

Our Mission

To help strengthen the Lancaster County community by giving people the tools and inspiration to meet their housing and financial challenges and by revitalizing our surroundings.



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50 Years later

This new year marks Tabor's 50th anniversary serving Lancaster County residents and the community. The Golden Anniversary is an occasion to celebrate the wonderful work Tabor staff have done in helping thousands of individuals and families meet their housing and financial challenges over the course of five decades.

The anniversary is also a moment to reflect on Tabor's history and salute its founders. Our history began in 1967 when some members of the Mennonite community in Lancaster were deeply troubled by reports of racial discrimination in housing in the City of Lancaster and responded by coming together to form a corporation they named Menno Housing. The corporation purchased blighted residential properties in the City, brought them up to code using Mennonite volunteers and then rented the homes to low income

and minority families. One year later the founders recognized that some of the families had needs requiring the assistance of social work professionals and also wanted to help low income families achieve home ownership. In response, they formed a non-profit organization and gave it the name Tabor Community Services, drawing from a Biblical reference to Mount Tabor in ancient Israel.

1968 was, as many of you will remember or have read, a momentous year in American history. Political upheaval caused by the Vietnam War, the assassinations of Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy and the social unrest common in the

See **50 Years** on page 2

-Bob Thomas, *President*



Keeping the Faith for a Better Life

Angel was in a long-term relationship that ended. He left their home with only the clothes on his back. Experiencing homelessness, Angel lived on the streets for two months. While living on the streets, he was gifted two Bibles. He kept one for himself and gave the other to a homeless friend who also was filled with faith and hope.

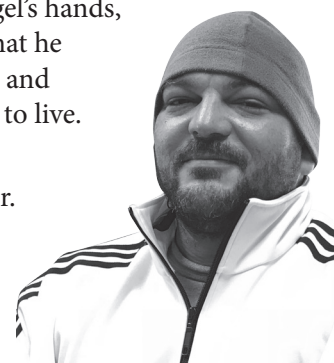
Angel's sister Edna suggested that he go to Tabor Community Services for help. He met Jackie, a housing counselor with the Rapid Re-Housing Program at Tabor. In this program clients receive relocation assistance and case management to end their homelessness.

Jackie completed an intake assessment with Angel who had provided all the

documentation needed to apply for the housing process to begin. They discussed subsidized housing, which has a long waiting list. A few days later though, Jackie called Angel to say that he was referred for a Homeless Preference Section 8 voucher. In the interim he met with the Lancaster City Housing Authority and by September was approved to receive the Voucher. Shortly, the voucher was in Angel's hands, which was the reality that he would be off the streets and have a place of his own to live.

Angel moved into his apartment in November. With Jackie's help, he is

See **Faith** on page 2



We are celebrating our 50 years of service through Tabor's 50 for 50 campaign: Ensuring Tabor's Future. For our 50th year, our goal is to secure commitments from 50 of its supporters to include legacy gifts for Tabor in their estate plans so that Tabor can positively impact our community long into the future. If you would like more information, please contact Phyllis at **717.358.9383** or at **PStacks@tabornet.org**.



A SPECIAL THANK YOU

Tabor Community Services has received a bequest from the estate of Naomi I. Martin of Lititz who passed away March 6, 2017.

"Naomi was a wonderful friend and supporter of Tabor's work for many years, and we are especially grateful for the very generous bequest she planned for us to receive. We will be careful stewards of her

gift and use it to establish an endowed fund that will support Tabor's work in helping Lancaster County residents who struggle with housing and personal financial challenges – work that Naomi valued highly.

"Naomi Martin's generosity is a wonderful example of how someone can plan a gift that reflects the values most important to them and which becomes a legacy that will live on as it assists the work of a charitable organization they supported." -Bob Thomas


Faith Continued

in the process of furnishing his apartment. They meet once a month, and at the present time, Jackie is acting as liaison between Angel and his landlord. The goal is that Angel will be interacting with his landlord in the near future.

Angel says, "People look at the homeless and sometimes think they live on the streets because they are drug addicts or alcoholics. But that's not true. When I left my relationship, it was the most difficult decision I had ever made in my life. But I had to do it. I never thought I would be living on the streets."


Angel has a deep faith, and he is grateful to God for the many blessings in his life. He attends church two or three times a week and has a lot of gratitude in his heart. Jackie calls Angel, "a gentle giant who praised God through all his challenges". She refers to scripture, Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

To others who have been in Angel's situation, he says, "Have faith, pray and never give up!"

