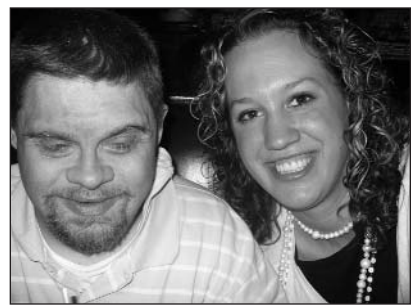


Hi. My name is Meredith Preston. I am currently the new house supervisor at the Sarah Kathryn home. I am excited and blessed to be involved in supporting the three beautiful and unique young ladies who live there.



As a recent graduate of Lancaster Bible College, I received a B.S. in Bible with a focus in youth ministry. I currently live in Lancaster County, but would love to move closer to the York area. Before I began working at Jessica and Friends Community, I worked as the Director of Female Student Ministries at a church in Reading, PA. I enjoy mentoring

and discipling teen girls and continue to volunteer at a youth center in Paradise, PA. I also enjoy teaching swim lessons to children and those with disabilities or handicaps. I enjoy football, especially the Pittsburgh Steelers, music, good food, my dog Buff Otis, and being with friends and family.

My favorite Bible verse is Psalm 37:4 which states, "Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you your hearts desire." I look forward to seeing the work of Jessica and Friends Community continuing to delight God.

MEMORIAL/HONOR GIFTS

Jessica and Friends Community receives contributions given in memory or in honor of loved ones and friends. Each gift is gratefully acknowledged to further ministry in the disabled community.

In Memory of:

Pearl Crabtree
Larry Lightner
Carl Gardner
Robert Teague's Birthday
Helen Louise Brandt
Lester Neymeyer

Given by:

Russell and Jean Jungling
Joe and Susan Stump
Tom and Alta Brown
Charles and Nancy Blanks
Charlotte Grumbine
Peter and Paulette Teague
Travis and Angela Martin
Russell and Jean Jungling
Leland and Elaine Neymeyer
Stu and Kathy Levey
Robert and Dorothea Kampman
Ruth Ann Bailets
Rick and Carole Oldhouser
John and Brenda Neymeyer
Sally Kirkpatrick

In Honor of:

Walter and Joan Hartman's
50th Anniversary
Lois Ruppert's 80th Birthday
Bill and Alice Markley's
50th Anniversary
Stella Neymeyer
Jessica's Birthday
Lester Neymeyer's
88th birthday

Given by:

Peter and Paulette Teague
Rick and Carol Oldhouser
Peter and Paulette Teague
Leland and Elaine Neymeyer
Robert and Dorothea Kampman
Leland and Elaine Neymeyer

A Tribute *By Peter and Paulette Teague*

On August 17 a man very dear to Jessica Teague quietly slipped into the presence of the Lord. At age 88 Lester E. Neymeyer left his earthly residence in Aplington, Iowa and moved to his heavenly home to enjoy the presence of his Lord and Saviour whom he served and loved for many years. Grandpa Neymeyer had a special place in his heart for his granddaughter, Jessica. No one could get her to brighten up faster or cause her to laugh and giggle harder than her Grandpa. She especially liked the hats he wore.

Until recent years, the Neymeyers made their yearly fall trek from Iowa to Pennsylvania. Jessica's grandpa

was always trying to make life a little better for her, whether it be fixing something Jessica had broken or making something new that could help her. He was a wealth of information as he passed on advice on nutritional supplements that he thought might help Jessica. His compassionate heart, his strong hugs, his generosity, his optimistic outlook on life, his friendliness, and his storytelling will not only be missed by Jessica, but by his entire family who loved and respected this family patriarch.

A memorial fund has been established in his memory at Jessica and Friends Community, 207 Dew Drop Road, York, PA 17402.



† Caring support for individuals with developmental disabilities within a faith-based environment.

207 Dew Drop Rd. • York, PA 17402

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SUMMER/FALL 2006

GOD'S WAYS remain a mystery to me, but I have learned to trust and obey and continue to pray and wait for HIS Wisdom.

On May 9, 2006 Jessica and Friends Community (J&FC) was invited to a meeting with several other local service providers at the Mental Health/Mental Retardation Program, to be told that there were 22 individuals with developmental disabilities who desperately needed new homes. Mr. Steve Warren, County Administrator, challenged all the providers in York County to formulate a plan to care for these special individuals.

Jessica and Friends Community Board of Directors voted unanimously to proceed with this expansion opportunity, using the 207 Dew Drop home that had been purchased in 2003. One week later the providers reconvened and I witnessed firsthand the dedication of the providers and Mr. Warren's staff. It was nothing short of a miracle. Our desire to serve and grow is deeply rooted in our belief that all individuals, including those with disabilities, have a purpose and that God can use them to bring glory to Himself.

