

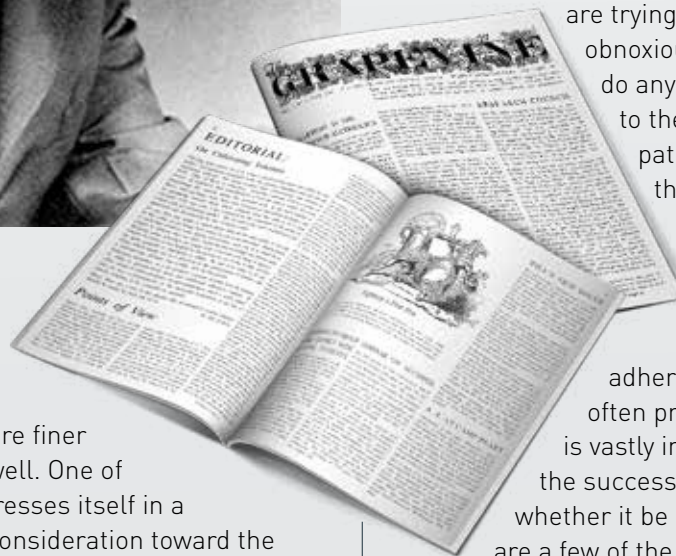
The House Call

The Official Newsletter of Dr. Bob's Home

Spring 2018



During nine years in AA I have observed that those who follow the Alcoholics Anonymous program with the greatest earnestness and zeal, not only maintain sobriety, but often acquire finer characteristics and attitudes as well. One of these is tolerance. Tolerance expresses itself in a variety of ways: in kindness and consideration toward the man or woman who is just beginning the march along the spiritual path; in the understanding of those who perhaps



On Cultivating Tolerance

Originally printed in Grapevine, July 1944

By Dr. Bob of Akron

have been less fortunate in educational advantages, and in sympathy toward those whose religious ideas may seem to be at great variance with our own. I am reminded in this connection of the picture of a hub with its radiating spokes. We all start at the outer circumference and approach our destination by one of many routes.

To say that one spoke is much better than all the other spokes is true only in the sense of its being best suited to you as an individual. Human nature is such that without some degree of tolerance, each one of us might be inclined to believe that we have found the best or perhaps the shortest spoke. Without some tolerance we might tend to become a bit smug or superior—which of course is not helpful to the person we are trying to help, and may be quite painful or obnoxious to others. No one of us wishes to do anything which might act as a deterrent to the advancement of another—and a patronizing attitude can readily slow up this process.

Tolerance furnishes, as a by-product, a greater freedom from the tendency to cling to preconceived ideas and stubbornly adhered to opinions. In other words it often promotes an open-mindedness which is vastly important—in fact a prerequisite to the successful termination of any line of search, whether it be scientific or spiritual. These, then are a few of the reasons why an attempt to acquire tolerance should be made by each one of us.

Save the Date

Visit drbobshome.com/events for more information.

June 8, 9 and 10
Founders' Day weekend
Akron, OH

September 23
History of Dr. Bob's Home
A Journey through the Steps
Cleveland, OH

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

330.864.1935

DrBobsHome.com

Help us renovate “122”

The purchase of 122 Everett Ave. gives Dr. Bob’s Home an opportunity to expand the current campus to create a welcome center, library and archive space. Phase 1 will include replacing the failing roof, upgrading the windows and repairing other exterior structural problems. We are currently in the process of receiving estimates to complete this work.

Why give?

Making a gift to this project will allow Dr. Bob’s Home to continue the mission to educate and honor Dr. Bob and the Smith family for the legacy they have given us. The purchase of this property also helps us protect Dr. Bob’s Home and the story it tells.

Make a gift today!

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:

- Lehner Family Foundation
- MacAlonan Fund at Akron Community Foundation
- Sisler McFawn Foundation
- Lloyd L. and Louise K. Smith Memorial Foundation
- Welty Family Foundation

Chairman’s Corner

The next frontier

Through a chain of providential circumstances, Dr. Bob’s Home was able to acquire the home directly behind the Smith’s family residence. It’s affectionately known as “122,” noted for its address, 122 Everett Ave.

This process was nothing short of miraculous as ALL the details were pre-arranged and approved long before this event unfolded.

Being involved with the Home, we have seen many miracles and have had many spiritual experiences. This was another manifestation of the spiritual axiom:

“God’s grace is sufficient”
“His timing is impeccable”
“And His will is perfect”

Simply said: AWESome! The AWE in “122” is:

A: Archives and Library

W: Welcome Center

E: Educational Center

Driven by our mission statement, “122” will help us provide the opportunity to enhance the Dr.

Bob’s Home experience to a new and deeper level, even a new dimension.

Obviously, this will be a multi-phase project consisting of extensive exterior and interior restoration and modification. Needless to say, this ongoing project will require time and substantial resources.

As always, thank you for your past support and thank you for your future considerations. Without you, there is no we or us!

Godspeed,

Harmon V., Chairman, Dr. Bob’s Home



Thank you, non-managing trustees!

We thank our non-managing trustees for their continued commitment to raise funds to support Dr. Bob’s Home. This upcoming year promises fundraising events throughout the country and abroad. New non-managing trustees have come aboard and excitement abounds. We now have a total of 16 non-managing trustees and that number is growing. Their dedicated work and service supports improvements in restoration, preservation, maintenance and growth to this National Historic Landmark.

For upcoming events, visit drbobshome.com. Anyone interested in hosting an event can call Dr. Bob’s Home at 330.864.1935.

