When there is joy in the work, the results come almost as a bonus. Like a farmer who plants seed trusting that there will be reward for his labor, our concerted efforts bore fruit last year. We are pleased to share them with you in these pages.
PRESIDENT’S REPORT

2015 marked another year of pointed diversity in our life as an organization. Gains and setbacks seemed to coincide: several gratifying professional awards were met with increasing scrutiny by the host of governmental agencies that govern us, and growth in the financial support of friends was countered by capital expenses on a large scale. Technology – not always a friend – continued to both facilitate and frustrate the hands-on service we render to the seniors in our care.

Nevertheless, a verse from a hymn we often call to mind says it all: “O God our help in ages past; our hope for years to come…” As such, the fruit of our labor is something to look back on with gratitude, and to look forward to with confidence.

Last year the team at Vernon Green Nursing Home was awarded the Vermont Quality Award by the state’s licensing agency. As one of five nursing homes chosen from the thirty-eight homes in Vermont to receive this prestigious award, “the Nursing Home Quality Award recognizes outstanding nursing homes which have met high standards of quality of care for Vermont’s nursing home residents.” This recognition was gratifying, to say the least.

In addition, Vernon’s Executive Director Brad Ellis was awarded the 2015 Eli Pick Facility Leadership Award by the American College of Health Care Administrators. The award recognizes administrators whose teams, of the thousands evaluated across the country, have achieved a level of organizational quality that few others are able to reach. Brad was one of only 227 leaders who met the rigorous requirements required. Well done!

And, for the 15th year in a row, Vernon Green won the area-wide “Best of the Best” consumer’s choice award for nursing homes. Vernon Hall won the same distinction for the eighth year in a row in the Assisted Living category.

A welcome turn in the senior housing market boosted occupancy at Meetinghouse Village in 2015. For years former Executive Director Pat Holmes faced the pressures of a depressed market, resulting in strains on census and cash flow. We’re grateful for a positive “tide change” in the southern Maine area last year, resulting in full occupancy by year’s end. Ironically, Vernon struggled with low census for the latter half of the year, reflective of a nursing home trend throughout much of the country. We take solace in the fact that our census was, nevertheless, one of the better reported in the region.

Later in this edition of Cornerstones you’ll see the fruits of an initiative we began in 2015: harmonizing the “branding” of ACRC’s different entities. Until now, Vernon Home, Meetinghouse Village and ACRC itself had divergent logos and “tag lines” that didn’t reflect the unity of our organization. The effort has resulted in fresh branding reflecting that unity, while also distinguishing the diversity of our services.

A few pages in you’ll also see mention of a new circle of supporters named “The Founders Partnership” – a group of friends who have committed to annual gift support at a distinctive level. We’re grateful for the special generosity of Partnership members, and we welcome inquiries from others interested in becoming a vital resource in our effort to meet the ever-increasing needs of our senior care communities.

That being said, each year we’re eager to report on gifts we’ve received from our entire family of supporters. In 2015 gifts to the Annual Fund totaled $81,733 – up 17.5% from the prior year. These gifts enable us to go above and beyond what routine fees and government reimbursement by themselves are insufficient to meet. Last year they helped us purchase special items – from apartment upgrades to patient transport equipment to heating systems – all of which directly benefit those in our care.
Speaking of upgrades, the provider of computer software running the financial and clinical systems on the Vernon campus announced their closure last year. This required the daunting work of selecting and implementing new software systems. One benefit of the change is the opportunity it created to move to “EMR” (Electronic Medical Recording), a current trend in health care that replaces manual, paper-based charts with digital resident records. EMR has been shown to improve efficiency in monitoring the care of residents in nursing homes and assisted living centers.

As if that challenge wasn’t enough, the Vernon campus was required to address a failing wastewater system and changes to the water supply at Vernon Hall. Frustrating our efforts were conflicting directives from state authorities and civil engineers, bringing new meaning to the term “red tape.” Completion of the work is expected this year, however.

Leadership changes in 2015 were also poignantly mixed. Our board of directors was sad to receive the resignation of Mrs. Joan Cooper, a member since the early 1990s. At the same time, we welcomed Mrs. Glenda Dwyer of Ashland, Maine as our newest board member. Glenda currently serves as Vice President of Physician Services at Aroostook Medical Center in Presque Isle, Maine. We will miss Joan, but are grateful for the skills and commitment Glenda brings to ACRC.

At the juncture of two years, we find ourselves once again committed, dependent and grateful. We’re committed to senior services that, as our Values Statement says, are exceptional, creative and generous. We’re dependent on God, whose grace we seek to replicate in our daily, practical care. And we’re grateful for your part – whether great or small – in helping us reap the fruit of our labor.

