



Twelveacres Newsletter Spring 2008

"The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed...which indeed is the least of all seeds; but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs..." Matt 13:31-32

In this issue

75th Anniversary Annual Meeting

Like a Grain of Mustard Seed—A Message From The Executive Director

Fruitage

New Donor Appreciation Cards

Twelveacres 75th Anniversary Annual Meeting

This year's annual meeting, celebrating 75 years of healing and spiritual growth, was hosted by First Church of Christ, Scientist, Los Gatos. George Strong, Administrator of Fern Lodge, was the guest speaker. Excerpts from his inspirational talk entitled "Mary Baker Eddy: Her Character and Mission" are enclosed with this newsletter. There were also reports of progress and healing from Twelveacres' staff and board, as well as joyful acknowledgements of the contributions and service of Twelveacres' staff members.

Awards were given to each resident honoring them for outstanding qualities that house managers felt they had consistently expressed over the past year. The colorful awards spelled out in bold letters qualities such as selflessness, patience, friendliness, helpfulness, quiet communion – and each resident received them joyously, holding them up for all to see. Certificates were also given out to honor staff who had been at Twelveacres for eight years or more. Lawrence Alomatsi, Flores House Manager, was acknowledged as the first graduate of Twelveacres' new Manager Training Program. Randi Gleason, Vocational Education Teacher, and Muthoni Macharia, Braeburn House Manager, spoke of their inspiring experiences during the more than two decades they have been at Twelveacres. You may read about Randi and Lawrence in the Fall newsletter. Highlights from Muthoni's talk are included at the end of this article.

The meeting closed with the singing of Hymn 65. Following the meeting, attendees joined the residents and staff of Twelveacres, friends and family on the patio behind the church for refreshments and convivial conversation. A wonderful time was had by all! We are most grateful to the members of First Church, Los Gatos for hosting this meeting in their beautiful church.



The inspiration of this meeting resulted in a wonderful blessing for Twelveacres. A former office staff employee attending the meeting was inspired to re-apply for a position at Twelveacres, and was re-hired as a much-needed assistant manager!

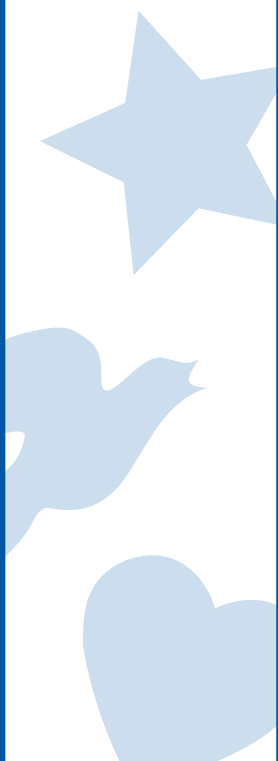
Muthoni Macharia's remarks focused on her gratitude for the many remarkable examples of progress and healing she has witnessed for both residents and staff members. In her view, Twelveacres' homes are not just residences. They are places where the uplifting, healing mission of Christian Science is going on every minute. That healing is touching the lives of everyone that comes into these homes,

including the staff – many of whom are not Christian Scientists. She told how, even after a staff member leaves, they still remember the inspiration they gained from working with the residents, practitioners, and the Bible Lessons, as well as the

healings they witnessed. Muthoni is grateful to see the joy that these staff members express when they recognized what Christian Science can do. Here are a few examples.

One day, a staff member called out to her. A resident was on the floor, shaking vigorously. The practitioner was immediately called. Muthoni asked the staff to draw close so the resident could hear them praying the Lord's Prayer. No sooner had they finished than the resident became calm, opened her eyes and stretched out her arms. She got up as if nothing had happened, walked to the dining area and sat on a chair. The healing was quick and the resident went off to her day program happy and smiling. One of the staff members exclaimed, "It works! Christian Science works! Thank you God."

When a resident who had a swollen ear was healed in less than an hour after the practitioner was called, staff members were heard saying, "She is healed; the practitioner was just called a few min- (Continued on page 4.)"



“Like A Grain Of Mustard Seed...” A Message from the Executive Director


We have much to be grateful for this spring. Like grains of mustard seed, from the goodness that you have shared with us, much good has sprung. Thanks to your generous response to our 75th Anniversary Matching Grant Program, we were able to raise more than \$90,000 to help us serve Twelveacres’ residents! Your donations, grants from several foundations, and gifts from churches and associations have made it possible to carry out a renewed hiring and training program for Twelveacres’ staff. For the first time in years, we are almost fully staffed. At the Principia Job Fair in February, eleven students interviewed for our summer internships. Your support made these progressive steps possible! Having a qualified, well-trained Christian Science staff is an essential part of supporting our residents’ healing, education and progress. As Mrs. Eddy often observed, it is crucial that the minds surrounding those in need of Christian Science healing be supportive of Christian Science.

