



Creating belonging for persons with disabilities within a faith community.

Peaceful Living Highlights September 2014

“It’s not the stairs, it’s the stares”. Many churches believe that ministry begins and ends with physical plant adjustments for those with disabilities. The reality is, it is merely the beginning for a congregation truly committed to the inclusion of persons with disabilities. There are many obstacles to be overcome to create an open, accepting ministry partnership with this amazing group of individuals.

This is why our congregational ministry works so hard to encourage congregations to take advantage of our assessment program to help them better clarify the things that are working and those things that need adjusting when it comes to inclusive ministry. We are currently serving several congregations in this way.

We are also thrilled to announce exciting changes happening with our Residential and Creative Gifts programs. Creative Gifts is opening a new site in Delaware County this fall. We welcome Kelly Connell as the Director there. We know many new families will have the opportunity to see their loved ones enjoy the variety of activities and opportunities this program offers. In addition to this we are also opening a new home “Harmony House” here in Upper Salford Township area. We are also in process in establishing our second SOUL respite care program in the Bucks County area.



Greg on horseback at a recent Friendship Connection Event



Jan and Joe Landis say farewell to Joe and Kate at “Luau”

Our German Mennonite Volunteer Program continues with Christliche Dienste as we say farewell to Joe and Kate and welcome our newest folks “Daniel” and Annika” to our team.

Some other ways your congregation might like to help our congregational ministries program could be to provide volunteers for our monthly SOUL (Social

Opportunities for the Ultimate Life) respite events, or Friendship Connection events. We also host dances throughout the year providing social opportunities for people with disabilities.

For more information about the other programs of Peaceful Living, visit www.peacefulliving.org. Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/creatingbelonging to see what we’re up to.