



THE
Beechwood
HOME
NEWS



Volume 3, issue 2 Summer, 2015

Two Cousins, One Cause

Dennis and Dan Shiels, two cousins who grew up in Cincinnati and attended the same grade school and high school, are valued members of the Beechwood community. Both have served on the Board, Dan – twice. Dennis was introduced to Beechwood through his good friend, Tim Zimmerman and Susan Hochbein offered the opportunity to Dan.

Growing up in large families and attending religious schools shaped their values, teaching them to be “men for others,” as the motto of St. Xavier High School, their alma mater, challenges. For both, it is a part of who they are.

At a young age, Dennis was hit by a car and spent months in rehabilitation, dependent on others. He was lucky, though. He fully recovered and became an excellent swimmer in high school and college and then set up his own business. However, the disability he experienced after the accident had a profound effect on him; he recognized how difficult life can be when you are physically challenged and dependent. Today he helps Beechwood as much as he can. Few places have touched his heart as much as Beechwood. “It makes sense to be a regular contributor.”

Dan has many reasons for caring about Beechwood. He gives many hours to Beechwood. Five years ago he began the Clay Shoot, a signature event for the home, one that is growing every year. His leadership has helped to raise money for the Friends of Beechwood, a fund that helps with operating and programming costs for the Beechwood residents. His board involvement required many hours and utilized his knowledge of business.

Fifteen years ago, suffering from the effects of chemotherapy, he would come to Beechwood for a reality check. He came in the back door and walked the halls and talked with the residents, whom he has come to love and admire.

Both Dennis and Dan understand the financial challenges the home faces. Because 88% of the residents are on Medicaid, a gap of over \$120 a day per resident – over a million dollars per year - has to be filled. The support they and their recruits give helps to lighten the financial pressure on the home.



Cousins Dan and Dennis Shiels

These two cousins, Dan and Dennis Shiels, agree that there is no place like the Beechwood Home in Cincinnati. They hope and pray that through the generosity of others, like themselves, 125 years from now The Beechwood Home in Cincinnati will be here helping those who need it the most. They are very clear in their commitments to see that those who currently live here, as well as those who will come in the future, receive the excellent care that Beechwood offers.

A Poem

By Kate, current resident

Slide

She could actually feel the cold morning dew on her feet along with the heavy weight of her legs as she held tightly to the side of the slide. “C-can me have a t-turn, Mommy,” she asked watching the other children as they made repetitious cycle of climbing up and then sliding down.

“No.”

“W—wh-y c-can’t I have a turn?”

“Because you can’t—“

“P—peese, Mommy,” her voice whined as she spoke.

The mother watched the expression on the child’s face drift from a bright, sunshine smile to a dark cloudy frown. She waited until she couldn’t be bear to see her daughter yearn anymore. “All right,” she said with a sigh and scooped her up with one hand. With the other, she held onto the ladder and started climbing. “You hang on around my neck so I don’t drop you, ok?”

“K, Mommy.”

The child held to her mother, scared of being off the ground, but she was also happy because she could have a turn at all.

The mother seemed to sway a little, her balance uneven with the weight of a child on her right side.

“Mommy, we al-almost there,” she said, screaming as they were about to reach the top step.

On the platform, the mother put the girl into a sitting position and fixed her legs as straight as possible so they would aim down the slide. “Now, hang on,” she said as she took her daughter’s hands and placed them firmly on the bars for her, “because I don’t want you to lose your balance and fall.”

The child was on top of the world going on a once-in-a-lifetime mission, she thought, looking down at her mother who was now waiting at the end of the slide.

“Are you ready?” her mother called up to her.

“Y-y-you catch.”

“All right. I will.”

And with that answer, the child let go of the bars and with her hands pushed herself away from them. As her body picked up speed, she could feel the wind mix through her hair, everything coming to her in a fast blur. She wanted to scream out with joy,



From The Desk Of The CEO...

As we celebrate 125 years of service to the Greater Cincinnati community, we reflect upon the major strengths that has encouraged The Beechwood Home to become a facility of excellence and a model of quality care for a very special and unique population.

