-place in the Heritage and the Ridgewood; and nursing care, rehabilitation, and Alzheimer’s care in The Villas. Today, Thiel Alumni and faculty account for more than 10% of Cottage Colony residents.
Key Staff Members at St. Paul Homes are Graduates of Thiel College

**Anna Schultz Grimm**
Director of Rehab
Class of 2003
BA in Speech & Hearing Science & Psychology
Came to St. Paul Homes in 2005
Originally from Wisconsin
“I chose Thiel because of its Lutheran affiliation and its Speech major”

**Debbie Hughes Yoos**
Billing Specialist
Class of 1984
Associates degree in Computer Science
Came to St. Paul Homes in 2006
Nontraditional student at Thiel
“I chose Thiel because it was close to home”

**Mary McCollam Blattner**
Director of Nursing
Class of 1987
Bachelor of Science in Nursing
Came to St. Paul Homes in 2000
“I chose Thiel because it was close to home and it offered what I wanted”

**Lisa Calvin**
Controller
Class of 1995
BA in Accounting
Came to St. Paul Homes in 2002
Nontraditional student
“I chose Thiel because it was close to home”

**Regina Bates Brison**
Personal Care Home Administrator
Class of 1994
BA in Accounting
Nontraditional student
Came to St. Paul Homes in 1996
“I chose Thiel because it was close to home”

Pictured are (front) Regina Brison, (middle L to R) Mary Blattner and Lisa Calvin, (standing L to R) are Anna Grimm and Debbie Yoos.
Staff and Board Members Recognized for Years of Service

In April, staff members and board members were recognized for years of service. A dinner was held in their honor at The Tara. Pictured is Barb Wilson with G. Bryan Oros, executive director and Mary Blattner, director of nursing. Barb was recognized for 35 years of service.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Jack Walter – 10 years
Howard Headland – 15 years
Joseph Despoy – 20 years
Frank Jobe – 20 years
Rev. Neil Siefert – 20 years

ACTIVITIES
Bonnie Saxton – 20 years
Vicky Dodds – 30 years

BUSINESS OFFICE
Judy Millero – 30 years

DIETARY
Sharon Gill – 15 years
Terri McGarvey – 15 years
Marlene Randolph – 15 years
Cathy Boyer – 30 years

HOUSEKEEPING
Mary Battles – 10 years
Bev Henderson – Retiree
Judy Campbell – Retiree
Robert Stouffer – Retiree

NURSING
Kimberly Artherholt – 10 years
Dave Butler – 10 years
Deb Calenda – 10 years
Sue Carr – 10 years
Sheila Reiser – 10 years
Mary Beth Smith – 10 years
Barb Holiga – 15 years
Jessica Burnett – 20 years
Kathy Williamson – 20 years
Kathy Beckstein – 30 years
Karen King – 30 years
Barb Wilson – 35 years
Ginny Hawthorne – Retiree
Mary Ann Skiff – Retiree

THE RIDGEWOOD
Jama Romine – 15 years
Joan Horak – 20 years
Dottie Seger – 25 years
Allyson Hale – Retiree
Bev Jewell – Retiree
Carol Nay – Retiree