On May 24th we were given the opportunity to set up our Dew Drop home for three men, with the stipulation that the home had to be furnished, staffed, and opened by June 30th! This is where trusting in the Lord's provision met reality for us.

First, we had to furnish the home and prepare it for inspections. Larger windows as well as furniture and appliances were needed. Many board members volunteered their time and expertise, and it was evident that God was working His plan through them. Asked to relocate on short notice, our tenants were exceptionally gracious and their commitment to our mission showed in their pleasure over this opportunity for J&FC. By June 19th the house was vacated and ready to be set up. Board members and our staff from both houses pitched in to clean, arrange the rooms, and wash linens. There was so much to do, but God gave us endless energy.

Newly hired house supervisor, Matt May, and I began to spend time with the men who would soon occupy the rooms, bringing them to see their new home. We also met their families. Our first resident, Matthew Grove, moved in on Thursday, June 29. He was joined the next evening by his new housemates, David Lawver and Mark Reineberg.



Jessica and Friends Community has openings in the following positions providing personal care and services and training in daily living skills to individuals with developmental disabilities:

- Residential Services—Direct Care Staff
- In-Home Respite Care Support Staff—York County
- In-Home Respite Care Support Staff—Adams County

Full and part-time positions available with competitive wages. Attractive benefits package for full-time staff persons. Jessica and Friends Community provides exceptional care to individuals with developmental disabilities within a faith-based environment.

Applications are available online at www.jandfcommunity.org or at our office:

Jessica and Friends Community
207 Dew Drop Road
York, PA 17402
(717) 747-9000



† Caring support for individuals with developmental disabilities within a faith-based environment.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Jessica and Friends Community offers services and support to individuals with developmental disabilities within a faith-based environment. We seek to be a community which affirms the worth of all people, responds to families and individuals seeking a faith-based program, supports personal growth and wholeness, advocates for community and church inclusion, and provides opportunities for spiritual growth and service.

Jessica and Friends Community affirms the worth of each person who is developmentally disabled and strives to be a catalyst for their inclusion in the local community and the local Body of Christ.

Jessica and Friends Community provides supports and services within a faith-based environment to strengthen each and all persons while enabling them to attain their full potential.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mr. Stuart Levey, President
 Dr. Peter W. Teague, Vice President
 Mr. Lewis McCleaf, Treasurer
 Mrs. Kathy Levey, Secretary
 Mr. Dale Bubb
 Mrs. Beverly Leiphart
 Dr. Donald Piper
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Jessica & Friends Community Newsletter is published quarterly by Jessica & Friends Community, 207 Dew Drop Rd., York, PA, 17402. Please send all correspondence including address corrections to the above address.

(Continued from Front Cover)

Just like the opening of the Sarah Kathryn home, it was a thrilling time. For me personally it has been a faith-expanding experience; for J&FC it has been a great growth opportunity. Yet, there is still another side to the story! Let me explain.

The 207 Dew Drop home was originally purchased for the use of three beautiful young ladies, Shannon, Jayme and Sarah. It is their dream to have a home of their own someday with the help of MH-MR Funding, just like the Sarah Kathryn Home. Their families desire a faith-based home for their daughters. Due to changes in the MH-MR system, however, they have been told that their dream may not come about the way it was first envisioned. They are understandably very disappointed. Together we are claiming Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the plans I have for you... Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future..."

One of their mothers described it this way: *"I understand about the funding, but I don't like it. I am growing very weary. I am very happy for the men; they deserve to have a beautiful life and home. I am also happy for Jessica and Friends Community. It is a good move for the organization, but my daughter and I do not want to let go of our dream. I believe God is bigger than all of this and we are claiming the promises he has for us."*

Jayme's beautiful spirit shines through her words. "I am not mad at God, but I am disappointed and I just do not understand. I will keep praying, though, that someday I will have my own home. I work with staff member Hope McCleaf and she is helping me to become more independent. I get frustrated with my hand [Jayme has cerebral palsy]. I cannot do some of things I want to do in the kitchen. But Hope will not let me give up. Hope also tells me I should not hold my feelings inside, but that I should talk about them. Hope helps me a lot. I have great friends at Jessica and Friends Community. I am a part of the monthly worship team. I usually read the prayer and pray for all the joys and concerns. I now attend my own Sunday School class at Grace Baptist Church. My teachers are Emily and Josh Lindsey, who also work for Jessica and Friends Community. In my class we pray that God will show us HIS way so that I might have a home of my own someday."

In Proverbs 3:5-6 we are told, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding, in all your ways acknowledge him and he will make your path straight." Although I may not understand why the 207 Dew Drop home did not open for the ladies as we had prayed, I am pleased to be able to serve and care for the men. Matthew, Mark and David have already touched my life and the lives of many others at Jessica and Friends Community in a big way! We will continue to wait... for I know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, and have been called according to his purpose (Romans: 8:28).