Our Mission and Vision. From the onset, our mission has directed the home to provide the highest quality and specialized care to all who are admitted no matter the ability to pay. It takes more than a mission to sustain the excellence The Beechwood Home has provided over the many years. Our employees, management, physicians, board members, volunteers, and donors take our mission one step further by going beyond what needs to be done and committing themselves to what should be done. We are thankful for the limitless people who have offered their resources both in leadership and in financial support. On behalf of everyone at The Beechwood Home, we sincerely pledge to continue going over and beyond every day, pursuing excellence as we work to accomplish the increasing and continually evolving neurological services for our community throughout the next 125 years and beyond. Happy Anniversary Beechwood.

but for some reason the wind wouldn’t let her. She saw her mother’s face filled with worry, but as she drew closer to the end she saw it ease into a smile. She laughed reaching for her mother’s arms and said with excitement, “Me d-did it, Mommy. Me d-did it.”

Then she noticed an audience of eyes that stared at her, surrounding her with whispering mouths and pointing fingers. Not knowing why their eyes held so much concern or wonder, she would only smile back. Finally one spoke up, “What’s wrong with her?”

“She’s crippled. Isn’t that right, Sissy?”

Puzzled, she shook her head yes, just wanting to agree with her mother. As her mother turned to leave, the little girl glued to her side looked back at the children and then down at her legs. She recalled a word that stuck in her mind and said to herself, “Is that What I am? Am I crippled?”

BEECHWOOD HOME 2015 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mr. William Baechtold
Mr. Samuel Bortz
Mrs. Adele Craft
Ms. Donna de Graaf
Dr. Igor Dumbadze
Mr. Gregory French

Mr. Vere Gaynor
Mr. James Gibbs
Mrs. Virginia Gross
Mr. Robert Chip Heidt, III
Mr. Grant Hesser
Ms. Mary Jo Lane

Mrs. Mary Ann Meanwell
Mr. Richard Moore
Mr. Carson Morey
Mrs. Kathy Nippert
Mrs. Audre Sedacca
Dr. Linda Workman

Officers of the Board

President – Mr. Timothy Toft
Vice President – Mr. Richard Oliver
Treasurer – Ms. Cynthia Flick
Recording Secretary – Mr. David Osborn
Member at Large – Mr. Thomas Brennan

Annual Clay Shoot



High overall female: Jennifer Martin pictured with Dan Shiels and Patricia Clark



High overall 30 and under: Robbie Henggeler pictured with Alex Vierling and Dan Shiels

Fairfield Photography, Mike Price Photographer

The Fifth Annual Clay Shoot was held at the Sycamore Gun Club on June 12, 2015 with a record number of participants. We are grateful to our major sponsors for helping with the event this year: Messer, North American Properties, Kirk's Castille, Cornerstone Insurance & Financial services – Dennis Shiels, Heidt Family Foundation, Western and Southern Financial Group, Daikin, Bortz Planning Group of Raymond James, along with an anonymous donor.

A great meal was donated by U.S. FoodService, Commonwealth Foods, Premier ProduceOne and prepared by our own Beechwood Home chef, Mayer Rosen and his staff.

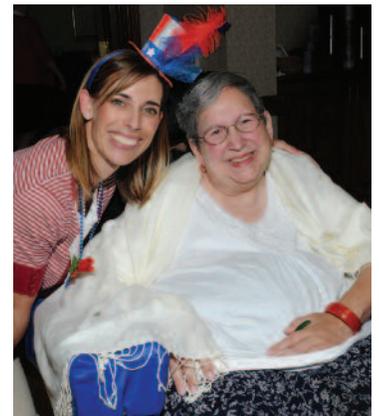
The committee members, Dan Shiels, Sam Bortz, Chip Heidt and the Beechwood staff did a fantastic job in providing the participants a great experience. We are grateful to our volunteers for their help.



Left to right: Dan Shiels, Tod Gintert, Robert Conger (high overall male) and Kevin Brown were the overall high team of the day

Shut In Luncheon

Since 1972 Lis Ruehlman has devoted much of each year to providing Beechwood residents and residents of other nursing care facilities in the Cincinnati area, a wonderful luncheon filled with music, dancing and a lot of laughter. Two separate lunches were held on April 8th and 29th. This year's theme was "Red, White and Blue" featuring Uncle Sam, the Silver Liners line dancing troupe, and the band was made up of musicians who come together once a year to play at this event. The Greater Cincinnati Foundation has funded this event for many years and we are so grateful for their years of support.



Megan Randolph, Director of Activities, pictured with resident Caroline.

Keepsake Photography Studio,
Kim Rice Photographer

Appreciation Cocktail Party



Keepsake Photography Studio, Kim Rice Photographer

Over 80 friends attended The Beechwood Home Appreciation Cocktail Party which was held May 13th at Beechwood. We celebrated the 125th anniversary of Beechwood and the dedication of the benefactors and friends who help to make The Beechwood Home what it is today. Mr. Tim Toft, President of The Beechwood Home Board of Trustees along with CEO, Patricia Clark, thanked all those in attendance for their continued support. Tim said "your generosity of time, talent and treasure brings huge benefits to the residents of Beechwood."