VOLUNTEER SERVICES
Pat Krumpak – Retiree

Continued from page 7

Mr. Jack Markowitz
Ms. Edna Martinella
Ms. Martha Martinez
Mary Blattner, Teresa Heckman,
Kathy Oros, & Robyn Weaver
Mr. & Mrs. Robert McAdams
Mr. Lorin McAfee
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Mcclimans
Mr. & Mrs. James McCollam
Mrs. Sadie McCormick
Mrs. Terri McGarvey
Mr. & Mrs. John McInturf
Mrs. Alta McKay
Mr. & Mrs. John Mcinturf
Mrs. Mildred McLaughlin
Mr. & Mrs. Robert McLaughlin
Mrs. Janet McParland
Mr. & Mrs. Robert McVey
Mr. Jesse Reed Meighen
Ms. Linda Meyer
Ms. Julianne Millen
Ms. Darice Miller
Mr. Clarence Miller
Rev. Linda Miller-Pretz
Ms. Joan Mitchell
Ms. Florence Mognet
Mrs. Joan Mook
Ms. Irene Moran
Mt. Troy United Church of Christ,
Pittsburgh
Ms. Carol Mueller
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Murchie
Mrs. Patty Nagy
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Neimeic
Ms. Marilyn Nemkovich
Mr. & Mrs. Darrell Nicklin
Mrs. Dorothy Noble
Mr. & Mrs. Bartley Oden
Mr. & Mrs. William O’Donnell
Mr. & Mrs. Fremont Ogawa
Old Zion United Methodist Church,
Emlenton
Ms. Margaret O’Lear
Mrs. Frances Olinger
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Opel
Mr. & Mrs. William Ovitsky
Mrs. Margaret Patsy
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Patterson
Mrs. Grace Perrotti
Mrs. Shirley Peters
Mr. Wes Phillis
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Piper
Dr. & Mrs. Constantine Poolos
Ms. Patricia Potter
Mrs. Gail Prager
Mrs. Joyce Prentice
Mr. Charles Prince
Mr. & Mrs. William Pritts, II
Ms. Virginia Proud
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Ramsey
Mrs. Jeane Ramsey
Mrs. Roberta Ratcliff
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Reed
Mr. & Mrs. James Rease
Regina Health Center, Dietary
Department
Mrs. Catherine Reinhart
Mr. & Mrs. Clifton Richards
Ridgewood Residents
Mrs. Marie Riley
Dr. & Mrs. John Robb
Mr. & Mrs. Russell Roberts
Mrs. Dorothy Rossavik
Mr. Ray Rost
Mrs. Jenny Rupnik
Since October we have trained 19 more staff members as Eden Associates. Now called the Sunshine Sisters (yes, all women), these associates now have a greater understanding of the Eden Alternative and have committed to its philosophy of nurturing the human spirit and eliminating its plagues.

This spring we reached a milestone in our Eden Journey – we validated Principle One which states that the plagues of the human spirit are loneliness, helplessness, and boredom. By creating awareness of these plagues among our staff, residents, and family members as well as by incorporating that awareness into our daily lives we meet the criteria established by the Eden Alternative. We also are learning to be more sensitive to individuals who suffer from those plagues. Understanding and awareness of these plagues is the foundation of our journey now allowing us to address them when identified. In June we plan to celebrate our achievement. We have chosen the tortoise as our symbol for Principle One representing a journey that is “slow but sure.”

Next our focus shifts to Principle Six which states “Meaningless activity corrodes the human spirit. The opportunity to do things that we find meaningful is essential to human health.” Through Eden activities we continue to learn about the importance of developing meaningful relationships among residents and staff members and creating meaningful opportunities for both. Principle Six is known as a practice principle – one that calls us to action addressing the plagues by creating person-centered opportunities.

Our Eden Journey . . . slow, but sure!
Rev. Harry Wood Understands The Value of Giving

Rev. Harry B. Wood, Jr. sees the value of giving to St. Paul Homes in a variety of ways.

The Cottage Colony resident recently established a charitable gift annuity to benefit the Home. The gift, directed to the Vision for the Future Campaign, was given in memory of his wife, Peg. In recognition of his generosity, the Great Room on the north side of The Gardens neighborhood is being named in Peg’s memory.

Harry is also a member of the Legacy Society at St. Paul Homes. This group recognizes those who have included the Home in their estate planning.

Harry and Peg joined the Cottage Colony in 1996. Prior to their arrival Peg had begun to have some memory issues. Eventually she had to go to the Alzheimer’s unit at the health center, and then to The Gardens when the Villas opened. Harry remarked that moving to St. Paul Homes was very beneficial because he could see Peg daily, but be assured that she was getting wonderful care, especially when he traveled to see their children.

Harry’s past support has included the Good Samaritan Fund, Residents’ Christmas Appeal, Vision for the Future Campaign, and Dental Suite among others. Harry, a retired Presbyterian minister, also assists the campus chaplains when there is a need, whether it is leading worship or visiting with a resident or family member.

Harry’s service also extends to the community where he is active in Greenville Rotary among other activities.

