

Camphill Village Kimberton Hills news

2021 Spring Newsletter and 2020 Annual Report



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Really Virtual

by Felicity Jeans, Executive Director

“We are so immensely grateful for your continuing support, patience and creativity in staying connected with us in Kimberton Hills.”

I don't need to dwell too much on the impact this past year has had on all of us throughout the world. The extremes of imbalance have been heightened with layers of inequalities that our social 'norms' perpetuate. Of course those on the privileged side of the inequalities do not always realize that something in need of adjusting. Thankfully, the disability rights movement has grown in the ability to advocate and support self-advocacy of those with disabilities, but we all know how difficult it can be to discern what are one's own wishes and how these wishes relate to those around us and to each other. We still have a long way to go towards a world where everyone is equally supported to be who they are.

Here in Kimberton Hills, we have walked the tightrope of balancing people's views to develop a community response to the COVID-19 virus. One side holds we should not be fooled by the overreaction of the media, and the other, that we should have no interactions with anyone until they have been quarantined for 14 days. Between these positions, we have given guidelines to householders, co-workers, volunteers and families to evaluate safety, and to self-evaluate, for example, to have a Kimberton Hills Village resident visit with family. So far, we have managed this successfully. Unfortunately we are not able to have the Cafe open just yet for you, our friends and the wider public, to be able to come join us.

This fall, the Virtual Auction and Fundraising event was surprisingly successful. Friends and supporters of the many varied aspects of life in Kimberton Hills were able to share links to the event with friends further afield than in the local area. We give our immense appreciation to all of you who helped make this event so special. Some of you also may have found your way to the online Craft Shop which is making our beautiful handmade crafts available to you all 24/7. Thomas will be sharing more further in this newsletter.

We are hoping to have a springtime virtual auction and event where we will highlight the Wood Crafting Studio. Thomas and the crew make handcrafted wooden items from Kimberton Hills trees that have been wind damaged and milled by the estate team. For the past 5 years or so, we have made our former Wood Shop available to our friends at Beaver Farm, the transition program for the graduating students of Camphill School. As they are now able to have their own woodwork shop, Thomas, a skilled woodworker, has reestablished a Wood Crafting Studio for residents of CVKH.

Although we are relieved to have the outreach that the website and online crafts and virtual galas give us, it is no comparison to seeing and interacting with you all in person. We are so immensely grateful for your continuing support, patience and creativity in staying connected with us in Kimberton Hills. We do not yet know quite when it will be, but we are so looking forward to when the Cafe can be open. We are eager for the Hootenanny to happen on the Village Green, and to have concerts and plays again in Rose Hall. Until then, we appreciate your care and understanding in helping keep everyone here healthy and well. So far, we have weathered this pandemic and are truly blessed to know our friends are supportive of the many layers of life in Camphill Village Kimberton Hills.



Oberlin House Repairs

by Judith Hokky, Householder in Oberlin

Thank you to all of you who graciously donated funds to go towards the Oberlin House repairs that were needed after a damaging windstorm took place on June 3rd, 2020. According to the National Weather Service, this powerful storm brought winds up to 90 miles per hour that took down thousands of power lines and trees, leaving over half a million people without power for days. One of the trees was a 20,000-pound oak tree that fell on Oberlin House, one of our 18 residential homes. Fortunately, no one was hurt, but the damage to the house was extensive.

The tree fell on the northwest side of the house, leaving a gaping hole in one of the roof's dormers and in the ceiling of one of the 2nd story bathrooms. Feeling the embrace of community life, three houses in the village offered temporary homes for Oberlin's four villagers. My husband Pete and our son Joseph also moved to a temporary home once the demolition work began. The list of needed repairs was extensive. Our insurance would help pay for most of the repairs, but we were faced with a \$50,000 deductible of which almost \$20,000 was donated by friends like you.

The repairs to Oberlin were done by Chris Duerr and his team at Anvil Industries, and included removing and replacing about 1/3 of the roof's rafters, re-building one dormer, re-sheeting and shingling the entire roof, remodeling two bathrooms, putting in new wiring and plumbing for the restored areas, as well as new air conditioning for the 2nd and 3rd floors. Work also included replacing the main electric panel, painting in all of the affected areas and refinishing the attic floors. It wasn't until mid-December that all of the residents of Oberlin were re-united. It just goes to show how wonderful it is to live in a community that pulls together in times of need and has many supporters and friends who constantly support our mission. Thank you!



