

LANDIS COMMUNITIES AND LANCASTER DOWNTOWNERS MARK COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP

October 10, 2017

LANCASTER, PA – Friday October 6 saw the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding creating a collaborative partnership between Landis Communities and Lancaster Downtowners. The goals and the missions of the organizations are significantly aligned. Both want persons to be able to age in the place they choose to call home. This partnership will support two key elements of the Downtowners Strategic Plan: the hiring of an Executive Director and providing an office to call home, which will allow it to offer members more robust resources well into the future that will support them in aging successfully in the homes of their choice.

This new Executive Director will receive operational support for day-to-day needs including the support of Landis Communities Leadership Team, IT help desk and an office at Steeple View Lofts, an affiliate of Landis Communities located at 118 North Water Street in Lancaster. Evon Bergey, Vice President of Community initiatives for Landis Communities commented, “This collaborative partnership will expand our ability to serve individuals in Lancaster as they age successfully in the home of their choice. It will also enable Landis Communities to grow the array of supports to individuals so they can receive customized services based on individualized needs.”

Lancaster Downtowners Board President Kim van Donk is also excited about the formalization of this partnership. She stated, “Lancaster Downtowners is pleased to further develop our partnership with an organization like Landis Communities that shares our goal to support people in living quality, meaningful lives in the homes of their choice as they age.” Adding, “The collaborative partnership between Lancaster Downtowners and Landis Communities will support us in offering our members access to services and social networks that will facilitate their ability to live at home longer. During the past two years our Board has developed a Strategic Plan with the intent of preparing our organization to be sustainable in future years, when we anticipate our average member age will rise above 80 and our founder will no longer provide support to many areas of the organization.”

Landis Communities was formed in September 2011, and grows out of the 50 Plus year history of Landis Homes Retirement Community. It is committed to the vision present at Landis Homes beginning while preparing for growth and change during the years to come. The organization is committed to keeping retirement living strong and vital. To providing a number of Affordable Living options, including new models of age 55+ active adult living in the city of Lancaster and elsewhere. To provide services at home – supporting living in place, and to develop creative partnerships in support of all of these areas. More information can be found at www.landiscommunities.org.

Lancaster Downtowners is a network of people who share a common passion for downtown Lancaster as the community of choice for their retirement years. Downtowners includes individuals who have already retired and are living in the city, others who anticipate living downtown for their retirement years, and younger people supportive of the Downtowners initiative. More information can be found at www.lancasterdowntowners.org.

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