



THE
Beechwood
HOME
NEWS

Volume 1, issue 1

Beginnings in the year 1890


The inspiration to build a home for people with incurable diseases was first kindled on April 27, 1888 in a parlor of the old Burnet House at Third and Vine. The Associated Charities of Cincinnati invited a group of civic leaders to discuss the need for a home for incurables. Early efforts were discouraging and there were frequent resignations from the committee. By the spring of 1890 a permanent working board had been formed composed of the Reverends George Abbott Thayer and David Phillipson, Joseph Cox, Jr., G. Mortimer Roe, Dr. F.W. Langdon, J.V. Guthrie, Mrs. Homer Wessel, Mrs. James Buckner, Mrs. Milo G. Dodds, Miss Kittie Goodman, Mrs. H. Rosenbaum, Mrs. Arthur LeBoutillier, Mrs. William T. Irwin, Mrs. Harries Hulburt, Miss Mary Gallagher, and Mrs. W.H. McLean.

Sufficient funds were raised to justify renting a house at the corner of Saunders and Bigelow Streets in Mt.

Auburn, and a nurse was hired at a salary of \$14.00 a month. The Home was furnished through the donations of friends and the Kings Daughters of Avondale Presbyterian Church. It opened its doors on October 1, 1890.

The Home became a corporation, not for profit, under Ohio law on July 19, 1892 when Mary A. Andrews, Ella Le Boutillier, Luella De Lang, Sadie Bruner and Lottie C. Dodds signed articles of incorporation before a Notary Public J.G. Hudson. The corporate name was "The Home for Incurables," its purpose "to provide shelter, care, medical treatment and protection for persons who are afflicted with any incurable disease."

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How did it all begin? Sarah Kilbreath McLean, Beechwood's first president summarizes: "All we had with which to commence such a great work was faith and three hundred dollars."

Within a few years the Mt. Auburn property proved inadequate to meet the growing demands for admission, and the Home was moved to 2380 Kemper Lane on October 19, 1893. It accommodated nineteen patients. The Walnut Hills location brought greater interest and support from the community. The inmates, as they were called in those days, enjoyed almost daily visits from neighbors and friends of the Home, and financial support was more readily offered.

The first person to bequeath funds to the struggling enterprise was Henry Hooper, but because his death occurred within the year, his bequest of \$5,000 was declared invalid. His sister, Miss Mary Hooper, tried to carry out her brother's wishes through provisions in her own will, but again legal technicalities intervened. Consequently the first bequest to reach the Home was that of Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Patterson who left one-fourth of their estate in trust for the benefit of the Home. The Patterson heirs contested the will, but a compromise was reached, giving the Home \$20,000. The interest assisted in the maintenance of the Home and the principle became the nucleus of its endowment fund.

A bazaar held at the Burnet House was followed in 1898 by a doll show at McAlpin's Store and a Carnival of Nations at Music Hall. A building fund was begun, and when by January 1902 it had grown to \$9,896.99, the Board of Managers bought five acres of land on Beechwood Avenue (now Pogue Ave.) for the sum of \$3,867.32. Sizeable contributions came from Thomas J. Emery, Henry Hanna, Harry Levy, and Charles Kilgour. With community support mounting daily, the dream of a new home became reality.

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The Beechwood Home to Honor Richard and Debbie Oliver

Join us at the upcoming benefit for The Beechwood Home honoring Richard and Debbie Oliver on September 7th at the 21c Museum Hotel. The Beechwood Home is an 80 bed not-for profit long term care nursing facility that specializes in neurological diagnosis, providing high quality care combined with advanced rehabilitation and restorative services, as well as therapeutic and recreational activities that assist in optimal functioning of our residents. For more information contact Jill Nelson at 513-321-2674 or visit us at www.BeechwoodHome.org.

Beginnings *continued from page 1*

The cornerstone was laid on August 12, 1902 in a ceremony to which a number of patients drove out in carriages. The Home was opened to 40 residents a year later with 30 rooms including a children's ward. A vegetable garden and poultry yard were located behind the building. The entire cost was \$44,912.

Advertisements in the Home's annual report for 1903 give a glimpse of Cincinnati's economy. The American Book Company pointed proudly to the grand prize and medals it had won at the Paris Exposition of 1900 for excellence in schoolbooks. The Bartholomew Clifton School for Girls was announced with dignity. Boss Washing Machines extolled their hand crank operated washers, and Fleischmann Pilgrim Gin sold for a dollar a quart.

Donate Online

*Become a part of the
"Friends of Beechwood"*

Beechwood Home is a Long Term Care Facility committed to serving those who have a neurological disease such as Multiple Sclerosis, Huntington's, Cerebral Palsy, Fredric's Ataxia and other diseases. Our goal for the home is to meet the residents needs offering as much independence and home like environment as we possibly can.

Yes, you really can help make a difference. Your donation to Beechwood Home will give our residents the gift of greater independence and capability to maintain as much independence in their time of disability. Support our mission and make a difference in the lives of those touched by serious illness and disease. Learn more about the ways and means in which you can contribute to our Home by visiting www.BeechwoodHome.org.

