



## Local Feature

### Walnut Hills Retirement Community

**As a Continuing Care Retirement Community, Walnut Hills offers many Lifestyles to 250 residents and has a Team of 165 Associates.**

[www.WalnutHillsLiving.com](http://www.WalnutHillsLiving.com)



Although Walnut Hills was privately owned for the last 37 years, Levi and Lillis Troyer always regarded it as their ministry. The Troyers, founders and owners, assumed their children would follow in their footsteps and continue the business.

However, when it became apparent that the future of Walnut Hills would take a different path, a decision had to be made. Whatever course was chosen, it was certain that local control and preserving the values of the Troyers were top priorities.

The Troyers worked with management and consultants to develop a strategic plan that would ensure the continuation of Walnut Hills' 37 year reputation of providing quality retirement living and compassionate healthcare.

The Troyer Family sought an organization and structure with similar philosophies, as well as knowledge and expertise in managing Continuing Care Retirement Communities.

"The family desired and affiliation that is financially stable and who mission, vision, and values congruent with their own," said President David A Miller. "They envisioned an organization that would help lead Walnut Hills into the future as though they were still here to direct it". This led to an 18-month process of Greencroft Communities of Goshen, Indiana, and the Troyers working through the details of a new Ohio Not-For-Profit organization, which became operational on June 1, 2008.

Walnut Hills is the sixth Affiliate community of Greencroft, whose other campuses serve more than 1,700 residents and 900 employees in Northern Indiana. Greencroft, established in 1968, gives management oversight and support services to each community.

A local Board of Directors should be in place by early 2009. The board will be a key in keeping local control and helping Walnut Hills fulfill its mission of being a community benefit organization. The Affiliation relationship with Greencroft is a unique blend of local autonomy with corporate expertise.

The Walnut Hills name, management, and operations are the same. "This new community-based and church related entity assures everyone that Walnut Hills belongs to this community and the people it serves," stated Miller.



With a world that presents us with so many unknowns and a future that is sometimes unclear, I am reflecting now more than ever on the things that mean the most. I can't say that I can count on even one hand

the memories I have of a gift that I received but I can say for certain that the following memories are forever etched in my mind. I will never forget the smell of the house when Mom made snowball cookies, the blinding light from Uncle Jim's Super Eight movie camera, the smell of a fresh cut Blue Spruce standing majestically in the front room waiting on my father for its lights. I will always treasure the simple memory of the joy my Mom showed opening a home-made gift, the sound of the Bell Ringers and the exciting ride up six escalators to see Santa in the down-town O'Neil's. After all these years these memories are fresh and they keep me looking forward to Christmas. The following are traditions that have been submitted from some of our people to be shared with you.

When I was a child, my Dad & I would go out the morning after Thanksgiving and pick a live Christmas tree. The priceless time with my dad would end with us all decorating the tree as a family later that afternoon and evening. – **Deana Alexander**

We have adopted a tradition that my wife's family had. My wife, myself and our children camp out on Christmas Eve in the room where we have our tree. It makes for a lot of fun waking up on Christmas day to the tree.

– **Vaughn Troyer**

## Hummel Holiday Recipe by *Kathy Mullen*

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Monthly News Editor: Brad Mullen

### Merry Christmas

It's funny how traditions exist and we are not even aware that they do. I did not realize until my son left home how much he enjoyed a simple ritual followed each Christmas Eve. Following a church service, we would come home and watch a special Christmas movie together while enjoying certain food. It was just our own little private party. This tradition started when I was still at home as a child.

– **Patty Sturgeon**

My immediate family gets together at Christmas for the evening. We read the Christmas story, sing Christmas songs, open gifts, eat (there must be chocolate fondue) and play games until it is time to go the bed. Each Christmas, we (Fred & I) buy pajamas for each one in the family since everyone spends the night at our home after we have our celebration. It is always a very special time for making memories. – **Janet Nussbaum**

Passing on the tradition from my childhood, we give our children a little gift each day of December. These gifts may consist of a pair of socks, Chapstick, a nickel or dime. It adds anticipation to the birth of Jesus and places less emphasis on Santa. – **Jolene Ricer**

Late Christmas Eve is a time when my wife gives each of our four kids a new pair of pajamas that she has made. We read from Luke about the first Christmas, tuck in the kids and enjoy each other's company in the quiet room with the tree.

– **Brad Mullen**



### Peppermint Bark

1 lb white chocolate or white almond bark  
12 candy canes crushed



Melt chocolate in microwave for 1min. Stir in crushed peppermint candy. Spread onto cookie sheet lined with wax paper, place in freezer until cooled (approximately 3 min.). Break into pieces.

Variation: brown chocolate or almond bark may be substituted for the white.

Also you could crush up pretzels for that great salty/sweet taste, or almonds if you wish. This makes a great item to place in a canning jar/glass jar and decorate with Christmas fabric and a ribbon/bow at the front to give as a gift.