Disabilities

Awards

2009 Winners

Caregiving Recognition to Paul Hoyt

From 2001 to 2008, Paul Hoyt served as president of the Bridgewater Retirement Community (BRC). While serving as President, Paul reflected a caring spirit and love for the residents of the community. He carried his love for sailing into the management of the organization as he ran a “tight ship” in emphasizing cost efficiency and profitability of a comprehensive community. New residents often cited Paul’s fiscal policies as one of the main reasons for choosing Bridgewater.

Projects completed under his leadership include the 25 cottages added to Bridgewater Village, the construction and renovation of the Assisted Living Facilities, the addition of Medicare skilled care to complement the services of Bridgewater Home, and the recently opened Gardner Wing for Assisted Living, adding a more supportive level of care for residents with memory loss and dementia.

Paul’s love for people and his concern for "delivering the magic" in resident services made him very special for persons calling the BRC home. His dedication to and support of its mission will benefit the BRC and the church for years to come.

Caregiving Recognition to Charles Cable

Chuck Cable comes from a family that has been involved in health care and senior services in the Church of the Brethren for many years. The Cable legacy has been lived out in Chuck's work at Brethren Hillcrest Homes and through his active involvement in the Fellowship of Brethren Homes.

Chuck was hired as administrator of Brethren Hillcrest Homes in 1981, then was appointed as president and CEO in 1983, a position in which he served until his retirement in January of 2009. During his 26 years of service Chuck was also President of the California Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (now called Aging Services of California) and served in the national association as well. Under his leadership, Hillcrest issued $47,000,000 in bonds to complete a new Village Center project.

Chuck has remained an active member of the La Verne Church of the Brethren throughout his many years of service and is well known in many circles. We thank him for his commitment to the field of aging services.

Citation for Vernne Greiner

As a family practice doctor Vernne treats patients and their families holistically and compassionately. “Knowing Vernne, it is no surprise that she specializes in an area of medicine which has the most need of physicians, and is the least glamorous.”

In her other ‘profession’ as a pastor’s wife, Vernne also works holistically and compassionately. She was integral in the formation of a Lafiya ministry in her congregation, focusing on the theme of serving as well as being served, with Jesus as their model. The Lafiya concept is still strong in the Mechanicsburg Church of the Brethren and, with Vernne’s help, has moved them as a congregation to stay focused on the wellness of the whole congregation.
Vernne's gentleness of spirit is not to be confused with her tenacity when fighting for a right, or against an injustice. While she may sometimes be reticent to speak, Vernne is respected so highly that all will stop and listen when she does take the floor. During her tenure on the board of the Association of Brethren Caregivers (ABC) she was an invaluable asset to its leadership and to the denomination at large. With the recent transformation of the ABC and General Boards into the Mission and Ministry Board, Vernne will continue to work for programs that strengthen the church in its service to all.

Citation for Dale & Beverly Minnich
If you need to have something done and done well, call the Minnichs. Serving on the Denominational Deacon Ministry Group is only one of the many ways that as a couple they have served the church.

During their time on this ministry group Dale and Beverly represented the Caring Ministries as they hosted deacon training sessions at various locations in the West, often driving hundreds of miles to do so. While the Association of Brethren Caregivers was in transition, the Minnichs took on a leadership role coordinating ministry group conference calls and other meetings to ensure that the work of the group moved forward.

For 18 years Dale was on the General Board staff, and currently serves as chair-elect of the Mission and Ministry Board. Beverly has always been active in her local congregation, and currently is Vice-chair of the District Board/Leadership Team of the Western Plains District.

At Annual Conference Dale and Beverly retired from their denominational deacon work, at least officially. However, we all know that cutting back in one area only allows them more time to ramp up in another....

Citation for Larry & Alice Petry
Larry and Alice are one of those couples you’d just love to clone. They served in Brethren Volunteer Service (BVS) from 1995 until early 1997, first serving at the Washington City Church of the Brethren Soup Kitchen, then in disaster recovery work. Eventually they went to Japan, where they served as co-directors for the World Friendship Center. The Petrys continue to support BVS by their participation on the America Committee of the World Friendship Center, where they recruit volunteers.

The Petrys caught the "disaster bug" over 12 years ago when serving as volunteers at disaster response projects with others from the Northern Ohio District. Since then Larry has volunteered in more than 30 disaster recoveries, and Alice almost as many.

Since 2000 they have also served as guest leaders for older adult BVS units. And, speaking of older adults, NOAC would not be the same without the Petrys. There you will find them at the information desk giving directions and answering questions, always with smiles on their faces.

In a nutshell, the Petrys’ lives are testaments to service.

Open Roof Award for the Goshen City Church of the Brethren
The Goshen City (Ind.) Church of the Brethren has made major efforts to improve their accessibility in order to welcome all people, especially those living with disabilities.

In 1989 the congregation did an extensive needs assessment which, among other things, determined the importance of a lift to the sanctuary chancel. An Endowment Grant was approved by the church council in 2006 for this project, and the project was completed in early 2007.

With the purchase of the lift, persons who formerly were unable to participate in worship leadership were now welcomed and encouraged. The lift, concealed behind the chancel, allows persons to ride up the
equivalent of five steps with ease.

But the Goshen CoB did not stop with the lift. An elevator was also installed, and the women’s restroom is fully accessible. Large-print hymnals and bulletins are always available. Specific efforts, including the purchase of additional hearing devices, were made to allow persons with hearing disabilities to participate more fully in worship.

A highlight of their activities was the celebration of Disabilities Awareness Month. Leadership for worship was provided by people previously unable to take part because of a disability. Words cannot fully express the appreciation of family members able to witness their loved ones being included in these important activities of the church. The Goshen congregation has welcomed into the full life of the church those who too often are left on the sidelines because of attitudinal and physical barriers.