



THE VISIONEER

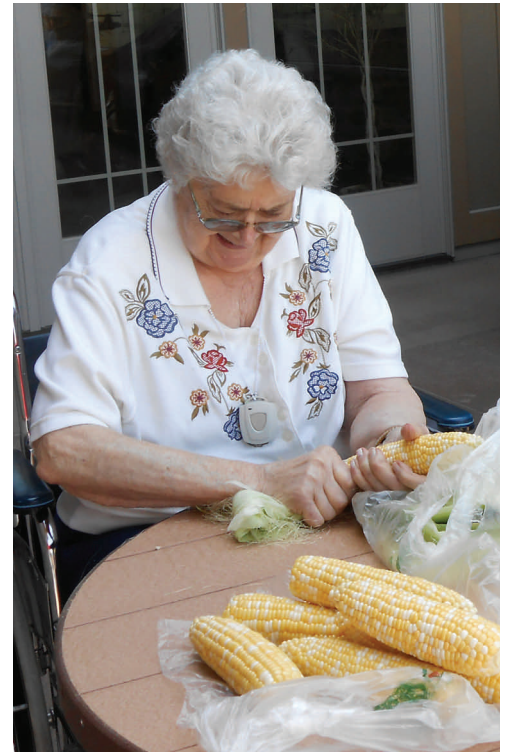
A Project Update for Our New Vision Campaign Partners
July 2013

Willow Ridge: Home to Twenty Elders

Since 2005 Mennonite Home Communities had been dreaming of the day when Green House homes would become a reality in Bluffton. In November 2012 the dream was realized, but not fully. Not until April 26, 2013 were all the licenses and certifications finally complete, allowing full occupancy of both homes. On June 3, Frieda House and Betty House reached full occupancy for the first time. It was truly a day to celebrate. The daughter of one of the elders who recently moved to Willow Ridge commented, "Mom is so happy there. She is doing so much better. She looks and acts ten years younger!"

The daughter of another elder, who lives out of state and is only able to visit occasionally, reflected in her blog, "The staff at my mother's home were truly invested in her happiness and all talked about how much my mother had improved mentally and physically after the move. She rarely uses her wheelchair anymore, walking with the aid of staff around the house. I saw that she was less anxious, less concerned that she was doing something wrong than she had been previously."

The elders, staff and Board of MHCO are grateful that the Bluffton/Pandora community took the step to support something new, revolutionary, and radically different in the way nursing care is provided. Frieda House and Betty house are *real* homes!



Elder Doris Hamman husks sweet corn for a meal. Elders often choose to help out with household activities that give them joy and purpose.



Elder John Moser enjoys a game of checkers with Shahbaz Tracy.

View more pictures of events at
mhcoliving.org/news or go to
[facebook.com/MHCOhio](https://www.facebook.com/MHCOhio).

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Question of the Month?

How many Green House homes are there in the US?

Recently, Laura Voth (MHCO CEO) attended her nephew's wedding in Anchorage, Alaska. While in the area she decided to visit the four Green House homes at Seward Mountain Haven, two hours from Anchorage. When I (Doug) visited my daughter in Harrisonburg, VA over Easter, I took a tour of the first Green House homes in Virginia. There are three homes as part of the Virginia Mennonite Retirement Community.

The GREEN HOUSE Project® continues to grow around the country. Currently there are nearly 150 homes in 34 states. Additionally, there are over 100 homes in development. Being part of a national organization that is transforming elder care has many advantages.

“As we implement the very unique Green House model of care,” comments Laura Voth, “it is invaluable to be able to call others who have already been through the phase that we are in and learn from their experience. This is the real benefit of being a part of the larger Green House program.”

To find out where other Green House homes are, go to www.thegreenhouseproject.org/green-house-model/find-home. Perhaps you know someone in one of those communities who might be interested in learning more about life in a Green House home.



Top: Elder Phyllis snaps green beans for lunch. When this picture was shown to her, she said, “You need to come back some day and get my picture folding the towels. That’s my job and I like it!”

Middle: Shahbaz Judy and Elder Sharon share the joy of cooking.

Right: Elders Doris and Sharon prepare melon for their meal.

Some of the activities that make for a real home are participating in the daily routines of life like meal preparation and laundry. While some elders are pleased that they never need to step foot in a kitchen again or fold another fitted sheet, others find joy in lending a hand. It’s their choice!