Major damage to Oberlin House (left) and the recent repairs (right)

Online Craft Shop

by Thomas Balls, Householder in Sycamore

A year ago, the possibility for Kimberton Hills to sell its craft products directly to the customer came to an end as we had to close our doors to visitors. At that time, there was a big unknown as to how long the shutdown would go on for but my guess is that most people thought it would be temporary. As the months went by and the end of the summer came, the craft workshops opened with strict rules on mask-wearing and physical distancing, as the pandemic was in full swing.

I had just opened a wood workshop and was in the process of setting up and exploring what my market was going to be. Working together with the Applied Arts Association, we started to discuss and explore the idea of having an online craft store. This was an idea that had

been floating around for some time, but there was not a great need for it or someone who was able to get it going. To be honest, I had no idea what I was getting myself into as I have no experience in doing websites, but nonetheless, I decided I would take this on. I was excited about the idea and thought I might be best suited to give it a try. After some discussion and research it was discovered that we had, as part of our current website, a commerce platform that could be activated and put to good use. We had no idea of what it would take to make our online craft shop happen but I was determined to give it a shot.

Within a couple of weeks playing around with the website, setting up PayPal accounts, and discovering more things that needed to be done, we went live. It was prime Christmas shopping time and without all the Christmas craft fairs to go to, we were hoping that the new Kimberton Hills online craft shop would do just fine. It has been three months now, and things seem to be going pretty well. It's hard to tell at this point what to aim for, but as time goes by we will have clearer benchmarks to assess our sales. Social media has played an important role in getting the message out via email, Facebook and Instagram. We hope to improve and strengthen our abilities in the realm of marketing but I guess it will come one step at a time.

We would like to thank all of our supporters both near and far. We hope that you can help us to spread the good word on the new online craft shop and amazing work that goes into the finished products that also creates the possibility for those who make the craft shop items to be proud of what they have accomplished.



Visit the Online Craft Shop!

www.camphillkimberton.org

Our online Craft Shop is filled with dozens of unique, handmade wares made onsite in our Kimberton Hills Village.

Peruse wonderful items from our Wood Shop, Weavery, Herb Garden, Mosaic, Fiber Arts and Ceramic Studios, and more!

In-person pick up is available for local friends and community.



Remebering Ruth Liberatore

April 29th, 1932 - November 26th, 2020

I met Ruth Liberatore in October of 2017. I had just arrived in Camphill Village Kimberton Hills a few weeks before and offered, not knowing what I was offering, to support Ruth. Of course, the next day when Diedra Heitzman took me over to meet Ruth, Ruth wouldn't even let me in the door. Ruth has a rich and exciting history, of which little is known. She kept that door mostly closed, as well. I know she came to Camphill in 1980. There is a paper trail that proves it. When I met her she was living in Rosemary, lovingly called "the Hut" which was taken off the top of Rose Hall in the 70s (with a crane!). In November of 2017 she moved into Serena House, the eldercare house, after a brief stay in the hospital.

The walls of the hut were lined with Ruth's books and music. There was more to learn on those shelves than Ruth was willing or able to tell me. Ruth did tell me frequently about how she was born in Hawaii. She grew up on a pineapple plantation on the island of Maui and spoke fondly of those days. She spoke of a tense relationship between her mother and father, mostly around faith. She spoke clearly and firmly against the treatment of Japanese Americans on Hawaii after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. As I helped Ruth fill out hospital paperwork in my early days with her, she was always firm about her occupation, 'composer', even if someone else might suggest that she was retired. And she was quite the composer. Ruth is best known for her legacy of countless compositions. She composed pieces for weddings, baptisms, confirmations, festivals, and upon request for special events, one time pieces, written for that occasion only. Ruth's music has a unique style, often short and surprising, much like herself. Ruth's passion flowed in many other directions. She had a great interest in literature, theatre, the elementals, gardening and medicine. She was dedicated to the herb garden at Camphill Village Kimberton Hills for many years. Ruth often asked me to explain medical procedures in detail so she would be more prepared when she came back as a doctor in her next life.

In her last few years with me in Serena House, we had less and less access to Ruth's rich inner life. She expressed herself by reciting poetry and singing snippets of old songs. She forgot words, places, names. However, in her final days she spoke very clearly about one thing: love.

- Becca Fox



Thank You to Our Generous Donors in 2020

Dear Friends,

As we approach the 50th Anniversary of CVKH in 2022, we pause to take note that our lives changed in a dramatic way starting in March 2020 when we came to learn about, and understand, the life changing and potentially devastating impact of the coronavirus on our daily lives and societal norms. Suddenly and overnight in mid-March 2020, CVKH had to pivot with agility and caring love for our villagers, co-workers, volunteers, families and friends to a "new normal" way of life. We implemented protective measures and followed the guidelines of the CDC and state/county health agencies to ensure the health of our community and of those who help us and support us. Though physically distanced from each other as co-workers, employees, families, friends, volunteers and board members, CVKH found ways to stay connected through weekly meetings via Zoom and Google Meet, FaceTime, and old-fashioned letter writing via mail. It has been observed that, despite the difficulties imposed by Covid-19, the light of Camphill has been shared in new and innovative ways as we worked diligently with you, our supporters and volunteers, to maintain our financial stability to address our infrastructure, workshop and program needs to maintain CVKH.

