



The House Call

The Official Newsletter of Dr. Bob's Home

2022

Original manuscript of The Big Book added to the collection at Dr. Bob's Home!

We are pleased to announce one of the original manuscripts is now on display in the dining room at 855 Ardmore Ave! Dr. Bob gave this manuscript to an early member and it was passed down through the fellowship.

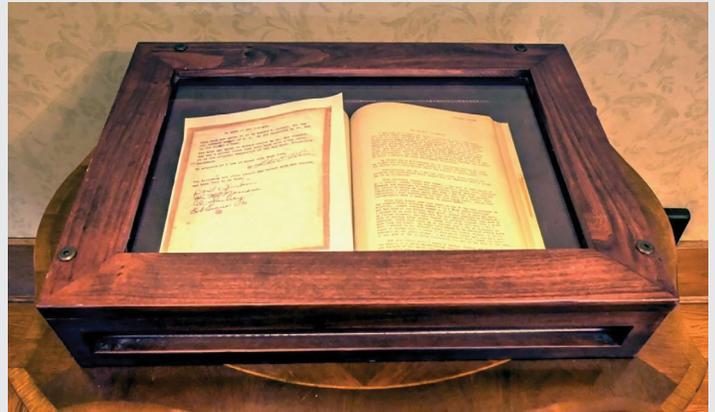
Dr. Bob and Bill spent several months together at 855 Ardmore Ave. in 1935. Through prayer, coffee and late-night talks, they began formulating a "design for living" that really works as they were flying blind under God's grace.

Dr. Bob's recording in Detroit in 1948 refers to those talks: "...it would be hard for me to conceive that something wasn't said at or during these nightly discussions around our kitchen table that influenced the writing of the twelve steps."

By 1938, two major groups had formed. The Akron Group "Group #1" (Alcoholic Squad) and Bill's Group, which met in his home at Clinton Street, known as the Drunk Squad or a "Nameless Bunch of Drunks". The consciousness and the stories that would be going into our beloved Big Book would come from the experiences accumulated by these two groups.

By late 1937, in the living room of 855 Ardmore Ave, they counted 41 sober members and realized a "light had come into the dark world of the alcoholic." After a prayer of gratitude, they began discussing the need for literature to keep the message from being garbled.

In 1938, Dr. Bob was busy doing 12 step work and Bill was busy writing down the collective strength, experience and hope of the early pioneers. Chapters were sent back and forth from Bill, Dr. Bob and the members in Akron. Three-fifths of the personal stories were written around the Smith family's dining room table. The typewriter Dr. Bob's daughter Sue used to type



those stories is on that very table today at Dr. Bob's Home.

Before going to press, Bill decided to find funds to distribute some "multilith" copies of the manuscript for feedback. Reports vary as to how many were sent out. Historians tell us somewhere between 100 to 400 copies were distributed to various members and professionals including doctors and clergy.

There are very few manuscripts still in existence 84 years later. This particular manuscript, after being given by Dr. Bob to an early member and passed down through the fellowship, is now on display in the dining room. It was in the care of the Akron AA Archives for more than 20 years prior to this recent transfer to its new home. This leather bound and gilded copy is being displayed opened to the chapter of Dr. Bob's story and is clean except for one underlined word, which is visible.

The manuscript is a wonderful addition to the many stories of the birth of AA that began over coffee, prayer and a kitchen or dining room table 84 years ago.

Save the Date

2023 Founders' Day Weekend

June 9, 10 and 11
Akron, OH

855 Ardmore Avenue, P.O. Box 449, Akron, OH 44309

330.864.1935

drbobshome.org

facebook.com/drbobshome

Chairman's corner

We are back to running at full capacity since the pandemic with visitors from around the world and surrounding areas. It was so great to see many of you all in person at the annual Founders' Day celebration this year - WELCOME HOME!

As you may know, we now have three buildings that form a "campus" that include 855 Ardmore - Dr. Bob's and Anne Smith's family home, the gift shop and offices, and our new Archive, Welcome Home Center and Educational Center (A.W.E.). This year, 855 Ardmore has been blessed with a significant donation of one of the original manuscripts that is now available for viewing. Our gift shop always has something new and inspirational for you to purchase as a memento or gift. We are also continuing the development and enhancement of the A.W.E. Center. If you have not seen our new building, please come and check it out! Our archivist Gail L. and her team are working hard to develop "Dr. Bob's Library" on the 2nd floor. Dr. Bob and everyone who knew him well in the early AA days spoke of the immense amount of reading he did and we want to be able to provide you with the experience of reading those same materials.

