

HOPEWELL COMPASS POINTS

WINTER 2025 NEWS for FAMILY and FRIENDS

Clara Taplin Rankin 1917-2025

With heavy hearts, we share the news that Hopewell's founder, Clara Rankin, has passed away. While words feel insufficient in expressing the depth of this loss, we want to take a moment to honor her incredible vision, dedication, and the lasting impact she has made on all of us.

Clara Taplin Rankin was born on May 13, 1917, and grew up in Cleveland Heights, Ohio. She graduated from Hathaway Brown in 1934 where she was voted student with the highest ideals. Clara started at Smith College where she was a soloist at the joint concerts of the Smith College Glee Club and the Harvard and Yale Glee Clubs. She graduated with a BA in history in 1938 and went to New York to study voice at Juilliard School of Music. One of her devotees was Alfred M. Rankin, who was in his final year at Yale Law School. Clara and Alfred Rankin were married in Cleveland Heights in 1940. They took great joy in raising their five sons and supporting them and their wives and families at every turn.

Clara spent her adult life involved at the highest levels of philanthropy and community service, serving as an executive on many boards of directors including the Cleveland Institute of Music, the Cleveland Museum of Art, Musical Arts

Association, Cleveland Botanical Gardens, Hathaway Brown Alumnae Association, and the Chagrin River Land Conservancy, among others. A tireless champion of the arts, Clara once said, "Because of the arts, nobody's life could be richer than mine."

In addition to lifetime support of the arts, Clara founded Hopewell in 1993 with a clear mission to provide an opportunity for adults with serious mental illness to experience a self-reliant and satisfying life through participation in a vibrant residential therapeutic community. Her unwavering belief in the role that nature and meaningful work play in mental health recovery and her tireless work has shaped this organization into what it is today.

It is this labor of love that has given her the most fulfillment and has garnered recognition from NAMI (2014 recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award), the Margaret Clark Morgan Foundation Founder's Impact Award (2014), YWCA Women of Achievement Award (2013), Helping Hands Award for Family Involvement from the Cuyahoga County Community Mental Health Board (2004), a profile in Crain's Cleveland Business 8 Over 80 – at age 99 (2017), and more.



Clara's legacy will live on through the work we do together here at Hopewell, and the lives of the individuals and families that we touch. She inspired all of us to give of ourselves, to stay committed to our mission, and to always strive for a better outcome.

As we move forward, we remain dedicated to carrying on the vision she set in motion, ensuring that the work she so passionately started continues.

COLLEEN WELDER, Executive Director



Dear Hopewell Community,

On behalf of the Hopewell Board of Directors, I am very pleased to announce that **Colleen Welder, RN-BC**, has accepted the role as Executive Director of Hopewell. She has been with Hopewell since 2003, when she joined as Nurse Manager.

Colleen earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Ursuline College, is credentialed in Psychiatric-Mental Health Nursing, and holds an MBA in Healthcare Management. Over the years, she has served in various roles that have deepened her understanding of Hopewell’s mission and strengthened her commitment to our community’s well-being. Since 2008, she has been our Director of Program and Operations, a position that has allowed her to nurture the organization with a focus on quality, empathy, and compassion.

Since May 2024, Colleen has held the role of Acting Executive Director. The Board believed that promoting her to the position of Executive Director was the optimal choice for Hopewell’s future. As Executive Director, she will focus on moving our Strategic Plan forward by building census, optimizing facilities, ensuring long term financial viability, and enhancing staff talent.

Colleen is passionate about making a difference in our residents’ and their families’ lives. The Hopewell Board of Directors are excited about this next chapter and will work closely with her and her team. Please join us in welcoming Colleen to this new role.

DAVID VINCENT
Chair, Hopewell Board of Directors

FOUNDER

Clara T. Rankin

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Colleen Welder, RN-BC

HOPEWELL

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COMPASSPOINTS

IS A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION FOR THE FRIENDS AND DONORS OF HOPEWELL.

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hopewellcommunity.org

PLEASE SUPPORT
THOSE STRUGGLING
WITH MENTAL ILLNESS.



