



The Faith Connection

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“Welcome to *The Faith Connection*, our new publication sharing all the latest Flat Rock news of interest to our churches and community organizations. We hope you’ll enjoy this new publication. We invite all churches/groups to share this newsletter with your members. Feel free to use any of this information in your own newsletters, e-news or social media posts. We love to spread the news about Flat Rock! If sharing on social media, we hope you’ll tag us in your posts too. We are grateful for your partnership with Flat Rock Homes.” Karen Kilgo, CEO & President



A dream came true on September 12, 2019, as the *Rev. Dr. Valerie Stultz Memorial Staff Room* was dedicated by members of the Faith United Methodist Church (Tiffin, Ohio), Flat Rock staff members, and family and friends of Dr. Stultz. She, along with others, recognized the need for a quiet place where staff, especially Direct Support Professionals (DSP), could spend a few minutes to refresh and rejuvenate during their day. Through the generosity of Faith UMC, the dream is now a reality. During her time serving as the East Ohio Conference Bishop’s Representative on Flat Rock’s Board, Valerie served as the Board’s Services Work Group leader. This group reviewed all of Flat Rock’s programs as well as human resources strategies. She recognized the unique staffing challenges Flat Rock faces due to its rural location, and the residents’ high behavioral needs. Often, staff would take a few moments rest in their cars, which as you can imagine, in the summertime heat, or winter’s chill, was not ideal.

Through the leadership of Jeannine Curns, Board member and Faith UMC member, and Rev. Marilyn Coney, Pastor of Faith UMC and the recently appointed East Ohio Conference Bishop’s Representative Flat Rock’s Board, the congregation gave generously, and secured a challenge donation and matching funds, continuing their faithful dedication to the ministries of Flat Rock. Since 1866, Faith United Methodist Church has been supporting us—founding what is today known as Flat Rock Homes, Care Center and Community Services. With the dedication of the staff room, the legacy of service continues with Flat Rock.

COMING SOON!



- **Quilt Auction & Fundraiser** Saturday, November 16. Strongsville UMC. If your church has a quilting group, please consider a quilt donation for the auction!
- **#Giving Tuesday! December 3rd**. Donations to benefit building and maintaining our vehicle needs

GOOD NEWS!

From Karen Kilgo, 10 September 2019: “We were notified that Flat Rock Community Services was awarded CARF Accreditation for three years! We had our survey in early August 2019, and the surveyor was very complimentary on the excellent job we are doing in our Vocational Training and Employment Services programs... We believe that God will use this accomplishment to further our mission. Today is a new day as we expand our mission to include serving people with any kind of disability—not just intellectual and developmental disabilities. This is why we took on such a huge endeavor—to serve more of God’s children who need these services... ‘Ohio is our mission field!’ To God be the glory!”

PRESENTING...

Flat Rock CEO and President Karen Kilgo, Deaconess Sherri Buehl, and Rose Darling, your Church and Community Engagement Coordinators, are offering special programs and speaking opportunities to your congregation and community. These include:

- Sunday morning sermon/pulpit-fill
 - Flat Rock Homes presentation (15-20 min)
- Special presentations
 - Bridges Out of Poverty Training. Contact Deaconess Sherri Buehl at sbuehl@flatrockhomes.org
 - Christmas Musical Programs are available from 11/18-12/21/2019. Contact Rose at rdarling@flatrockhomes.org
 - We can help you plan and present an Access/Disability Awareness Sunday



QUILT AUCTION & FUNDRAISER

Just in time for chilly weather, and Christmas shopping! On Saturday,

November 16 gather your friends and head off to the Flat Rock Quilt Auction & Fundraiser hosted by the Strongsville United Methodist Church, 13500 Royalton Road, Strongsville, Ohio. Visit our website for more details www.flatrockhomes.org. To donate a quilt, please contact us at 419-483-7330 ext 1105 or email lbinette@flatrockhomes.org

About #GivingTuesday: Since its launch in 2012 as an answer to the heavy shopping emphases of Black Friday, and Cyber Monday, #GivingTuesday has touched the hearts of millions of people worldwide to give to nonprofit organizations. In 2018, in 150 countries, more than 400M was raised! Consider supporting Flat Rock Homes on #GivingTuesday, December 3, 2019. Our goal for 2019 is \$15,000, and funds raised will benefit building and maintaining our vehicle needs.

You Can Help Transform Lives Through:

• **Monetary Gifts:**

- Give to an appeal
- Set up a monthly donation
- Participate in **#GivingTuesday**, December 3rd. This year's funds to help our vehicle needs

• **In-Kind Gifts:**

- Drop off or send items from NEEDS or WISH LISTS
- **Shop Amazon Smile**
- Volunteer
- Give the gift of Christmas joy

• **Wish List:**

- Some top needs include New Bicycle Helmets, Laundry Detergent, Toilet paper, Paper Towels, and Toothpaste. Visit our website www.flatrockhomes.org for the full needs list.

• **Large Item Needs:**

- New Washers & Dryers, Good Cars or Mini Vans, and Wheelchair Accessible Vans.

Please share what your church is doing to meet the special needs of your congregation and community. Contact rdarling@flatrockhomes.org

COMING UP IN THE OCTOBER ISSUE:

- About Board Member Elaine Hopkins and Flat Rock
- More details on the Quilt Auction & Fundraiser
- Christmas at Flat Rock
- And more!