



# Across the GENERATIONS

the newsletter for generations crossing

spring '09

## A NEW HOME, A NEW BEGINNING

*Generations Crossing Moves into New Permanent Facility, Welcomes First Child Daycare Participants*

2008 Board chair (and current board member) Judith Trumbo, board member (and current board chair) Jim Watson, board member Susan Obenshain, honorary board member Judith Strickler, and executive director Laurie Deavers participate in the ribbon-cutting that signals the opening of our new permanent home at the corner of Massanetta Springs Road and Taylor Spring Lane just east of Harrisonburg. A throng of excited friends and supporters joined us for our Grand Opening Nov. 19 as we celebrated the opening of our new \$2.1 million, 10,000-square-foot building. In January we welcomed our first child participants to the new Center, fulfilling our vision of becoming the community's first intergenerational day care facility.



### Sunnyside Residents and Staff Visit **What a Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood!**

On a surprisingly warm and sunny spring day in March, Generations Crossing welcomed residents and staff from the Sunnyside Retirement Community for a tour of our Center.

Seventy neighbors came across the street to see what's happening in our big new facility. The one-way windows into the childcare rooms afforded a wonderful opportunity for our visitors to watch the young children at play. The multipurpose room had all the space we needed to socialize with old friends and meet many new ones, swapping stories and sharing refreshments.

Sunnyside resident Andy Myers, a regular volunteer at Generations Crossing, joined Board vice-chair Karen Shiflet, Board member Suzanne Obenshain, and our staff to meet and greet our neighbors.



### Director's Message

Spring is the season of new beginnings, but we've been celebrating new starts since October! That's when our adult participants and staff moved into our new building. Since then, 16 more adults have started spending their days here with us.

Throughout the fall we enjoyed unpacking and assembling all the new furniture and equipment for the childcare rooms. The childcare staff, many with years of experience, began on-site training in mid-December so they were all ready to welcome 18 new children on January 5th. To date, we have enrolled 45 children, infants through school age.

Teamwork has been the key to the success of all these transitions and innovations. Staff members came together with enthusiasm and mutual support to greet the many challenges as opportunities. Volunteers stepped in to ease some of the busiest times. Along with the children, parents, adults, and their loved ones, we have become an intergenerational family enjoying and learning from each other.

We look forward to welcoming more children and adults, and additional staff as we grow. I'm especially excited about welcoming school children to our summer program when school ends in June. (See Summer Care article on Page 2)

Thank you, everyone, for being a part of our family.

*Laurie Deavers, Executive Director*



## Easter Egg Fun for Kids and Adults



## All Set for Summer Fun

The Summer Care Program at Generations Crossing is ready to welcome up to 24 school age children for weeks of fun all summer long.

We're enrolling kids who are entering first grade up to those who are 12 years old. (Their younger siblings can attend the younger childcare classrooms.)

The school age children will enjoy different weekly themes: Gardening, Community Helpers, Taking Care of Me, Performing Arts, Pets, and Around the World. The older children have a large, cheerful room equipped just for them, and we know they will want to spend time on the playground whenever the sun is shining.

The weekly fee for the summer care program is \$110 per child, including meals. The fee for children who attend two or three days a week is \$25 a day.

Now is the time for families to call or come by for a registration form so they know their children are all set for a fun, safe summer.



## Sharing the Good News

Now that the Board of Directors' marketing team has designed bright, beautiful brochures to tell our many stories, we need your help reaching everyone who will want to see them.

There are brochures for the Infant and Toddler, Preschool, and Adult programs. Tell us about friends, businesses and community locations that should receive these brochures, as well as groups, clubs and organizations where we can tell our story.

Call Laurie Deavers at the Center, 434-4901, to share your suggestions.



## A Tale of Two Jakes

The day Generations Crossing participants Jake Jacobs (Big Jake) and Jake Fowlkes (Little Jake) met, it was friendship at first sight.

