

# Hope & Healing

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A Quarterly Newsletter from Grove Manor Corporation, an agency  
of the Allegheny Region Conference of the Churches of God

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*Hope & Healing* is a quarterly publication of the Grove Manor Corporation, an agency of the Allegheny Region Conference of the Churches of God, General Conference. Health care is provided and managed by Extendicare Health Facilities, Inc.

Believe in the inherent worth and dignity of each unique person, and that we are called to share in Christ's compassion and ministry to them. Our mission at Grove Manor is to provide a loving and compassionate environment for our ill and aged residents.



## Hope & Healing aims to help

By Dr. Rob Guy

For several decades, the Allegheny Region has been engaged in a ministry to senior citizens through their efforts at both Grove Manor and The Caring Place nursing homes. Up until recently, however, this ministry has largely been limited to those within the walls of our homes in Grove City and Franklin.

During the last couple years, the Grove Manor Board has given considerable thought to how we might expand this ministry to seniors, seeking to find ways of sharing our insights and experience with the Conference as a whole, enabling the folks in our churches to benefit from this ministry.

This new communiqué, *Hope & Healing*, is one such attempt to reach

out to our churches. To be published quarterly, this bulletin is intended to be a resource of encouragement and inspiration.

We know that many of you in our churches are senior citizens, and so you have a special interest in the issues facing seniors. We also know that others of you are facing the need of caring for your loved ones who are aging, and could benefit from articles that address these concerns.

Our hope is to draw from the wealth of experience of our administrators, our nurses, our social workers and chaplains, and to provide for you articles that you will find helpful and meaningful right where you live.

Please enjoy our inaugural issue.

(Dr. Rob Guy is a chaplain at Grove Manor.)

# Taking Time *for* Care

By Social Service Department

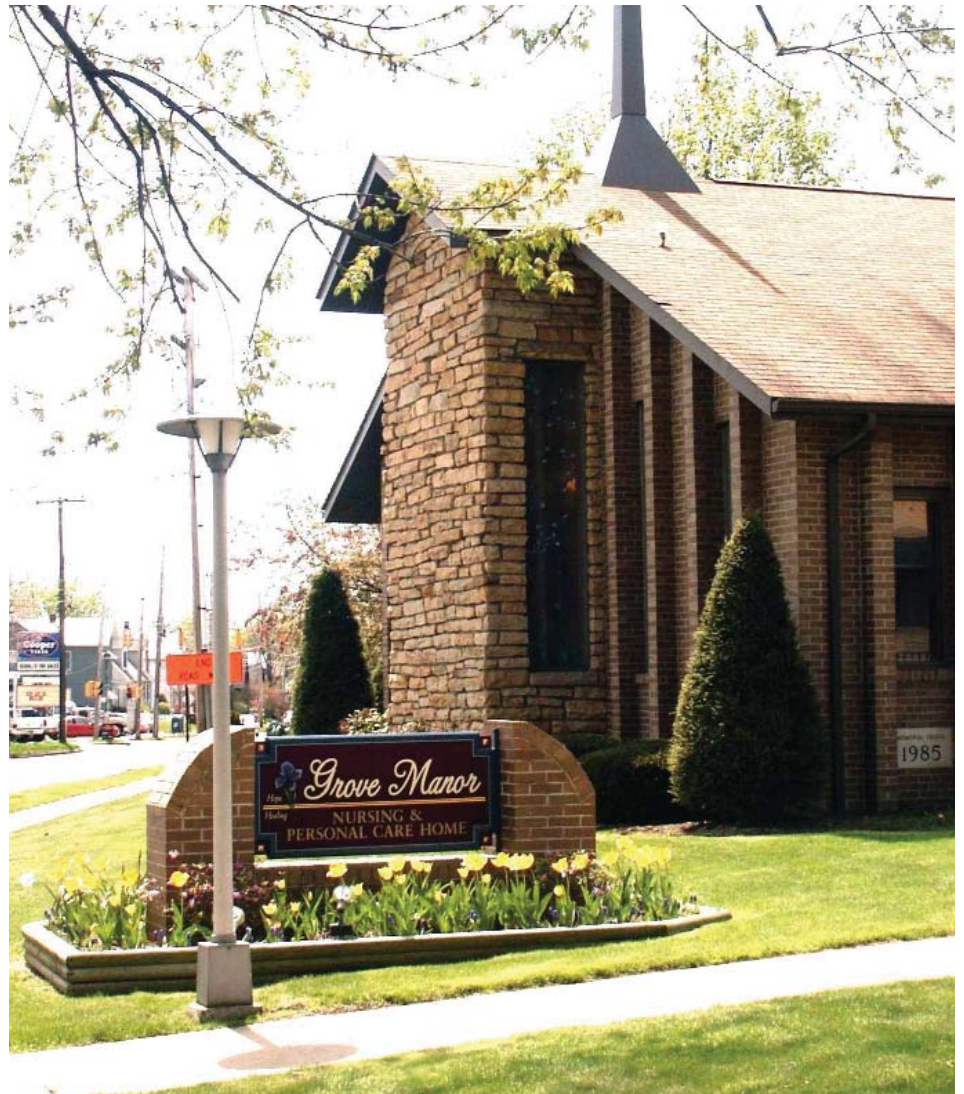
What distinguishes a nursing facility like Grove Manor from its competitors?

