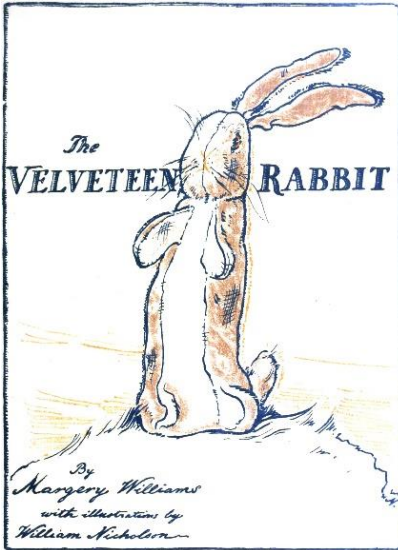


CHAMP Spirit



...but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. ~Isaiah 13

A Weekly Newsletter Connecting the
CHAMP Homes Community
Week of July 31 ~ August 6, 2017



One of the things that attracted me to CHAMP House back in 2001 was that it was a small community. Every time I came to volunteer there seemed to be something “good” happening. There would be a mix of residents, staff and volunteers working together to make the building spotless, to keep the grounds neat and tidy, prepare meals and pitching-in on anything else that was necessary to make the community “hum.” Surely it was not perfect—there were days where there were differences of opinion, someone was having an off-day and acting out, and even moments where the community felt broken. But most days a spirit of gratitude prevailed – gratitude to God, the Hebert’s for their response to God’s call, and the public for their support. There was also thankfulness for the second or third or fourth chance. I hope neither changes—the gratitude or the sense of community that develops over time.

I think, *genuine* community is what we have an opportunity to build and to be a part of here. A basic understanding of life-shared and the importance of our connectedness seems to be misunderstood in our fragmenting world. This lack of experience may be the source of much alienation, unkindness and disregard for the needs of “the other”. But community – *Real Community*—that goes beyond sometimes superficial “country-club” or “Sunday-only church” relations is necessary for survival as well as personal and collective change.

Real community doesn’t just happen. And, in fact, in my observation, usually comes out of struggle. It is gritty, messy, shaped by our strengths and our limitations, difficulties of life and complexities of our environment. Somehow, I am reminded of the story of the Velveteen Rabbit – as some of you know, a favorite story of mine. Do you remember it? About the time the stuffed rabbit looked like hell – was when he was made “real”. All his fancy velvet had been rubbed off, he was in tatters, and on the discard pile. Ever feel like that? I sure have! But as I look back through those times, in the end, as I allowed God and the messengers he sent—to challenge and change me—I actually felt more alive having come through some difficult parts of my life.

So, what am I saying? Personally, collectively, I would rather we be real, than play it safe. By taking that tack, I know we will not be perfect and we will make mistakes. But we can work to be honest, realistic and fair. We are here to create the CHAMP community together. Through the process of community-building, we are changed – we learn to care for others and for ourselves; we learn to compromise and to take the lead; we learn many life lessons that we cannot learn alone. I am convinced we are better for the process and journey of communal life. Some days we will do this well and some days we won’t. It may not come together neatly, at all - In fact, as we mature, we may look a bit like that well-loved rabbit—not necessarily meeting our own or our society’s preconceptions, but I assure you, we—like the rabbit—will be transformed and fully alive! Simply, I am certain of that.

~ Beth Wade

Next week...what is your part in this? What can you do?

