



Twelveacres

Newsletter
Fall 2007

"...first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear." Mark 4: 28

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75th Anniversary Celebration

On Saturday, August 11th, friends, family and supporters of Twelveacres from across the country gathered to celebrate Twelveacres' 75th year of service.

Several former staff members came from other states, and one former resident came to the celebration from Alaska! Everyone gathered at Shoup Park in Los Altos, CA, for a country barbecue and an afternoon of shared memories, healings, laughter, and lots of singing.

Randi Gleason, Vocational Education Teacher, created a photo montage of Twelveacres' residents and staff. People had fun looking at the photos and picking out friends and co-workers, and sharing laughs over the old styles of clothes and hairdos.

Lawrence Alomatsi, Assistant Manager of Flores House, created a slide show of past and present Twelveacres residents, staff, and Board members, utilizing some of the many photos Randi unearthed in her search for pictures of Twelveacres history. The slides were accompanied by recorded music of Desiree Goyette, who graciously allowed Twelveacres to use her music, (The slide show has been placed on CDs and is available from the office for a cost of \$10. All proceeds go to the support of Twelveacres).

Entertainment was provided by The Uncalled Four, a nationally recognized barbershop quartet, and the Sunday Singers, who in addition to their per-



Enjoying the performance



Greeting Old Friends

formance led the group in a rousing patriotic and camp-song style sing-along.

Lin Watts, Executive Director, shared excerpts from congratulatory letters received from those connected to Twelveacres. He spoke of all of Twelveacres' supporters as "Partners of a Glorious Hope," (For an excerpted text of his remarks see page 2).

This was a joyful celebration that will long be remembered! ♥

Twelveacres' 75th Anniversary Annual Meeting

Twelveacres' 75th Anniversary Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 4th at 2 p.m. at 1st Church, Los Gatos. Our theme this year is "Partners of a Glorious Hope." Come join us for an inspiring talk by George Strong, Administrator of Fern Lodge, on the subject of Mrs. Eddy's healing mission. There will be refreshments after the meeting. ♥



The Uncalled Four



Fruitage

AST: One resident is beginning to read! She was able to remember most of what she had done, which is a huge improvement. Every time we had class, we had to start over from the beginning—but not this time. She is doing her best to remember every word.

Another resident continues to work on her math, but her most noticeable progress is in a more humble view of herself and others. A critical attitude towards others is disappearing and she is more open to being shown where her math errors are so she can correct them.

At one resident's annual program meeting, we found out that she cared for a Day Program staff member who had fallen and cut her head. The resident helped to wash and cover a cut on the individual's head, stayed with her, and reassured her until help arrived.

Another resident no longer needs a wheelchair. She is now walking and standing. She recently recited "The Scientific Statement of Being" perfectly.

Lily House: Lily House had a wonderful facelift this June—a new coat of paint. While that was going on, all of the Lily House residents went to Camp Costanoan. Everyone had a great time, but on their return, one resident, who is able to pivot indepen-

dently from her wheel chair to bed or another chair, was unable to stand. She had bumped her knee while at camp and was in a lot of discomfort. She also seemed to be afraid of falling or hurting herself again. With the help of her Christian Science practitioner, she was soon able, with a little assistance from staff, to get up and care for her needs. Soon she was caring for herself independently.

One resident has progressed from looking at the teacher when the teacher speaks to her, and holding onto an object, to following a 3-step task! Recently, when the teacher held a beanbag up in front of her, the teacher told her to reach up. She did! When the teacher told her she did a great job, she turned her head, held up the beanbag, and smiled. Now she has a big grin on her face whenever she lifts the beanbag.

Another resident is walking now assisted by two staff members. This is a great victory over fear!

Bucknall House: One resident did not always like to see her mistakes before, and would either have the teacher fix them or leave them uncorrected, but now she does most of the correcting herself. When she needs the teacher's help, she will ask and then stay to see what the teacher does and try to help.

(Continued on page 4.)

