



COMMEMORATIVE EDITION

# THE Villager

A NEWSLETTER OF SUNNYSIDE VILLAGE

SPRING 2019

"To God Be  
the Glory"



*Celebrating 50 Years of Sunnyside Village*



# The Heart of Who We Are

Sunnyside Village celebrated 50 years of service throughout 2018--service that has been in "full motion" since the day we welcomed our first residents in November of 1968. Through the course of 2018 we celebrated with a number of major events:

- The Sunnyside Foundation Gala kicked off the Fiftieth Anniversary with the King's Brass in January
- The Spring Appreciation Event celebrated everyone's unique role on our campus, creating the kind of community that makes Sunnyside a wonderful place to live and work.
- The annual Volunteer Breakfast featured a panel of original Sunnyside workers who shared the importance of volunteering and serving during the early years of our nursing home.
- An energized Groundbreaking Ceremony for the expanded Health, Rehabilitation and Memory Care project focused our commitment in continuing our high standards of quality services to our residents and staff
- The Annual Meeting in September recalled the tender and sensitive beginnings of the Sunnyside Rest Home and the passionate commitment of the founders to serve God by serving others
- The Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration Weekend, which took place from October 19-21, brought a sense of history to the campus and united the original "Sunnysiders" with those enjoying Sunnyside today.

One of the most memorable highlights of the year was the collection of events that made up the celebratory weekend. Festivities started Friday evening with dinner, stories and the debut presentation of the video, *The Sunnyside Story*. Saturday included campus tours and open houses in various campus facilities.

Former Sunnysiders shared stories of their experiences with current residents in a question and answer session. The Sunnyside Village Chapel was filled with former Sunnysiders, current staff and residents for an old-fashioned hymn sing. A campus-wide BBQ provided a wonderful setting for more inter-generational conversations. Fireworks over Lake Sunnyside created a majestic culmination of the day. The celebration closed with a special worship service on Sunday morning in the Sunnyside Village Chapel.

We were excited to hear those who helped lay the foundations at Sunnyside talk about the "heart of Sunnyside" during the early years. However, the most poignant and encouraging discovery from the Anniversary Celebration was to hear their delight in discovering the same "heart of Sunnyside" is alive and well on campus today. This is evidence of Sunnyside's five-decade commitment to honor God through its service.

Sunnyside Village is a special place to live and to work; molded by a group of people who exercised their faith by honoring God with their time and skills. They cared for residents that needed assistance during a vulnerable time in their life. We heard stories about their commitment to honor the dignity of those first residents by engaging them in meaningful activities. Sunnyside was created to serve.

Please enjoy this commemorative edition of *The Villager*, chronicling the events our 2018 milestone anniversary, and offering a historical reflection of Sunnyside's spiritual foundations with an excerpt from our founder's autobiography for his vision of Sunnyside.



*Nelson Kurtz, Volunteer from 1968-1970 and son-in-law of Will and Millie Overholt;  
Ernest Hochstetler, former administrator of the Rest Home; J. David Yoder, Executive Director*

To God be the glory!  
J. David Yoder  
Executive Director, Ed.D.



# Our Year of Rejoicing

"PRAISE THE LORD, PRAISE THE LORD;  
LET THE PEOPLE REJOICE."



Former Sunnyside staff gather to sing hymns during the reunion; a past and frequent activity for Sunnyside Rest Home residents and staff





# Winter & Spring 2018



*Tim Zimmerman and the King's Brass kicked off the Fiftieth Year Celebration during the Sunnyside Foundation Gala in January 2018*



*Volunteers and staff from Sunnyside's early years shared insights and memories at the Annual Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast*



# Appreciation Event Spring 2018



*Barnard and Mabel Bridges enjoy family time*



*Health Center employee Maria Jara with her granddaughter*



*Dottie Peterson*





## CELEBRATION WEEKEND HIGHLIGHTS – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19

# *Celebration Dinner*

The special celebration weekend began the evening of **Friday, October 19** with a dinner for former Sunnysiders that included opportunity for reminiscing and reconnecting with fellow volunteers and friends.



