



LANCASTER, PA

Mapping out the ideal retirement

by Kathy Flavin

Although the Wesburys are originally from Philadelphia, June declared, “Fifty years ago, we left Pennsylvania shortly after our wedding reception and never returned.” Over the years, they lived all over the United States, transferring because of Stu’s career. Within those years, they raised four sons. Two years ago, they moved to Willow Valley Retirement Communities from Scottsdale, Arizona—a place that most retirees are heading to! Both June and Stu laughingly relate that their friends in Scottsdale threatened to administer an IQ test to them because, “Who in the world retires from Scottsdale to Pennsylvania?”

Since both Stu and June had careers in healthcare and June helped set up a Continuing Care Retirement Community (CCRC) in Tennessee, they understood the value of this type of retirement community.

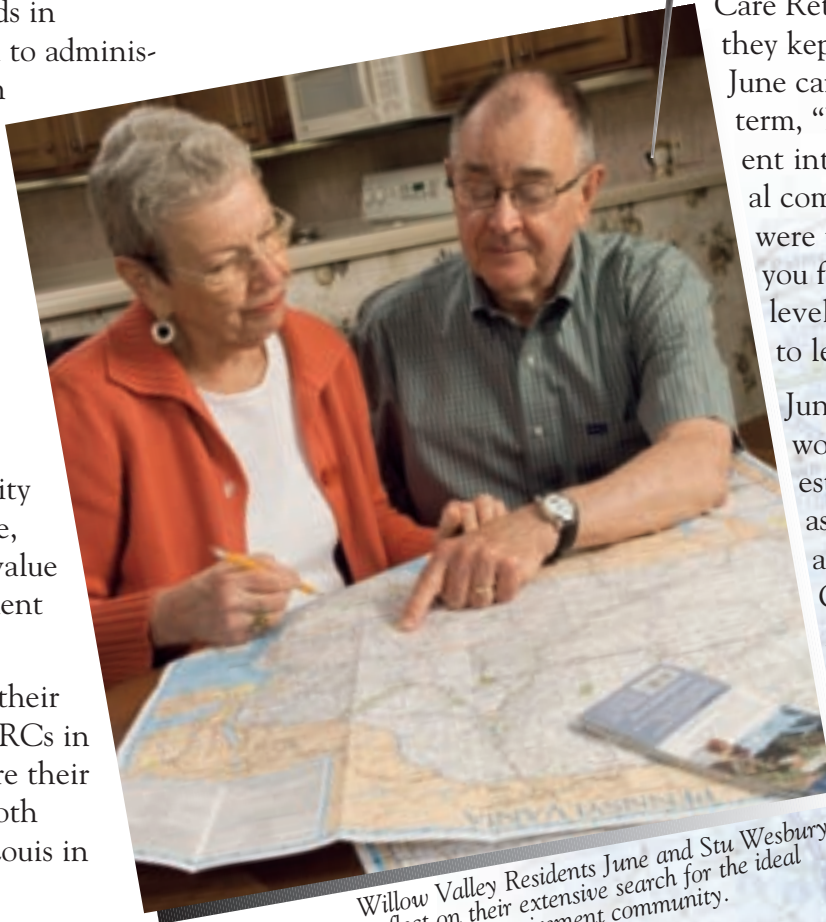
The Wesburys began their search by visiting CCRCs in geographic areas where their sons were located—both Kansas City and St. Louis in

Missouri; the Chicago area; and southern Maryland. June chuckled as she said that they took out a map, marked each son’s location, and looked at communities based upon that. The Wesburys looked most extensively in the Chicago area, the location of their oldest son, Brian, and their youngest grandchildren. In total, they visited 15 to 20 communities in Missouri, Illinois, Tennessee, Maryland, Florida, Pennsylvania, as well as Arizona.

Several of the communities the Wesburys visited were immediately eliminated since they offered “lifecare” but, when probed, Stu and June found that assisted living and/or skilled

nursing care was not located within the campus. Since they were determined to live within a Continuing Care Retirement Community they kept searching. Stu and June came to realize that the term, “lifecare” had different interpretations at several communities where they were told, “We will help you find the appropriate level of care if you have to leave your home.”

June said that they would only consider an established community as well as one that was accredited by the Continuing Care Accreditation Commission (CCAC). Several communities were also eliminated



Willow Valley Residents June and Stu Wesbury reflect on their extensive search for the ideal retirement community.

from consideration because of their poor financial performance.

June stated that the size of the prospective community had not been an important determinant for them but, in retrospect, believes it should be for others looking for the ideal retirement community. In her opinion, “Although we are living among more than 2,300 seniors, the exciting thing is that it certainly doesn’t feel that way!” Stu felt that large communities offer residents numerous amenities that smaller communities could never offer, such as fully-equipped

gymnasiums and large swimming pools. In addition, they were pleasantly surprised to discover Willow Valley’s Cultural Center which they describe as a “huge bonus.” Stu reported that in all their community tours, they never encountered

another community with a Cultural Center such as Willow Valley’s. Stu felt that, “When you come to Willow Valley, you are immediately aware that there is something different here. When you go down that list of things you might want to do, Willow Valley’s got it.”

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As they narrowed their choice to Willow Valley, another aspect of their criteria—educational, cultural, and intellectual stimulation—would be met because of Willow Valley’s close proximity to Philadelphia, New York,

Baltimore, and Washington.

However, since moving to Willow Valley two years ago, the Wesburys have discovered that Lancaster itself has so much to offer. “We thought we would be traveling to Philadelphia for the symphony, but we don’t have to.

Lancaster is an incredible place!”

Initially, their comfort in considering a move to Lancaster was because of the close proximity to Philadelphia and Baltimore hospitals. However, since living at Willow Valley, they’ve discovered that the healthcare provided in Lancaster is outstanding. The defining factor in their decision



was the fact that Willow Valley is a Continuing Care Retirement Community with access to every level of ongoing care on its campus.

Now that they’ve lived at Willow Valley for several years, their impression has “only gotten better.” Stu stated, “All team members—from the executive staff to the wait staff—are so very friendly and helpful.”

The Wesburys are quick to get involved in their community. June has been instrumental in the formation of two book groups and a foreign policy discussion group at Willow Valley. Stu enjoys serving on the Resident Council and both he and June are involved in church activities.

Said June, “In retrospect, when I think about our decision to relocate across the country, it was a ‘gutsy’ move on our part. We were only 70 years old and happily settled in Phoenix, a place we loved. However, Willow Valley was truly the best decision we have ever made!”



(Top center) Stu and June met with the WVRC interior decorator to select custom design options for their new home. (Above) June and Stu relax—home, at last!