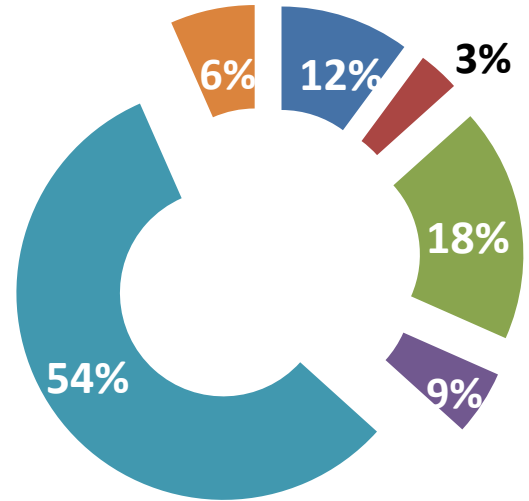
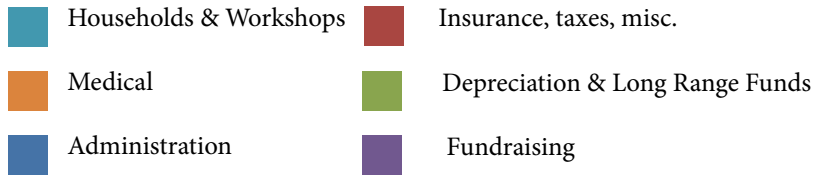
We missed seeing you in person over the past year as traditionally, when we were able to express our gratitude to you at our several annual friend raising events, including the Hootenanny, What's for Dinner, Friends and Family Day, and our Kimberton Inn Dinner. The Friends of Kimberton Hills, our volunteer group of families, friends and donors, stepped into the breach and helped us strategize, plan, and carry out our first ever Virtual Event Fundraiser in November 2020. We honored Dr. Jean Flood, a longtime board member and volunteer, with as our Lifetime Achievement Award. The Virtual Fundraising event was a success, and thanks to the support of the Friends of Kimberton Hills, their outreach to others beyond our community and the event sponsors, we were able to raise much needed funding that we had to forego from other fundraising events we cancelled due to the pandemic.

We express our heartfelt thanks and are grateful to you for your friendship, caring, love and support for CVKH. It is because of you that we are able to carry out our important mission and maintain our core values to make CVKH a shining light community in Pennsylvania and beyond. Your support ensures CVKH will continue to grow, strengthen and safeguard our villagers, land and community well into the future and into our 50th year in 2022.

- Craig Williams, Director of Development

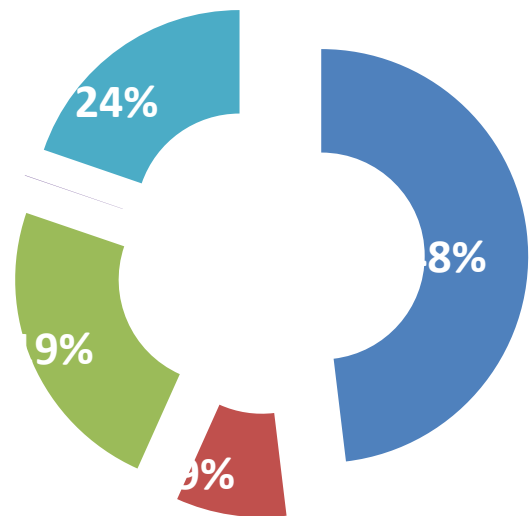
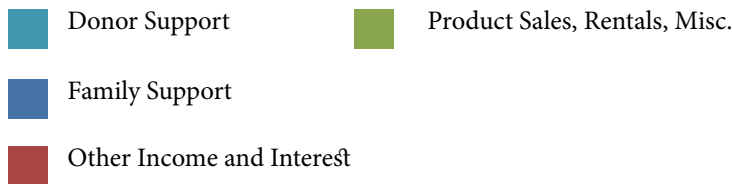
2020 Operating Expenses