For additional information on charitable gift annuities and other ways to include St. Paul Homes in your estate planning, contact Bill Kirker at the Development Office.
What will you do with the funds that you will receive shortly through the Economic Stimulus Act of 2008? Donors can receive an “extra benefit” if they donate part or all of the funds to a favorite charity like St. Paul Homes.

The funds provided through the act are tax free, meaning the recipient will never have to pay income tax on them. But, if that money is donated, it may be deducted when filing your income tax return next year.

This allows the donor to receive a tax deduction for money that will never be taxed.

Please consider donating part or all of your economic stimulus funds to St. Paul Homes.
Caring Hearts On Fire Benefits The Good Samaritan Fund

St. Paul Homes will hold their second Caring Hearts on Fire Gala on September 13. Proceeds will benefit the Good Samaritan Fund at St. Paul Homes.

The Good Samaritan Fund assists residents who are unable to afford the total cost of their care. Last year, $817,300 in unfunded care was provided to residents by St. Paul Homes. Residents may reach a point where they have expended their assets or for other reason need assistance in paying for their care. A resident will never be asked to leave the Home for financial reasons.

The gala will again be an evening to remember with a menu of delicious Hors d’oeuvres, various wines, beers, and soft drinks, and delicious desserts. Entertainment will be provided by Backbeat for listening and dancing pleasure.

During the evening, a live and silent auction will be held featuring exciting and unique gifts ranging from sports collectibles to weekend get-away packages, and special one-of-a-kind items. Greenville attorney Dan Wallace returns as the auctioneer for the live auction.

Miss Pennsylvania will be on hand to greet guests.

Sponsors of the gala to date include-

- Advanced Bulk and Conveying
- Advanced Health Services, Inc.
- Aim Leasing
- Amerinet Central
- Arjo
- Arrow Electric Incorporated
- Bair’s Corvette
- Betty Lou Artman
- Burrows Company
- Jim & Lynn Chuey
- Don & Rita Clemente
- Cohen & Grigsby, P.C.
- ComDoc, Inc.
- Cullen Construction
- Davevic Benefit Consultants, Inc.
- Dr. Sam & Lisa Daisley
- First National Bank
- Giglio Produce Co
- Greenville Savings Bank
- Lenny & Tammy Hause
- John & Grace Hawkins
- HealthCare Services Group, Inc.
- Hearing Health Associates
- IN2L
- Jamestown Paint
- Joy Cone
- Kalchthaler Insurance Agency, Inc.
- Kapp Communications, Inc.
- Kaufman House
- Kidds Jewelry
- Landfried Paving, Inc.
- Life Force Of Western Pa., Inc.
- LV Micsky
- M & T Bank
- Momentum Therapeutics
- N.N. Moss Company Inc.
- National Fuel Resources
- Navigation Company
- Thomas & Diane O’Brien
- Osborne-Williams Funeral Home
- Parente Randolph, LLC
- Premier Power
- Pymatuning Boat Sales
- Quality Steel Fabricators, Inc.
- Randall Funeral Home
- Reese, Lower, Patrick & Scott
- Reynolds Development/Reynolds Water Co., & Reynolds Disposal Co.
- Sam’s Club Co.
- Signature Aluminum
- Sodexho Senior Services
- Sysco Food Services
- Valley Can
- Jeff, Brenda, Hannah & Ryan Wallace
- Wallace Law Firm, LLP
- Joseph M. Walton
- Waste Management of Pa
- White Electric
- Tim Williams

Tickets are only $50 per person and are available from members of the ticket committee or by contacting Marilyn Moore at St. Paul Homes at 724-588-7610.

Reseach Team Completes Work for Homes’ History Book

In February, members of the Research Team completed their portion of the work for our history book. Over this past year, members of this team have sifted through ninety years worth of St. Paul Homes’ archives to identify significant events, people, programs, growth, and stories to include in our history book. We thank them for their countless hours put forth to coordinate this valuable information.