*Ernest Hochstetler, former administrator of the Rest Home, reminisces with guests*



*Sunnysiders enjoy fellowship and laughs over a delectable dinner*





## CELEBRATION WEEKEND HIGHLIGHTS – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19



Singing was a very important part of life and service at Sunnyside. The former staff and volunteers reunited in worship during the Celebration Dinner



*Nelson Kurtz converses with fellow volunteers during the Celebration Dinner*

*Kathy Cole, a 33 year employee, and Perry McDaniel, a 23 year employee, both CNAs for Sunnyside Health and Rehabilitation Center.*



## CELEBRATION WEEKEND HIGHLIGHTS – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19



*Carol Stoltzfus hugs Esther Bontrager*



*J. David Yoder shares a laugh with Ernest Hochstetler*



*Reminiscing*





CELEBRATION WEEKEND HIGHLIGHTS – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20

# *Sunnyside Manor Open House*

Location of original Rest Home



*Reunion at the "original Rest Home"*



*Nelson Kurtz shares information with a guest*



*Loren Troyer and Naomi Miller locate rooms on the Rest Home floor plan*



*Ernest Hochstetler talks with resident Glen King*





CELEBRATION WEEKEND HIGHLIGHTS – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20

# *Old-Fashioned Hymn Sing*







## CELEBRATION WEEKEND HIGHLIGHTS – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20

# BBQ Picnic



*Bob Penzien*



*Don and Dee Dammann*



*Left: Sandra Hershberger and Frieda Beachy; Right: Wes Hershberger and Paul Beachy*







## CELEBRATION WEEKEND HIGHLIGHTS – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20

# BBQ Picnic



*Lena Stoltzfus, with Lena Mae and friends*



*Miriam Kreider and Rae Aloisio*



*Pat Kindt, Ann Chisholm, Ursula Wertz and Joy Sicks*



*J.P. and Sue Hertzler; J.P. was one of the original volunteers in 1968*



## CELEBRATION WEEKEND HIGHLIGHTS – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20



*Gary and Donna Cox with Patty and LaMar Holsopple*



*James Gingerich, Junior Hershberger, Hubert Miller, Dave Wicky*





## CELEBRATION WEEKEND HIGHLIGHTS – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20



*The Celebration Weekend created plenty of fellowship opportunities*



*Awaiting fireworks display*



*Fireworks sparkle over Lake Sunnyside*





## CELEBRATION WEEKEND HIGHLIGHTS

# Responses of Gratitude & Appreciation



“Thank you for hosting the 50th! It was amazing and you went the second mile to make it a memorable event.”

– **Leroy Overholt**

First VS'er from January 1968-January 1970



“We as Sunnyside volunteers were very blest to be a part of that celebration. May the blessing of the Lord be upon the Retirement Village as you continue to give “Christian Care for the Aged.”

– **Nelson Kurtz**

Volunteer from 1968-70 and son-in-law of Will and Millie Overholt

“Thank you for a wonderful 50th celebration. We are blessed to live here. I'm always amazed by what 'Team Sunnyside' can accomplish through unity of spirit and mission. With gratitude and appreciation to each of you and our Lord.”

– **Norm and Dianne Cook**

Residents

“What a wonderful 50th weekend celebration! The events were wonderful, food was excellent, and the fireworks were beyond amazing! The greatness, success of the weekend is just typical for the dedicated, servant minded staff here at Sunnyside.”

– **LaMar and Patty Holsopple**

“What a special weekend we enjoyed here at Sunnyside. It was a privilege and joy to spend time with our founding fathers and mothers. We learned many of them were still quite young when they took up the mantle of establishing a ministry and service to the elderly. God has certainly smiled on the work of their hearts and hands. It has been very inspiring and humbling to reflect on their wisdom, commitment and dedication to their task. And now we are enjoying the outcome and have a new appreciation for their vision and work. And as always, you're capable, talented, hardworking staff, did outstanding work providing fun, entertainment and a great picnic. It was truly a day to remember! We feel very, very blessed by the leadership and ministry of Sunnyside and every single person that ministers to us.”