“She is beginning to read!”

A Letter on Conservator Issues from Twelveacres' Board of Directors

Twelveacres' Board of Directors believes the Christian Science field should be made aware of some issues that Twelveacres is dealing with in relating to the San Jose Public Defender's office. Most of our residents are, by law, appointed a conservator, (often a family member), who assumes responsibility for their family member's care. During that process, a Public Defender is appointed to represent the resident.

Recently, when applications have been made for new conservators to be appointed for a resident, the Public Defender's office has been challenging the right of any conservator to choose Christian Science care for that resident. In each case, after reviewing the care of our residents, the conservators have been allowed to choose Christian Science care.

More recently, when a former Twelveacres resident specified his desire for "metaphysical" treatment

while living at another (non-Christian Science) group home, it was misinterpreted by his attendees to mean physical, i.e., medical treatment. In a subsequent court hearing the judge ruled that medical examinations would be required for this individual in spite of his wishes and the wishes of his conservators. Thankfully, as in each previous case, the individual was found to be in good health and was allowed to have Christian Science care.

The California COP for Northern California has been apprised of the situation. As we see it, this is nothing more than a case of failure to comprehend the magnificence of Christian Science healing, particularly healing where such is claimed not to be possible. Your support and prayers are greatly appreciated as we navigate these waters.

Thank you,

Twelveacres Board of Directors

Twelveacres is seeking dedicated Christian Scientists to fill open positions including Development Director, House Manager, Direct Care Staff, Business Manager, and Housekeeper

A few weeks ago, as I was thinking about how grateful I am for all the people who have contributed to Twelveacres' mission, the phrase "Partners Of A Glorious Hope" came to me. I found it's from the first verse of hymn 274 in the Christian Science Hymnal:

*"Partners of a glorious hope,
Lift your hearts and voices up;
Nobly let us bear the strife,
Keep the holiness of life."*

Each individual who has been a resident, donor, board member or staff member has served as a partner in our healing mission. Their contributions built Twelveacres into what it is today. They have truly been "Partners Of A Glorious Hope" – the hope of healing.

One of the letters I received celebrating our 75th year of service shared this healing: "I was one of the teachers at Twelveacres...A young man in the class didn't talk, though once in a while he would say the word 'moon' in a quiet voice. We were doing a unit on growth and how things grow...we had been given a garden space...we planted vegetables...it was the zucchini that the young man took note of. He helped plant the zucchini...he came out every day to water it. It got to be harvest time and our class went out to harvest the vegetables. The kitchen let us come in and cook them... During the 3 months we had been working in the garden, the young man hadn't said a word and hadn't seemed to pay attention. Suddenly, he took a forkful of zucchini ...he held the fork in mid-air and took his other hand and pointed over and over at the door...He went to the window and pointed to where the vegetable garden was. It was a tremendous breakthrough for him!" The writer goes on to talk about the profound effect working at Twelveacres had in her life and the lives of the residents.

Many people I've talked with about Twelveacres, including this former staff member, mention the feeling of unity and family found here. That sense of unity and family, that sense of partnership, is vital to the success of our healing mission, especially in light of the challenges to our healing work that we have been facing from the Public Defender.

Your partnering with us at Twelveacres will enable us to move forward in our mission. Last year, we

Matching Gift Program

We're delighted to tell you that several of our donors have helped us create a Matching Gift Program for this fall! Through their generosity \$45,000 has been given as a challenge match. This program will run through January 31, 2008. Be sure to keep an eye out for our next letter announcing the final details. Please note on your donation that it is a contribution to Twelveacres Matching Gift Fund. That way any contribution you make will be matched 1/1 for every dollar you contribute! ♡

received several applications from families with young adults who need the highest level of education and care. In order to provide for these individuals, we need your help.