5TH Summer SOLSTICE

Friday, June 20, 2025 at 6 pm

PRESENTING SPONSOR



PNC PRIVATE BANK
HAWTHORN

THE CHAGRIN VALLEY HUNT CLUB | 7620 OLD MILL ROAD | GATES MILLS, OHIO

Hopewell's first Summer Solstice was held in June 2001, at our founder Clara T. Rankin's apple farm in Hunting Valley. The venue and attendees have changed throughout the years, but we continue to raise money to provide an opportunity for adults with serious mental illness to experience a self-reliant and satisfying life through participation in our vibrant residential therapeutic community.

*Please join us for this celebration!
Summer Solstice will sell out!*



become a SPONSOR

Entertain your customers, colleagues, and friends at one of Northeast Ohio's premiere events.

Sponsorship packages are \$10,000 (Gold), \$6,000 (Silver), \$3,000 (Bronze) and \$1,000 (Copper).



To become a sponsor, donate an auction item, or buy tickets, please visit hopewellcommunity.org/events/summer-solstice-2025 or click the QR code with a smart device.

donate AUCTION ITEMS

For the Summer Solstice silent and live auctions, we need eye-catching, unusual, and exclusive items and experiences.

Do you have a vacation home to donate? A meal with a celebrity? Top-shelf whiskey or a case of wine? *Use your imagination. We are excited to sell auction items to raise funds for Hopewell.*



PLAY IN YOUR Yard



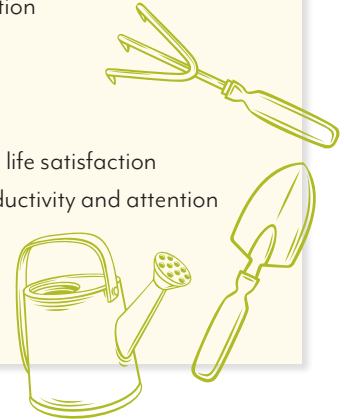
As winter prepares to make her exit, the smell of grass, weeds, and dirt emerge, and spring is ready for her splendid entrance.

Time to get Dirty

- Wander around a local garden center
- Find a shared community garden
- Clean your garden tools
- Collect flower photos that inspire you
- Research plants native to your area
- Sketch a drawing of your dream garden
- Plant to attract bees and butterflies
- Add a few seed packets to a neighbor's mailbox
- Search for a few gardening buddies

Dig into the Benefits of Gardening

- Anxiety and stress reduction
- Mood booster
- Physical exercise
- Healthy eating
- Improved happiness and life satisfaction
- Increased creativity, productivity and attention
- Enhanced self-esteem



The Therapeutic Benefits of Working with Plants



In the heart of every therapeutic community lies a shared goal: fostering healing, growth, resilience, and connection. For individuals navigating the complexities of mental illness, the path to recovery might extend beyond traditional therapies.

Therapeutic horticulture is the process through which participants enhance their well-being through involvement in plant and plant-related activities. People's positive relationship to plants goes all the way back to the beginning of our first major civilizations, but horticulture therapy hit its stride in the 20th century. In the 1940s and 1950s, Veterans Administration hospitals used on-site gardens to help with rehabilitation efforts. In the 1970s, the American Horticulture Therapy Association was founded, validating therapeutic horticulture as a professional field of work with guidelines and certifications to become a Horticultural Therapist.

The benefits of therapeutic horticulture for people living with mental illness include decreased stress and anxiety, an increased feeling of well-being, engagement and sense of accomplishment. Gardening itself can encourage increased physical activity. Moving mulch, weeding, and seeding for example, help refine both gross and fine motor skills respectively. Gardening naturally fosters social interaction and communication. Gardening at Hopewell is a team effort which helps build a sense of community and can increase an individual's communication skills.



Read **The Therapeutic Benefits of Working with Plants** blog by **Kelly Flynn, MS, Garden and Landscape Manager**, and other informative blogs by Hopewell clinicians, at www.hopewellcommunity.org/ blog or scan this QR code.

