

FAMILY MATTERS



Fall 2020 Newsletter

Meet the Family: Donnie Rohrer

A Happy Heart is Good Medicine — Proverbs 17:22 (a)

Donald “Donnie” Rohrer is the epitome of Proverbs 17:22 (a). He usually can be found downstairs in the recreation room, with a big, bright smile on his face.

He greets staff as they filter in to work and encourages his housemates when they feel down.

Born on June 26th, Donnie grew up on his family farm, the oldest of four children. Donnie recalls helping his mother plant flowers and chasing the cows into the carousel to be milked. He also worked with Ray Reitz on his family’s farm. He has fond memories of going to Ocean City on family vacations, where they would ride bikes and swim.

When asked what he likes most about Faith Friendship Ministries, his face lights up. “They have good food and nice people work here, like Jim Zook!” Donnie loves to participate in bowling with Jim each Tuesday and also attends

Manor Church. Donnie recently connected with John Stout, the maintenance man. He helped John clean out the shed when it was renovated and enjoyed sitting outside and watching the shed transformation, as it received a much needed face lift.

Donnie shared that his mom and dad have gone to “live with Jesus,” but he is so happy to have a home to call his own at Faith Friendship Villa. We are blessed to have Donnie as part of the family. His “happy heart” and easy grin are infectious.

You can’t have a bad day when it begins with a smile from Donnie!



A Message From Our Executive Director

From the Heart

Recently, I was asked what was the hardest hit area of loss for the Faith Friendship community during the pandemic. Without a doubt, my answer is our **support systems**.

The family members have had to navigate through impersonal telehealth visits and video family visits, and not seeing the kind volunteers, families and church groups that serve us meals, play bingo or just stop in to see how we are doing and let us know that we are loved beyond these four walls.

I realized what FFM community life is like without those vital supports – it is just not the same! The hope is to open the campus, with caution, to our vital support systems as soon as possible. You know who you are and you are missed by our family! I encourage you to visit the website for weekly updates.

— Gwen Didden, Executive Director

Check out our website for weekly updates on our Covid-19 progress. Our re-opening plan will also be posted when finalized.

Our End of Summer Picnic



We were unable to host our family picnic this year; however, that did not stop us from ending the summer with some “family fun.” Barbeque chicken, hamburgers, homemade sides, cupcakes from Shady Maple and a soft ice cream machine from Manor Church were part of the menu. Eagle

rental provided skeet ball, basketball and the family favorite... a dunk tank! We are looking forward to hosting our extended family picnic in 2021! Pictured are Gwen Didden preparing to be dunked, Laura, Renee and Gwen enjoying the outside activities and Jim Zook in the tank after being dunked.

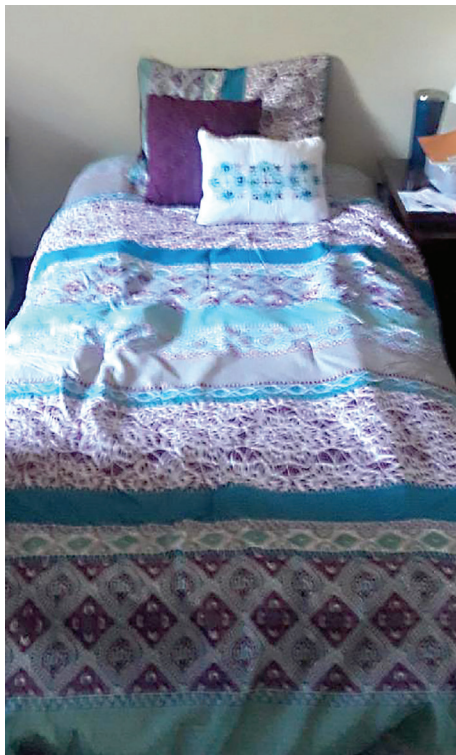


Our outside shed had seen better times. John Stout got to work repainting and restoring the shed, with the help of some of our family members.

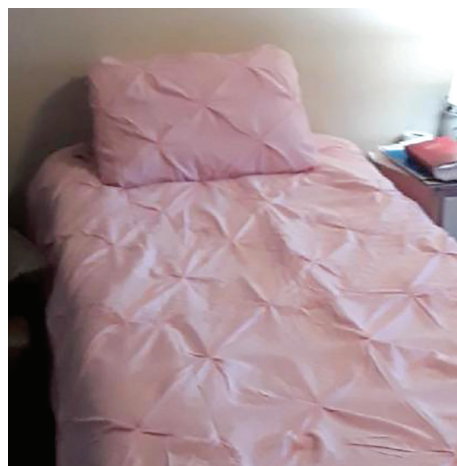
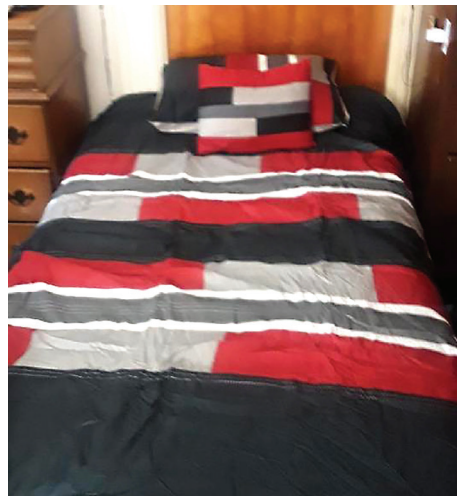


If you are entering The Villa as a volunteer, visitor or essential worker, you first must **STOP, MASK,** and take and record your **TEMPERATURE.** Please disinfect your hands with the hand sanitizer provided. At this time, there are outside areas provided for visiting. Additional inside visits must be scheduled through Dusty Mende, the Director of Community Life. She can be reached by calling (717) 285-5596 and asking for her by name.

Laura's Bedroom Makeovers



After surviving a pandemic, Laura Smith, one of the Care Directors, has begun giving her residents' rooms a makeover. Here are a few examples... Laura is officially called the "Comforter Queen"!



"Our Tooth Fairies"



A generous donation of toothbrushes, tooth paste and dental floss was received. Our staff "Tooth Fairies" were busy handing out the goodies to everyone! (Pictured here are Renee Hoey and Dusty Mendez)

Who are we? Faith Friendship Ministries was founded in 2001, with the mission of providing housing and support services to adults of low income, particularly focusing on those with mental illness, regardless of their ability to initially pay for services. We strive to show the love of Jesus through service and support for our "family members."

What we do – The Villa is a 74 bed, state licensed personal care home. Over 85% of our residents have an income well below the poverty line.

The question has been asked...

"What would the community do without Faith Friendship services?" For many of our residents, hospitals, shelters, living outdoors and in some cases, jails, would become their housing alternatives, becoming costly to the community at large. We are one of the largest personal care homes in the state of Pennsylvania to accept low income residents. The housing and support services Faith Friendship provides is an invaluable and needed service in Lancaster County.

Dinner for Seventy Four

Can you imagine catering three meals a day for 74 people, seven days a week?

We can and we do! Thanks to Tammy Stout and her crew, homemade meals are planned out and prepared daily. Add to that the stress of a pandemic, which was causing supply shortages, including food supplies.

Not only did we need to plan and order enough food for at least a month, but we needed to create a safe place to store the food. John Stout, our maintenance guy got busy! He cleared out a space, cleaned it up and painted it, and then built custom shelving.

We are happy to report we did not miss a meal! Thank you, Tammy, John and staff!



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us on Facebook.

We Give Thanks for Your Remembrance of Us



Many thanks to White Oak
Church of the Brethren. Your
kindness is much appreciated!