– **Vannie Jones, Resident**



## CELEBRATION WEEKEND HIGHLIGHTS – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20



*Lena and Crist Stoltzfus, voluntary service unit leaders, with Lena Mae and Mary Jane, in the early 70s. Mary Jane, Lena Mae and Lena at the reunion*



*Pam Martin points to the photo of herself featured in the Sunnyside Annual Report*



# Reflect

"GREAT THINGS HE HAS TAUGHT US, GREAT THINGS  
HE HAS DONE, AND GREAT OUR REJOICING THROUGH  
JESUS THE SON;"



1970s; Staff singing hymns to residents was often a frequent activity at the Rest Home



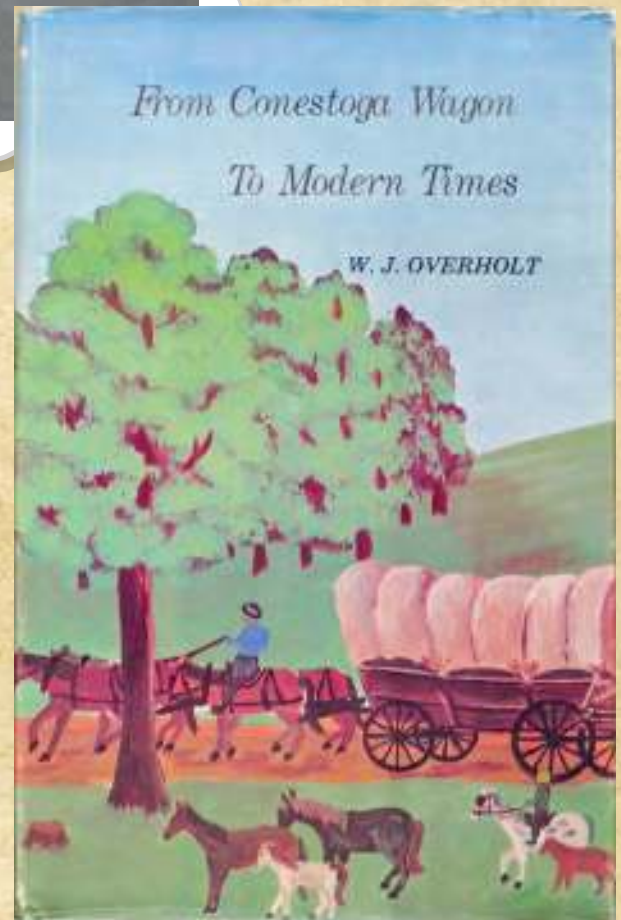


*Will and Millie Overholt, 1984*

In commemorating Sunnyside Village's Fiftieth anniversary, we thought it appropriate to share an excerpt from the book written by Sunnyside's founder, Will Overholt. The excerpt focuses on Sunnyside's history documented from pages 241-251 and is copied exactly as it was written, including spelling differences and syntax. Overholt's autobiography has interesting information but is not included in this excerpt.

Excerpt of Sunnyside Village founding according to Will Overholt from pages 241-251 in his book:

From Conestoga Wagon To Modern Times: The Eventful Life of W.J. Overholt [book written by Will Overholt with reflections from his life experiences]. Reproduced with permission from the family of Will Overholt and Nelson Kurtz.





## Moving to Florida and Founding Sunnyside Rest Home, Inc. (1967-77)

The Sunnyside story begins in 1967 in the Virginia Beach, Va. area where we were living at the time. Lester Hersberger was working for us at the time and discussed with me the possibility of starting and building a nursing home in that community. Lester had an interest in an administrative position. However, at that very time the brethren in the Virginia Beach area were contemplating on colonizing elsewhere. Due to these plans we felt that it would be unwise to build there. Some time later, Millie and I visited the Mountain View Nursing home at Aroda, Virginia.