Special thanks to our many volunteers and donors for their tireless love and dedication they have for Dr. Bob's Home. We are still working hard on tackling the goals of our five-year strategic plan we created in 2021. You will notice some changes as the result of our strategic plan have already gone into effect. For example, we now have a new monthly digital e-mail newsletter. If you have not signed up please do so on our website at drbobshome.org/about/guestbook.

In addition to the passionate volunteers that are at the heart of what we do, we also have a behind-the-scenes governance team made up of employees, board members and archivists. Visit our website to learn more about the amazing group of people who work so hard for Dr. Bob's Home.

We are also thrilled to let you know that we have made some additions to our team:

- Wayne A. has been added as an employee with the title of campus coordinator. He is a well-respected and loved longtime volunteer and past board member of Dr. Bob's Home. He alongside our existing wonderful employee, Sandy G., run the day-to-day activities of the campus including managing the volunteers, running our gift shop and many other tasks!
- Sheryl R. is a former Dr. Bob's Home non-managing trustee from Florida. She now assists groups that would like to hold Dr. Bob's fundraisers and educational events. Sheryl has been holding events to raise money and spread awareness for the Home for many years and we are so excited to have her join our board. Welcome, Sheryl!
- Rich R. is a longtime volunteer at St. Thomas Hospital St. Ignatia Hall (The first hospital-based unit in the country dedicated to the treatment of alcoholism). He has been managing the volunteers and coordinating AA meetings at the hospital for 20+ years. We are excited to have him join us on the board as the chair of our HR and board development committees. Welcome, Rich!

I want to thank everyone for the continued support by letting others know about Dr. Bob's Home and campus through volunteering and financial support. Your generosity enables us to fulfill our threefold mission of maintaining the Smith Home, preserving the atmosphere of acceptance where early members archived their sobriety and educating the local community and beyond on how Dr. Bob's Home played a part in the formation of AA.

In love & service,



Melissa M., Chairman, Dr. Bob's Home

Join our email list

If you would like to receive email communications and announcements from Dr. Bob's Home, please visit drbobshome.org/about/guestbook.

Make a gift today!

Your support is appreciated and will be used for ongoing renovations and general operations and upkeep of the grounds and homes.

To make a gift call 330.864.1935 or visit drbobshome.org.

Please consider including Dr. Bob's Home in your estate planning. A gift made through your estate or investment assets will help ensure the long-term future of Dr. Bob's Home and may provide tax benefits to you.

This year's Founders' Day was a success!



We celebrated our annual Founders' Day in June. We would like to thank the thousands of visitors who made the trip home to Dr. Bob's to celebrate with us!

Every day at 855 Ardmore Ave. is special, but June 10th is a day of celebration as we remember Dr. Bob's sobriety date and the founding of Dr. Bob's Home. Thank you to all the volunteers who made this year's Founders' Day a success and to all those who traveled to come celebrate with us!

If you couldn't make it to this year's celebration, we hope to see you next year! Save the date for next year's Founders' Day weekend June 9-11, 2023. In the meantime, check out our virtual tour so you are prepared for your visit. We hope to see you there!

Have you visited our new A.W.E. Center?

If you haven't stopped by recently, now is the time to plan a visit to check out our new A.W.E. Center. This exciting addition to our campus is located right behind Dr. Bob's Home at 122 Everett Ave. The A.W.E. Center houses our Archives, Welcome Home Center and Educational Center – three important "centers" in one newly renovated building!

While not completely finished, the center is now open, and we are excited to show you our new campus. We have made lots of improvements to the building, including a new roof, windows and siding, structural improvements inside and out, new furnace, repair and replacement of the back porch and brand-new fencing around the entire Dr. Bob's Home campus. The next phase will include repairing the plaster walls and ceiling and painting on the 3rd floor, electrical upgrades and the addition of security lights, hall lights and display lighting. If you would like to support the renovation to the A.W.E. Center, please visit Drbobshome.org/donate to make a gift.



