

Eye on Ewe

In each newsletter we usually introduce you to one staff member and one resident. For our 20th anniversary, we are highlighting the people who formed the Lamb Foundation.

Donna and Dan - A Lifelong Dedication



Donna Mengel began the Lamb Foundation in her home with her husband Dan O'Connell, pictured with their seven children.

Opening their home just two months after they married, Donna Mengel and Dan O'Connell have devoted their married lives to The Lamb Foundation. Choosing a mission such as Lamb has taught them they must contribute their time, talents, money, and the help of their own family to keep it running.

For 20 years, they have taken calls 24 hours per day, 365 days per year,

demonstrating their dedication to the needs of others. Donna knows everyone at Lamb. Her day is filled with drop-in visits from residents who want to recount a story, need help with a personal problem, or just get some encouragement. Although the never-ending job may appear tiring, Donna and Dan say, "It has increased and strengthened our faith. Despite daily issues, fundraising needs, and our overriding concern for the health, safety, and welfare of our staff and residents, the Lord has protected, persuaded and provided through it all. More importantly, we believe He can be counted upon to do the same in the future."

Obstacles and Responsibilities

While the day-to-day responsibilities are daunting, Donna and Dan remain passionate about defending the long-term need to provide permanent housing for people with mental health issues and developmental disabilities. Residents continue to be impacted by Pennsylvania's healthcare crisis, and in North Wales, the Lamb Foundation had to file legal action against the Borough and its officials for attempting to disrupt Lamb Foundation and the lives of Lamb residents who have homes in North Wales.

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Memories of Some First Residents - Adele, Gerald, & Warren

The Lamb Foundation is now home to more than 175 residents. Lamb's growth can be attributed to not only the staff, but to the many wonderful residents. Some have passed away and some have moved to the next level of care and nursing homes, but we remember our first residents fondly, who were as much a part of our success in the first years as the first staff. Here are glimpses into the lives of some first "Lambs."

Adele's B&B

The very first resident, Adele, first lived with Donna Mengel and her family. On the day of her arrival, Adele first thought she was coming to a Bed and Breakfast. "I'll have tea," she called from up in her room. "It's down here," said Donna. Adele said cheerily, "okay," and came downstairs to join the family for tea, marking the first family meal at the Lamb Foundation.

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114 North Main Street
North Wales PA 19454



Lamb staff transform houses into homes for residents, see page 1.

The Lamb Foundation provides supportive housing for more than 175 adults with mental, physical, and developmental disabilities in Montgomery County's North Penn community. Lamb Foundation living arrangements include more than 40 fully furnished apartments, studios, twins, and single homes. Many of the Victorian, Colonial, and Federal-style homes are located on the Main Streets of North Wales and Lansdale, PA.

Lamb Council

- Jenn Smith, President
- Linda McComas, Vice President
- Jeannie O'Donnell, Communications
- Fawn Mengel Spurio, Secretary
- Tom Sittler, Treasurer

Lamb Cabinet

- Mike Spenser
- John Morrow
- Carole Ellis
- Toni O'Connell

Lamb Foundation Director

- Donna L. Mengel

Lamb Community Advisory Board

- Daniel Cheney, Founder and Director of Danellie Foundation and former owner of Springhouse Corporation
- Joanne Dhody, Owner, Design Unlimited
- Joseph Evans, RN, Short Procedure Head Nurse at Central Montgomery Hospital
- Charles Hoefflich, Chairman Emeritus, Uninvest Corporation of Pennsylvania
- Mary Louise Jackson, Director of Fourjay Foundation and Healthlink Medical Center
- Robert Kulp, Robert Kulp Paving, Inc.
- Pamela Learned, President, Word Work Communications, Inc.
- Greta G. Longenecker, Retired Owner, Longenecker Funeral Home
- Daniel O'Connell, Sr., Lamb Foundation General Counsel
- Rev. William J. Rudolph, Lamb Chaplain
- Jack Edling, Principal, Northeastern Erectors

Lamb on the Web

Go to www.lambfoundationpa.org to get a glimpse into what life at Lamb is like. You'll find information on what we offer and how to contact us, as well as a resident application intake form to download.

Lamb Foundation is an approved eBay charity for Charity Works. Shop Sweet-E-Repeats online items at stores.ebay.com/Sweet-E-Repeats.