AUGUST 2017

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
<p>30.</p> <p>CHEF'S</p>	<p>31.</p> <p>12 PM ~ Reflections (Chapel) 3-4 PM ~ Crafts (Café) 5:45-6:45 PM ~ Bible Study, Chapel 7 PM ~ AA, Chapel</p> <p style="text-align: center;">→</p>	<p>1.</p> <p>Walking 9:30-10:30 AM 12 PM ~ Reflections (Chapel)</p>	<p>2.</p> <p>12 PM ~ Reflections (Chapel)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Holy Redeemer</i></p>	<p>3.</p> <p>Intake day 11 AM-2 PM 12 PM ~ Reflections (Chapel) 7 PM ~ AA, Chapel</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Bruce & Jimmy</i></p>	<p>4.</p> <p>12 PM ~ Reflections (Chapel) 4-5 PM ~ Prayer with Pastor Steve <i>Yarm. Rotary BBQ ~ Curly</i></p>	<p>5.</p> <p>12 PM ~ Reflections (Chapel)</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>7.</p> <p>12 PM ~ Reflections (Chapel) 3-4 PM ~ Crafts (Café) 5:45-6:45 PM ~ Bible Study, Chapel 7 PM ~ AA, Chapel</p>	<p>8.</p> <p>Walking 9:30-10:30 AM 12 PM ~ Reflections (Chapel)</p>	<p>9.</p> <p>Yoga 9-9:30 AM 4-5 PM Empowerment 12 PM ~ Reflections (Chapel)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Capeabilities ~ David</i></p>	<p>10.</p> <p>Intake day 11 AM-2 PM 12 PM ~ Reflections (Chapel) 7 PM ~ AA, Chapel</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Bruce & Jimmy</i></p>	<p>11.</p> <p>12 PM ~ Reflections (Chapel) Game Hour 2:30 – 4</p>	<p>12.</p> <p>12 PM ~ Reflections (Chapel)</p>
<p>13.</p>	<p>14.</p> <p>12 PM ~ Reflections (Chapel) 3-4 PM ~ Crafts (Café) 4 PM ~ House Meeting, Living Rm 5:45-6:45 PM ~ Bible Study, Chapel 7 PM ~ AA, Chapel</p>	<p>15.</p> <p>Walking 9:30-10:30 AM 12 PM ~ Reflections (Chapel)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Capeabilities ~ Terry</i></p>	<p>16.</p> <p>Yoga 9-9:30 AM 4-5 PM Empowerment 12 PM ~ Reflections (Chapel)</p>	<p>17.</p> <p>Intake day 11 AM-2 PM 12 PM ~ Reflections (Chapel) 7 PM ~ AA, Chapel</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Bruce & Jimmy</i></p>	<p>18.</p> <p>12 PM ~ Reflections (Chapel) Game Hour 3:30-5 PM</p>	<p>19.</p> <p>12 PM ~ Reflections (Chapel)</p>
<p>20.</p>	<p>21.</p> <p>12 PM ~ Reflections (Chapel) 3-4 PM ~ Crafts (Café) 5:45-6:45 PM ~ Bible Study, Chapel (Fruit of the Spirit) 7 PM ~ AA, Chapel</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Cindy & Brian</i></p>	<p>22.</p> <p>Walking 9:30-10:30 AM 12 PM ~ Reflections (Chapel)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> <i>Mary Anstett</i></p>	<p>23.</p> <p>Yoga 9-9:30 AM 4-5 PM Empowerment 12 PM ~ Reflections (Chapel)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Capeabilities ~ David</i></p>	<p>24.</p> <p>Intake day 11 AM-2 PM 12 PM ~ Reflections (Chapel) 7 PM ~ AA, Chapel</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Bruce & Jimmy</i></p>	<p>25.</p> <p>12 PM ~ Reflections (Chapel) Game Hour 3:30-5 PM</p>	<p>26.</p> <p>12 PM ~ Reflections (Chapel)</p>
<p>27.</p>	<p>28.</p> <p>12 PM ~ Reflections (Chapel) 3-4 PM ~ Crafts (Café) 4 PM ~ House Meeting, Living Rm 5:45-6:45 PM ~ Bible Study, Chapel 7 PM ~ AA, Chapel</p>	<p>29.</p> <p>Walking 9:30-10:30 AM 12 PM ~ Reflections (Chapel)</p>	<p>30.</p> <p>Yoga 9-9:30 AM 4-5 PM Empowerment 12 PM ~ Reflections (Chapel)</p>	<p>31.</p> <p>Intake day 11 AM-2 PM 12 PM ~ Reflections (Chapel) 7 PM ~ AA, Chapel</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Bruce & Jimmy</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"> <i>Harry Gardner</i> <i>Bruce & Jimmy</i></p>	<p>Question: Why did the hotdog lose the race?</p> <p>Answer: Because he couldn't ketchup but don't worry, he mustard up the strength to try again!</p> <p style="text-align: right;"></p>	