"We have something special. I don't know what it is, but it's special," says Big Jake, 71, who has been a Generations Crossing participant since April 2005. Little Jake, 4, joined the Center when child care kicked off in January.

When the children were introduced to the adults during intergenerational time, Big Jake and Little Jake discovered they had the same first name. "He had on a green-striped shirt," Big Jake recalls. "He came in and said, 'I'm Jake.' I said, 'I'm Jake, too.'"

But their bond goes beyond a shared moniker. One day Little Jake said to his teacher, "Is Big Jake here? I want to see him." After that, the two became regular partners during intergenerational time. Little Jake always asks to sit beside Big Jake during intergenerational activities. Big Jake, who is at the Center three days each week, and Little Jake, who's there every day, enjoy talking and working jigsaw puzzles together.

"He was a little shy at first, but there's nothing shy about him now!" says Big Jake with a chuckle. "He just likes to talk, and we put puzzles together. I do very little, but he puts them together. He's really sharp with those puzzles. He's a typical 4-year-old, but he's pretty bright."

Like many of the adult participants, Big Jake enjoys interacting with the children and watching them play. It's one of many aspects of the Center that he appreciates.

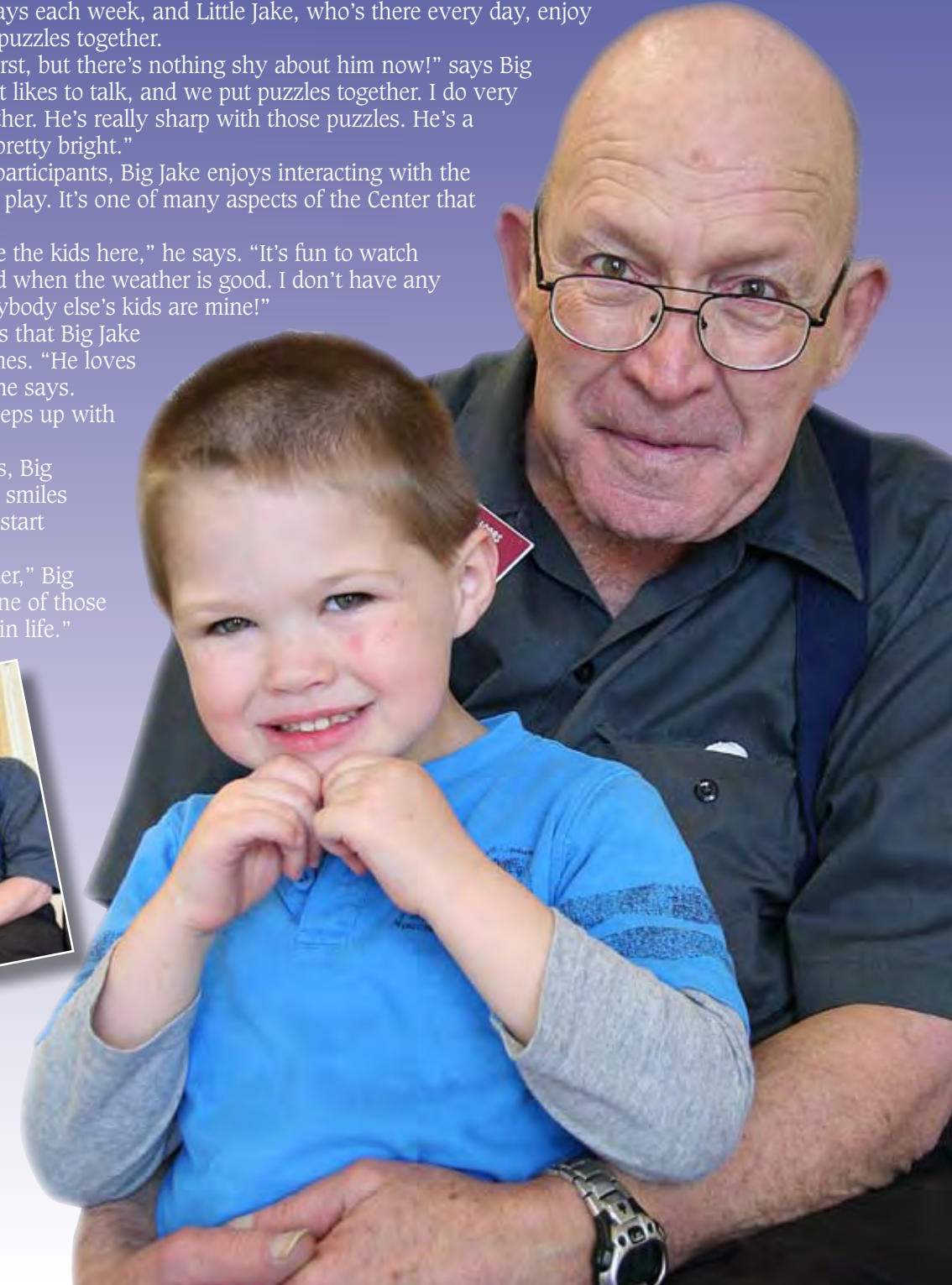
"It's awfully nice to have the kids here," he says. "It's fun to watch them play on the playground when the weather is good. I don't have any children of my own, so everybody else's kids are mine!"