In 1965, we bought a home in Pinecraft, Sarasota, Florida from Lawrence Pamer who was a Mennonite contractor in that community. After learning to know him we learned that he also had a vision for a nursing home and retirement center to be operated by the Mennonite churches of the area. He asked that I would go into partnership with him. In counseling with Harvey Yoder, who was the administrator at the Mountain View Home, to find the Lord's will, the door opened in a marvelous way. After much prayer and consideration, the Yoder family consented to move to Sarasota to help in building the nursing home. Harvey also agreed to take on the administrative job for the time being. In this marvelous way, the vision that God had given to us resulted in the planning, developing, and opening of a V.S. unit and nursing home in Sarasota, Florida. Harvey and his wife made a trip to Sarasota to see the community in the spring of 1967. Soon after that visit, we purchased a tract of land containing about thirty and one-half acres. It was located about two miles east of the Pinecraft community where many of our elderly Amish and Mennonite couples come for the winter months. Lawrence Pamer was our contractor and foreman and also got the building permits.

The mid-summer and early fall months were spent in securing proper zoning variances and permits to begin the nursing home construction. There was a small milking barn on the property and the remodeling of it into living



*Harvey and Saloma Yoder, first administrator at Sunnyside Rest Home in 1968*

quarters began in November of 1967. We soon learned that the building requirements for Sarasota were very strict. Much stress was placed on reinforcement and good quality building due to the hurricane area that we were in.

The Harvey Yoder family came in December of 1967. They rented a house in Pinecraft for the family and began construction of a house on the newly purchased tract for the nursing home. Harvey is an experienced builder. His four sons are also mechanically-minded and experienced in the building trade. His son David and family came temporarily to help in the mason work. He is presently a mason contractor in the Cumberland, Virginia area. Harvey had some delays in building their house, as he was not familiar with the Sarasota building codes. He was, however, working under Lawrence Pamer's supervision. Harvey called the building inspectors one time and they promised to be out the following day at a set time. The inspector was on time but Mr. Pamer did not come.





Consequently, a red tag stop work order was tacked on the building and all work was stopped again. By Mid-February the house was ready for Harveys to make it their home.

For the benefit of the planned voluntary service unit, a dormitory building was planned and construction on it started on January 10, 1968 and by May 1, it was completed. This building was designed to house about 20-24 single youth. It had no facility for cooking. The first three volunteer workers were LeRoy Overholt, Hartville, Ohio, J.P. Hertzler, Amelia, Virginia (transferred to Sunnyside from Mountain View Nursing Home), and Paul Overholt, Virginia Beach, Virginia. LeRoy and J.P. came about January 1, 1968 and Paul, April 1. These fellows and several others who latter joined them lived together in the remodeled milking barn/apartment.

February 10, 1968 was the date that the

foundation of the nursing home complex itself was started. This was after repeated delays in issuing the necessary approval by the State Health Department in Jacksonville, Florida, so that the local county could give us the final building permit. The rough-in plumbing that went into the cement floor and the basic floor slab





were completed on March 8, and then the blockwork on the walls began. During this time there were many retired and semi-retired brethren and from the Pinecraft community who unselfishly gave up part of their vacations to help in this project which was to give forth a Christian testimony for the Glory of God. The number involved in this work would be too great to list here individually but we are sure that the Lord blessed each one for his sacrificial service.

God's great love and protecting hand were seen one day as we were placing trusses in position. We had been nailing them into the top plate, as they were placed in position, and J.P. Hertzler had been riding the peak. Suddenly, the rope, that had been holding these trusses in position, and which was tied to a four-inch cast iron soil pipe at ground level, broke loose as the cast iron pipe gave away. The four of us who were on the floor realized we had better run for our lives. I was near the center, ran to the window opening in room number 2, dived through, and fell on my head. Thank God, no one was hurt. J.P. had neatly stayed on top of all the trusses and thereby escaped injury himself. But the concrete block wall on the east side fell over. If I had jumped through the window opening, I might not be here to give this account.

The roofing job was hardwork and hot. We constructed one of the best types of roof that is used in this part of Florida, it should last for many years. We finished it in the later part of May. During this time of work I often said that if it had not been for the work and presence of Brother Harvey and his sons, this vision of Sunnyside may never have become a reality. Harvey, his son Mark, LeRoy and Paul Overholt and J.P. Hertzler got



the bulk of the hard work during their first nine months of service here.

