



# Cascade Christian Home



## newsletter

P. O. Box 485, Lynden, WA 98264

May 1980

BEN MULDER, EDITOR

### DEDICATION — SUNDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 22, 1980

Plans are being made to have a dedication ceremony for our new "home", located on the corner of the Guide Meridian and King Tut Rd. between Bellingham and Lynden. A special service is planned and the ceremony will include special guests, including Myron Wester, Executive Director of Salem Christian Home in California, John Louws, Whatcom County Executive, and several other state and County officials.

An "Open House" is also being planned after the home is in full operation, at which time a cordial welcome will be extended to all of Cascade's friends and supporters.

### Cascade Welcomes New Administrator/Houseparents

At its April board meeting, the Cascade Christian Home Board extended a special welcome to its new Administrator/Houseparents, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Gass. Only a few days before, Richard and his wife Karen arrived in Lynden from Racine, Wisconsin. Both Richard and Karen come to us with high credentials in the areas of social services. Cascade is very pleased to have them on board and all of us are looking forward to working with them.

Richard will serve as our Administrator, carrying out the policies of Cascade's Board of Directors and together with Karen they will serve as our houseparents for the group home. Plans are for them to move into the new facility and set up housekeeping sometime during the first part of June when the building is scheduled for completion.

Originally, Richard was raised in New Jersey and Karen in Nebraska. They both have devoted their adult lives to serving the handicapped, the down-and-outs, the elderly, and many other segments that need help in our society. The only thing lacking was for them to be able to serve the Giver of Life by serving others in a Christian environment. Cascade provided that opportunity for them, especially since they can now work together as a team. Both of their backgrounds include a long list of involvements in human services. Most recently, Richard was working for Racine County as a Crisis Intervention Worker and Court Investigator. He also held positions working with disabled adults, child abuse and neglect, family counseling and family therapy, and served as a houseparent with severely, moderately and mildly retarded children and adults.

Karen is a licensed nurse, a teacher of social and behavioral skills, including cooking and housekeeping, and has served as a counselor and group therapy leader.

Both are anxious to get involved. And with all the exciting things that are currently happening, this will not be difficult at all! From all of us on the Board, a special Christian welcome to Rich and Karen!!

### Assistant House Parents Soon to Arrive

George and Jana Beanblossom will be arriving in our community the first week of June. They will serve as assistant houseparents to Rich and Karen Gass. George, a Whatcom County native, is a graduate of Lynden Christian High School and of Dordt College (1978) in Iowa, with a BA in sociology and social services. He is presently employed at Hope Haven in Rock Valley, Iowa, as a lead group home parent for the mentally retarded.

Jana (formerly Jana Langstraat) is also from the Lynden area and graduated from Lynden High School. She is a houseparent with George at Hope Haven. We welcome George and Jana back to Lynden as they join the staff of Cascade Christian Home. We pray for God's blessing on their new assignment.

## From the Admission Committee...

On the surface, this has been a low key and "behind the scenes" committee. But it certainly has been an active one these past three months. After the organizational phase in 1978, the policy regarding entrance criteria was established and the Admission Committee was formalized. Applications for residency were solicited beginning this past January and a March 31 deadline was established.

We received a total of 24 inquiries, most of which became active applicants. A couple of applications were withdrawn and a couple were redirected to existing group homes, whom we felt could better cater to their particular needs. Thus the search for residents began.

As of this writing, all twelve of the applicants have been chosen and those who were not able to qualify at this time, have been notified. We give thanks to the Lord for showing us the way and we rejoice with the families and applicants who were selected. We also feel confident that our gracious Father will also provide for those who were unable to be admitted to Cascade Home at this time. For some, there may be future openings in Cascade or similar types of residential care, for others there may remain additional time at their respective homes and for some Cascade may be of service by providing temporary (respite) care.

We hope and pray that Cascade may also be the instrument to allow some of these first twelve residents to go on to a more independent living arrangement in the future.

It is truly remarkable how a group of six individuals from various walks of life can be molded into one close knit committee, dedicated to the cause of Christian mercy. And still more remarkable is the fact, that after all of the reviews, all of the personal visits to the applicants and families, all of the professional opinions were voiced, there was a united sense of accomplishment and satisfaction that the Giver of Life had been glorified. Many personal prayers and reflections became a routine part of this committee since it could not function without the help of Almighty God. And thus we rest with the assurance that what the Lord has laid upon our hearts, we had to do.

A special thanks to the Admission Committee members for their dedicated efforts and devotion to Cascade Home and also a special thank you to Judy Bursick, case-worker with the Department of Social and Health Services, for her professional assistance in many of the files reviewed.

...Ben Mulder, Chairperson

## From our Administrator/Houseparents...

As we prepare to serve at Cascade Christian Home, my wife and I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of you for such a warm welcome to the community. We have many new challenges and new horizons ahead as we prepare, along with much hard work of many other beautiful people, to open this group home for a segment of the disabled adult population in the Pacific Northwest. With your continual prayers and support, we will be more than conquerors as the Lord blesses the efforts of His children.

We are looking forward to a time of tremendous growth for residents and all those participating in Cascade Christian Home. Growth involves responsibility. Responsibility means being able to respond to a given situation. With God's help and guidance we are looking forward to the day each resident of Cascade has learned the necessary skills and has the ability to live independently in our community. Cascade Christian Home can be, in reality, a stepping stone for individuals to greater independence.

The numerous activities in this area offer much in the way of leadership training and community involvement while also answering to a wide spectrum of needs and interests. We should not as a community take these many activities for granted, but use them to help our handicapped population reach their fullest potential.

...Rich and Karen Gass