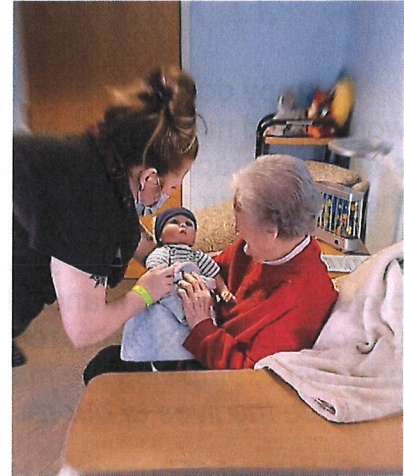




Adding Life to Years



Greetings to our conference staff, ministers, and congregations within The Penn West Conference, from our residents and co-workers at Homewood at Martinsburg! May the Joy and Peace of our Living and Risen Lord Jesus Christ bless and sustain you now and always!

Reflecting upon this past year, we share with you a story of the on-going faithful work on behalf of our Homewood Auxiliary here at Martinsburg, and the impact the auxiliary's work has upon our residents, and our entire Homewood Community.

We are blessed with a special program designed for individuals living with memory loss and dementia who reside in our Memory Care Neighborhoods. With the gracious efforts and full funding from our auxiliary, a vision to reinvigorate and restore a Therapy Doll and Animal Program was realized and given new life. This was a vision from our Therapeutic Recreation Director, Mrs. Sandy Deininger.

A grant with full funding was provided for the purchase of ten life-sized dolls, a robotic dog and cat, and related accoutrements. Each doll came with a change of clothes and a blanket. The dolls and animals were delivered in the Fall, in time for a special presentation and dedication which took place in our Sensory Lounge within our Memory Care Neighborhoods.

This newly restored program unveiling the new therapy dolls and animals not only brings joy and comfort to our residents who live with dementia and issues of memory loss, but also proves helpful with dementia treatment. Sharing a quote with you from our TR Director, Sandy Deininger: *"Becoming more prevalent for dementia treatment and preferred over pharmacological therapies, doll therapy can alleviate distress, promote comfort, and improve social functionality, and stimulation of sensory and motor skills. Further, it allows dementia patients to better relate to their surroundings and external environment."*



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Therapy dolls may also bring back happy memories of early parenthood for both women and men. The therapy dolls and animals are now used daily in programs and sensory therapies by our Therapeutic Activity Co-Workers to improve interaction and the lives of our residents.

The auxiliary is hard at work faithfully the entire year raising funds to support such projects that help enhance the life of our residents within our community. Our Volunteer Director, Debbie Pierce, reminds us about the auxiliary's mission and focus: *"This program exemplifies the mission of the Auxiliary, to fundraise and purchase items that enhance the lives of our residents."*

On behalf of our entire Homewood Community, our Executive Director, Robin Stern, and our leadership team, we thank you all for your prayers and support for our community as we minister together in Christ's name.

In love and service of The Risen Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rev. Jerry McCuller, Jr." in a cursive script.

Rev. Jerry McCuller, Jr.
Director of Pastoral Services