We had "Open House" on October 5, 1968. We did not, however, have any admissions to the nursing home until November 20. Some of the local Conservative and Mennonite brethren and felt that by not permitting T.V. we would not be successful. We know that there were some that went to the other nursing homes due to that, but have found it really rewarding to see God's blessing on this stand. Many brought their loved ones in spite of the lack of the television. This strengthened us to wait on the Lord, and He bountifully supplied. Although we had only five admissions the opening week, in about eight months we were completely filled. We have been filled to capacity since that time. As of this writing we have had more than 250 admissions, 200 deaths, and about 150 on the waiting list.

Harvey Yoder was the first administrator for the nursing home. He had several years of experience in the nursing home which he had founded in Aroda, Virginia.





*Ernest and Mary Ellen Hochstetler with family. First unit leader and last administrator of the home, 1968-1977*

During the time that the home was under construction, Harvey and myself felt the need of having a board of directors to assist us in the planning of the future of the home. We asked Martin Sommers and Ernest Hochstetler to serve in this capacity. Harvey served as chairman, myself as vice chairman, Martin Sommers as treasurer, and Ernest as secretary. By the fall of 1969 Harvey and family were making plans to move back to Virginia. We then asked J.B. Miller, who had shown lots of interest in the work, and who lived in the Pinecraft community for a number of years, to fill this position. He did this for about nine months.

During these years Ernest Hochstetler had married Mary Ellen (Harvey's oldest daughter) on March 30, 1968 and had served as unit leader of the V.S. unit. He was now asked to take on the position, that was open once again, of being administrator. He agreed to, and served there until August 15, 1977. This was the time that the new ownership and administrator assumed control of the project.

During these years the Lord blessed the labors of Ernest and Mary Ellen in many ways and also gave them

for children to teach and train for the glory of God. On April 18, 1972 Brother Ernest was ordained to the office of deacon in the local Sunnyside congregation where he served along with Lester Gingerich, bishop, and John F. Miller, minister, until they moved from the community in August 15, 1977.

After Ernest agreed to serve as administrator, we started the search for another unit leader couple. God led us to Crist and Lena Stoltzfus. They served here for two years along with their daughters, Mary Jane and Lena Mae. Both Crist and Lena had much to offer to the work from past experiences that they had had in their home community in church work, and the raising of their family of six girls. They returned to their home in Leola after their service here.

Kenneth and Ellen Kauffman than arrived with





*Ken and Ellen Kauffmann, with family. Unit leader 1973-1976*

their two sons and served for a period of three years. Their home was in Lancaster Penna., and since they left Sunnyside they have again returned there. Ken assumed many duties, as Ernest with his family and deacon duties had a very busy schedule. Also, in the operation of the nursing home many new regulations were being written and the responsibilities had to be shared. The years that Ken and Ellen served here were in many ways difficult ones as it was after the termination of the I-W program of the government calling our boys to service. This brought with it less applications in much shorter terms. It was also during this time that we seriously started looking at the future of the nursing home project as a project for our local and affiliated Beachy-Amish Mennonite Churches.

To say "Thank You!" is not as expressive as one would like to be to all you who are former workers here. Even though the painful decision was made to sell the Home, may each one of you have the confidence that your labors were not in vain. Ernest received many thank you letters and other words of

appreciation for the care rendered to loved ones. It should be a joy for all of us to know that several were led to the Lord in their sunset years of life. Others may have been influenced and saved by your witness and testimony.

### **Reflections After Nine Years At Sunnyside.**

When we first started the work at Sunnyside, we had a three-fold purpose in mind: 1 - to provide a Christian home for older people; 2 - to provide a sound, church-related service unit for the young people in 1-W and V-S work; 3 - to provide a growing investment that would be returned to missionary outreach, with all profits going to promote the cause of Christ.

When it seemed best to consider making a change after nine years of successful operation, we were contacted by real estate men and private buyers who would have liked to purchase the Home and operated for their own profit. Since that was not the purpose of the Home according to our vision, the controlling board of directors decided to rather sell the Home to a Mennonite church-related organization which would continue to operate the Home as a non-profit Christian institution. The theme that we used during our years there of "Christian Care for the Aged" is still the aim of the local churches that sponsor the facility and the administration.