As we take these progressive steps, we would appreciate your continued support and prayers in dealing with several on-going issues. First, Twelveacres is in need of a development director. Historically, we have relied heavily on our newsletter, as well as a few willing Board members, to seek donor support. However, it has become evident that a more professional approach to this important task is crucial to enable us to become more self-sustaining. The individual filling this vital role would also have the expertise to find ways to meet one of our greatest needs—that of increasing the amount of unrestricted donations and grants we receive. Currently, a majority of our funds on hand are restricted to certain uses. When funds are designated for a particular purpose, it becomes difficult to cover our general operating expenses, particularly when we go through economic downturns, such as we are currently experiencing. For these reasons, we would greatly appreciate your assistance in helping us find a development director and designating your donations as unrestricted.

The second issue we are dealing with involves two recent challenges to the rights of Twelveacres’ staff and residents to be free from medical supervision. The first challenge is a decision by the California Department of Developmental Services that anyone seeking the certification needed to care for our residents must pass a test in administering medications. The second challenge is a require-

ment by Community Care Licensing (CCL) that Twelveacres’ residents attending day programs be tested for tuberculosis.

In each case, the State’s fundamental argument is that Twelveacres’ waiver of medical requirements applies to our staff and residents only when they are at Twelveacres. This rule, if allowed to stand, would mean that Twelveacres’ residents could only exercise their rights to freely practice their religion when they are at home. We believe this rule sets a bad precedent for the religious rights of all Americans. Take a moment to think what would happen if that rule was applied to all of us – that once we stepped out of our homes, we would be subject to medical supervision! Because of the importance of this issue, we and several of the conservators for our residents have sent letters to CCL, (the State agency that granted our medical waiver), requesting that our waiver be extended to cover these situations. The basis of our request is that Twelveacres’ medical waiver is a recognition of the right to freedom of religion granted to us by the First Amendment to the Constitution, and therefore, the waiver should recognize that those rights exist wherever we are. Our local Regional Center, (the social service agency that oversees our residents), has been very helpful in supporting us in dealing with these two legal issues. We know that “Divine Love corrects and governs man” (SH 6:3), and we are confident that we will see God’s government in this case.

The Board joins me in expressing our continuing heartfelt thanks for your prayers and for your generous support of Twelveacres. Should you have any questions about Twelveacres, or wish to visit, please contact us. 

Recently one of Twelveacres’ dedicated and loving staff members, Isatu Sesay, passed away unexpectedly. She is survived by her husband and four-month-old son. Her family has expressed appreciation for the prayerful support they have received.

Twelveacres invited staff members, practitioners, and local members of the Board, to attend a gathering to share inspirational ideas and loving gratitude in honor of Isatu. The meeting was also attended by members of her family. The ideas shared included loving recognition of Isatu’s expression of joy and gentle care, and an unflinching trust in God. It was a very uplifting and supportive meeting. If you would like to contact Isatu’s family, please call our office for further information.

Twelveacres is seeking a dedicated Christian Scientist to fill the open position of Development Director.

If you or anyone you know would be interested in this position, please contact us.

Fruitage

Bucknall House: “And Love is reflected in love.” A staff member overheard a resident say to herself, after going to her hymnal and singing through some hymns, “Know the truth. You’re God’s child.” Later, the resident shared that precious truth with a housemate saying, “Don’t cry. You’re God’s child.” That second resident, on another day, when asked by a staff member to sing hymns to support a housemate who had fainted, initially shook her head, but soon began quietly singing. When the staff member called the practitioner to report this progress, she learned that the day before, this resident had spoken to the practitioner for the first time after years of silence. A resident who enjoys receiving notes from program has asked to read and write for her Vocational Education classes. She worked on writing a note with a request for the staff. After correcting a few letters with the assistance of the Voc. Ed. teacher, she was overjoyed at this new door of written communication that was opening to her.

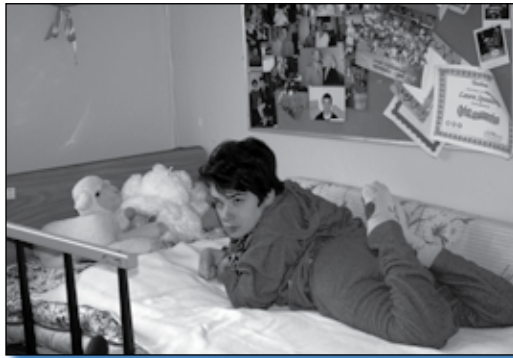
In December, we had a Christmas party at Bucknall House for Board members and Twelveacres’ staff while the residents were at their day programs. The residents of that house were delighted to help decorate with lights, stockings by the chimney, stars on the walls, and red ribbons on the white picket fence outside. When they finished, a resident who is selective in her communication with other people, smiled at the Voc. Ed. teacher, called her by name, and said “Thank you! I like our Christmas house.” Others joined in, and they all sang a few Christmas songs.