In a growing and highly competitive field like elder care, what makes a crucial difference as you look for a future home or temporary placement for a loved one?

There are often many more similarities than differences as you explore nursing facilities. Emphasis may be placed upon differences in décor or various minor amenities, but just as often we are left searching for something that will make a facility stand apart or clarify our choices.

At Grove Manor we consider ourselves not just one among many other “providers” of services. The values instilled by our Christian founders still steer the course of the organization providing direction and shaping attitudes from the top down.

We believe in the worth and dignity of each human being, a dignity that is not dimmed by physical or mental disability. This conviction is reflected not just in the words of a mission statement, but in our consistently exceeding state mandated requirements for the amount of employee hours per patient, often



**Grove Manor is a nursing center at 435 N. Broad St. in Grove City.**

providing greater quantity of therapy hours than our competitors, and integrating full time chaplaincy and religious services to our care milieu.

The warm, welcoming environment is no accident, nor is the well coordinated care and respectful caring demeanor of our staff. It all affirms the difference that makes all the difference and what it is that makes Grove Manor a good place for care, rehabilitation and a good place to go on living.

In an industry often focused upon

**Grove Manor**  
**435 North Broad St.**  
**Grove City, PA 16127**  
**(724) 458-7800**

profits and market share, our highest aim is to love our residents through exceptional service to them.

Our special thanks to those who have entrusted their loved ones to our care. Your kind words and notes motivate our staff to continue their excellent work.

# A Life Turned Upside-Down

By Linda Deeter

Extremely bashful and shy with a lack of confidence, co-dependent, enabler and a people-pleaser are some of the words, at one time, that described the inward me. To add to those descriptions, you could also include feelings of rejection and abandonment—thus my ability to be self-sufficient.

Quite a load to carry!

But on the positive side of that, I was blessed with good athletic abilities—volleyball, dancing, cheer-leading, majorette—was a good student, a good friend, a hard worker, a good wife and mother, and was blessed with mechanical abilities. My life's goal was to always strive to be the best at whatever I did. With this contrasting mixture, I never quite felt good enough.

Then my whole life really fell apart and my spirit became lost and broken. I lost everything that meant anything to me. So my challenge, I thought, was to prove myself by going to college to major in the only thing I knew—accounting and business administration. That was successful, but that is not what made a difference in my life. God got a hold of me in my brokenness, lifted me up, and carried me along. Touching my life in so many ways, he began to “replace the years the locust had eaten.”

As I continued to grow in the Lord, I felt Him turning my world even more upside-down—an

“I am privileged and honored to be servant of God and a servant to all at The Caring Place.”

uncomfortable feeling, but a good thing! Then one day I felt a calling to something bigger than what I could have ever imagined. It would take preparation from Winebrenner Theological Seminary and a Masters in Family Ministry.