In the 43 years that Lis has been coordinating and directing this event, it has affected 5000 plus people. Lis is committed to making the luncheon and entertainment a day the attendees will remember throughout the year. She is also grateful for the dedicated volunteers, her sister Barb, and the many others who help to make the day special!

Beechwood 125 Years Then and Now



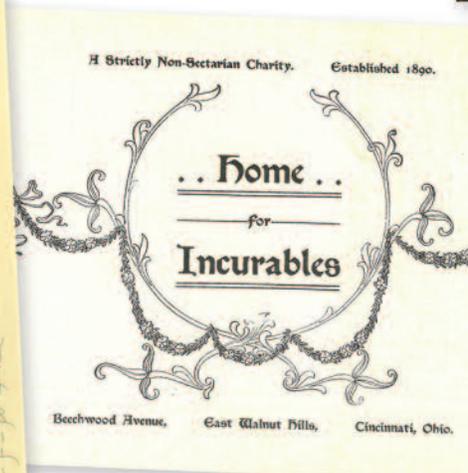
The Home for the Incurables on Kemper Lane (1893-1902)



The Home for the Incurables on Beechwood Lane now called Pogue Avenue (1903-1970)



*Mrs. William Taylor Irwin
(Mary Louise Orr)
President
1899-1922*



Now known as The Beechwood Home



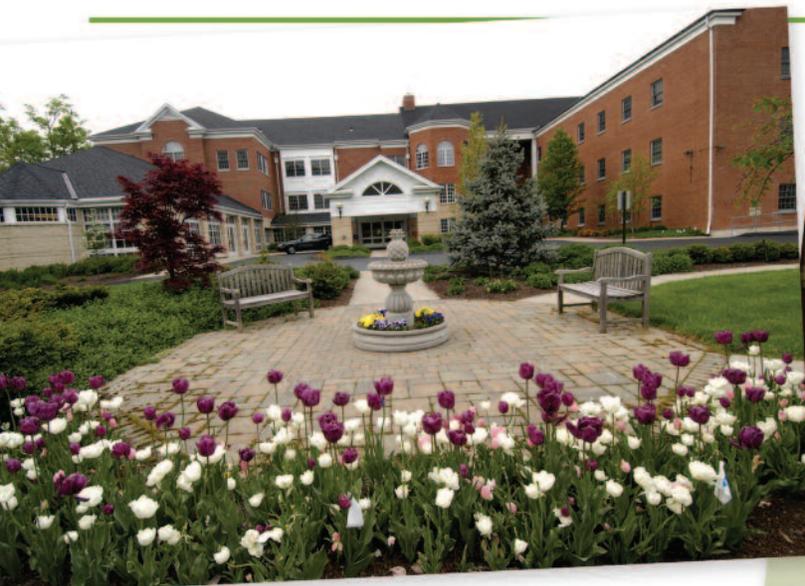
Early fundraiser



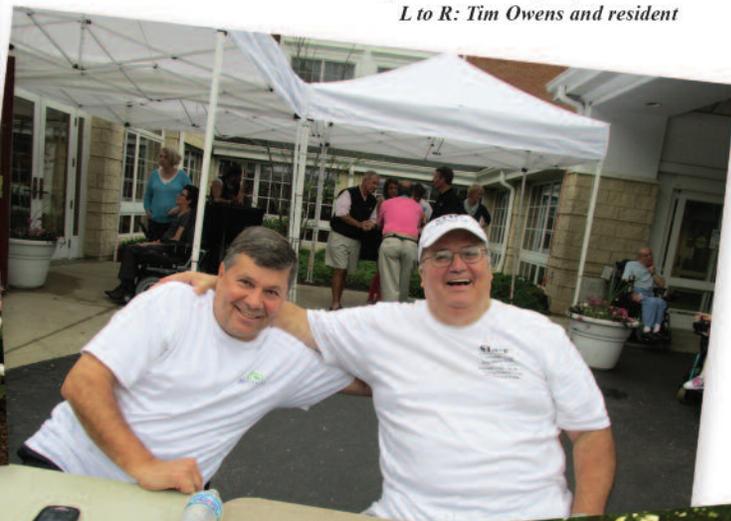
Wheelchair from the early days



Resident receiving therapy



The Beechwood Home today, 2015



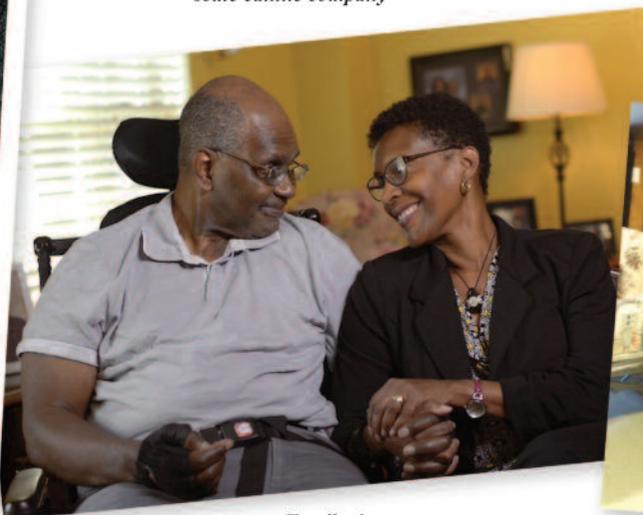
*Having fun at the block party
L to R: Tim Owens and resident*



*Resident enjoying
some canine company*



Strolling in the park



Family time



*A caricature artist
captures a resident's smile*

*Visiting with friends
through technology*

39 years and counting...

By Belinda Rose, RN

Two members of the staff who have faithfully served at Beechwood since 1976 when Gerald Ford was president and “Play That Funky Music” was popular are Shirley Young and Julia Smith. Interviews with the two of them yielded some interesting information.

Shirley, who was introduced to Beechwood by her then boyfriend who catered there, started as a CNA when state testing was not required. She was interested in following in the footsteps of her mother, who was a nurse at Tepper, a nursing home. After working at several such facilities, Shirley had the good fortune to be hired at Beechwood where she has been for thirty-nine years! She said she always has friends at Beechwood and that her shift, the second shift, seemed more “laid-back.”



Shirley Young

Imagine the changes Shirley has seen over her years here. Many improvements, like the ceiling lifts, have made work with the residents, who are generally more dependent, much better.

Shirley is constantly thinking how brave the residents at Beechwood are in the way they deal with their diseases. Her final comment was, “I hope I made a difference in someone’s life.” Without doubt she has made a difference for many.



Julia Smith