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Ewes News



SUMMER 2007

Making a House a Home



Donna and the housekeeping crew decorate a new apartment in the recently renovated News Agency building.

A great deal of work goes into turning a house into a Lamb home. Recently, the Lamb Foundation completed the second phase of renovations on the historic News Agency building in North Wales. Four additional suites were added, for a total of seven apartments. Now, another 21 individuals may soon have a home at Lamb. How does Lamb make a house, or a building, a home?

Choosing a House

When purchasing a house, Lamb aims to diversify planning for a variety of needs including individuals, small families, and large families, with an emphasis on first-floor accommodations for those with physical disabilities.

Planning and Construction

Once purchased, most houses require some level of planning and architectural work, all managed by Lamb Foundation Director, Donna Mengel. When planning the layout of a new home, emphasis is made on the need to create a suitable living space. "Each house uses as many bedrooms as possible," says Donna. "We also develop nooks and crannies to be used as small libraries, or private spaces for reading, writing and computer stations." Other considerations include many windows for light, environmental and weather awareness, and the potential for plants and pets.

Once the planning is complete, Lamb's full-time facility and maintenance crew,

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20 Years – Our Past, Present and Future

As the Lamb Foundation celebrates its 20th Year, it has grown from three residents to more than 175. Our philosophy and approach have changed as we've grown into a life-changing community.

Individual Homes Become a Community

"In the early years of the Lamb Foundation it was enough to have a warm, loving place," says Donna Mengel, Lamb Foundation director. However as Lamb grew, it diversified, acquiring multi-use buildings, each with their own feel, allowing for a variety of living arrangements.

The homes have blended into the existing communities, creating what is best described as a campus atmosphere. Though they are in their own individual homes, their close proximity allows for social, recreational and spiritual interaction of the residents, fostering long-term relationships.

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Anniversary Dinner Guest Speaker: Commissioner Robert Watson

Save the Date: September 29



Robert Watson, National Commissioner of the Salvation Army, will speak at Lamb's 20th Anniversary dinner.

The Lamb Foundation is proud to host National Commissioner of the Salvation Army, Robert Watson, as guest speaker at the Lamb Foundation's 20th Anniversary dinner on September 29, 2007, at 5:30 p.m. The Salvation Army is considered one of the most effective organizations in the U.S., and Watson's leadership ability continues to be admired and respected today.

Past to Present

Commissioner Watson and his wife, Alice, served as active officers in the Salvation Army for over 40 years. They were both appointed as the Salvation Army's national leaders on November 1, 1995. In addition to his contributions in the U.S., Watson worked internationally, serving the International Conference of Leaders and was a member of the 1999 High Council,

made up of 75 Salvation Army leaders, later serving as President of the High Council. Watson was a leader of countless non-profit and religious groups and is attributed to making a genuine difference in our nation.

Living the Mission

Since retirement, Commissioner Watson has received several awards. He and co-author Ben Brown wrote the best-selling book entitled, "The Most Effective Organization in the U.S.: Leadership Secrets of The Salvation Army." The book has been used as a tool in colleges and universities, businesses, and non-profit organizations to provide principals and values which can change the way people do business. Throughout his life, Watson has delighted in furthering the mission of the Salvation Army: "...to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ, and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination."

Making a House a Home (continued from page 1)

housekeeping department as well as local contractors, go to work transforming the house.

Finishing Touches

A Lamb home is more than a furnished apartment. Donna and the housekeeping crew decide on colors and design themes to give each new home its own personality. Using new and donated furniture, housewares, window treatments, fabric, art work and bric-a-brac, they create themes such as safari animals, pansies, Victorian ladies and many others.

When they are ready to move in, each new resident receives new linens and towels. Bringing only personal clothing and effects, they are at home the very first day.



Bobby on the Maintenance Crew helped renovate the News Agency building for Lamb.



SAVE 20%

Off your next total purchase at Sweet Repeats!

This coupon is good for a one-day total purchase through December 31, 2007. Coupon may not be combined with other promotions or special sale days.

