



The House Call

The Official Newsletter of Dr. Bob's Home

Fall 2021

A Letter from the New Chairman of Dr. Bob's Home

I was welcomed as the new board chair for Dr. Bob's Home in June 2021, after previously serving as the board's treasurer. It is truly an honor and a privilege to serve in this capacity. As many of you know, our beloved past chair, Harmon V., passed away unexpectedly in the spring of 2021. Harmon was a true visionary who focused on ensuring financial stability and the renovation of Dr. Bobs Home while serving from 2007-2021. He left behind a legacy for all of us to remember. He was a true friend and leader who loved everyone he met. He will be forever missed.

Dr. Bobs Home has helped donors transform passion into impact for more than 37 years. We are mindful that every dollar donated represents an investment of a donor to strengthen the legacy of Alcoholics Anonymous co-founder Dr. Bob. On behalf of our board, I would like to say thank you for your unwavering support. Our path forward focuses on strengthening the foundation created by those before us. While developing the next phase of our strategic plan, we are also working to identify exciting opportunities, ongoing challenges and the best way to choose the road ahead. As we move forward, our mission statement is at the heart of it all which focuses on three ideas:

- Maintain, restore and preserve the property at 855 Ardmore Avenue.
- Preserve the atmosphere of acceptance simply expressed in our greeting, "WELCOME HOME."
- Educate the public on how Dr. Bob's Home played a part in the formation of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Many thanks to volunteers that gave their time to contribute to the many moving parts within the Home. This past year



February 8, 1955 - May 2, 2021

has been especially difficult during the COVID-19 crisis. We appreciate your continued dedication, love and support. Due to COVID-19, we brought the Home to those who could not physically visit. Several members of the board, led by Harmon, created a virtual tour of the Home which can be viewed on our website at DrBobsHome.org/about/virtual-tour/. We are so grateful to have captured these precious moments of Harmon going through the Home that he loved so much.

Harmon would often quote from the 12th tradition. As I close, let us always remember "that our great blessings may never spoil us: that we shall forever live in the thankful contemplation of Him who presides over us all".

Harmon: Job well done, my friend. You are greatly missed.

Together in service,

Melissa M., chairman

Save the Date | 2022 Founders' Day Weekend

June 10, 11 and 12
Akron, OH

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

330.864.1935

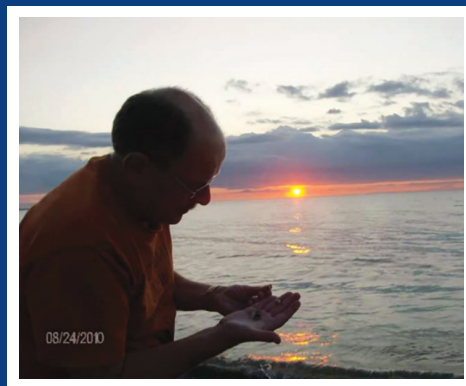
DrBobsHome.org

facebook.com/drbobshome

Remembering Dennis Thayer

By Ryan G.

With heavy hearts, we would like to express our great admiration and appreciation for the late Dennis Thayer. Dennis dedicated many years of service to Dr. Bob's Home, where he served as secretary of the board of trustees. Dennis truly cherished Dr. Bob's Home and served through illness and hardship. He was a wonderful example of love and service. Dennis passed away peacefully in his home on August 21, 2021. His presence and efforts will be greatly missed.



Opening the A.W.E. Center

In late 2018, Dr. Bob's Home purchased the property that stood behind Dr. Bob's Home at 122 Everett Ave. creating a campus at Dr. Bob's that now includes the "House Next Door," Dr. Bob's Home and 122 Everett, which would become the A.W.E Center.

The A.W.E center comprises:

A - Archival Center

W - Welcome Home Center

E - Educational Center

And is now open to the public. The house has been transformed with a new roof, windows and siding, structural improvements inside and out, an updated handicap accessible bathroom, new furnace, repair and replacement of back porch and brand-new fencing surround the entire campus of Dr. Bob's.

It may have taken longer than expected, but it was definitely worth it! Hope to see you soon at the A.W.E Center and 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, visit DrBobsHome.org or mail the included envelope to: Dr. Bob's Home, PO Box 449, Akron, OH 44309

Thank You!

A heartfelt thank you to all of our non-managing trustees and friends for their efforts to raise funds for Dr. Bob's Home. All fund-raising events support our primary purpose to maintain, restore and preserve the property at 855 Ardmore Ave. in Akron, Ohio. These events have also contributed to the growth of our campus with an exciting promise for the future.

Anyone interested in becoming a non-managing trustee or friend of Dr. Bob's Home can call 330.864.1935. Be safe, our dear friends!

Volunteering at Dr. Bob's Home *By Deb H.*

Love and Service...we are called by God, as we understand God, to grow in our ability and willingness to love and serve others. For me, I can do that at Dr. Bob's Home. Being a volunteer here deepens my love of our collective AA story and helps me to serve those who come here – no matter the motivation for the visit.

