



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release:

**Willow Valley Communities Creates “Blessing Boxes”
for School District of Lancaster**
Children benefit by receiving and giving.

Lancaster, PA — Willow Valley Communities, a premier 55 plus senior living community in Lancaster, has created “Blessing Boxes” to be installed in schools throughout the School District of Lancaster. Blessing Boxes include a variety of items such as clothing, hygiene items, and school supplies. Students can take what they need, and donate back what they can. The boxes are placed in common areas in the schools.

The idea for the Blessing Boxes came from Jessica Pavelko, a Lancaster area resident and the wife of Matt Pavelko, music teacher at Carter and MacRae Elementary School in Lancaster City. Pavelko worked with Willow Valley Communities residents from the community’s North Woodshop to construct the boxes. She says “Blessing Boxes give school students the opportunity to be blessed by receiving something they need and also to be blessed by the opportunity to give what they can.”

Pavelko passionately believes that it’s not enough to bless a child in need with a new coat or new school supplies. She says it’s just as important to also bless that child with the opportunity to give to someone else in need. “When you fill another’s bucket, your bucket gets filled,” she said.

Willow Valley Communities North Woodshop vice chairman Bob Goodhart collaborated with fellow woodshop member, Jim Hockenberry, who spearheaded the project. All members of the woodshop worked together to complete 16 boxes for distribution throughout the School District of Lancaster. Willow Valley Communities sponsored the cost of the materials.

“The North Woodshop likes to be able to make contributions for Willow Valley Communities, as well as to the greater Lancaster community beyond us,” said Goodhart. “Working with the Lancaster school district was the perfect fit. It’s

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always inspiring to be around the children and do something beneficial for them.”

As a special thank you to the members of the Willow Valley Communities North Woodshop, Jessica Pavelko recently presented them with a plaque commemorating the project. It will be displayed at Willow Valley Communities’ North Woodshop.

Dr. Damaris Rau, superintendent of the School District of Lancaster, looked on during the presentation. She noted, “We are so appreciative of the beautiful Blessing Boxes which were carefully crafted by Willow Valley Communities residents. Our students will benefit both from the supplies offered and from filling the boxes to help their peers. A special thank you to Matt and Jessica Pavelko for creating this opportunity for our families.”

John G. Swanson, CEO of Willow Valley Living, the management company for Willow Valley Communities, also commented. “Willow Valley Communities believes children can best reach their goals when they have what they need. But, another level of success is also achieved when they have the opportunity to give to others.”

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Interview opportunities and professional photographs are available.

To schedule an interview or for more information, contact:

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Willow Valley Communities, Lancaster, PA was founded in 1984. An award winning, not-for-profit, independently operated continuing care retirement community (CCRC), it is nationally recognized as a senior living destination for residents from 37 states. Residences at Willow Valley Communities range from 600 to 3,200 square feet with more than 90 floor plans for apartments, townhomes, and villas. Amenities include an 80,000 square foot Cultural Center with 500 seat performing arts theatre, aquatic and fitness centers, day spa, and a 30,000 square foot Clubhouse with tennis and pickle ball courts, bowling alleys, golf simulator, and vintage arcade. Willow Valley Communities’ comprehensive Lifecare Agreement provides supportive care, if needed, without an increase to the resident’s monthly service fee.

For more information, call 800.770.5445 or visit <http://www.WillowValleyCommunities.org>.