It was decided to sell them the Home at the appraised value on a 25-year contract had only 4 ½ percent interest (after the first ten years, the interest would rise to 6 percent). The proceeds of the Home will be entrusted to the Sunnyside Amish Mennonite Church, which then is to distribute it in the mission work as the Lord directs. Thus no individual has profited from the sale of this Home, and only God will receive the glory.

We trust that many souls will yet find salvation through the blood of Christ (1 John 1:7); will escape the tears of being lost forever in the lake of fire (Rev. 21:8); and will join that innumerable thrown before the great throne of God in heaven, praising an adoring him throughout the ceaseless ages (Revelation 7:9ff.).





**1968**

Sunnyside Rest Home built and first residents admitted



**1984-1996**

Campus addition of Sunnyside Village residential homes

**1977**

Sunnyside Rest Home ownership is signed over to Sunnyside Properties



**1991**

New Nursing Center completed



**1992**

Sunnyside Rest Home remodeled to the Manor Assisted Living







**1998**

New Community Center completed

**2013**

Sunnyside Chapel completed

**2018**

Groundbreaking for new Health, Rehabilitation, & Memory Care







Willing hearts and hands answered a call to serve 50 years ago, beginning the Sunnyside story. The founders of Sunnyside's Health and Rehabilitation Center desired to help the elderly and to do something that would endure as a Christian testimony. But they could not accomplish the undertaking alone; they needed men and women who would freely give of their time for the well-being of others.

Sunnyside Rest Home was modeled after several, out-of-state, Beachy-Amish Mennonite nursing homes that utilized a Voluntary Service program, or VS, to fulfill staff roles. Sunnyside Rest Home had a similar goal - to offer church members an opportunity to help others. The program allowed young adults, of at least 16 years of age, to contribute a minimum of six months of volunteer time.

"For many, the voluntary service program offered young adults the chance to leave home and to do so in a safe, spiritual environment. The program allowed them to pursue mission work and to meet others," said Bishop Lester Gingerich of Sunnyside Beachy-Amish Mennonite Church Fellowship.

Before the nursing home could be constructed, a dormitory was needed to house over 20 single adult volunteers. The brick and mortar beginnings, of the then

named Sunnyside Rest Home, started in winter of 1968 shortly after the dormitory was underway. The program provided food, room and board, and a small stipend to each volunteer in exchange for their contributions. Thanks to enthusiastic volunteers, the completion of the nursing home became a reality and, in November of '68, the first "guests" - or residents - moved in.

Several of Sunnyside's current and former staff honed their job skills or gained professional experience through the VS program. Linda Sue Yoder, a current employee of Sunnyside Health Center, remembers the program well. She came to Sunnyside from Indiana as an RN ready to share her skills.

"People could volunteer from six months to two years and we had anywhere from nurses, nurses' aides, orderlies, maintenance workers, housekeepers, laundry aides, cooks and office workers. Our dorm was located near the site of the current Sunnyside Chapel is, and we did everything at Sunnyside like a family. We used to eat with residents, sing to them and also provide social activities as well as daily health care," said Yoder. "We also worshiped with each other, encouraged each other and had fun together. Because of the program, I developed confident, trusting relationships that last to this day."

Other Sunnyside volunteers echoed life changing thoughts and experiences. Wesely Hershberger, who served



*Voluntary Service Program and volunteers in 1973.  
Shown: Mose Yoder, Ernest Beachy, Ben Graber, Ervin Yoder,  
Hubert Miller, Wes Hershberger and Dave Byler*





*Voluntary Service program workers and staff, 1968*

as an orderly from 1973-1974, shared his reflections in a book called *The Sunnyside Lantern*, which highlights the years of the VS program.

"The voluntary service that I had decided to participate in has made a very large contribution to the molding of my life, through the attitude of giving all of what I can for my fellow man. I hope it is and always will be this way in my life and in the lives of every Sunnyside worker. I know we do not realize the effect of our witnessing through working with our hands has on the people we are helping, even the earthly benefits which we receive for our labors may seem very small..."

