

The CORNERSTONE

A PUBLICATION OF

MASONIC COMMUNITIES & SERVICES ASSOCIATION

SPRING 2017

Masonic Homes of Kentucky

It began in a cornfield during a blinding snowstorm – construction of Masonic Homes of Kentucky that would go on to change the course of thousands of lives.

Now, Masonic Homes of Kentucky is celebrating its 150th anniversary – a remarkable milestone for the longtime community caregiver, created to take



At the Home, children were taught trades like farming, gardening, shoemaking, printing, cooking, canning and more.

in orphans and widows of Masons killed in the Civil War, and that later served families affected by World War I, coal mining accidents and other hardships.

The lives of many children from rural areas were transformed at the Little City Beautiful, as children were educated in traditional studies,

and also learned important trades such as printmaking, woodworking and farming. For many of the kids, coming to the Home in Louisville gave them opportunities they otherwise would not have had.

"In my own personal case, it's the best thing that happened to me," said Mickey McGuire, an alumnus of the Home who graduated in 1951 and went on to become an attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice. "I came here and got a good education and got a chance to go to college."

In 1926, the Home moved a larger, Olmsted-designed 127-acre site in as the need continued to grow and more Kentucky widows and orphans arrived. By 1927, 18 buildings were completed and on August 15, 427 children were brought by bus and car to live in their new quarters.

Eugene Blanton came to the Home from a small town in Eastern Kentucky af-

ter losing his father at age 11.

"You come from the mountains where you live in a four-room house with 11 people," he said. "You carry your water, you split the wood, you cut the trees down...it's constant labor, either working in the gardens or the chores. Then you come down to a building that's got slate roofs, made of brick, really built to last, and slick, cold, marble hallway floors on your feet. You begin to notice there's quite a difference. I thought I'd died and gone to heaven."

In 1989, the Homes' last child left and the Home began to focus on providing senior care.

Now, Masonic Homes of Kentucky offers cutting-edge services and facilities for memory care, short- and long-term rehabilitation, personal care, skilled nursing care, dialysis, child development, active lifestyle communities, Life Care, in-home care and more.

The \$40 million Sam Swope Center offers person-centered care in a home environment. Sproutlings Pediatric Day Care & Preschool is the only program in the region serving medically fragile and typical children.

Ground was broken last fall on The Meadow, a new active lifestyle facility, which joins the Miralea Active Lifestyle Community that was established in 2012 and achieved 95 percent occupancy in eight months. Along with The Meadow, construction is set to start in 2017 at the Louisville campus on a 48-unit assisted living facility called Grove Pointe.

"It's rewarding to see the many lives we continue to touch through today's Masonic Homes, which today operates as a nonprofit serving people without regards to affiliation," said President and CEO Gary Marsh. "Through our 150-year legacy of care and compassion, coupled with technology and innovation of today, Masonic Homes is ready to serve tomorrow's residents."

Masonic Homes of Kentucky is celebrating its milestone anniversary with a yearlong celebration of "Heritage, Hope and Home."

The anniversary celebration includes:

A black tie gala that took place in January, gathering together leadership, sponsors, alumni and friends. The special night featured the premiere of



MASONIC COMMUNITIES & SERVICES ASSOCIATION

www.masoniccommunities.com

Our Mission

To provide support, leadership and guidance to member organizations to deliver quality of life care and services.

Our Vision

To recognize providers and inspire members in their service to others.

Our Values

Knowledge
Best Practice (Quality)
Trust
Networking (Sharing)
Support System (Fellowship)
Heritage/Professionalism

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After the Civil War left hundreds of widows and orphans, Kentucky Masons established the Masonic Widows and Orphans Home in Louisville.



The Olmsted, a popular event venue located on Masonic Homes' Louisville Campus, once served as the dining hall for widows and orphans.

"Little City Beautiful" – a documentary that tells the story of the founding of Masonic Homes and the many children's lives that were touched and transformed through living at the Home, through interviews with pivotal Masonic Homes leaders, former Home residents and senior living industry experts.

A Day at the Capitol that included lunch at the Kentucky Governor's Mansion as Masonic Homes gathered with state, local and Masonic leaders to recognize the significance of Masons in the Commonwealth.

Setting the Guinness World Record for the largest human Square and Compass at their annual Great Day of Service in April.

Alumni reunion in June that will include establishing a new time capsule.

The annual Masonic Communities and Services Association Conference in June, focused on the conference theme, "Perfectly Aged."

An interactive display at Masonic Homes' Louisville Campus, telling the Masonic Homes story, featuring photos and artifacts.

Home for the Holidays campus light tour in December 2017. An audio driving tour will take guests through the rich history of the Louisville and Shelbyville campuses, decked out in garland and lights for the holidays.

The rich history of Masonic Homes is also celebrated and shared on www.mhky150.com, a website devoted to the sesquicentennial, as well as on the Masonic Homes of Kentucky's Facebook and Twitter pages.

The anniversary website features historic photos and video galleries of alumni memories, a timeline of historic events, event listings, and more.

Alumni are invited to offer their stories and share information about many old photos from the Home. Facebook and Twitter pages feature historic images, alumni videos, and historic fun facts throughout the year.



Masonic Homes of Kentucky's Board of Directors attended the gala in celebration of the Homes' 150th Anniversary.



Masonic Homes of Kentucky President and CEO Gary Marsh greets MCSA guests Steve and Nancy McPherson.



Masonic Homes of Kentucky management staff toasts to 150 years of hope, heritage and home.

PERFECTLY AGED

2017 MASONIC COMMUNITIES &
SERVICES ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

JUNE 4 – 7, 2017

MARRIOTT DOWNTOWN
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

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a combination of rich history
and forward-thinking innovations.
Just as the perfect pour is crafted,
tended and enjoyed, so is success
in our businesses.