After a long range planning committee had studied the feasibility of remodeling as opposed to construction of a new building, the Board voted in 1968 to proceed with a new structure of 70 beds, so planned that additional wings could be added if the need arose. A goal of \$1,500,000 was set for the building fund, and in due time a contract was signed with Charles V. Maescher and Company for the construction. The new building was erected within three feet of the old.

At ceremonies for the laying of the cornerstone, candleholders were presented to past presidents of the Board as symbols of their service. Each was made from a spindle of the old home's porch railing, carefully rubbed down by Beechwood residents.

And the story continues 123 years later...

From The Desk of Our CEO...

When we describe The Beechwood Home to people unfamiliar with the organization, we've noticed there is often an "ah-ha" moment. Heads nod and eyes light up as people make a connection between our mission and a personal connection they have with someone who could benefit from the home. I am learning to speak less about our needs and instead shouting more about what The Beechwood Home is offering this community. Just sit back and consider the consequences if The Beechwood Home was not in our backyard and/or in the state of Ohio. If the home were not in operation, many of those we have come to know and love, whose paths have crossed here, would not have a place that nurtured their independence, provided peer socialization, gave care specialized to their diagnosis or gave them high quality skilled nursing care. If you were to be diagnosed with a neurological disease and needed long term extended care, you would most likely be in a geriatric nursing home where the average age is around 84. What we have offered in our city for almost 124 years is incredible!

- The Beechwood Home was recognized for our "superb long-term care and quality of life" efforts and outcomes by the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys. They presented the home with a \$1,000 donation.
- We welcome Dr. James Shackson, MD who has recently joined The Beechwood Home as our Psychiatric consultant. Dr. Shackson is seasoned in aspects of Long Term Care documentation and knowledge of the regulations. Dr. Shackson serves several facilities with younger residents - most of which have behavioral units. He is quite experienced working with residents and families. He will also be doing in-services for our nursing staff on a variety of topics.
- We had our 3rd very successful Shoot for Beechwood event in June which almost doubled in participants and revenue since our first year. Mr. Dan Shiels, Board of Trustees' member, has chaired this event now for 3 years and has continued to bring his passion and commitment for the Home, just as those who participated not only in the sportsmanship but for the cause. We look forward to this event growing bigger every year; the 2014 Shoot for Beechwood is scheduled for Friday, June 6th, 2014.
- The Block Party was a wonderful event for the residents this year, our featured guest band Soul Pocket rocked the night away with wheelchairs moving to the beat!
- Future events planned for 2013 are the Gala Dinner, Board Reunion and Benevolent Pathway Dedication.
- We just finished the Shut-In Luncheons, which were very successful and the residents from the other nursing homes appeared to have a wonderful time.
- Tim Owens, our CFO, visited the State House in April and met with a variety of House and Senate representatives regarding Medicaid funding. While there, Mr. Owens attended a meeting with an ad-hoc group of Leading Age members to discuss establishing a consortium to negotiate for better managed care rates. We continue to tell our story at the Capital.
- The camera and door project has been completed. The new camera system is quite robust, allowing the Security officers and receptionists to see all the way back to the Bettman Center. This will allow better monitoring of the residents when they travel back to the park. The new system also alerts the security desks when doors have been jarred open or if doors are not tightly closed once someone enters or exits the facility. This new system has been presented to multiple foundations for support from grant monies/donations.
- We welcome Mrs. Jill Nelson to the Beechwood family as our Director of Development and Volunteer Services. Jill will play a very special role at The Beechwood Home, working primarily on Planned Giving, Bequests, Annual Campaigns and Events. We are excited to have Mrs. Nelson tell the story of our home to those who are interested in serving. She welcomes volunteers to contribute in any manner they choose, whether it be playing scrabble with a resident, writing a letter for those who no longer can or accompanying a resident in a wheelchair to the beautiful Bettman Park.

Sincerely,
Patricia A Clark, MS, LNHA, CFRD
CEO



President – Adele Craft

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Vision & Mission

Beechwood Home Mission

The mission of Beechwood is to provide a high level of care designed to improve the quality of life for residents of the home. The mission is accomplished by:

-  Promoting resident's independence and rehabilitation in a comfortable, enjoyable, family-like home, with personalized services that foster hope and mutual support.
-  Offering – as a non-profit, philanthropic, non-sectarian, skilled nursing home –specialized, extensive, long term health services to male and female adults of every race, creed, national origin, and economic status who have incurable, chronic, and disabling neurologic conditions.
-  Providing for the needs of the whole person through resident oriented services such as: physical therapy, quality meal service and a full range of social, cultural, religious, and recreational activities.

Beechwood Home Vision

The vision of Beechwood Home is to be recognized as a regional leader in the long term management of neurological disorders of adults.

Beechwood Home Core Values

Customer Service, Continuous Quality Improvement, Innovation, and Efficient Resource Management.