When sharing his thoughts about Tabor and their donors, he says, "They are a blessing for the community. They give new hope and new life for so many, and they will be blessed as well." 

50 Years Continued

60's left many Americans feeling bewildered, overwhelmed and even fearful about the future of the country. Perhaps at least some of Tabor's founders themselves may have had some of those feelings as well, but in a time of turbulence and uncertainty they turned to values they knew to be the most enduring. At the time they said "We commit ourselves to work at the combined problems of poverty and racial discrimination in Lancaster City and County, thus meeting human needs, giving a witness to the love of Christ and promoting peace in the community by helping alleviate the conditions which breed hatred, crime and violence."

50 years later we can appreciate and salute the initiative, commitment, foresight and compassion our founders displayed at an uncertain time in history. These strengths became the foundation for an organization which still thrives to this day and will build upon for the years to come. 

A Graceful Gift

Dan Hess has been a Board Member since 2008. When Tabor proposed the 50 for 50 campaign to obtain 50 committed planned gifts before Tabor's 50th anniversary in 2018, Dan and his wife Evanna thought it was a very good idea. They especially liked having those who committed to a planned gift become members of the Grace Wenger Society.

Dan says, "This campaign is a great way to invite people in. It respects a history of successful and trustworthy contribution to the community. It's a great package."

Dan and Evanna decided to become members of the Grace Wenger Society by making Tabor a beneficiary in their will. "It was a no-brainer for us," says Dan. "We've been fans of Tabor for a long time. It seemed normal since we've been supporting Tabor on an ongoing basis year in and year out, that it also made sense to consider what we might be able to offer long-term. Our gift is just a small pebble to be added to the stream. It will join the gifts of a very large number of people in the community who are contributing to and caring about the services that Tabor provides for those who need a hand up."


Evanna adds, "With Dan's involvement on the board for so many years, I hear a lot about Tabor. We know that people have benefited greatly from Tabor's services. It's a program in our community that is well respected and very effective, and we decided it's important to us to be part of it. So it certainly is an easy decision to make a planned gift."

The Hess's have a personal tie to Grace Wenger herself. They were both students of Grace when they were attending Lancaster Mennonite High School. Then when Dan went to Millersville University, Grace was a professor there. "She really was a woman that cut quite an arc for her time ... in spite of her time," remarks Dan. "Not



just with her inspiration of Tabor, but who she was as a person, the impression she made on students, her capacity to move in the professional world, which was unusual for a woman from the Mennonite community at that time."

To anyone considering a planned gift to Tabor, Evanna says, "If you want to make a real difference in your community, for people who have limited resources and are looking for help, and you are concerned about local needs, Tabor is an organization that you should consider because of their reputation and the excellent work that they are known to do."

Dan adds, "With Tabor's track record, this is an investment that you can be sure is going to pay off, not only in the present, but into the future." 



Everence



LANCASTER COUNTY
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

Thank you to everyone who gave to Tabor for the Extra Give in 2017!



Be sure to check out our future newsletters and Facebook page to see what we are planning for this year!

Please join us for Tabor's

ANNUAL BANQUET

Celebrating 50 Years of service to Lancaster County

DATE Thursday, May 17

LOCATION Shady Maple Banquet & Conference Center

129 Toddy Dr
East Earl, PA 17519



TIME 6:00 PM Reception
6:30 PM Dinner & Program

TO RSVP **Mail:** Use the enclosed form
Online Form: www.Tabornet.org
Email: NLammey@tabornet.org
Phone: 717.358.9377

RSVP & SPONSOR BY MAY 3

Brian Roche of WGAL 8 will emcee the evening as we review accomplishments and honor the achievements of our clients and the contributions of our partners and staff.

The **silent auction** will be open through dinner, and donations will be accepted at the banquet.

BE A SPONSOR

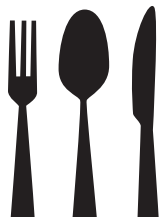
For all sponsorships, your name or organization's name and sponsorship level will be listed in the program, on Tabor's website, and your name or logo will be on a table sign at the banquet. Additional benefits apply to some sponsorships.

Sponsorships range from \$250 to \$5,000.

Additional year-long 50th Anniversary sponsorships and marketing opportunities are also available.

For more information, please contact Phyllis at 717.358.9383 or Pstacks@tabornet.org.

EVENT IS FREE, BUT RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED



Like Tabor & diners?

Cut out this card, and every time you present it at both Park City Diner & Knight & Day Diner, 10% of your bill will be donated to Tabor.

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