

Dear Royer-Greaves Community,

At this special time of year, we want to share some of the many things filling us with gratitude.

Look around our campus and classrooms and the work of hundreds of community volunteers is beautifully obvious.

Through a new and growing partnership with People's Light, a non-profit community theater in Malvern, our students and adults have attended performances especially geared for people with special sensory needs.

Lifesharing, our community-based residential program, is rapidly growing, with many community people opening up their homes to welcome and support a new household member.

Our teachers, staff, and aides continually push themselves to provide ever-more excellent education, support, and services for our students and adults.

And in a tremendous show of support for our history and our future, Malvern Bank has become Inaugural Sponsor of our fast-approaching 2020-2021 Centennial Celebration, a year-long series of events celebrating and highlighting Royer-Greaves' first 100 years.

Please join us in this spirit of gratitude! And, if you are able, please consider making a tax-deductible donation of your own to support our school and adult programs here at Royer-Greaves. A return envelope is enclosed, or you may visit our website, royer-greaves.org, and click on the Donate & Volunteer tab to contribute online.

Thank you for all that you do!

**VICKY
MAYER**
Executive
Director



**DEBRA
JEROME**
Deputy
Director



Lights! Camera! Lifesharing! Growing Residential Program Creates a Video



Lifesharing participants and the community members who have opened their homes and lives to them are working on a new video to showcase the program's benefits for future participants and hosts.

Through Lifesharing, people who do not have the skills to live independently are placed in the homes of community residents. The residents receive training, support, and a stipend. The participants experience a caring, supportive household and are able to live more independently than in other settings.

"Our program has grown rapidly, but we know there are many people who could benefit from the program but don't know about it," said Director Marcia Debes.

"Who better to tell the story and show the difference Lifesharing can make in people's lives than the people who live it every day?" added Program Specialist Sandra Lartey.

Our cameras went to the home and favorite haunts of

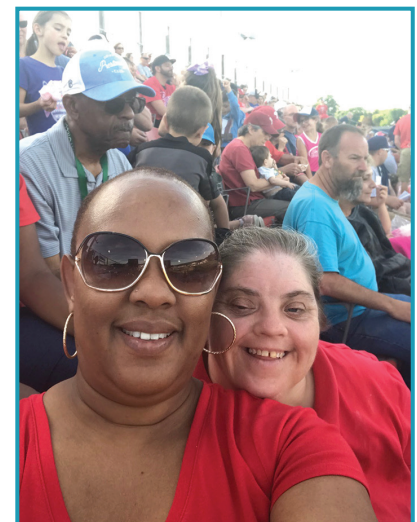
Lifesharing participant Mary McHale and host Mary Kyle. They attended church with participants Victoria Williams and Ron Curry and hosts Senneh Sengbe and Yungor Kemah. It quickly became clear that these relationships are deeply meaningful to all involved.

Asked about her Lifesharing experience, Mary McHale left no doubt about how she feels. "I love it!" she exclaimed. "I love spending time together and doing art stuff together, like coloring. I like eating together and talking."

"Lifesharing changed my life!" Victoria said. "I feel like I am part of a family that cares for me."

Lifesharing hosts Mary Kyle and Senneh say the program has added much to their lives, too.

Senneh's kids are grown. "The house was so lonely.



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But now Victoria is part of our family. She is always smiling, and we always have a great conversation.”
“In the past, I had been interested in foster care or something, anything I think where I could share my home, share my life, share the maternal instincts that I know I have, even though I don’t have children of my own,” Mary Kyle said. “Mary is a joy. She’s funny. I provide her with support, but there is not much she can’t do. She amazes me with all that she knows and understands.”

Because they and others were willing to share their stories, Royer-Greaves Services won’t just tell people about the benefits of Lifesharing, but, through the new video, will show them. Stay tuned!



Malvern Bank Becomes \$10K Inaugural Sponsor of Centennial Celebration



With a generous \$10,000 grant made earlier this fall, Malvern Bank Charitable Foundation became Inaugural Sponsor of the Royer-Greaves School for Blind Centennial Celebration, a year-long series of events marking the 100-anniversary of the school’s 2021 founding by Jessie Royer Greaves.

“We are truly grateful to the Foundation for its commitment to supporting the efforts of non-profit organizations in the local community,” said Royer-Greaves Executive Director Vicky Mayer. “This donation will help us host a community event for everyone – the children and adults of Royer-Greaves, our neighbors, businesses, faith organizations and the entire community.”

The Malvern Bank Foundation’s gift to Royer-Greaves was part of a \$105,000 bundle of grants awarded to 14 area non-profit organizations, including seven from Chester and Montgomery counties. “Our community is incredibly fortunate to have a bank that gives back so much,” said Vicky, who is shown here with Anthony C. Weagley, President and CEO of Malvern Bancorp, Inc. and Malvern Bank, National Association.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Great Valley High School Leos Club Leads Fall Clean-Up Efforts



The Great Valley Leo Lions – members of a Lions-affiliated service club at Great Valley High School – led two community clean ups at Royer-Greaves this fall.

