

A scenic view of a rural landscape. In the foreground, a paved path curves through a green field. Two people are riding bicycles on the path; one is in the foreground wearing a white shirt and a blue and white helmet, and another is further back wearing a black shirt and a red helmet. To the right, a large barn with a red roof and a white door is visible. The background is filled with trees, some with autumn-colored leaves, and a clear sky.

Camphill Village Kimberton Hills news

Autumn/Winter 2011

STORIES OF GIVING

The Catherine Marie Todd
Matching Gift Challenge,
Giving by example

Village Vacation

Village Profile:
Nancy Sue Stern

Thanks and Giving

by Diedra Heitzman, Executive Director

A song I heard this summer has lyrics listing many people and their efforts toward making the world a better place. It is by the Makepeace Brothers and it's called, "I Want to Thank You." I find myself singing it in my mind often now. Sometimes it is to remind myself that no matter what else is happening in the world, there are good things happening too, and sometimes it is because I am particularly touched by what I am witnessing.

Something about noticing what is good around us brings light into our lives, and enlivens whatever is hopeful in us – gifts to our souls.

It is amazing how often that happens here, in unexpected ways. Sometimes, as when Clifford Todd called, it is monumentally surprising good news, and other times it is someone's small act of thoughtfulness (who put those dishes away; who swept the floor without being asked; who brought that wonderful poem; who reminded me of something I would have forgotten?) or beauty (look at that magnificent sunset, that lovely woven scarf!) that can bring the song to mind. Thanksgiving approaches, and soon after that will come holidays with their abundant reminders to be thoughtful of others and to give. Giving somehow balances us—it helps express that we are here, contributing to the world, too.

Every one of us can experience the need to give, and Kimberton Hills addresses that in many ways, but perhaps especially through the genuine and significant help those who live here and whom the world would not necessarily expect to be "givers" do give. Sometimes it is through their special presence and unique way of expressing their lives, and often it is by their daily work alongside the rest of us. That we are here together, working to make something better, finding our ways to each other even when it isn't so easy, is testament to the value of giving. We are all better for it.

Village Vacation 2011: the gift of relaxation

Two groups were fortunate to spend a week each on a Village Vacation to Nags Head, NC in September. Thank you to the Anderson family for sharing their home with us and to the Morrie Huston Villager Activity Fund, which helps make trips like this possible. Because of these extraordinary donations, villagers experienced the gifts of rest, relaxation and rejuvenation.



A great time was had by all! Sun and surf, bike rides and ferry trips, pirates and sea turtles and wild horses... what a vacation!

"I liked going to the Outer Banks because it had a lot of different places to go," said Charlene Roth. "We ate at a pirate restaurant. And they had nice people down there you could meet. When I was sitting there, I was just looking out at the ocean and it gave me a good feeling to see the beautiful ocean."



Happenings

At our annual fall dinner, we were pleased to present the 2011 Service to the Community Award to our friends, Terry and Pat Brett of Kimberton Whole Foods (pictured below). They are strong friends of Kimberton Hills - where Terry served on the Board - and a significant influence for good in our region. In addition to operating four Kimberton Whole Foods locations, the Bretts have given much to help support local charitable, artistic, and educational events, and of course, the efforts to create a more walkable and sustaining community in Kimberton.



Congratulations, Terry and Pat, and thank you for all you do for our community and beyond. You give so much and we are grateful.



In November, Camphill Kimberton's Bell Choir joined with Tony-nominated actress Brenda Braxton and jazz singer Heather Mass to perform in New York City in celebration of the 45th Year of the Camphill Foundation. Sharing the gift of music was a very proud moment for our choir members. "It was good," said Johannah Newman, who also enjoyed "meeting new people."



Our craft workshops recently received a very generous donation from Georgeann Blaha and her family (pictured with the weavery crew below). Georgeann donated both weaving and pottery equipment, including a kiln, three beautiful looms, display racks, and several boxes of colorful yarn. Thank you, Georgeann!



The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society recently honored Camphill Kimberton as a community greening champion at an award ceremony held in Philadelphia (pictured above).

The Community Greening Award recognizes individuals, garden clubs, civic associations, businesses and community groups who have created and maintained public green spaces that enhance their communities. Judges evaluated the sites in July and August based on plant variety, design, use of space, and horticultural practices. Sixty winners were chosen from entries throughout Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware. Camphill Kimberton was honored for our sustainable gardening and land use practices. We were pleased to be among the first recognized for the environmental impact of our beautiful gardens.

The Camphill Challenge

Sunday, October 16 was the 5th Annual Camphill Challenge, a bike ride in support of the three Camphill communities in Pennsylvania: Camphill Kimberton, Camphill Soltane, and Camphill Special School.



Approximately 300 riders participated in the event. It was an absolutely beautiful fall day for the ride and the picnic that followed. Thank you to those who supported this collaborative fundraiser.

Please mark your calendars to join us next year, Sunday, October 14, 2012.



Giving by example: Cliff and Xandra

We are thrilled to announce we have surpassed the goal of the Catherine Marie Todd Matching Gift Challenge. We raised \$67,411.27 in gifts of cash and pledges. Thank you!