Julia Smith started working at Beechwood just before Jimmy Carter became president in 1976. Julia, who has been working since she was fifteen-years-old, received her associate degree and was determined to work at Beechwood. Her brother had worked at Beechwood for 15 years as an orderly, so she knew the story of Beechwood. She said she knew it was a family place. Many of the staff had family members working there. After applying three times, Julia was hired in the dietary department, where she has worked since she

was hired as cook, assistant cook, and lead person on weekends.

“I never meant to stay this long,” Julia said. After she would complete her dietary planning and nutrition classes, she thought she might continue her profession at some other place. So what kept her at Beechwood? “The atmosphere of family, the closeness I felt and the dedication of the staff and volunteers,” she responded.

“I am just glad I’ve been able to work here the time I have. It has been a learning experience,” Julia said. She likes doing what she can to make things better for everyone at Beechwood. And she surely has!

A special thanks to these two giving women for their years of service. Each has touched many lives. Beechwood would not have been the same without them.

The next 125 Years

Throughout the 125 years of the existence of The Beechwood Home, promises have been made and kept. Those currently who promise to provide high-quality, long-term care and advanced rehabilitation and restorative services are also keeping their promises, making therapeutic and recreational activities that optimize function and quality of life for the residents of The Beechwood Home possible.

One way of giving that will help extend these promises well into the future is a planned gift. It is a wonderful way to support The Beechwood Home and to ensure an excellent quality of life for our residents for the *next 125 years*. If you choose to make such a planned gift, there is a very tangible way for us to show our thanks - Tomorrow’s *Promise Legacy Society*.

Making any planned gift to the Beechwood Home entitles you to membership in *Tomorrow’s Promise Legacy Society*. Your name, if you so choose, will be placed on our donor wall, a brick will be placed in your honor in our resident’s courtyard, and you will receive a certificate of appreciation.

One of the easiest and most popular ways to make a gift is through a bequest. The most common and straight-forward method is to bequeath a specific amount to The Beechwood Home Foundation. On the other hand, you may prefer to direct a percentage of the value of your estate be paid to The Beechwood Home at your death.