Volunteer Christmas Party *By Dolly A.*

The annual Christmas party for volunteers was held on December 2 at the house behind Dr. Bob’s Home, affectionately referred to as “122.” The home at 122 Everett Ave. was purchased this past November by The Founders Foundation and we are all very excited about the possibilities and vision for the future. Despite needed repairs and a facelift, everyone wanted the Christmas Party at “122.” The excitement mounted, the curtains were hung, the tree decorated, tables and chairs set and pictures of Dr. Bob and Anne Smith were displayed in the old home at “122.”

Volunteers came with family members and some came with their favorite food to share at the table. The smell of sausage and peppers permeated the home and the laughter was infectious. After dinner, we went to Dr. Bob’s Home and decorated the Christmas tree. There was joy that we were together and gratitude as we remembered the Christmas of 1935, when reportedly six gathered with their families at Dr. Bob’s Home in Akron, Ohio.





The plot is thickening... *By Paul G.*

With the recent acquisition of our neighboring property, 122 Everett Ave., to the rear, Dr. Bob's Home is now flanked on both sides by protective and supporting structures. Collectively, these have become what is already being loosely referred to as "The Dr. Bob's Campus." This new addition increases our physical footprint by approximately one third, but, at the same time, it exponentially increases our ability to carry out the mission statement. It will help us to better serve our guests, protect and enhance the archives and significantly broaden our educational horizons. Good stewardship of the precious resource that is Dr. Bob's Home includes an eye toward the future and the preservation and enhancement of opportunities to share and educate about the events that happened here, which changed the course of history and helped save countless lives.

The manner in which the entire process unfolded seemed as if "it was meant to be" or as if there were a guiding hand behind it. The plans for the new property, which six months ago were just idle daydreams, are now steadily maturing into the reality of a vision for you. We begin humbly with the stabilization, restoration and modification of the structure and then continue on into the exciting possibilities limited only by the imagination. We already are unofficially referring to this as the archives or Welcome Center.

Obviously, all this will take much effort and expense but, in the end, we know that if we watch well our beginnings, the results will manage themselves. As usual, the involvement of our volunteers and the continued generosity of our supporters will define our success. Please watch with us as this exciting new entry on the timeline of the foundation develops. More will be revealed.

Faith without works is dead

By Harmon V.

"And how appallingly true for the alcoholic! For if an alcoholic failed to perfect and enlarge his spiritual life through work and self-sacrifice for others, he could not survive the certain trials and low spots ahead." Dr. Bob and the entire Smith family left us a legacy of faith and works.

Simply said, "If you believe, you'll receive. If you pray, why worry and why worry if you pray?" Faith will move a mountain, but you better bring a sponsor, home group and a shovel! As long as we do the possible and God has done the impossible.

We at Dr. Bob's have seen a lot of faith and a lot of works over the years. The results are self-evident. We could not and would not be where we are at, nor could we arrive at the destination without faith and works - especially without YOUR faith and works!

At this time, I want to say two words to all: Thank you.

Thank you for your gift of time, talent and treasure because that is the works that keeps the faith alive and well, because as we all know so well, "Faith has to work twenty-four hours a day in and through us, or we perish." We truly are "On the Broad Highway, walking hand in hand with the Spirit of the Universe."

New look at 859 Ardmore *By Ryan G.*

If you have visited Dr. Bob's Home at 855 Ardmore Ave., more than likely you have also visited the gift shop and archives at 859 Ardmore Ave., known as "the house next door." Over the past few months, the home has been under reconstruction and renovation. In keeping with our mission statement, we have made some much needed structural, as well as cosmetic, repairs. The gift shop has received the biggest transformation with a new custom-built sales counter and display cabinets. There are also new flooring, lighting and paint throughout the house. These are just a few of the changes, in an effort to better enhance and preserve. It is truly breathtaking! There has been much time, effort and hard work contributed by all involved. We want to thank all who have poured their love and service into this vision and helped it become a reality.



Founders' Day 2018

Founders' Day weekend is June 8, 9 and 10. More than 10,000 people will come to Akron to celebrate the 83rd year of the founding of Alcoholics Anonymous – a gift from God.

Please accept our personal invitation to visit Dr. Bob's Home during Founders' Day weekend. Remember there is no place like "HOME." A visit to the Smith home over Founders' Day weekend makes the journey to Akron complete. The newest addition to the Dr. Bob's campus, "122" will also be open.

To see the fellowship, to have a host of friends – this is an experience you must not miss. We know you will not want to miss it. The House Full of Miracles is waiting to greet you with these simple but profound words – "WELCOME HOME!"

Receive our newsletter

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

Take a virtual tour

You can now take a virtual tour of Dr. Bob's Home via our website at drbobshome.com.

Although we are still developing the full tour, the first part is now up and running. Once you've clicked on the virtual tour link from the home page, you will be able to imagine you have just walked in the door. Using a mouse or your mobile device, move the image in any direction – right, left, up or down – and you will see the first floor as if you were standing there. Welcome Home.



New hours at Dr. Bob's Home

11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day | **Noon – 3 p.m. The day after Labor Day through the day before Memorial Day**

Travel mugs in the gift shop

Visit our newly remodeled gift shop and check out our new travel mugs designed for Dr. Bob's Home. The travel mugs read "Dr. Bob's Home" on the front side and "Welcome Home" on the back side. They can be purchased for \$15.00 each at the gift shop or online at drbobshome.com/shop.

- 17 ounce capacity Tumbler (Sedona Red)
- Stainless-steel outer with polypropylene inner
- Foam-insulated
- Screw-on, plastic flip-top lid (Black)



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

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Harmon V., chairman
Kent C., vice chairman
Dennis T., secretary
Allie H., treasurer

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Dolly A.
Wayne A.
Bob F.
Paul G.
Ryan G.
Gail L.
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