Because of your generosity, we have also received the matching gift - \$50,000 has been contributed by our very generous donor, Clifford Todd, in memory of his twin sister, Catherine Marie. We gratefully accepted the donation at a celebration luncheon held at the Camphill Café on Saturday, October 15. In the photo above, Cliff Todd presents the matching gift to Executive Director Diedra Heitzman, surrounded by members of the Church family.

One of our supporters said the following about Cliff Todd, "I am impressed with the generosity, care and leadership that emanates from him to your village, to Pennsylvania, to the United States, and actually to the Human Family." We couldn't agree more.

Inspired by Cliff's leadership, donations came in from many friends and family members. Some gifts were larger than others, and some gifts were smaller than others, but all were important and all built upon each other to reach the goal.

Every gift is inspiring as every gift is a gesture of your commitment to Camphill Kimberton, but we were especially moved by the contribution of Xandra Coleman, one of our youngest donors, pictured at right.

Xandra's school sponsored a yard sale and she devoted her selling space to earn money for Camphill Kimberton. Xandra's sale earned \$21.05, which she sent to us with a note reading, "\$21.05 might not be much, but I hope it will be of some use."

Xandra, it is so much! It is wonderful and it is of use! Thank you for giving of yourself and for reminding us that each one of us can have a very important role to play. You have set a wonderful example of how to give.

Cliff and Xandra, your belief in our mission and in the work that we do is confirming and gratifying. You've made more than a financial contribution; you've made a permanent impact. For that we are so very grateful.



Dear friends,

As you consider your 2011 charitable giving options, I hope you'll choose to support Camphill Kimberton. All of us in the village community know that without your contributions - we couldn't exist. But perhaps *you* aren't aware how impactful *your gift* actually is. More than 1/4 of the funds we need to keep the village running comes from charitable giving. As a non-profit organization that receives no funding from the state, individual contributions are absolutely necessary.

The village strives to live frugally and has cut the annual budget where it is possible. Our careful use of resources and creative choices allow us to reduce spending where we are able and focus on maintaining a healthy and happy lifestyle for the residents of the village.

Today I am asking you to choose Camphill Kimberton. Please choose to support the high quality of life we provide for adults with developmental disabilities. Choose to support the high quality food we produce in our CSA garden and raw milk dairy. Choose to support the high quality land and air we strive to protect. Or choose to support the high quality craft program creating beautiful items each day.

I promise that we will continue to make the choice to do our very best with the funds you are entrusting to us and honor the intention attached to that donation. Thank you for your faith in us and your commitment to our work.

Sincerely,

Bernadette M. Kovaleski
Bernadette M. Kovaleski
Director of Development

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"When we become more fully aware that our success is due in large measure to the loyalty, helpfulness, and encouragement we have received from others, our desire grows to pass on similar gifts. Gratitude spurs us on to prove ourselves worthy of what others have done for us. The spirit of gratitude is a powerful energizer." — Wilferd A. Peterson

To make your tax-deductible contribution to Camphill Kimberton, please return the enclosed envelope, call 610-935-8660, or visit www.camphillkimberton.org/donations.php and click the "Donate Now" button. Your gift in any amount will be deeply appreciated and carefully used to enrich the lives of the people with special needs who make Camphill Village Kimberton Hills their home. Thank you!

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Village Profile: Nancy Sue Stern

When living in community, the ability to give, aside from other attributes, is one of the greatest qualities to enhance the smooth running of daily living. To contribute in whatever capacity one can to one's house, workshop or to the community in general, no matter how big or small, are the 'cogs' that keep the Camphill rhythm enduring.

Nancy Sue. The name conjures up wonderful memories of my former housemate from my first year at Camphill. Now in my second year, the special friendship is blessed to continue and as I come downstairs one Friday morning, I am greeted with a beaming smile and a great big hug from the lady herself.

In my experience, Nancy Sue is a wonderful example to consider when reflecting the many spectrums that constitute giving. Attributes of giving include the friendship she provides in abundance to both those she meets as well as her life-long closest friends. Hugs are a speciality. Through her conversation and engaging with those she lives and works with, she spreads an immense joy. She also faithfully goes to see her partner David (*pictured with Nancy Sue below*) a number of times a week at Serena House through wind, rain or shine.

This has been the case throughout the duration of their time together which is an inspirational 30 years (approximately), so she tells me.

Within the household, I rarely encountered her taking the rest hour after lunch. She would diligently find a broom, dustpan and brush or would walk around the house dutifully collecting the rubbish. Soon after my initial arrival at Camphill I remember asking her whether she was going to go and take the rest hour and her response to that was "Oh, I doubt it."

Another morning I was not feeling my best and I continued with my duties alone around the house, with the crew in various places undertaking other tasks. I decided to meditate and ask Spirit for clarity which I hoped would subsequently enhance my mood. Nancy Sue walked into the kitchen dustpan and brush in hand. She began talking; I don't remember her exact words but what I do remember vividly is how she brought me out of the cloud I was in. Once she had finished speaking she walked straight back out again to continue what she had been doing. The words spoken were not of vocal relevance but it was the warmth and love which was (consciously or unconsciously) offered in this situation that made such an impact. It was clear to me that she had been guided and the simple act which had occurred resulted in a wave of gratitude which engulfed me.

Many underestimate the power of a giving a smile or a kind word but it really can be a true blessing. More often than not, unknowingly it can make someone's day or can create a renewed positivity, just as I experienced with Nancy Sue. -- Freya Symes