Members of the Research Team pictured are (left to right): (front) Betty Groce, Bert Heckman, Georgine Coxson, Clara Mae Romo, Delores Leffler, Jane King, Charlotte Cochran, Shirley Aiken, Pat Homer, and Phyllis Thompson; (back) Rita Clemente, Marilyn Moore, Janet Walther, Janet Hills, Julie Hills, Evelyn Baier, and Lois Eastlick. Missing is Ken Scott.
Signature Aluminum believes in supporting local charitable organizations. The aluminum extrusion company, located in the former Werner Ladder plant in Greenville, has made a generous commitment to give to the Eden Alternative.

Company President John Thigpen, a Thiel College graduate, toured the Home shortly after the company began operations. Last fall, the company contributed $1,000 to the dental suite project at The Home. This year they have made a $2,000 commitment to the Eden Alternative.

“We are pleased to be able to support the work of St. Paul Homes,” Thigpen commented. “They are a progressive long-term care facility and touch many lives in the greater Greenville community. Many of the Signature Aluminum employees have had family or friends served by St. Paul Homes, and family members of some of our workers are members of their workforce.”

“We appreciate the generous support of Signature Aluminum,” Bryan Oros, executive director, said. “They are a growing company headquartered in Greenville. They support the area both as an employer and contributor.”

Signature Aluminum manufactures aluminum extrusions ranging from 7 inches to 10 inches and also provides secondary fabrication and packaging. They employ 315 at their Greenville, PA headquarters, one of eight facilities that the company operates in the US and Canada.

2008 through 2010, the Auxiliary of St. Paul Homes has pledged $30,000.00, $10,000.00 of which will be used to help support the development of a dental suite in The Heritage, enabling residents to receive dental care at the Home. The other $20,000.00 will go toward purchasing a new sign for St. Paul Homes. In an effort to help meet this pledge, the Auxiliary will be conducting a membership drive throughout the month of June.

The membership drive, which is one method of raising money, is based on donations by new members who want to join the Auxiliary. The membership is open and accepts men, women, and children who are interested in joining. To join, one need only make a donation, regardless of amount, by contacting any of the receptionists at The Villas, The Ridgewood, The Heritage or The Keifer Building, by contacting Rose Hoffman, or physically signing up in the Bistro of the Villas. All donations are then given to the Auxiliary fund, which goes to St. Paul Homes to help the projects that benefit the residents.

Formed on May 19, 1973, the Auxiliary of St. Paul Homes was established to develop a community concern for the work of the Home and to instill a deep interest in promoting the comfort and spiritual well-being of the residents.

The logo of the Auxiliary is a cross, the arms of which are designed to indicate three people interlocking arms. The meaning behind this symbol, first developed by Judy Bigley in 1983, is representative of the need people have of each other to fulfill God’s plan. It also represents the Holy Trinity with the three interlocking figures.

In order to meet these goals and uphold St. Paul Homes mission—that of providing healthcare, richness, and meaning to the lives of its residents—the Auxiliary pledges financial support in order to purchase any items that may enhance the lives of the residents.

The Auxiliary has raised more than $224,000.00 since its establishment and has used this money to support past projects such as -

- The development of a gift shop and kitchenette in the Health Center, and rest rooms at the O.D. Anderson Pavilion
- The installation of cable television, air conditioning, and new flooring in the Health Canter.
- The purchase of draperies and furnishings for different areas of the Home
- The purchase of a transport vehicle
- Support of a Memorial Endowment Fund – In Memory of Rev. Morris Cooper
- A capital fund campaign for new dining rooms
- The Alzheimer’s Special Therapy Unit
- The Eden Alternative
6th Annual
Strawberry Festival & Auction

Sunday, June 22nd
1:00 to 4:00 P.M.

Featuring Live and Chinese Auctions and 50/50 Raffle. Serving complimentary delicious strawberry desserts.

at

The Ridgewood at Shenango Valley

One Elston Way
Hermitage, PA
For information call (724) 347-0998

Auction items include quilts, outdoor furniture, grill, gift baskets, gift certificates, art, autographed sports memorabilia, food items, area sporting event tickets, golf packages, toys, tools and much more.

Proceeds benefit the Good Samaritan Fund at The Ridgewood at Shenango Valley.