Adding a bequest for Beechwood in our will was simple. We called our lawyer, made the addition in our will and that was all it took. It is rewarding to know that we will make an impact on the lives of the residents of Beechwood. Their daily challenges are huge – it is the least we can do. (anonymous donor)

Leaving a legacy will make a difference in the lives of present and future residents for another 125 years!

For more information please call Judy Sandquist at (513) 321-2674 or email her at jsandquist@beechwoodhome.com.

If you have not told us about a planned gift arrangement you have made, we would love to know about it.

Thank you!

Vergie

By Judy Sandquist and Jean Kennevan

Some people who come into our lives are ones we will never forget. Vergie, with her ready smile, kindness and gentleness is such a one. A resident of the Beechwood Home since 1976, Vergie, a musician and gospel-lover, is a woman who loves to be busy and involved.

Vergie was born in Norma, Tennessee in 1937 to Lucille and Vergiel. Needing work, Vergiel came to Cincinnati via box car and became first a dish washer in a local restaurant and finally after working at several other jobs, set up his own bike shop. Soon Vergie and Lucille joined him.

Despite her disabilities, Vergie is an ever-active person. Age is not stopping her from pursuing her GED. Because her means of communication is pointing to letters to spell out words, getting them correct is very important to her so she is studying vocabulary.

Vergie also loves to travel. For many years she was very active in the CP center, which provided trips for their members. Two of her favorite trips were one to Washington D. C. and one to New York City. One of her dreams is getting back to Tennessee. She tears up thinking about going back, wondering if she ever will.

The kind of person who easily makes friends, Vergie has many people who are special to her. Debbie and Mike have made her a part of their family; she spends holidays with them at their home.

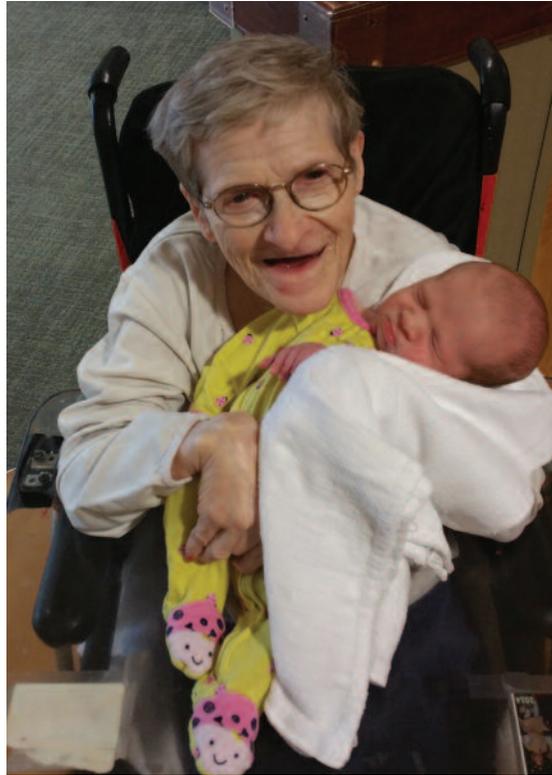
Her eyes light up when she talks about their many kindnesses over the years.

On any given day, I see her participating in different activities provided here. She loves the outdoors and so anyone who is willing to push her around the Bettman Center Park can enjoy its peacefulness and lush landscape with her.

She also loves to read the Bible and especially listen to her beloved gospel music. Her mother enjoyed gospel music so she and Vergie learned to play the piano together when Vergie was 22. Today she plays the keyboard at her church sometimes. Although she is unable to play as often as she used to, she still does a beautiful rendition of Amazing Grace. Her faith in the Lord and her weekly trips to her church help her to continue to be the loving woman she is.

As I'm writing this, I see Vergie wheeling down the hall on her way outside to take in the beautiful spring day. Maybe that is where she finds the

inner peace which she shares so readily with the whole Beechwood community!



Resident Vergie with baby Cora



Spiritual Journey

Students from St. Ursula Academy volunteering at The Beechwood Home during their Spiritual Journey week and throughout the school year.



SAVE THE DATE

Friday, September 18
FOR THE BLOCK PARTY

FEATURING

**THE
SOUL
POCKET
BAND**

SAVE THE DATE

Thursday, November 19
6-8 p.m.
Fabulous-Furs Fashion Show
& Cocktails

at Donna Salyer's Fabulous-Furs, Covington, KY

Please Save the Date for

THE BEECHWOOD HOME Ghost and Goblin Gala

Honoring

Mr. and Mrs. David and Sara Osborn

Saturday
October 24
2015

