

Who We Are

Paxton Ministries is an interdenominational Christian community of homes, providing long-term housing and support to adults living on the edge of poverty or who may be struggling with mental or developmental disabilities. The ministry evolved from a vision that God gave to a group of Christians who were concerned about the lack of quality housing in Harrisburg, PA. God miraculously provided the finances to purchase the former Messiah Home building on Paxton Street, and in November 1981, Paxton Street Home was born. Over the years, we've expanded our vision, enabling us to minister to residents' specific skill levels and needs and to help more individuals.

Today, Paxton Ministries is a dynamic, respected housing provider. Our main facility is the Paxton Street Home, a licensed Personal Care Home, where 85 residents and many of our staff live together in a supportive Christian community. Affordable long-term housing is provided in an atmosphere of love, care, and respect.

We also operate a smaller apartment community at the Hudson Street Apartments, within a short walking distance of the Paxton Street Home. While all of our programs are designed to encourage self-responsibility and freedom, this home for five adults is specifically designed to help residents develop more independent-living skills.

Paxton Ministries' resident John Sloop relaxes on the front lawn during a warm spring afternoon.



What We Do

We Minister to People with Mental and Emotional Challenges

Following our founding vision, we provide affordable, long-term housing and support to 90 adults who range in age from 20 to 80 years. Care is provided for persons dealing with poverty, mental illness, and mental retardation, as well as the elderly and other individuals in need of support and accountability. As Jesus modeled, we minister to the whole person—physically, emotionally and spiritually.

Since God has given us a vision to focus our ministry on people with low incomes, we accept residents regardless of their ability to pay. Therefore, we depend on local individuals, churches, businesses, and foundations to support our work through prayer, financial donations, and volunteer help.

We Serve in the Name of Christ

We are governed by an independent, interdenominational Board of Trustees. All board and staff members are committed Christians, motivated by a desire to serve Jesus in everything they do. One unique aspect of our ministry is that our staff spends part of each weekday together worshipping, praying, and sharing concerns. This is one practical way that we depend on God for daily wisdom, strength, and guidance. Residents come from many religious backgrounds, but the love and message of Christ are shared with everyone through scheduled activities, as well as the Christian fellowship that is a regular part of our community.

Each year the creativity of Paxton Ministries' residents abounds during our "Create Your Own Theme Table" Banquet. Residents Judy Chapman, Irene Heissenbittel, & Kathy Resh got a little "furry" with their salute to all things stuffed.



We Value Each Person

We believe all people are created by God and should be treated with dignity and honor. The gifts and talents that each person brings to our community are valued, no matter how small in the world's eyes, and we recognize each person as a true gift from God. Identification with those we serve and recognition that we all are broken people are at the center of our community life.

We Value Community

Serving on staff at Paxton Ministries is a lifestyle commitment, not just a job. In fact, many of our staff members live in the facilities, helping to create a family-like atmosphere. While walking life's journey together, times of worship, sharing, fun, and celebration nurture a sense of community within our homes.

We Value Working Together

We work together creatively to keep costs down so that we can continue to minister to persons with limited incomes. While every staff member has a primary job responsibility, each also shares in community tasks, such as direct care for residents, meal preparation and cleanup, evening and weekend duties, prayer, worship-leading, and activity planning.



Paxton Ministries' Executive Director Chris Book is surrounded by residents Louis Leedy & Jerry Sullivan during an outing to The Young Eagles Flying Party, a special day of flying, food, and fun each year at the Capital City Airport for adults and children with special needs.

Therefore, a spirit of service, heart for ministry, desire for community, and love for others is vital to being a staff member at Paxton Ministries. As a result, we've found that shared responsibility develops a high sense of ownership and commitment.

Where We're Going

God has given us tremendous experiences and testimonies. Therefore, we gladly offer ourselves as a resource on such topics as mental illness, mental retardation, and housing for the disadvantaged.

We are exploring how we can offer a wider range of housing options that encourage maximum independence and recovery for persons with mental illness. By 2010, as God leads, we expect to offer a Community/Fairweather Lodge program in addition to personal care and supported independent living. For more information on our vision and the Fairweather Lodge program, please visit our website at www.paxtonmin.org.

Our Mission

Paxton Ministries is a Christian, nonprofit community of homes serving adults who may be challenged with social, mental, or emotional needs.

We minister to the whole person, regardless of one's ability to pay, and help with the development of life skills and resources to live as independently as possible.

Paxton Ministries offers a supportive, family-like environment where love and compassion are a way of life—where dignity and self-worth are recognized in every individual.

How We Are Funded

All of our residents pay a monthly fee for room and board. We charge on a sliding scale and never turn anyone away based on lack of financial resources. We do our best to keep costs down, but resident fees still only cover about 55% of our expenses. The rest of our funding comes from contributions, Dauphin County, foundation grants, and investment income.

How You Can Help

We could not accomplish our mission without the support of local churches, businesses, foundations, and individuals. Part of our vision is to be an outreach tool for people wanting to serve others. You can join us by:

● **Praying:** First and foremost, we draw our strength from God. You can support our work by interceding regularly on our behalf. To pray more specifically, request our free monthly prayer newsletter, *In The Gap*, which lists pertinent requests.

● **Giving:** Donations and bequests are essential to maintain a secure financial base, enabling us to minister to adults in need, regardless of their ability to pay.

● **Volunteering:** Volunteers are a vital resource for our ministry, providing a quarter of the total hours worked in accomplishing our mission. A range of opportunities are available to singles, couples, and families. Also, work projects are an excellent way for youth groups, Sunday School classes, civic organizations, and other groups to serve.

● **Material Goods:** Businesses and individuals can help in a significant way by donating equipment, supplies, or other tangible goods that are specifically needed.

● **Full-Time Voluntary Service:** Voluntary Service (VS) at Paxton Ministries is a short-term ministry opportunity for adults of all ages. VS workers serve full-time for a period of one month to one year. We provide room, board, a monthly stipend, and lots of opportunities to give and grow.

Activities Director Mike Spellman is surrounded by Tom Berkley, John Parthemore, James Jamieson, and Joey McConnell on a recent miniature golf outing.



Paxton Ministries is a Christian, nonprofit corporation of homes operated by an interdenominational Board of Trustees. Services are provided to all residents without regard to race, color, religious creed, disability, ancestry, national origin, age (all above 18 years), or gender. The Paxton Street Home Benevolent Society, Inc. hires committed Christian staff who subscribe to the principles of God's Word, the Bible. The staff members view their service as a ministry in the name of Christ and are employed without regard to race, color, disability, ancestry, national origin or gender.

This project is operated under a contract with the County of Dauphin through the Dauphin County Mental Health and Mental Retardation Program with funding from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, Offices of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, and the Dauphin County Board of Commissioners. Paxton Ministries, an independent contractor, is acting on its own behalf and not on behalf of the County of Dauphin, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, or the Federal Government. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the PA Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.



*A higher standard.
A higher purpose.*



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