

# Visit DrBobsHome.com

With the completion of the exterior renovations of 855 Ardmore, we have also completed a renovation of the website at DrBobsHome.com. Just as the exterior of the home received a new coat of paint and color, our “online home” has received a facelift as well. The home page features a variety of photos including a view from the street showcasing the updated colors of the home, photos of both Bob and Anne and a scrolling photo gallery featuring pictures taken during the second phase of the renovations. Check back for updates on Phase III of the restoration where photos will be added as they are available. We’ve also included new photos from throughout the house that are organized by individual rooms. Also, on the site you may:

- Plan your visit
- Purchase items in our online store
- Make a gift
- View the site on your mobile device or tablet

Visit the site and let us know what you think! We will continue to update it regularly for your enjoyment and information.

## Receive our newsletter

Visit DrBobsHome.com to sign up for our newsletter and never miss an update about the great things happening at Dr. Bob’s Home!

## We love volunteers!

Looking for an opportunity to serve Dr. Bob’s Home? We welcome your time and your talents! Here are a few opportunities:

- Cleaning and housekeeping
- Data entry
- Fundraising events
- Gardening
- Home tours
- Photography
- Translation
- Writing for newsletter

For more information, please contact Wayne at 330.864.1935.

## WISH LIST

- Period-specific items for the house
- 1930-1940s Christmas ornaments/replicas
- 1930s boxing gloves
- Diamond lion’s head pin
- 1930s comic books
- Winnie the Pooh books
- Agatha Christie books

## GENERAL NEEDS

- Folding tables 60" or 72" x 30"
- 4' x 8' boardroom table
- 40" flat screen television with DVD player
- Cabinets and peg board for garage
- Computer/laptop
- House supplies: coffee, toilet paper, etc.
- Office supplies: copy paper, envelopes, etc.



## 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 birthplace 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 LISTING

### Executive Committee

Harmon V., chairman  
Kent C., vice chairman  
Dennis T., secretary

### Trustees

Dolly A.  
Wayne A.  
Bob F.  
Paul G.  
Ryan G.  
Gail L.  
Carol L.  
John S.

# The House Call

The Official Newsletter of Dr. Bob’s Home

Fall 2016

## Hope and Direction Given to Families at Ardmore Home

Anne was bold with spiritual action

The following is an excerpt from the notes of Henrietta Dotson, wife of AA No. 3, for a 1956 speech given on her recollections of what happened in 1935.

My husband was an alcoholic, as all of you know. He did not want to drink like he did, we both prayed he would never drink again, but he continued to get drunk. I suggested we go to our pastor and let him help us, but Bill said, “No, I don’t want our pastor to know any more than he does.” We both knew God could do it but it seems He did not hear us. However... the Lord moves in mysterious ways His wonders to perform.

So one day the pastor of another church called on me and said he had seen me in his congregation on Sunday evening... I asked him if he ever had any experience with men that would drink to excess, as Bill was upstairs in bed at the time, unable to go to work, and he said he had them in his church but had never been able to do any good with them.

A few weeks later, the assistant pastor from the same church called on me. This was a woman, and I talked freely with her about Bill’s drinking and I asked her if she thought if I would have her pastor call on my husband the next time he was in the hospital, it would do any good. She said, “I don’t know. We’ll pray about it.” And in her prayers she asked God to send someone to see my husband that could understand. What impressed me was she did not ask for her pastor or any one specific person, but just someone that he could understand.

But some little time went by and our doctor had put my husband in Peoples Hospital until he became abusive to the nurses one time (needing more to drink which they did not give him). So the next time I wanted to hospitalize him they would not admit him. The doctor had to send him to the City Hospital where he would be strapped hand and foot for a short period of time.

Another strange thing happening in this chain of circumstances, our money had run dreadfully low and I was very much upset about how I was going to get him out of the hospital when a man called who had owed us a small amount of money for seven or eight years, and said if my husband would bring that note down he would pay it off. I rushed over to the hospital and told him (Bill) and he was so elated when he left the hospital on Monday morning that before he reached home that night he had a real good start on another one, and by Wednesday he was in bad shape. Being Wednesday afternoon I could not reach the doctor, so I called the head nurse, by this time I was really well acquainted with her, and asked her if I could bring him over and get my doctor the next morning. She agreed to that, so next morning, I found our doctor’s father had died... and he would not

be back for several days. I called the head nurse and told her the circumstances and asked her if... interns could take care of him, for by this time all he needed was to be left there a day or two. She said no, I would have to have a doctor, that I should call another one... While I was trying to decide on someone to call, the head nurse called me and asked me if I could come over to the hospital, that there was a doctor there who had been on the staff for 21 years and he thought he found a way to cure alcoholics and that she had already contacted him... of course I went. She had me wait in a small room. In a short while Dr. Bob came in. After asking me a few questions he said, “What kind of an egg is this bird anyway?” “Well,” I said, “when he’s sober he’s the most wonderful man in the world, but when he’s drinking, he’s terrible,” but I hastily said, “he’s no bum,” I was afraid from my answer he might think (Bill) was too far gone to help and he said, “Who are we to say which of God’s children are bums?”