\$2,449,062



2020 Revenue

\$2,539,773



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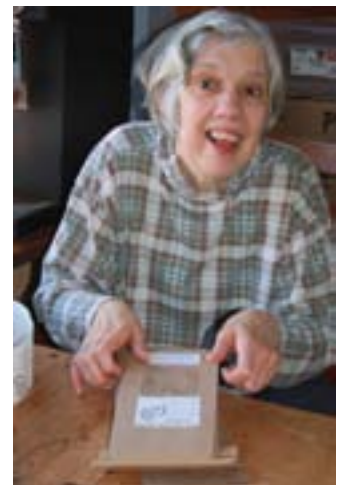
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 Rosalind & Jeffrey Benton In Memory of Norene Benton
 April Moncrieff In Memory of Helen Wieneke, Kimberton Farms School English teacher
 Bonnie Ferguson In Memory of David Reeves
 Marilyn & John Hill In Memory of Mary Holland and Susan Holland
 Amy Stalzer In Memory of Frederick & Kathleen Pflieger
 John & Robin Hilton In Memory of Frederick & Kathleen Pflieger
 Donna Perry & Louis Schwartz In Memory of Frederick C. Pflieger
 Patricia Kepple In Memory of Elizabeth Wycoff Benz
 George & Janet Wallace In Memory of Cynthia Wallace
 Ann Christian In Memory of Sandra Wing Bailey
 Gretchen Huebner In Memory of Frederick & Kathleen Pflieger
 David & Susan Wabnik In Memory of Arnold Adler
 Bonnie Ferguson In Memory of David Reeves
 Emily Sabo In Memory of Herbert Wolf and Don Garrett
 Marilyn Michalski In Memory of Mother Miriam
 Sally Hunter In Memory of Joseph Napolitan
 Alison Ruch In Memory of Ruth F. Bosch
 Elizabeth Warner In Memory of Mary Holland

Ralph Dunmore In Memory of all deceased villagers
 John & Robin Hilton In Memory of Ruth F. Bosch
 Paul & Carie Kuzemchak In Memory of Frederick C. Pflieger
 Barry & Carley Smith In Memory of Posie Huston
 Laurence A. Becker In Memory of Richard Wawro, Artist, With Eyes Wide Open
 Robert Rosenberry In Memory of Mr. and Mrs. William Ursler
 Lora L. Woo In Memory of Elizabeth Wycoff Benz
 Hiroharu Okamoto In Memory of Morrie Huston
 Ronald & Kathleen Haines In Memory of Stanley Johnson
 Linda Scherffius In Memory of Elizabeth Benz
 Virginia Lindak In Memory of Chris Neumann



Gifts In Kind

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 Emily Fazzini
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 Trader Joe's
 Kimberton Whole Foods
 Lionville Natural Pharmacy
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 Karen Murphy
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We apologize if we have inadvertently omitted or misspelled anyone's name.
 If you have donated through Facebook, Your Cause, or Network For Good and would like individual recognition, please contact us.

Please call the Development Office at 610-935-0300 ext. 12 if you find any such mistakes and we will gladly correct them in our upcoming newsletter, or would like to learn additional ways to support CVKH.

Thank you to all!



A Journey in Kimberton Hills

By Kris Varga, Volunteer Coworker

I started out as a Day Volunteer in 2019, working at Helios on Saturdays doing household chores. During my year of volunteering, I developed a deeper fondness for the community and their values. Eventually, I made the leap and became a Co-worker, moving into Serena House June of 2020. At this point, the community was in a different flow state due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which resulted with me quarantining for two weeks, which I turned into my own personal spiritual retreat. I found this fortunate because it led to some pretty important reflections and realizations in relation to the work being done here. I watched (from a distance) as folks of all abilities interacted freely throughout the community, biking up and down the drive without societal concern. There is a sense of acceptance and freedom offered here that often isn't offered in the general public.

Prior to coming to Camphill, I worked in another care position supporting individuals with special needs. We would go out into town, visit shopping malls and parks. Some great times. However, wherever we went there was a sense of caution that always lingered around our group. The public eye was uncertain on us (even when they tried not to be) and we became limited in our doings. The friends that I chaperoned were unable to express themselves and were constantly being placed in a "them" category. Society was just uncertain on how to interact with people of different abilities.



Kris with Noah



Kris with members of his Serena House family

In the course of my seven months living at Camphill thus far, I discovered integration that the rest of the world is lacking. Everyone here (Co-workers and Villagers) are given the appropriate space to develop their humanity together. We learn boundaries, patience, communication, focus, forgiveness, understanding, integrity, and, of course, fun. During the making of the Friends and Family Day video that some of you may have seen, I got the opportunity to interact with all of the households and workshops, something rare for an incoming co-worker, especially during a pandemic! Through the lens I was able to capture a small piece of the community and what its daily offering consists of. What do you see? You see love. Friendship. Cooperation. The truth is that our daily living isn't always easy, and in fact it truly does offer a lot of challenges and difficulties that weren't shown in the video. But what that video tried to capture wasn't necessarily the reality of our experience, but the heart of our experience. It showed the way that everyone here finds a home and refuge in what the community offers, or at least tries to offer to the best of its ability, and the way we come together and make life possible and real for all.

