

# *Staying the Course*



## CORNERSTONES

Recognizing those who give to  
Advent Christian Retirement Communities

*Our senior communities  
last year not only reliably  
reached worthy goals  
but headed steadily and  
purposefully toward those  
still on the far horizon.*



# President's Report

If you were looking for spectacle in 2016, our year at Advent Christian Retirement Communities might have disappointed you. Little took place in terms of dramatic events, but this belies another reality.

Our communities enjoyed steady success in the pursuit of service excellence for those in our care. And quiet developments were afoot in the pursuit of key development goals. "Staying the course," then, is neither boring nor commonplace if that course leads upward.

For the second year in a row, 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 award recognizes outstanding nursing homes that have met high standards of quality of care for Vermont's nursing home residents. The recognition was gratifying to us all, to say the least.

Also for the second year in a row, Vernon's Executive Director Brad Ellis was awarded the 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 distinctive level of organizational quality. Brad was one of only 247 leaders who met the rigorous requirements required. Well done, Brad!

And, for the 17th 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 10th year in a row in the Assisted Living category.

However, it's not as if the long-term care profession hasn't come with its simultaneous challenges. Last year Vernon Green experienced what is a national trend in falling nursing home occupancy. Our weekly "census" is critical to operating revenue, and having the nursing home filled at 86% for the latter half of the year triggered the need for tight operating and capital cost management.

Forecasts suggest that within 15 years these trends will disappear with an aging baby-boom generation in need of care (though alternative care models will no doubt be demanded by that age group). Just as serious is the question of who will care for that cohort when younger generations following have been significantly smaller.

Thankfully, we were able to fare positively despite the current trends. Census at Vernon Hall and Vernon Birches was stable last year, which benefitted us as well.

Over in Kittery, Maine, Meetinghouse Village enjoyed a year of historically high census – a welcome turn after MV's leadership labored through a period of depressed senior housing markets years back. The improvement



Vermont's 2016 Quality Award went to Vernon Green's interdisciplinary leadership team. Back row from left: Brad Ellis, David Welenc, Wanda Scully, Holly Nicholas, Skip Sleeper. Front row: Coleen Williams, Sue Arsenault, Frankie Cloutier, Emmie Miner, Peter Olson. Inset: David Potwin and Nancy Ayotte-Williams.



Historically divided by a land parcel, exploration is under way to unite Meetinghouse Village's North and South campuses with a paved byway.



has strengthened fiscal operations, furthering capital improvements and the prospect of revisiting South Campus development in the future.

Last year we reported on our “re-branding” (e.g., new logos, signage) work to provide a long-needed cohesion between Vernon and Meetinghouse under the ACRC banner. With that work completed we were able to refresh our websites in 2016. The much needed upgrades improve their functionality – and in a way that for the first time visually links our communities. Check them out using the address on the back of this publication.



*An existing “Green House” neighborhood in New Jersey.*

In 2016 we also saw the resurrection of a vision for Vernon Green that we shared with many of you some years back: the “Green House Model” for nursing home care. Part of a larger national movement, the model provides 24-hour nursing in individual houses of 10 residents each rather than in the institutional, hospital-like facilities that are the current norm. After much planning and dialogue, we had previously suspended our ambitions due to barriers in obtaining the necessary permissions from state authorities.

But now, through affiliation with the Green House Project, there are new planning and consulting resources available to us. Preliminary work is under way to implement both internal training and a revised proposal for financing, state approval and construction. We’re still a ways from the goal, but we were gratified by the possibility of fulfilling this innovative and long-sought vision.



*The view of the Connecticut River Valley from Vernon.*

We initiated a striking improvement to the Vernon campus late last summer. While our buildings sit high above the Connecticut River, for decades there has been a barrier of woodland between the two. With the help of a forester and an excavation company, the woodlands were cleared, exposing a stunning vista of the river valley. The view will bring a major enhancement to our campus, and the plateau between us and the river will provide opportunities for recreational use by residents, visitors and even townsfolk.

Each year we’re eager to report on gifts we’ve received from our family of supporters. In 2016, gifts to ACRC totaled \$61,000. This

kind support enables us to go above and beyond what routine fees and government reimbursement by themselves are insufficient to meet. Last year they helped us with numerous improvements – from activity programs to furniture replacement to chapel upgrades and vehicle replacement – all of which directly benefit those in our care.

On the personal side, we want to note the passing last year of Margaret Monroe, wife of Rev. Bill Monroe. Bill is our “Emeritus” board member, having served since the 1970’s in several capacities including Chairman and Vice Chairman. You may remember Bill and Margaret being featured in our 90th anniversary edition of Cornerstones. While we’ve grieved with Bill, we are at the same time being thankful for Margaret’s life as an example of a gracious, godly woman.

As you may know, our mission began at the original “Vernon Home” in 1920. As we approach our 100th anniversary, we keep in mind that we do so thanks to the partnership of our friends. This edition of Cornerstones is dedicated to you, our family of supporters who, whether by prayer or giving, help us stay the course to which we’ve been called.



Larry Knowles  
*President, ACRC*

# The Eleos Society

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
- Mr. Victor Carman
- Mrs. Betty Chamberlin
- Mrs. Joan Cooper
- Mr. and Mrs. Ken Mega
- Rev. William Monroe
- Ms. Phyllis Nichols
- Mrs. Sandra 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.



*The Northern Lights Youth Choir, a longstanding group from northern Maine, visited Vernon Homes as part of its east coast tour last year.*

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Lawrence B. Knowles, Jr., Executive Director, Meetinghouse Village

Have you  
remembered  
us in your  
will?

Occasionally we receive unexpected word that a benefactor has remembered us in their last will and testament. We want to acknowledge such friends before that time, if it's preferable to them. Please feel free to let us know if you've taken this gracious step. Our intent is simply to express our gratitude in advance!



# The Founder's Partnership

Begun in 2015, The Founder's Partnership is 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 provided 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 of this publication.

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Thank you to our family of donors!  
2015 gifts: \$61,000

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



THE BARNABAS CIRCLE

*In this listing we're pleased to recognize our Barnabas Circle friends whose support is marked by consistent gift levels and/or regularity. For more information about joining this circle of friends, contact us at the address on the back cover.*



*Indicates members of The Founders Partnership with this logo.*

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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.





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