

JOINT NEWS RELEASE FROM ADRIEL AND MENNONITE CHURCH USA

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Living Landscape Takes Root At Adriel

Authors: Laura Schlabach (Goshen College) and Becky Fullmer (Adriel)

West Liberty, OH. – After providing a place of respite and relaxation for conference goers, the living landscape display from Mennonite Church USA Convention 2009 has found a new home at Adriel in West Liberty, Ohio.

The display was coordinated by the Communications Reference Council, which is made up of representatives from five organizations: Mennonite Education Agency, MMA, Mennonite Publishing Network, Mennonite Mission Network and Mennonite Church USA Executive Leadership. Winnsapes, located in Gahanna, Ohio, designed the landscape, while Coffman Stone, also of Ohio, provided the concrete border surrounding the display.

“The idea of using a living landscape seemed to resonate with the convention theme,” Ken Gingerich, art director for Executive Leadership, said. “Trees are life giving, oxygen producing and sheltering.” Gingerich stated that creating a display with living plants and bushes was also a small, almost symbolic, way of bringing about environmental awareness.

Marty Lehman, Mennonite Church USA director of communication and development, knew the administration and staff at Adriel from having worked there. Gingerich agreed with donating the display to the agency, stating, “It was something local and a Mennonite organization which we wanted to support.”

Anchored by a large maple tree, the display included a variety of shrubs and bushes. “We are delighted by this generous donation,” said Mike Mullins, CEO of Adriel. “As the display was symbolic of the theme of the conference, this gift has a special meaning for us.”

Memorial trees are planted around the Adriel campus in honor of or memory of many people who have supported the agency’s mission. Trees are a strong symbol of families and the depth and support they provide to their members. Mullins stated, “The strength of family connections is something we not only try to provide for the children we serve, but is something that our family of supporters has provided to us over the last 113 years.” The plants will “bring a sense of beauty and peace to our campus and our children, and we are grateful for this gift,” he said.

Adriel, founded as an orphan’s home by the Mennonite Church in 1896, is a not-for-profit agency serving children and families. Adriel is accredited by CARF, licensed by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, and certified by the Ohio Department of Mental Health. Adriel has offices in West Liberty, Archbold, and Dublin, Ohio. For more information about Adriel and their services to abused and neglected children visit www.adriel.org.