It's been an extraordinary experience here in Kimberton Hills so far. The restrictions of the pandemic and the precautions the community has taken in regards has me wondering what my experience here would be like in a different time (and hopefully I stay long enough to find out). Being a poet and akin to the spiritual realm and religious life, I find myself heavily inspired by the activity that happens in the community, by all the beautiful individuals and their unique personalities and perspectives. A lot of the time, my life feels more real here than it ever did outside the community, more in touch with an authentic version of my inner truth. Being present becomes more of a requirement then it does a reminder, which I appreciate. Gratitude pours in daily (and is even spoken aloud at every meal).

I feel connected to people on a level deeper than your average interaction, and I always feel I have a support system at all times. One of my greatest concerns before coming to Kimberton Hills was finding personal time and space, which is extremely important to me. Yet, that has developed its own accord (with the "boundary" aspect spoken of earlier being instigated a bit) and I feel a genuine equanimity within my needs. There's always more work to be done, internally and externally, but the aspect of centering (something I appreciate from the pottery realm) allows one a relatively peaceful and joyful experience through whatever life brings.

Before coming to Camphill, a friend said to me that living in an intentional community is like putting a bunch of jagged rocks in a bag, shaking them together, resulting in a bag of smooth, polished rocks. I now understand exactly what she meant.



Ina with Kris in the golf cart

A Morning's Walk

By Kris Varga

A charm of goldfinches
delight the spreading
wildflowers, who crane
their necks into a cup
of sunrise with its
magic, its magnificence
and glory on a steady flight
above the pastures below.

I walk up Camphill Drive
into the morning unknown,
its already September cold
amazing my bones and
rendering my soul who
now claims its dormancy
from summer's past,
perhaps daunted by the
heat it brought
like a parched drought
praying for rain.

Each day contains a mystery
unraveling and wandering
through the untested lives
of all who allow themselves
to be dazzled, charmed
by every simplicity and
difficulty that presents itself.

This is our history,
right now, right here,
living a wounded,
grieving world, still breathing,
attempting to discover solace
in a morning's walk
underneath the waking sun
who, for some unknowable reason,
still has the ability to grunt,
stand disheveled yet prepared
to shine its light on us all.



Kris (far right) in the annual Shephard's Play

Volunteer Opportunities Available

Kimberton Hills is currently seeking volunteer coworkers!
Please visit our website or contact Craig Brown in Admissions for
more information:

Information@camphillkimberton.org
www.camphillkimberton.org

**Congratulations to
Kyle Gilliams and Elijah Maltz
on the birth of their son,
Ezra James Maltz
born March 2, 2021!**



**HELP US SECURE
THE FUTURE**

Planned Giving and Kimberton Hills

The success of Kimberton Hills depends on the foresight and generosity of you, our supporters and friends. Knowledgeable and careful financial planning can provide for you and your families' future, and can ensure a meaningful future for our village.

There are many beneficial ways that planned gifts can be tailored to your unique philanthropic interests and financial capabilities. Each option offers different tax advantages.



Contact Craig Williams, Development Director at cwilliams@camphillkimberton.org to discuss how planned giving can help you and Kimberton Hills.



Camphill Village Kimberton Hills

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ONLINE CRAFT SHOP
www.camphillkimberton.org

CAMP HILL CAFÉ
Currently Closed

SANKANAC CSA
Harvesting May-November

The mission of Camphill Village Kimberton Hills is to create and maintain a land-based community together with adults with special needs. Inspired by Anthroposophy, members of the community support one another to contribute to the wider society through biodynamic agriculture, handcrafts and other ecological, social, cultural and educational endeavors.

Residential and Volunteer opportunities are available at Kimberton Hills. Contact Craig Brown in Admissions at 610-935-0300 ext. 18

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Gabby working on one of many handmade items sold in our new online Kimberton Hills Craft Shop

Upcoming Events

Spring Virtual Auction 2021

May 2nd to May 10th

Follow us on Facebook & Instagram:
Camphill Village Kimberton Hills

Kimberton Hills benefits greatly from the committed individuals who make up our Board of Directors. Along with members of the various Board Committees, they support the village with fundraising, financial reporting, strategic planning and other initiatives.