

Thank you for the thoughtful conversation last Friday. FFA's commitment to legacy Friends Homes, which allows residents to age in place with dignity, is a testament to its dedication to compassionate, community-centered care. This support ensures that seniors of modest means can remain in a familiar, nurturing environment, surrounded by friendships and meaningful engagement, without the fear of financial insecurity forcing a disruptive move.

The Hickman respectfully requests consideration for the Spring grant cycle as we continue our commitment to the Montessori Inspired Lifestyle, integrating it into resident programs that foster engagement and connection while upholding our dedication to a safe environment and superlative care.

With support from the FFA's generous \$10,000 grant in 2024, we have expanded Montessori inspired programs such as Coffee Chat and the Alzheimer's Support Group. Coffee Chat brings together memory care residents and members of the broader Hickman community each Friday morning in our Darlington neighborhood, creating a warm and social environment where friendships thrive; Darlington residents reconnect with friends they left behind in the Sharpless and Knox Neighborhoods. Additionally, our Alzheimer's Support Group, led by our Director of Resident Services, continues to grow its influence in the West Chester borough, providing vital emotional support to Hickman families, and others, navigating the challenges of memory loss. Participants frequently share that these sessions help reduce the isolation and confusion that often accompany their loved one's illness.

FFA's commitment to trust-based philanthropy reflects confidence in The Hickman's 134-year tradition of compassionate, Quaker-guided care for seniors of modest means. As more residents reach the three-year residency threshold, making them eligible for the Resident Assistance Fund, and as the Jeanes Building, now seven years old, surpasses the standard five-year repair and replacement cycle, we anticipate increased financial needs. With this in mind, The Hickman respectfully requests a \$20,000 grant to sustain and enhance our commitment to providing affordable, high-quality care to our residents. Thank you for your continued support and belief in our mission. Your partnership is invaluable in substance and sustainability.

Many thanks,

Rita