The September event included decorating for fall, and the students gathered donations of mums and pumpkins. In October, planting beds were weeded and mulched. On both occasions, the teen volunteers were joined by adults from the Masons and several local churches and businesses.

“These teams of volunteers, students and adults, left our campus cleaner and more beautiful. Everyone also had a lot of fun – it was really delightful,” said Royer-Greaves Executive Director Vicky Mayer. “The Leos are a really impressive group of young people,” she added. “They are already dedicated to community service, and their organizational skills are superb, too!”



Royer-Greaves School for Blind Always Needs Volunteers

There's always so much to do at Royer-Greaves School for Blind. We could use your help! If you or your organization would like to volunteer for a day of community service or on a regular basis, please contact Royer-Greaves Executive Director Vicky Mayer at vmayer@royer-greaves.org. Hope to see you soon!

Meet Royer-Greaves' Culinary Team Tony Cecco and Linda Lynch

Royer-Greaves Kitchen Supervisor Tony Cecco and Main Cook Linda Lynch plan school menus with their noses.

“When most of us go to a restaurant, we see a plate of food and our brain has an immediate understanding of what that food is,” Tony said. But at Royer-Greaves, where students and most adults have visual impairments, appetites are whet and plate contents communicated in another way. “Since they can’t see the food, we prepare foods that smell really good and have a distinctive, easily identifiable smell,” he said.

When homemade lasagna is baking, everyone knows what’s for lunch!



Choosing deliciously aromatic foods is just the start of the custom cooking in the Paoli school’s kitchen.

Picture a plate of lasagna, saucy and cheesy with layers of noodles and meat, string beans on the side.

“Some students eat it just like that,” Linda said. “Some need it to be chopped. Some need it pureed,” Linda said. These different ways of serving are necessary because, along with visual impairment, Royer-Greaves’ students and adults have other, co-existing disabilities, some of which effect the ability to swallow or chew.

“And some have cheese intolerance – we make a separate batch for them.” Linda added.

Meals are further customized based on dietary or nutritional needs. There are sugar-free options for people with diabetes, for example.

Both Tony, who has worked at Royer-Greaves for five years, and Linda, who has been here for six, have commercial kitchen experience: Tony’s family owned several Italian restaurants in the area, and he still helps out his brother Ralph at his Exton pizza shop, Mario’s. Linda is the former manager of T.D. Alfredo’s in Spring City.

Because providing meals and snacks for everyone at Royer-Greaves requires such specialization, Tony and Linda also trained with dietitians and the Royer-Greaves nursing staff.

“It’s really interesting to do all these different types of cooking,” Linda said.

“It’s challenging, but a rewarding challenge,” Tony said. “It feels good to know that I’m contributing to meeting everyone’s needs. They depend on us, and that makes us feel like part of the family.”

In addition to preparing about 60 meals for students, adults, faculty and staff daily, Tony and Linda also cater on-campus, preparing salads, sandwiches, wraps and desserts for staff meetings, board meetings, and campus visitors about once a week, and fuller meals for several large and events each year. “The holiday open house is the big one – we have 150 to 200 people every year!” Tony said.

Linda and Tony both started cooking as children. Linda learned from her mother and grandmother, and Tony from his mother. “Sunday dinners were and still are a big deal. Everybody comes over!” Tony said.

The love and generosity of meals cooked and enjoyed with and for their own families provide much inspiration for the cooking Linda and Tony do to provide meals for their Royer-Greaves family.

Sometimes, someone doesn’t feel well, and asks for something special to eat.

Pretty much daily, somebody’s at the kitchen door seeking a cookie or some fruit – students and adults with the teachers or aide they asked to bring them, or those teachers and aides on break.

“The answer is always absolutely yes,” laughs Linda.



Get Ready to Celebrate Royer-Greaves' 100th Anniversary

Royer-Greaves School for Blind will mark its centennial in 2021, and we’re planning a special series of celebratory events.

You’ll have a chance to “meet” our founder, Jessie Royer Greaves, in fall 2020. And we’ll host a music festival on our campus in 2021!

We don’t want to give too much away just yet, but know that, true to our mission and our roots, there will be plenty for everyone to enjoy.

Want to help? Volunteers will be needed to organize and staff many events! Look for sign-up information in future issues of this newsletter.



Save the Date for Royer-Greaves' Annual Holiday Concert!

Please join us for an afternoon of music, dance, food and fun! Royer-Greaves' 2019 Holiday Concert takes place at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 15 in the gym (Florig Hall) on our campus, 118 S. Valley Road, Paoli.

Students, adults, faculty and friends will perform holiday favorites. Refreshments will be served, so please RSVP by calling 610-644-1810. All are welcome!

Please Contribute to Royer-Greaves' Annual Fund Drive!

Your donation allows us to better serve the needs of children and adults who are visually impaired and have co-existing intellectual, developmental, or physical disabilities. Donation envelope enclosed.