I came to Dr. Bob's 34 years ago when I was just 11 weeks sober on Founder's Day, AA's annual birthday party in Akron, OH. It was hot and I didn't know our history nor did I care at that time in my sober life. I remember sitting with an "old guy" on the porch swing waiting for the members who made me come to finish visiting in the house. The "old guy" I was sitting with happened to be Ray Windows. Ray was married to Dr. Bob's daughter Sue who was in the house. I sat and listened as he told me their love story and stories about Dr. Bob. The impact that day had on my life is immeasurable. (For the rest of the story, you'll have to come to Dr. Bob's Home and sit with us a while on the porch!)

My life has been forever blessed since that day because I simply said "yes." I was present and willing to participate when asked if I wanted to go somewhere or do something with AA. Here's my question for you: What's keeping you from being a part of Dr. Bob's Home? I had a lot of reservations during my first visit, but I can assure you my time being part of Dr. Bob's Home has forever enriched my life and I hope you will let it do the same for you. Don't let barriers such as distance prevent you from participating. We always find a way to include everyone. Won't you come and be part of Dr. Bob's Home? You don't live here, you say? How can you help from far away? Well, you leave that to us and we'll find a way. If you do

live close enough to drive in regularly, we'll find that fit as well. If you feel called or are interested in becoming part of our volunteer committee, here are ways you can help:

Tour guides:

Not all tour guide volunteers at Dr. Bob's Home can fluently tell our story at first. But over time, each volunteer finds their own unique and eloquent way of sharing the history and importance of Dr. Bob's Home through dedicated service. Learning our story and discovering how to verbalize it is just one way to volunteer here as a tour guide - or docent as tour guides are called at historic homes across the United States. Dr. Bob's Home is open every day, except Christmas, for about three hours. We also have extended hours during our June season of celebration, Founder's Day. When visitors arrive, they will walk up 12 steps from the sidewalk to the porch where they are "Welcomed Home." We encourage you to visit the home and fill out a volunteer form to help us keep the story of Dr. Bob's Home alive.

Restoration and maintenance:

If being a tour guide isn't your thing but you're good with your hands, we encourage you to help with the upkeep of the three 100+ year old homes on Dr. Bob's campus. If we aren't renovating something, we are fixing something, so don't be shy about rolling up your sleeves and helping with a range of tasks including plaster or drywall work, painting, scrubbing, staining, sanding and more!

Grounds care:

If you've ever wondered who makes sure the flowers are always just right for the right season or who cuts the grass around here, the answer could be you! We have a very active building and grounds committee who own the beautification of our little corner of the world at Ardmore Ave. and Everett Ave. Let us know if you would like to be part of it!

Committee work:

We have three standing committees that each has four subcommittees, all of which would be enhanced by your participation and support. Committee work includes raising money to help the preservation of Dr. Bob's Home and the campus and supporting the board from wherever you are as part of the public relations committee. We'd enjoy chatting with you about joining a committee.

Our history ties directly into understanding AA which encourages us to keep our story alive, serve one another and grow in our ability to love. If you're interested in learning more about how to express your love for AA stop by or give us a call. We will find the right fit for you on our small but mighty band of volunteers.



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
Laura R. and Lucian Q. Moffitt Foundation
Lehner Family Foundation
Lloyd L. and Louise K. Smith Memorial 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

On A Mission By Ryan G.

Our primary purpose is to maintain, restore, and preserve the property at 855 Ardmore Ave. Accomplishing the task of maintaining and preserving the Dr. Bob's Home campus takes many trusted volunteers. Adding the newest home at 122 Everett Ave., required dependable and dedicated volunteers that were willing to exert considerable effort and time.

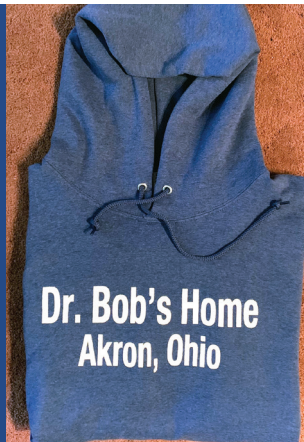
As a result of their efforts, I would like to extend my deepest appreciation to the building and grounds committee, Dr. Bob's cleaning crew and Annie's garden club for their hard work and commitment in caring for our campus. Together we are making a difference for many years to come. Thank you!

“I think the kind of service that really counts is giving of yourself, and that almost invariably requires effort and time.”

– Dr. Bob

Gift shop news

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 pullover hoodies come in black heather or vintage blue and can be purchased for \$45 in-store or online 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.

Managing Trustees

Executive Committee

*Melissa M., chairman
Kent C., vice chairman
Ken H., treasurer
Kat D., secretary*

Trustees

*Bob F.
Paul G.
Ryan G.
Dolly A.
Deb H.*