Then he told me that he and another man had hit upon a plan whereby they thought they could help people give up their drinking. Well of course it flashed through my mind, that wasn’t for us because this was another scheme they had thought up to make money, (which) we had very little of, so I said, “Well we don’t have much money left, I am sure we could not do it.”

He said, “If you have \$50 to pay for a private room, it will be the best \$50 you ever spent in your life. Whatever I do for your husband won’t cost you one cent.” I just looked at him, I couldn’t believe it, I said, “You are an answer to a prayer, and he said, “No I am not an answer to prayer, I am trying to stay sober.” I had Bill moved to a private room so Dr. Bob and Bill W. of New York could talk to him.

The next evening, I went over to see my husband. Dr. Bob and Bill W. were there and Dr. Bob said to me, “The little woman wants to see you over at the house.” I told him I couldn’t go that night, but I would the next, but in my mind I thought she was just trying to be nice to me, and I would save her the effort. I just wouldn’t show up; but I was telling a friend about all these wonderful things that had happened, and about Dr. Bob wanting me to go over and see his wife but I said “I am not going.” She said, “You are not going? Indeed, you are, for I am going to take you,” which she did.

When we arrived at Dr. Bob’s house the next night, a lady came to the door, I asked if she was Mrs. Smith, and she said, “Yes, but Anne to you my dear,” which made me love her from the first.

After talking for a while with Bill W., he asked me if I would like to give up my sins, now that my

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# Support the “House Next Door”

The “House Next Door” serves as the office, gift shop, board room and visitors’ center for Dr. Bob’s Home. It also houses the Dr. Bob’s archives, safely storing all of the artifacts and pieces of the story that we aren’t able to display.

- Improvements to 859 Ardmore Ave will include:**
- New HVAC system
  - Structural issues inside and outside the home
  - Interior renovations
  - Upgraded archive storage

We hope to have your support for this project as the “House Next Door” is just as vital in telling the story of Dr. Bob as 855 Ardmore is. Please visit us soon to see the improvements.

## Make a gift today!

To complete this restoration, **we need your help.**

Your gift may be directed toward:

- Renovations
- Endowment
- Operations

To make a gift, call 330.864.1935, go online at DrBobsHome.com or mail the included envelope to: Dr. Bob’s Home, PO Box 449, Akron, OH 44309.

### We thank the following foundations for their gifts to support Dr. Bob’s Home in 2016:

- GAR Foundation
- W. Paul and Thora J. Mills Charitable Foundation
- R.C. Musson and Katharine Musson Charitable Foundation
- Donald and Alice Noble Foundation
- Charles E. and Mabel M. Ritchie Foundation

# Chairman’s corner

## The house next door

As the end of 2016 quickly approaches, we reflect on the many blessings and great events that have happened for Dr. Bob’s Home this past year.

Most significant, in the spring, Dr. Bob’s Home completed Phase I and Phase II of a three-part preservation and restoration project. This truly is a project for the ages. It’s known as “The Second Century Campaign” as Dr. Bob’s Home turned 100 years old in 2015. It’s been a spectacular process meeting the highest standards required of a National Historical Landmark. The results are self-evident with historical accuracy that allows us to connect past and present. And in doing so, we preserve and protect the Smith’s family legacy for the future.

To continue this process, we must now turn our attention to what is commonly called “The House Next Door” at 859 Ardmore Ave. Within its walls, are the Dr. Bob’s Home Archives, our library and research center, the gift shop, administrative offices, board room and a visitors’ center.

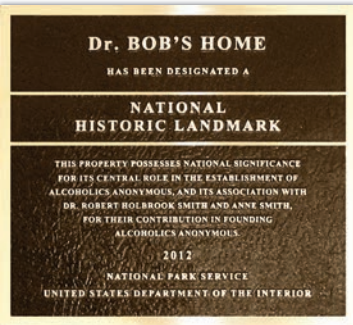
This house is also 100 years old and requires extensive work to transform it into a facility capable of the support needed for Dr. Bob’s Home. The porch has already been replaced, as it was a safety concern; however, this is just the beginning of the many alterations that will be needed.

Please consider donating time, talent or treasure to help restore 859 Ardmore Ave. We will not be able to do it without your assistance.

I would like to take this time to thank you for your past support and future considerations. It’s been a sense of real satisfaction to be involved with Dr. Bob’s Home. Thank you for this honor and privilege. I believe with God’s Grace, God’s Providence and our stewardship, these two houses will ensure our time tested quote is fulfilled: “The age of miracles is still with us. Our own recovery proves that!”

May God bless you and keep you — until then.

Harmon V.  
Chairman, Dr. Bob’s Home



# Akron Roundtable with Patrick Kennedy

By Gail L.