Although the staff volunteer program ended in 1977, the spirit of volunteerism continues to this day.

## Maintaining a Christian Testimony

When the staff volunteer program ended, Sunnyside faced challenges. The Rest Home, along with other nursing homes around the country, felt increasing federal and state regulations. After the Rest Home experienced nine years of successful operations, the decision was made to sell Sunnyside Rest Home. It was critically important to Will Overholt and the Sunnyside board to maintain a Christian testimony and outreach, and not to sell to just anyone. After turning down private for-profit buyers and real estate developers, Sunnyside leaders sought to sell to a Mennonite church-related organization.

In 1976 a local group created an acquisition committee to explore the idea of purchasing Sunnyside. Officials of the local Mennonite churches and the area conference, Southeast Mennonite Conference, were supportive. By March of 1977, Sunnyside Rest Home was sold, contingent on the ability of the

group to obtain funds and a building permit to add 11 beds to the nursing facility. This was accomplished, resulting in the current 60-bed license.

Planning for Sunnyside didn't end there. The idea to expand beyond health care and include a retirement community was just developing.

\*Sources and references listed on page 31



*Sunnyside leaders gather to sign the Rest Home to new ownership. Pictured: Elbert Detweiler, Administrator; Deacon Harvey Miller; Will Overholt; Attorney John Lyons; Deacon Ernest Hochstetler; Olen Eicher; and Attorney Roberts*



## FROM REST HOME TO VILLAGE

A Christian Retirement Center was all part of Sunnyside Founder's, Will Overholt's vision from the beginning. He wanted to establish a community to provide senior designed housing and services with a Christian environment. This vision blossomed in the early 80s with the groundbreaking for duplex homes. The first Village resident moved into a duplex in 1985 and the villas were completed in 1992 and the apartment buildings from 1991 to 1996.



1984; Will Overholt, center, participates in the groundbreaking with assistance from Lester Gingerich



Setting the trusses on 5145 Grebel Lane



## FROM REST HOME TO VILLAGE



*Main entrance at Witmarsum*



*First residents of the Sunnyside Village neighborhood, Gertrude and Reuben Dietzel, and Elta Eicher*



## THE VILLAGE



*Villa construction*

Who was David Ray Miller? The community of Sunnyside we see today is most in part given to the credit and leadership of David Ray Miller.

David Ray Miller served as the Director of Housing at Sunnyside Village in 1986 and was promoted to CEO in 1988; a role he served for 22 years until his retirement in 2008. Sadly, he passed away in 2013; but the Miller devotion to Sunnyside remains: David Ray's sister Jane Dierkes is a resident of Sunnyside Village, and his brother James, volunteers in the Lakeside Dining Room, along with nephews Jerry and Greg Mills.

The years David Ray Miller spent serving at Sunnyside shaped what we enjoy today as a neighborhood setting. Under his tenure, Sunnyside Village expanded to its current 226 resident homes (38 duplexes, 66 villas and 122 apartments); saw the completion of a community center area with a pool, dining room, and auditorium, and expanded its nursing capabilities to 60 bed licensure with a new building; the original nursing home was converted to assisted living housing and renamed Sunnyside Manor. Other amenities were also added such as a shuffleboard court and a maintenance building

as well as the nature trail sponsored by the Sunnyside Foundation. Today, under the leadership of J. David Yoder, Sunnyside Village has a free standing chapel and is currently constructing a new and expanded health, rehabilitation and memory care center.



*Former executive director David Ray Miller reviews community center building plans with contractor Michael Mayer*



## THE VILLAGE



*Construction of the apartments*



*David Ray Miller shows Community Center construction to residents*



*Groundbreaking and construction of the Community Center. Shown left to right: C.J. Mayer and Mike Mayer of Mayer Construction; David Ray Miller, Executive Director; Omer Herschberger, Project Manager; Guy Peterson and Mike Carlson of Johnson and Peterson Architects; and Lloyd Miller, Chairman of the Sunnyside Properties Board of Directors*





*Witmarsum Boulevard*

## Why the different names of the streets at Sunnyside?

Sunnyside Village has unique street names and many people have wondered where those names originated from. The street names are historically significant to the Mennonites. With its spiritual foundation Sunnyside leaders sought to honor its Anabaptist founders, many of whom were martyred or tortured for their beliefs during a time of church reformation. Core values of the Anabaptists focus on three tenets: Jesus is the center of the faith, Community is the center of life and Reconciliation is the center of work.



