

The House Call

The Official Newsletter of Dr. Bob's Home

Fall 2025



The Heart of Dr. Bob's Home ***Paul G.***

Sometimes, during the frequent responsibilities we attend to, I remember our real purpose here at Dr. Bob's Home in Akron, Ohio - where Dr. Bob Smith and Bill Wilson first met in 1935 - is to ensure it stands as both a living remembrance and a lighthouse for recovery. More than just a preserved residence, it is a bright thread in the fabric of Alcoholics Anonymous and the wider recovery community. AA members, students, clinicians and historians come not only to see the rooms where the seeds of AA began, but to grasp how an idea born around a kitchen table grew into a worldwide fellowship. The home anchors a narrative that blends history with hope: the story of two people who discovered that one alcoholic helping another could change countless lives.

That impact is multiplied daily by our volunteers who keep the doors open, the archives organized, and the story accessible. Docents guide our daily visitors, along with those from medical schools and treatment programs, with care; researchers safeguard letters, books, and artifacts; and event coordinators host talks, workshops and educational tours for various groups.

Through its Ambassador Program, supporters extend the message beyond Akron—sharing presentations with a national exposure; welcoming virtual audiences; and building partnerships that carry the lessons of service and spiritual growth into communities that might never set foot on our Founders' Path.

As new initiatives take root—digitizing collections, expanding written materials and cultivating an atmosphere that welcomes exciting additional programming - the home continues to evolve without losing simplicity at its core. It is a place where history breathes, service is practiced and outreach invites the next person in need to hear that recovery is possible. In honoring the miracle that occurred here when Bill met Bob, the community around Dr. Bob's Home keeps that miracle in motion - one visitor, one volunteer, one quiet act of service at a time.

Be sure to visit our new online library at drbobslibrary.org!

Save the Date

2026 Founders' Day Weekend

June 12, 13 and 14
Akron, OH

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

330.864.1935

drbobshome.org

facebook.com/drbobshome

From the Chairman

Another amazing year is coming to an end at Dr. Bob's Home. Our Campus continues to grow, thanks to all of our donors, visitors and volunteers. Moving forward we are focusing on outreach and education to spread The Smith Family Legacy throughout the community and far beyond. It is truly breathtaking to see all walks of life wanting to know more and feel more about what happened at 855 Ardmore – Where it all Began! And it continues to touch all who are “Welcomed Home” at the doors of Dr. Bob's Home.

It is this board's mission to continue to maintain the home of AA's cofounder, educate all who step foot on our campus and preserve the loving atmosphere of what miracle happened here 90 yrs ago. I'm so proud of all who are a part of it, especially our board and their committees, and our devoted volunteers who keep the doors open every day to our 40,000 visitors each year. It is a spiritual experience for each and every one and I am so grateful to be a small part of it!

In Love and Service,

Ryan G.
Chairman

“The quality of life is a journey, not a destination.”

-Annie Smith

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.

Finding Light in the Darkness: My Journey at Dr. Bob's Home

I still remember the first time I walked through the doors of Dr. Bob's Home. I was 30 days sober—fragile, hurting, confused and completely lost. My heart felt heavy, my mind chaotic, and I didn't know if I could trust myself to make it another day.

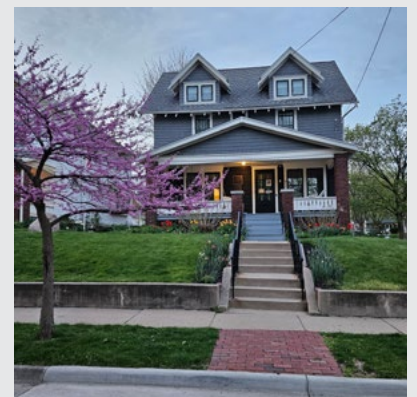
And then I felt it. The warmth. The acceptance. The people who volunteered there wrapped me in arms I didn't know I deserved. They took me under their wing, held me up when I couldn't hold myself, and quietly, gently, gave me hope. They showed me light when all I could see was darkness.

Over the past year and a half, I've had the privilege of welcoming guests through those same doors. People carrying their own pain, their own struggles, yet carrying something else, too: resilience, courage and belief in themselves. Watching them show up for their recovery reminded me what's possible. It showed me that hope isn't just a word - it's alive. It's breathing. And it can touch you, change you, if you let it.

Volunteering at Dr. Bob's Home has been transformational. It forced me to step out of myself, to give when I felt empty, and to show up even when I felt weak. My sponsor suggested I do it. I wasn't sure I could. But today, I know this: service heals. Service gives. Service saves. And the act of helping someone else is often the very thing that saves you.

If you are looking for healing, looking for hope, looking for light—show up. Step out. Give back. Because when you do, you don't just change someone else's life—you change your own.

Stephanie T.