A volunteer story By Wayne A., campus coordinator

At Dr. Bob's Home, we often find ourselves hosting visiting groups of medical professionals. Nursing students from Kent State University and doctors from the Cleveland Clinic regularly come to learn about our history and to expand their knowledge of treatments for alcoholism. We are honored that they see us as a resource worthy of inclusion in their curricula. While exploring our history, they are also very interested to learn about the spiritual solution upon which we are based. They find out this solution was a lot more than just Karo syrup, tomato juice and sauerkraut. Recently, a group of interns from the Cleveland Clinic asked to visit the campus, so I looked at the schedule for an extra hand that could help us welcome them. Then, I remembered our most recent internet volunteer applicant, who also happened to be a retired MD with 38 years of sobriety. Our new volunteer showed up, shared his own story and easily connected with the interns that day. This is what volunteering is all about. Usually, we don't know who will walk through our door but giving back and sharing the Dr. Bob's Home message of sobriety, hope and transformation is one of the coolest things we do. Ultimately, we find that the language of the heart is universal and whether we are welcoming doctors, rabbis or treatment center adolescents, the story of love always prevails. Share your story today. Come join us!

We thank the following foundations for their gifts to support Dr. Bob's Home:

Akron Community Foundation
Charles E. and Mabel M. Ritchie Foundation
Kenneth L. Calhoun Charitable Trust
Lehner Family Foundation
The R.C Musson and Katharine M. Musson Charitable Foundation
Sisler McFawn Foundation
W. Paul and Thora J. Mills Memorial Foundation
Welty Family Foundation

"I think the kind of service that really counts is giving of yourself, and that almost invariably requires effort and time." – Dr. Bob

Host a fundraiser for Dr. Bob's Home

A few years ago as I sat at a business meeting for Dr. Bob's Home, I was so excited when I saw people from all over the country gathered, sharing their ideas, events and ways to spread the word of Dr. Bob and Anne Smith in their communities. Being from Tampa, we didn't hear a lot about Dr. Bob so I gathered some of my dearest friends and my husband, Stephen, to do a day event. It had to be affordable, featuring local speakers to spread the word of The Smiths in the Tampa area. We sent a donation to Dr. Bob's Home after the event so they could continue to restore and maintain that beautiful home. Nine years later, our event is still a big success. Now, as a board member of Dr. Bob's Home, I want to help others plan events in their communities. Let's work together to share our journeys and the stories of Dr. Bob with others all over the country. Really, all over the world!

Alcoholics Anonymous and its members are so diverse, as are our communities, that each event, book signing, raffle, luncheon and dinner brings its own personality, and yet the devotion is the same. Join us and be an Ambassador for Dr. Bob's Home and together, Dr. Bob and Anne Smith will continue to live and we will make sure that those coming into our Fellowship know about the miracle that happened in Akron, Ohio.

I would love to speak with you so you too can share the history of AA with your community. Please reach out to me anytime.

Sheryl R. | SherylRyan@drbobshome.org | Call or text 352.556.7711



Thank you to Keep Akron Beautiful and the City of Akron for awarding us the Beautification Watch Award for our efforts to keep our campus litter-free, well-maintained and beautiful!

New item available!

Visit the gift shop to browse through exclusively designed Dr. Bob's Home apparel. Support the Home and order a cap, T-shirt or hoodie. Our new windbreaker features a waterproof outer shell and embroidered Dr. Bob's logo. It's perfect for golf, fishing or any outdoor activity! The jacket is available in sizes M – XXL.

Order it now at DrBobsHome.org.



Our Mission

Our primary purpose is to maintain, restore and preserve the property at 855 Ardmore Avenue, which was the family home of physician Robert Holbrook Smith, affectionately called Dr. Bob, one of the founding fathers of Alcoholics Anonymous. This historic site in Akron, Ohio is the birth place of this internationally known fellowship, which subsequently became the foundation of numerous 12-step programs that are improving the lives of millions.

Second, our ongoing mission is to help alcoholics by preserving the atmosphere of acceptance where early members achieved and maintained their sobriety. This prevailing attitude is simply expressed in our greeting, "Welcome Home."

Third, we educate the local community and beyond on how Dr. Bob's Home played a part in the formation of Alcoholics Anonymous and the manner in which alcoholics were helped in the early days.

Board of Directors

Executive Committee

*Melissa M., chairman
Ryan G., vice chairman
Ken H., treasurer
Kat D., secretary*

Directors

*Dolly A.
Bob F.
Paul G.
Rich R.
Sheryl R.*