AST: One of the residents will be attending summer camp, participating in a junior leadership session. A staff member expressed gratitude for the spiritual truths a resident graciously shared with him at a time when he was dealing with a physical challenge. Another resident, whose roommate has been away, has been demonstrating an increased sense of dominion and independence. A resident, challenged with mobility issues, is demonstrating steadfast determination and gratitude for every evidence of increased freedom of movement. She has been able to resume her regular activities, with

the help of a walker. She fully expects to be walking independently soon!

Braeburn House: Helpful qualities are being more consistently demonstrated by the residents at Braeburn in carrying their plates and cups from the dining room to the sink, washing their hands without being asked and increased cooperation in chores. Great progress is being witnessed in one of the residents who is now choosing to sit on the couch instead of the floor. Recently, when the Voc. Ed. teacher was talking to a staff member before starting classes, she looked up at one of the residents and saw her smiling and reaching out both arms to take a puzzle. She had never done that before!

Lily House: One of the residents is now consistently working at each Voc. Ed. session for at least 15 minutes with minimal prompts. This is a milestone for her. Another resident is learning some sign language and is enjoying the compliments she gets for remembering them. A resident, who had been trying to pick up two puzzle pieces at once,




successfully figured it out and did it three times in a row. Several residents are participating and laughing, alert and happy, as stories are read to them. A colorful, moving object captured the attention of one resident, whose eyes lit up when she saw it. She eagerly took it, smiling as she swung it back and forth. Another resident, who has favored one hand over the other, is making progress in using both hands together.

Flores House: A resident came home from program restless and unable to retain food. The practitioner was called immediately, and within hours the resident was healed and returned to program the next day. Another resident is consistently demonstrating appreciation, saying, “Thank you!” anytime he is helped by the staff. When a resident was asked by his day program to stay home because his legs were swollen, the practitioner was called and the swelling quickly subsided so that he was able to return to program again. A new staff member at Flores house was touched by the gentle communication of one of the residents when he came to her, took her hands, and drew her straight to the refrigerator, pointing to the ice cream. ★

“And Love is reflected in love.”

Annual Meeting (Continued from page 1.)

utes ago. How did this happen? I want to know, I want to know. I have an ear problem and I want to know how she got healed, I can be healed too.”

There are also the precious moments where residents demonstrate their own understanding and desire to help another in need. Once when Muthoni had worked long hours for several days with little sleep, a resident came to her with the *Christian Science Hymnal* in hand. She sat down next to her, opened the hymnal, smiled and nodded. Immediately Muthoni felt renewed and said, “Thank you!” As Muthoni later put it, “Every time I see this resident I think of that day and realize how blessed I am to be working at Twelveacres. This resident did not think of her needs but wanted to help and use what she knew best — Christian Science! 

Twelveacres is very grateful for the loving support and generous donations that have come in from all over the country— from donors, foundations, Christian Science Churches, Societies, and Associations.

New Donor Appreciation Cards

We deeply appreciate the outpouring of love and support we received from you in response to our recent mailings. It has brought to light the need to look for more effective ways to convey our thanks to you. Over the past year, our administrative staff of four has been wearing many hats. For this reason, there have been times when our written acknowledgement of your donations has not reached you as quickly as we would have liked.

With the increased documentation that is now being required for charitable donations, we realize that you need a record of your donation as quickly as possible. And, we also want you to know how much we cherish each donation – large or small.

We have been prayerfully seeking ways to streamline our donation tracking and acknowledgments. One way we have come up with is a new donor appreciation card which will be sent to you, in a sealed envelope, as soon as we receive your donation. We wanted the cards to express qualities such as simplicity, beauty, utility, love, -- and, most of all, our profound respect and gratitude for your faithful support.

We welcome your comments and feedback.

From November 2007 through March 2008 Twelveacres received greatly appreciated donations in the names of the following:

In Memory of:

Anne O. Spaulding, CSB
B. J. Publicover
Barbara Carlton
Barbara O'Donnell
Bill Radcliffe
Carol Hill
Dave Stevens
David Sellers
Desiree Markhgott
Donald Walrod
Doris Gruwell

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Mr. Richard A. Froese
Paulette Pridmore-Brown

Peggie McCook
R. Scott Darnell
Robert Johnson, CSB
Robert Posgate
Sallie Wells Carlson
Steve Smith
Stuart Smith
Violet E. Thomas

In Honor of:

75th Anniversary
Alexandra Weitman
All Twelveacres
Amy Long
Ann Posgate Cummings
David & Alice Bullwinkle
Debbie Mueller
Elissa Charles

Gary Smith
Jackie Leonard-Dimmick
Jane Verner
Ken Walrod
Kendall Alisch
Laura Spaulding
Laureen McCoy
Lee & Paul F.M.

Marian Wells
Melissa Whitmore
Molly Byers
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Ms. Margaret Double
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