What's New at Dr. Bob's Home

The Building and Grounds Committee is pleased to share several important

updates on the ongoing care and preservation of Dr. Bob's Home and its neighboring properties. Our team recently completed the installation of a new furnace at Dr. Bob's Home, ensuring reliable and efficient heating for the upcoming winter months. As part of this project, we also upgraded the air filtration system to a modern 4-inch filter, improving indoor air quality and helping to better preserve this historic home for future generations.

In addition to these upgrades, routine maintenance and cleaning have been performed across all three of our properties. Regular upkeep and attention to detail ensure that each location remains safe, welcoming and well-presented for our visitors, volunteers and staff. The consistent effort of our cleaning crew plays a vital role in maintaining the warm and inviting environment that guests have come to appreciate.

Perhaps most exciting, the long-anticipated restoration of the third floor at Dr. Bob's Home is nearing completion. This effort brings us one step closer to restoring this space, honoring the history and spirit of the home where so many lives have been touched. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the volunteers, donors and our dedicated cleaning crew whose commitment and generosity make these projects possible. Your continued support helps preserve and protect this sacred place for generations to come.

Aaron R.



Ambassadors at Work

The impact that the Ambassadors for Dr. Bob's Home have is not measured in numbers alone, but in the intangible joy that fills the air at every gathering. Whether it's a speaker night, a luncheon or a simple afternoon spent playing Bingo together, the peak heartbeat is love. Each person who walks through the doors of an event carries a piece of that joy back into their communities, creating a ripple effect that educates

neighbors, friends and future generations on what happened at 855 Ardmore Avenue in Akron.

Our Ambassador program was started back in 1984 with Wesley P. as our first Ambassador. Many years later another special man, also from Wesley's neighborhood, felt the same love and joy and began educating the local Fort Lauderdale community about Dr. Bob and Anne Smith. Each year Don F. brought carloads of friends and sponsees up to Akron to learn our history and feel the love in Akron. Don single handedly changed the lives of hundreds of local Floridians. We recently lost Don but his love for Dr. Bob's Home will last forever.

As the sun sets on another year filled with laughter and learning, our Ambassadors stand as a testament to the power of communities. Educating friends, uplifting hearts and spreading love—these are the gifts that endure. For in giving joy, Dr. Bob's Home receives it tenfold, weaving a tapestry of hope that will last for years to come.

Sheryl R.

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

Akron Community Foundation

Charles E. and Mabel M. Ritchie Foundation

Henry V. and Frances W. Christenson Foundation

Kenneth L. Calhoun Charitable Trust

Laura R. and Lucian Q. Moffitt Foundation

Lehner Family Foundation

Lloyd L. and Louise K. Smith Foundation

Northern Ohio Golf Charities

The R.C Musson and Katharine M. Musson Charitable Foundation

Sisler McFawn Foundation

W. Paul and Thora J. Mills Memorial Foundation

Welty Family Foundation

From the Gift Shop



There is something special about visiting Dr. Bob's Gift Shop. Amid a wide selection of unique items that celebrate Dr. Bob's Legacy and the story that began right here in Akron, we invite you to browse, reflect and find something that speaks to your heart. Each item on the shelves from books, mugs, T-shirts and medallions, has been chosen with care to reflect the spirit of Love and Service.

Every purchase from Dr. Bob's Gift Shop supports the preservation and mission of Dr. Bob's Home and helps to keep the doors open for generations to come. Thanks to your support, we are able to "Welcome Home" thousands of visitors each year who come seeking history, connection and hope. From all of us at Dr. Bob's Home—thank you for your service.

Dolly A.

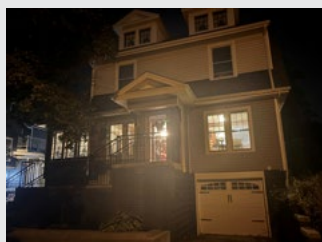
Expanding Outreach: Love, Service and Connection at Dr. Bob's Campus

The lights are on at Dr. Bob's Campus, literally and spiritually, as we continue to expand our outreach to include workshops at the AWE Center at 122 Everett Ave. This initiative allows everyone new opportunities to experience the historic grounds in meaningful and engaging ways.

In October 2025, facilitators from Alcoholics Anonymous led two powerful workshops at 122 Everett and the experience was educational and transformative. The hallowed history of Dr. Bob's Home set a tone of Love and Service from the very beginning. From a "Welcome Home" tour to a reflective library visit, a leisurely walk around the campus and finally to the workshops themselves, every moment was filled with gratitude, connection and a deep sense of unity.

As we look ahead, we remain inspired by the legacy of the Smith Family and hope to carry forward the ongoing mission to help alcoholics. We invite you to join us as our outreach continues to grow at Dr. Bob's Campus. The lights are on, the coffee is ready and hearts are open. "A picture is worth a thousand words."

Dolly A.



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.

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