Bonnie Flick, CNA, notes that Big Jake knows all the children's names. "He loves to watch all the children," she says.

"He's very observant. He keeps up with what's going on."

When Little Jake appears, Big Jake's eyes shine. Little Jake smiles shyly. After a moment they start conversing like old friends.

"We just found each other," Big Jake says reflectively. "It's one of those odd things that can happen in life."



# Fundraising Successes... Thanks to Our Volunteers

## New Years' Eve 5K

It was a frigid New Year's eve afternoon, yet about 200 runners and 30 Generations Crossing volunteers braved high winds for the annual 5K race around downtown Harrisonburg. Thank you Harman Construction, Glass & Metals, Riddleberger Brothers, Roberts Home Medical, RMH Wellness Center, Lite Rock 96.1, Chick-fil-A, Color Solutions, Massanutten Resort, Trumbo Electric, VMRC, Williamson Hughes Pharmacy, Home Instead Senior Care, and the Shenandoah Track Club for sponsoring our 5th annual road race and thanks to all the runners who participated. This event capped an exciting year at Generations Crossing and raised \$7,000 for the programs and services we provide.



## Carnations for Caring

Once again this year, Generations Crossing came into full bloom for Valentine's Day. A cadre of 47 volunteers gathered at the Sunnyside Room across the street from Generations Crossing at the Sunnyside Retirement Community to create more than 700 beautiful carnation bouquets for pick-up and delivery to friends and businesses all over the city and county. Carnations for Caring was a bloomin' success, raising almost \$5,000 to keep intergenerational programs at Generations Crossing growing all year.



## Save the Date for Alzheimer's Memory Walk Oct. 10

The 2009 Alzheimer's Association Memory Walk will take place at the Massanetta Springs Camp and Conference Center, right next door to Generations Crossing on Saturday, October 10th. What a convenient opportunity for our Center to be an Alzheimer's Champion. Call Carol at the Center if you want to sign on to walk with the Generations Crossing Team. It's an easy walk for an important cause.

Generations Crossing is a non-profit and the fees collected cover operating expenses only. Especially in this first year of operation in our new center, we depend on your generous support to meet our additional expenses as we quickly grow into an outstanding intergenerational day care program for Harrisonburg and Rockingham County. We encourage your support and appreciate your contributions of money, time and talents.

- YES, I would like to make a donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_.
- YES, I would like to learn more about volunteer opportunities.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to Generations Crossing and mail to:  
 Generations Crossing,  
 3765 Taylor Spring Lane  
 Harrisonburg, VA 22801

***On behalf of all the children and adult participants and their families, we thank you for your caring and support.***

Generations Crossing is a 501(c)3 organization and gifts are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

current resident

3765 Taylor Spring Lane  
 Harrisonburg, VA 22801



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