

Our Story

Earl and Christy Collins became innkeepers in 1998 with the purchase of The Village Inn Bed & Breakfast in Stone Mountain, Georgia. After five years with over 1500 guests a year, they were finally able to sell in 2003 and relocate to Mendocino County in order to open their dream bed and breakfast ~ Beside Still Waters Farm.

The plans had been in the making since early 2001. The first priority was downsizing. With fewer guest rooms, more amenities could be offered and guests would receive more personalized service. No more mornings when Christy would look at Earl and say "Do you remember those guests at the breakfast table? Did you check them in yesterday?" The next issue was noise transfer from room to room - a major concern in the previous historic inn. This was very well solved by having individual cottages, rather than attached rooms in the main house. This also made accommodating families an easy thing to do - no more worrying about whether the baby was crying and keeping other guests awake at night. The location was selected by carefully choosing the proximity to the Bay Area, wine country, the coast and the redwoods. Climate was a major factor, as well. The decision finally came down to the actual property. The Sherwood Road home and land had every single item on Earl and Christy's wish list - right down to the blackberries and apple trees.

After nearly 2 years of dealing with Mendocino County red tape, contractor delays, and everything else imaginable, Beside Still Waters Farm opened Easter Weekend of 2004 - exactly 10 1/2 months later than the original opening date of June 1, 2003. The "eight week project" of minor renovations and building took 14 months to complete. But the property is home to the most state-of-the-art septic system in the county. We are now having a wonderful time welcoming guests from across the country and spreading the word about a little piece of heaven called "Beside Still Waters Farm"...

Earl, a Pennsylvania native, formerly worked in the printing industry as an estimating supervisor. He enjoys nature photography. Earl is looking forward to learning to make stained glass windows to use around Beside Still Waters Farm.

Christy is originally from Easton, California (just outside of Fresno.) In her "previous life" she worked in the computer software industry. She enjoys scrapbooking, reading, canning, and gardening (when she can find the time!)

Alyssa Brooke was born November 5, 2001. She enjoys being outdoors and keeping Mommy and Daddy on their toes. Her favorite things are butterflies, flowers, balloons, and all animals. Alyssa loves meeting new people - she's been raised in a bed and breakfast! In fact, the day she was born, we had guests at the inn!