Sweet Repeats Thrift Shop
115 South Main Street, North Wales, PA 19454

Phone: 215-661-8800

Hours: Monday to Friday: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sunday: We Honor the Sabbath

Donation Guidelines

Clothing and Household Donations Drop-off:

Sweet Repeats
115 South Main Street
North Wales, PA 215-661-8800

Hours:

Monday to Friday:

10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Saturday:

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sunday:

We Honor the Sabbath

Food and Furniture Donations:

Call 215-699-5600 or email
MarianneMessina@
lambfoundationpa.org for pickup
or delivery.

Financial Donations or Volunteer Opportunities:

Please call Donna Mengel at
216-699-5600 or email
DonnaMengel@lambfoundationpa.org.

Please note: If you give to Lamb, we will not sell or give away your name or contact information.

Much Anticipated Lamb Getaways is Near



Bob paints a picture frame during a Lamb Getaway.

Lamb's annual summer Getaway planners have many new trips planned, each in tune with a fun theme.

June's Art and Music Camp includes music instruction, a tour of bell-making factory and Lancaster's Sight and Sound production of "The Psalms of David."

In July, a visit to Audubon Bird Sanctuary and Elmwood Park Zoo's presentation of "Outrageous Reptiles Show" are

among the highlights during a week of Nature and Science discoveries.

August's plans boast sports activities, including learning the basics of horse care and grooming from experts at Four Maples Farm, Lamb Olympics Day, and a trip to a Reading Phillies game and dinner. Several of the summer camp activities incorporate tournaments, team contests, and prizes for additional excitement and competition.

For more information, please download the camp flyer from our website or contact Annette at 215-699-5600.

20 Years – Our Past, Present and Future (continued from page 1)

Staff Members Become Team Members

During the first years of the Lamb Foundation, Donna did all the washing, cooking and cleaning for the residents. As Lamb added each new home, Lamb added a new staff member. "Each home tends to take on the personality of the staff hired for that house," says Donna, "much like the way a traditional family develops around the personalities of the parents."

As more homes opened in close proximity, staff began to interact not just as colleagues, but as neighbors. The one employee per house model worked well, but expansion allowed the ability to enhance the program with staff that could help the entire community. Over the years, Lamb Foundation has added:

- A full-time housekeeping department
- A full-time facilities and maintenance department
- Part-time social recreation planners
- Part-time chaplains
- Many loyal volunteers

The various department staff, administrative staff, and house managers, are able to work as a team to provide the services and support that enhance the lives of Lamb residents.

Stories of Need Become Stories of Changed Lives

Lamb's first home was Donna's own, with three developmentally disabled senior women who needed someone to care for their daily physical needs. Within a year, the severe need for housing disabled and mentally ill people became apparent.

Stories of individual's needs drove the expansion of the Lamb Foundation. Now Lamb's history is filled with stories of changed lives that we love to share. Read some of these stories in this and future newsletters, as well as old issues available online at www.lambfoundationpa.org.

Donna and Dan - A Lifelong Dedication (continued from page 5)

"The responsibility of so many human lives helps us remain motivated to keep the Foundation stable and growing," explains Donna. In the future, she would like to work with other similar agencies and mentor others with a heart for missions and the disabled.

Outside of Lamb, Donna and Dan worship at the Family Worship Center in Towamencin, go to flea markets, and attend auctions for the Foundation. They also get away to the peace of Camp Oaks in rural Bucks County, where they have three cottages that they share with Lamb Foundation guests. They have seven children: Robert, 35; Brick, 26; Dane, 24; Fawn, 23; Danny Jr., 18; Bruin, 10; and Blue, 8.

Memories of Some First Residents - Adele, Gerald, & Warren (continued from page 5)

Gerald Sweetens Up

When Gerald moved to the Lamb Foundation, it was the first time he had ever lived away from home. Gerald would have grumpy days, but the next day he would be handing out candy bars. House Manager Dolly Dancha recalls he would always ensure everything was meticulously in place and lined up correctly, from his shoes to the dining room, keeping the house very orderly.

Warren's Community Service

Warren was a volunteer crossing guard in North Wales. "His main goal in life was to put on his belt and go up to help the kids cross the street," remembers long-time employee Linda Proctor. The North Wales Police Department gave him an award for his contribution—signed by his "best friend" former Police Chief Ken Veit—which he had until he died. "Warren was a delight and a gentleman," recalls Donna.