Please PRAY with all of us at Jessica and Friends Community that we will know God's perfect WILL and TIMING for both the ministry and individuals HE has entrusted to our care.

Joy for the Journey,
 Darlene L. Kuhn



FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I send greetings to the Jessica and Friends Community (J&FC) "family," and family is indeed a proper term to use as this is the feeling I've gotten while being involved with the ministry for about a month.

I first became aware of Jessica and Friends Community in 2002, as I had interaction with the staff who were in training for the opening of Sarah Kathryn's house, and I continued to have interest in the growth of the agency through the years. It is clear to me that God had purpose for this, as I later felt stirred to pursue the Executive Director position when it became open.

I bring over 13 years of service to individuals with developmental disabilities through Friendship Community, an agency that delivers faith-based services in Lancaster County. I started as a direct support staff person, took on a houseparent role with my wife Nichole, and then went on to serve in leadership roles, including my last position as the Lifesharing Coordinator.

I've been blessed to have a partner with a heart for ministering to individuals with developmental disabilities who has served in numerous caregiving capacities through her career with Friendship Community and in nursing homes. Nichole and I are kept busy in a wonderful way by our daughters Alyson, 6, and Rebekah, 3. When not at home we're usually at a park, watching Lancaster Barnstormer games, fishing, or just plain "road tripping" (Gettysburg is a favorite destination of ours). We attend Lampeter Church of the Brethren, where Nichole is heavily involved in the small group ministry.

As I've felt touched to minister to those with developmental disabilities, I've felt burdened for those who are not receiving the support they need. The need for residential services, particularly for individuals with developmental disabilities, is so great that resources made available through funding sources do not come close to meeting that need. The website www.pawaitinglistcampaign.org, lists the emergency waiting list for services—the most urgent—as consisting of 3452 people statewide, with 94 from York/Adams County. This is a daunting list, and represents a difficult struggle for numerous families in Pennsylvania.

What are we, a relatively small agency, to do? The Bible gives us inspiration—Hebrews 10:36 states that "Patient endurance is what you need now, so you will continue to do God's will". While it is easy to get discouraged with the current climate of service provided in Pennsylvania, it is evident that God has truly blessed Jessica and Friends Community greatly in the past, and we can have faith that He will continue to do so. It is my hope that the future will bring abundant opportunities to further expand this ministry.

I ask you all to please continue your prayer support of Darlene, myself and the Board of Directors as we look to discern the future and be good stewards of this fine organization.

Blessings,
 Mike Whiteman
 Executive Director

JESSICA AND FRIENDS COMMUNITY WORSHIP IS BACK!

November 10, 2006 (note location change)

"Worship is More than a Song"—Jessica and Friends Community's Worship service at Bethlehem United Methodist Church, 105 East Main Street, Dallastown on November 10. There is accessible parking in front of the church, with other parking behind the church. Please use front entrance off of Main Street. There will be someone to greet you. We will start at 6 o'clock with a light meal and begin worship at 6:45. Hope to see you there!

Jessica & Friends PARENT SUPPORT GROUP

Will Sponsor the Following Events:

November 4, 2006

Join us for BOWLING and an all-you-can-eat LUNCH (\$5.00 lunch only; lunch and bowling \$7.00) Saturday, Nov. 4, 10am to 12:30pm at SPRINGFIELD BOWLING CENTER—just south of Loganville on the Susquehanna Trail. An informational flyer will be mailed to families on the Parent Support Group mailing list. Call Carlene Strausbaugh at 846-7598 if you need a flyer.

Join us for our JOYOUS CHRISTMAS PAGEANT again this year featuring members of the Jessica and Friends Community family. The event will be held at the Church of the Open Door of Shiloh located just north of the West Manchester Mall on Route #74. Dress rehearsal/preparation will be at 6:00pm, program starts at 7:00pm. An informational flyer will be mailed later this Fall. Call Darlene Kuhn at the Jessica and Friends Community office, 747-9000 if you need a flyer or more information.

December 9, 2006

FALL FEST A HIT



Despite a sometimes threatening weather forecast, about 200 people enjoyed the 2006 Jessica and Friends Community Fall Festival. It was a time to catch up with old friends and to meet new ones! Along with the wonderful food and activities, attendees enjoyed entertainment by the Jessica and Friends Worship Team, Irish music and dancing by the Srour family, and Potter's Clay Drama Group from Christian School of York. Winners of the Cookie Baking Contest were excited as they received their ribbons and cash gifts, and then sampled the delicious cookies.

We look forward to next year's Jessica and Friends Community "family reunion" at the Fall Festival. Details will be coming in the future!