**Menno Simons Parkway and Menno Place** - named after the outstanding leader of the Anabaptists in the 16th century, Menno Simons. Mennonites are nicknamed after him.

**Witmarsum Boulevard** - the name of the village, and birthplace of Menno Simons, in the Dutch province of Freisland.



**Sattler Lane/Place** - Named after Michael Sattler, an outstanding Anabaptist leader and a martyr.



**Grebel Lane/Place** - Conrad Grebel was the chief founder of the Anabaptist movement in Switzerland and South Germany in the 1500s.



**Blaurock Place** - George Blaurock was one of the first founders of the Anabaptist (Mennonite) church in Zurich, Switzerland in 1525.



**Manz Place** - Named for Felix Manz, one of the founders and first martyr of the Zurich congregation.

\*Sources and references listed on page 31



# From Past to Present



1971-Sunnyside Rest Home nurses' aide, Anna Weaver Campbell, encourages a resident of Sunnyside



## THE SUNNYSIDE STORY COMES FULL CIRCLE



*Sunnyside Rest Home, 1968*



*Sunnyside Health and Rehabilitation Center now*



*The New Health and Rehabilitation Center to come...*





## Thank You

We wish to express our deepest thanks and appreciation to:

- God, first and foremost, for the opportunity and privilege of serving others for over 50 years at Sunnyside.
- Our residents, staff, employees, supporters and church affiliates.
- Those who spent much time planning and preparing for the Fiftieth Anniversary including the Fiftieth Anniversary Committee, Artistic Media Productions, Inc. and the following event sponsors:



## Cited Sources and References

"To God Be the Glory". Public domain. Text by Fanny Crosby, 1875. Tune by William H. Doane, 1875

**Noted on page 25:** Photos courtesy of Anna Borntrager Yoder and Linda Sue Yoder. Interview with Linda Sue Yoder and Lester Gingerich, January 25, 2018. Additional photos and references *From Conestoga Wagon To Modern Times: The Eventful Life of W.J. Overholt* [book written by Will Overholt with reflections of his life experiences] and *The Sunnyside Lantern 1967-77*.

**Noted on page 30:** Information provided by Ivan and Ann Brunk, historians, and the following web sites:

<https://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/the-reformation/the-Anabaptists>;

[https://www.gameo.org/index.php?title=Grebel,\\_Conrad\\_\(ca.\\_1498-1526\)](https://www.gameo.org/index.php?title=Grebel,_Conrad_(ca._1498-1526));

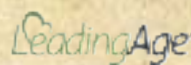
[https://www.gameo.org/index.php?title=Blaurock,\\_Georg\\_\(ca.\\_1492-1529\)](https://www.gameo.org/index.php?title=Blaurock,_Georg_(ca._1492-1529));

[christianity.redzambala.com/christianity/anabaptist/felix-manz-1498-1527.html](http://christianity.redzambala.com/christianity/anabaptist/felix-manz-1498-1527.html);

<https://www.christian-history.org/michael-sattler.html>;

[christianity.redzambala.com/christianity/anabaptist/menno-simons-biography.html](http://christianity.redzambala.com/christianity/anabaptist/menno-simons-biography.html)

The mission of Sunnyside Village is to honor God by enriching the lives of residents, staff and the community by providing homes, services and programs in a Christian environment.



Sunnyside Village is a 501(c) 3 not-for-profit organization and is affiliated with Mennonite Health Alliance, Southeast Mennonite Conference, LeadingAge and LeadingAge Florida. AL#0007952. SNF#1535096





**Sunnyside Village**

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**"GIVE HIM THE GLORY, GREAT THINGS HE HATH DONE."**

**Jeremiah 29:11 NIV**

.....  
"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD,  
"plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give  
you hope and a future."