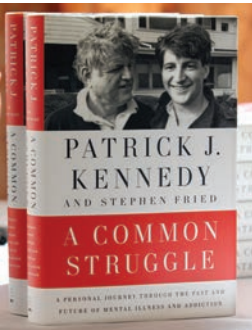
On Thursday, July 16, the Honorable Patrick J. Kennedy, former member of the House of Representatives from Rhode Island spoke at the Akron Roundtable. Patrick is our nation’s leading political voice on mental illness, addiction and brain diseases and the co-founder of One Mind and the founder of the Kennedy Forum.

Several years ago, Patrick visited Dr. Bob’s Home and was moved by his experience. When he was slated to speak at the Akron Roundtable, The Margaret Clark Morgan Foundation, who sponsored the event, graciously extended an invitation to our board to attend. Patrick would be speaking about “My Journey, Making Mental Health Essential Health.”

Patrick opened his talk mentioning the relevance of Akron to the recovery movement. His comments on Dr. Bob’s Home led to resounding applause from a distinguished crowd of Akron’s civic leaders, including Akron Mayor Dan Horrigan, and members of city council. We were also given a signed copy of his book “A Common Struggle.”

During his talk, Patrick disclosed his struggles with addiction and alcoholism in an effort to break the stigma of shame that surrounds mental health issues still today. One couldn’t help but be moved by his story and his passion to bring more awareness to mental health and a more holistic approach in identifying and providing treatment.

Being honored guests at this luncheon reminded us that Dr. Bob’s Home and the work we do to preserve our beautiful history is important not only to recovering alcoholics, but to the city, state, country and world of today. May the sacrifice, love and service of Dr. Bob and Anne Smith continue to inspire today’s leaders who strive to improve the condition of mental health in our community and world.



### Excerpt of Henrietta Dotson’s 1956 speech continued from page 1.

husband was going to give up drinking. I studied a few minutes and said, “I don’t have any. I don’t drink, I don’t dance, I don’t go to picture shows on Sunday, I don’t do anything the church says is wrong.”

He said, “That’s fine, but are you ever resentful towards your husband because he comes home drunk, or do you envy your friends because their husbands can go places with them and yours can’t, or feel sorry for yourself that you can’t have new curtains like your neighbor, or worry about where the money is coming from to pay the rent?”

“Oh sure,” I said. “But those aren’t sins are they? If they are, then I am full of sin, for I sure have all those feelings.”

“Yes,” he said. “Anything that you put before God is a sin.” Then Anne said, “Would you like to go all the way with God?” I told her I would, she said, “Let us pray about it.” So, Anne, Bill W. and myself kneeled by the davenport and prayed. I was very happy to think there was something I could do, for I had always believed if my husband quit drinking everything would be just perfect.

So Bill W. told me I must give up my husband, must surrender him to the Lord. That we did not own a single human being, that each one belonged to God, he said, “You have tried long enough to get him to stop drinking, haven’t you? Now you just don’t tell him anymore but let God tell him.” That was hard, because I felt I must remind him or he would forget.

My great test came shortly after Bill came home from the hospital. The American Legion Post where he was Past Commander was having a party. I didn’t think he would go, but he said we should go, so when we stepped in the door, several said, “Oh, here is Bill, come on Bill you are late,” and each had a glass of beer holding it up, and I raised my hand to touch him on the arm to remind him he wasn’t supposed to drink it, but remembered Bill W. said I was supposed to surrender him to God, so I turned and walked in the other room with the women. I did not see Bill for an hour, when he came looking for me I looked in his face and he grinned and I knew God had taken care of him. I never had another uneasy moment about his drinking.

## The Anne Smith Garden Club

By Cindy L.



While visiting Dr. Bob’s Home to do a formal third step, I found the weeds around the home were up to the porch. Knowing how much Anne loved her flowers, I asked permission from the board to be a volunteer and I started the Anne Smith Garden Club.

While tackling the front yard in August 2014, to my surprise, behind the weeds, I found two beautiful hydrangeas, one on each side of the porch. I found other perennials that needed replanting, as well.

I also added irises and marigolds that I grew from seed from my house. I tended the soil with love, God watered it and that fall, Annie’s garden was thriving.

In 2015, I went every Friday, early before the visitors, and worked in the garden. Behind the home, we now have daylilies, daisies, hostas, ostrich ferns and a beautiful rose that always needs attention. In the front of the house, we have the hydrangeas that are blooming purple and blue, each their own beauty. An apricot knockout rose, irises and annuals were added to keep with the period of the generation.

This year, I decided to add us to The Great Pollinator Project to preserve the grounds for bees and butterflies organically. No pesticides are used in Annie’s garden.

I also really stepped it up in color. We added red bee balm and it really took well to the soil. It added some bumble bees and monarchs. Mr. Grasshopper really likes the area, too. Zinnias, marigolds and sunflowers were harvested from last year to organically sustain Annie’s garden.

It has been a great experience for me watching God grow Annie’s garden at 855 Ardmore.