The challenge for us is that almost all of our grants and bequests received in the last year are restricted to particular uses such as Vocational Education or our endowment. As a result, most of our funds are currently restricted. This makes it very challenging to pay general operating costs. It also makes it difficult to offer our services to those new applicants who want to come to Twelveacres. Partnering with you, and actively demonstrating divine Love, we know our daily needs will be met.

We are very grateful to all our donors and to the churches and foundations that have stepped forward this year as our partners in hope. We are also grateful to Discovery Bound members who helped refurbish the gardens at Braeburn House. Thank you all for your prayers, your work, and your financial support. ★



Discovery Bound Workday at Braeburn House

“Partners of a glorious hope, Lift your hearts and voices up.”

Fruitage (Continued from previous page.)

Another resident was often resistant before, but she has participated in everything presented to her. When she does a task, taking about 15 minutes, she gets to choose between doing another task or teaching aerobics. She will always choose aerobics and she will work every muscle. When we purchase a video camera, we will be making an "Exercise with Twelveacres" video!

A resident is talking in sentences and is easily understood. Recently, she told the staff that she wanted to have lunch out and pointed to a restaurant where she wanted to eat. When ordering food, she looked at the menu and pointed to the meal she liked. The staff pointed to several other foods but the resident said, "No. This is the one. I want this one!"

A resident always liked to wear either a coat or a sweater every day when going to her Day Program, but now she asks the staff whether it will be hot and when staff says, "Yes," A resident takes off the sweater or coat and takes it back to her room without being told to do so.

Braeburn House: A resident had fallen at her Day Program. Her right ankle became swollen and she couldn't walk. She worked with a Christian Science practitioner and within a week, she was walking freely. The ankle was completely healed. Now she walks around the house with a big smile on her face.

Another resident has been intrigued with the blue plastic box that holds all the different balls, and she will hold it and take something out. One of the balls laughs when you push it and she likes to hear it...over and over. She will look at the teacher and smile and the teacher will push the ball. Recently, she tried a few times to do it herself and when nothing happened, she would look at the teacher and then the ball. We can see her mind working to solve that puzzle!

One resident is working on speech while doing a 15-piece puzzle. She actually speaks a few words, but speaks so softly it is often missed. She says the word sun and will look right at the teacher when she says it, but other words are under her breath. We look forward to hearing more from her.

Flores House: When one resident started the Vocational Education program, he was not reading and wanted to. He now reads 50-55 words accurately. He had not been able to focus for more than 5 minutes without getting distracted or asking a question. Recently, he spent 20 minutes in total silence as he concentrated on a puzzle!

A manager had a challenge, exhibiting symptoms of a cold and sneezing a lot. To his utmost astonishment, a resident came up and said, "Sneezing does not belong to you!" The manager was soon healed. 🔄

From April through September 2007 Twelveacres received greatly appreciated donations in the names of the following:

In Memory of:

Alice Hellyer	Desiree Markhgott	Julie Thompson	Paulette Skinner
Alyce Galdins	Donald Walrod	Kathleen Stanley	Peter Kalmoutis
Ann O. Spaulding	Elizabeth Lagergren, CS	Lois Savoye	Reba C. Green
Anthony Strapple, Jr.	Elsa Forsblad	Lorna Knox	Robert C. Koehler, CS
B. J. Publicover	Frank Vance	Margo Wolff	Stillwater Foundation
Barbara Carlton	Helen K. Reeves	Mary Rupert	Susan Schoettler
Betty Delgado	Hugh Scott Pennington	Marybeth Blackburn	Susan Zabel
David C. Stevens	Jacob Moon	Paulette Pridmore-Brown	

In Honor of:

Amy L. Hellyer	Ken Walrod	Melissa Whitmore	Jill Grimes
Amy Long	Kendall, Alisch	Miss Gafney	Patricia McNeill
Bright Morning Star Home	Laura Spaulding	Molly Byers	Peter Untch
Dianne Blas	Manya Kaseroff-Smith	Paul Grimes	Shari Tobias
Jane Baker	Margo Gross	Peter V. Ueberroth	Twelveacres' Staff

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