But what was God going to do with that? I didn't really know, not until April 2007, when I answered the advertisement for the position of Chaplain at The Caring Place—not something I had ever considered before (preaching was not my gift—or so I thought). But God saw it differently! He saw an opportunity for me to throw my self-sufficiency to the wind and depend totally upon him. And to top that off, God prepared hearts to believe in my call void of any preaching experience.

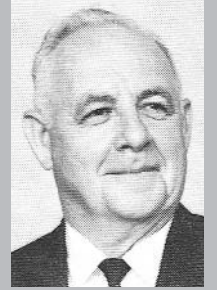
I am a humbled soul, who has felt and experienced God's most wonderful, powerful hand upon my life; and I am privileged and honored to be servant of God and a servant to all at The Caring Place. May God richly bless your life, as he has mine—by turning it upside-down.

*(Linda Deeter is a chaplain at The Caring Place.)*

## LOOKING BACK

### Founder was a little man with a big dream

To get to the beginning of Grove Manor's story, you have to go way back in time—to the 1930s, in fact, to a little man with a big dream.



J. Arnold Berg

Back in those days, the conference moved our pastors around a lot. They were never able to get established in one area and seldom able to afford a home of their own, especially when they were often paid with chickens and zucchini.

As a result, when they grew old, our pastors had no provision for retirement and no home to retire to. Of course, there were many other elderly folks in our churches in much the same predicament.

This was a major concern across the conference, but no one knew how to best address these needs. So for decades, nothing was done. But the vision to take care of our elderly stuck in the heart of one young pastor in particular—J. Arnold Berg. Arnold Berg was a little fellow, just about 5 feet tall. But he had a big heart, a thunderous voice and a strong

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# Words from the Heart

By Lisa Moritz 

What makes a house? Mortar, bricks, wood and steel. What makes a home? Home is made with hopeful hearts and healing hands.

I've struggled today to try to convey the essence of what The Caring Place embodies. I've been a part of this community of caring for about 10 years and I continue to thank God daily for the privilege. My mind went back to a family, so typical of the families I see everyday.

Two daughters sitting in my office were terrified at the thought of putting their precious mother in a nursing home. My heart ached for them as all I could do was keep the tissues coming to stem the tide of tears. Tears of fear, guilt, and failure of what they were about to do. This is a scene that has played out many times.

The difference is the poignant letter we received just over two years later. This is what The Caring Place is to me and so many others:

*Dear administration, the staff and aides and to all who gave the wonderful care and compassion to our precious mother in your "Caring Place." And that is exactly what your facility is. It is so very special. There aren't enough words to express our appreciation and thankfulness during her 28 months residing there. When we saw what great care she received there we knew that God had answered our prayers! God bless all of you. We looked upon this nursing home as*



*God's waiting room. My mother got a chance to play the organ and do activities and be surrounded by such compassionate sympathetic aides and nurses and activity people and Rev. Guy is just so wonderful. The Caring Place will be highly recommended by us to anyone needing your professional loving care. Thank you so very much!*

I hope to become a regular contributor to this missive. I thank you for the opportunity to do what has become my life's work, counted among the hopeful hearts and healing hands at The Caring Place.

*(Lisa Moritz is the Referral Manager at The Caring Place.)*

**The Caring Place**  
**103 N. 13th St.**  
**Franklin, PA 16323**  
**(814) 432-4491**

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vision for the Conference. In his 50 years of ministry in the Allegheny Region, he served 25 churches.

Finally in the 1960s, Arnold had been serving the Church of God in Grove City. He called a meeting in the basement of the Brackenridge church to finally attempt to launch a ministry to our seniors. Arnold announced that they were not leaving that room until they decided

either to move forward or to drop the idea altogether.

There were still good reasons for hesitation. Our church camp being planned at this time as well and there was the concern that the Conference would be stretched too thin trying to do both. But they voted to move forward. It was a decision based upon the conviction that we are called by God to address the needs of our aging pastors and members, to provide for our wid-

ows, and to honor them during the crowning years of their lives.

Like many of Grove Manor's visionaries, this committee recognized that they too would grow old, and perhaps need a home provided for them in their retirement. This eventually was the case with Arnold and Ruth Berg, who moved into Grove Manor and lived out their last days together, in the home that his dream helped to create. They died there in 1999, just six days apart.