



## Faith Connections February 2025

*Flat Rock Homes, Care Center, & Community Services is a faith-based, mission-minded ministry supported by churches of many denominations, individuals, families, businesses, and foundations.*



***Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 1 John 4:11***  
**February calls us to love. We love and appreciate you and pray for God's blessings on you and those you love and serve.**

### Night to Shine

Night to Shine is an evening of glitz and glamour for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Dressed in their finest party attire, they enjoy music and dancing and savor delicious party foods, games, and all the trimmings of a fabulous prom night! Each participant receives a crown or tiara and a walk down the red carpet as they enjoy the festivities. In conjunction with Norwalk First United Methodist Church, our Flat Rock Care Center residents will enjoy this event on February 7 as the gym becomes a beautiful prom venue! Meanwhile, Flat Rock Community Services' individuals will enjoy the prom at Norwalk First United Methodist Church and various locations throughout their communities. We are thrilled to join this global event sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation. Watch for photos in the March newsletter.

### A Fond Farewell, and a Warm Welcome!



**Congratulations and heartfelt thanks to Rebecca (Becky) Brandt**, who will be retiring as the Flat Rock Care Center Administrator at the end of February after over 42 years of dedicated service and leadership at Flat Rock Homes. We are grateful for her immense contributions and the positive impact she has made.



We are also pleased to announce that **Jessica Rush** has stepped into the role of Flat Rock Care Center Administrator as of January 2025, after serving 12 years in our Flat Rock Community Services program. Jessica expresses her deep gratitude for Becky's mentorship, which has been instrumental in her professional growth. Stay tuned for more details in the next newsletter.

Rock Flat Homes. Care Center, and Community Services 7353 County Road 29, P.O. Box 1, Flat Rock, Ohio 44828 Phone: 419.483.7330  
[www.flatrockhomes.org](http://www.flatrockhomes.org)



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**Misty Parkins** is the new Administrator for Flat Rock Community Services. With over 30 years of experience working with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, Misty has a comprehensive understanding of the field. Her extensive background across various areas of service makes her a knowledgeable and invaluable leader for the organization.



**Lucy Spencer** is the new Director of Community Programs at Flat Rock Community Services. With 28 years of experience working with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, Lucy brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to her role. She is known for her innovative ideas and dedication to enhancing the quality of life for the community she serves.

### **Spotlight on West Union Crusaders Sunday School Class**

*"Truly, our hearts were touched by what we saw that day,"*

Nestled in the rolling hills of southeast Ohio, the West Union Crusaders Sunday School Class has been a steadfast supporter of Flat Rock's mission and ministries for over 32 years. Under the leadership of Rudy Glazer, the class made its first donation to Flat Rock Homes on January 13, 1993. Since then, their contributions have accumulated to a current total of over \$28,000.

Although the class has become smaller over the years, its members continue to gather each Sunday before worship to share their faith, offer prayers, and generously support those in need. Flat Rock remains deeply grateful for their faithful generosity. Recently, a new young couple in the congregation proposed that the church match the offerings raised by the Crusaders class. This idea was accepted and is now in effect, further increasing the impact of their support.

Rudy fondly recalled their initial visit to Flat Rock Homes, expressing how deeply moved they were by the dedication and loving care provided by the staff to the residents. "Truly, our hearts were touched

by what we saw that day," Rudy shared. "It has been a joy to be a small part of the great work done at Flat Rock. May God continue to bless and guide this work."



If you or your church/organization would like to learn more about the life-transforming work of Flat Rock Homes and the many ways you can support this mission, please reach out to [engagement@flatrockhomes.org](mailto:engagement@flatrockhomes.org).

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## With Appreciation: End of Year Report



We are incredibly grateful for your generosity during GivingTuesday, Christmas, and our year-end appeal! Thanks to your prayerful support, we nearly doubled our year-end goal.



Our target was \$21,000, and we are thrilled to share that we raised nearly \$42,000 thanks to your generosity! As a not-for-profit ministry, your prayers and support are vital in helping us meet the needs of those we serve. We thank God for you and your continued partnership with us!

## Ways to Support



Round up for Flat Rock with [Walmart SparkGood](#). Rounding up at Walmart is an easy way to support us. Also, sign up with Kroger to help Flat Rock with your Kroger card. Click [here](#), enter **MX346**, and renew each year.

## Volunteer Opportunities

Our doors are open to volunteers! We're eager to meet you, your friends, church, civic groups, and family. Please spread the word. The men and women we serve love visitors and are happy to meet new friends. Whether you want to plan an activity, a craft, or be a calm presence, you are welcome. Whether for a one-time activity, or an ongoing project, you are welcome. Time is precious and we value those who donate their time. *"Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless."* – Sherry Anderson. Please contact Deaconess Sherri Buehl, Volunteer Coordinator at 419-483-7330 ext. 1118 or [sbuehl@flatrockhomes.org](mailto:sbuehl@flatrockhomes.org)

## Join Our Team

For our latest **open positions**, visit <https://flatrockhomes.org/careers/join-our-team>

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## Looking Ahead

- **March** is Developmental Disability Awareness Month. Our team can help you present your annual Disability Awareness Sunday this month or at a later date. Contact [engagement@flatrockhomes.org](mailto:engagement@flatrockhomes.org).
- **Sunday, March 2, 10:30 AM:** As a prelude to Lent, actor and author Geoffrey Darling presents several chapters of Mark's Gospel at Milton Presbyterian Church, in Rittman, Ohio. This fundraiser benefits Flat Rock Homes. His book, "How Beautiful are the Feet" will be available for purchase. Geoffrey welcomes the opportunity to share Mark's Gospel with your church. Email [rdarling@flatrockhomes.org](mailto:rdarling@flatrockhomes.org).
- **Tuesday, March 18, 10:30 AM – Noon:** Clergy Meet & Greet at Flat Rock Homes, 7353 County Rd 29, Flat Rock, Ohio. Light continental brunch, tours, meet and greet! RSVP [engagement@flatrockhomes.org](mailto:engagement@flatrockhomes.org).
- **Saturday, May 17:** The Dick Parks Memorial Race at the Rock at the Flat Rock Care Center. 7353 Country Rd 29, Flat Rock, Ohio. Watch for more details in the next *Faith Connections* and on social media. Church and business sponsorships are still available! <https://www.flatrockhomes.org/events/race-at-the-rock/>
- As you plan your **VBS summer children's programming**, please consider making Flat Rock Homes your missions project. We can support you by sharing stories and activities about disability awareness or recommending resources. Let us know how we may be of assistance. Contact [engagement@flatrockhomes.org](mailto:engagement@flatrockhomes.org).



These smiles are a  
direct result of your  
kindness and belief  
in our mission!

THANK  
YOU

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