As such, we trust that this edition of Cornerstones will bring you the same gratification that another year of service – and your friendship – has brought us.

Larry Knowles
President, ACRC
VERNON SCORES QUALITY AWARDS

Our passion for quality was recognized with three awards last year. Vermont’s Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living awarded Vernon Green with its Vermont Quality Award for 2015. The Green was one of five nursing homes chosen from the 37 nursing homes in Vermont to be recognized for high standards of quality care.

Vernon Green went 15 for 15 by again receiving the Best of the Best Award as Vermont’s top nursing home. Vernon Hall was recognized too, receiving its 8th straight award in the assisted living category.

We were recognized for quality leadership as well when the American College of Health Care Administrators Vernon Home Quality awarded its 2015 Eli Pick Facility Leadership Award to Executive Director Brad Ellis. Of the thousands considered across the nation, only 257 administrators met the ACHCA requirements. Further, Brad was one of 227 leaders who received the award with virtual recognition, which takes into account several rigorous facility quality and performance measures.

THE ELEOS SOCIETY

Once again we’re happy to recognize members of our Eleos Society, comprised of friends who have remembered ACRC with a “Planned Gift” such as a charitable gift annuity, leaving ACRC in their will, or through life insurance.

Planned Gifts help provide capital for improvements and expansion that cannot always be sustained by regular contributions or operating income. Planned Gifts also provide donors with important tax and income advantages.

The word “Eleos” is a biblical word for “mercy” or “compassion,” often found in connection with acts of kindness toward those in need.

Mr. David Bohy
Mrs. Sandra Nichols
Mr. Victor Carman
Rev. William Monroe
Mrs. Joan Cooper
Mrs. Betty Chamberlin
Ms. Phyllis Nichols

We welcome partners to this important society of friends. If you’ve already remembered us in your will, or if you’d like to know more about Planned Gifts, please contact us at the number or address on the back of this booklet.

M. Brad Ellis with his leadership award.
WE HAVE A NEW LOOK!

Over the years, ACRC, VACH and MV each have presented different brand identities. We decided it was time to rebrand with the goal of creating a unifying look and clear messages about our services and our mission. We also renamed VACH to Vernon Homes, in order to communicate more succinctly as well as suggest the multi-level care available.

We are very gratified with the new brand identity and believe that it provides several important benefits. The new identity:

- **Fosters** our audience’s grasp of the overall brand and relationship of our individual members
- **Simplifies** our branding “message”
- **Unifies** all ACRC communications
- **Distinguishes** our members with the grace attribute
- **Advances** a contemporary, professional appearance
- **Reinforces** organizational size and the scope of services
- **Refreshes** people’s attention
- **Enables** any future business acquisitions or services to be seamlessly incorporated brand-wise

We hope you appreciate the fruits of this particular labor, which will be rolling out over the next several months.

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Lawrence B. Knowles, Jr., Executive Director, Meetinghouse Village
ANNOUNCING
THE FOUNDER'S
PARTNERSHIP

This year we are pleased to announce the formation of The Founder’s Partnership – a circle of friends whose support of Advent Christian Retirement Communities is maintained at a distinctive and sustained level each year. We’re grateful for this special group of friends, identified below, whose generosity helps us maintain the exceptional character of services to residents of our communities.

If you’d like to inquire into the nature and benefits of membership, please contact us at the address on the back cover.

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Leyden, MA

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Northfield, MA

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David and Keyna Welenc
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GIFTS TO THE
2015 ANNUAL FUND

Thank you to our family of donors!
2015 gifts: $81,733

100% of your gifts were directed to the purpose for which they were given.

In this listing we’re pleased to recognize our Barnabas Circle friends who have distinguished their support through gift levels and/or constancy. For more information about joining this circle of friends, contact us at the address on the back cover.

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Advent Christian Church
Vernon, VT
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<td>Kittery, ME</td>
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<td>Northfield, MA</td>
<td>In memory of Sean Brennan</td>
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<td>Diana Brown</td>
<td>Wilmington, VT</td>
<td>In memory of Lavenia Mowes</td>
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<td>Ms. Betty Chamberlin</td>
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<td>Mr. Phillip Chapman</td>
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<td>In memory of Hilda Clark</td>
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<td>Ms. Linda Cooper</td>
<td>Westfield, MA</td>
<td>In honor of Miriam Howland</td>
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<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Paul Andrews</td>
<td>Zephyr Hills, FL</td>
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We sincerely regret any errors in donor records that may happen from time to time. If you notice anything amiss on these pages please notify us using the address on the back so that we can correct it promptly.