WELCOME to Our New Hopewell Board Member



JANAЕ PETERS

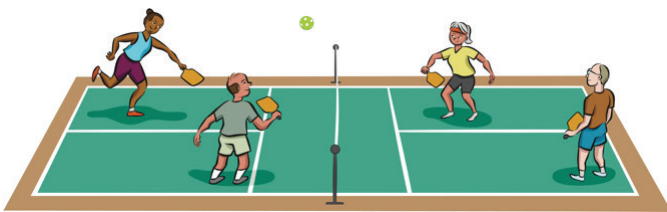
Janae Peters has been an educator for 15 years, working with secondary school, undergraduate, and graduate students. Her focus is on supporting access, opportunity, care, and connection for learners, and addressing adolescent mental health needs through proactive and responsive approaches. Janae currently serves as Dean of Students at the Mastery School of Hawken. During the summers, she teaches graduate social work classes as an adjunct instructor and community engagement director at the Smith College School for Social Work, and works as a consultant and facilitator for organizations focused on equity.

Janae's past work experiences include crisis services, outpatient therapy, group therapy, teaching first-generation undergraduates, and supporting leadership development through executive coaching. She graduated with highest honors in English Literature from Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio, and holds a master's in clinical social work from Smith College School for Social Work in Northampton, Massachusetts. Outside of her work, Janae spends time with her family, plays bass, writes poetry, reads, and plays pickleball, volleyball, softball, and especially loves golfing with her fiancé, Lancelot.

from the WISHING WELL

We appreciate non-monetary gifts-in-kind which enhance our activities and programs.

Thank you to Misty Mahan for purchasing the pickleball net from our amazon.com wish list.



SOME OTHER ITEMS ON ARE AMAZON WISH LIST ARE:

- Pickleball paddles and balls. (\$72)
- Concert size ukeleles for our Musical Journey Group. (\$66 each)
- Outdoor badminton set



Visit our website at hopewellcommunity.org/support-us/wishing-well or click on this QR code with a smart device to see items on our Amazon Wishing Well list. Purchases will be shipped directly to the farm.

If it is more convenient, please make a monetary contribution and indicate which item(s) you would like us to purchase on your behalf.



We need more all-weather rocking chairs for rocking and talking. A local Amish builder builds sturdy rockers for \$250.

Call Ann Thompson at the Development Office, 440-247-0912, if you would like to contribute a new rocker.

OUR TEAM, OUR PASSIONS:

Savannah Schindelar

Spend an hour with **Admissions Coordinator Savannah Schindelar** and you will no doubt experience her enjoyable laugh . . . it's as broad as the Cuyahoga River!

As a member of the admissions team, Savannah facilitates Hopewell's admission application process with potential residents and their families, as well as meeting with residents on their first day at Hopewell for intake. She also takes the lead in securing prior authorization for insurance and participates in utilization review. "My primary role is in client care services. I review clinical documentation and some diagnostics, and I work with the clinicians to secure coverage for residents with commercial insurance policies," she explained.

Savannah's success depends on her ability to clearly communicate about Hopewell to people who don't know what a therapeutic farm community is. "I find immense satisfaction that in my role I can get authorization for someone who wants to be here," she said.

By her own admission, Savannah has a very eclectic background. "I'm a jack of all trades, including auto collision repair and welding," she reports. "I grew up on a farm in Geauga County and I wanted to get out of the country for a while, so in 2021 I went to Chicago to explore some new opportunities. For a while I worked in security and was a bouncer, and eventually I landed a position as an office administrator for a Cognitive Behavioral Therapy practice." You'll never guess what else she found in Chicago. . . more on that later.

Savannah returned to the area to be closer to family in 2023. Now back in her childhood home, she enjoys time at the gym and spends a lot of time outside where she can indulge in her fondness for bugs. "The science of bugs amazes me. My favorite is the cicada. You can always tell it's the dog days of summer when you can hear the cicadas chirping."

About that other thing Savannah found in Chicago: it was love – her partner, Louis. He has visited Ohio to meet Savannah's family, and this past February, Savannah joined him in his home country, the North Island of New Zealand. When asked about their best day, she did not hesitate. "It was on Tora Beach, where we could be our natural five-year-old selves looking in tidal pools for critters, starfish, crabs, and shellfish. We lost track of time and adult responsibilities and got to be kids. Returning to that state of innocence with Louis was definitely soul food and good for the heart," she remembered.

"Working at Hopewell provides the opportunity to do a little good in the world. I don't believe that ultimate good can be achieved in one fell swoop – it takes a lot of tiny efforts. I can help by suiting up and showing up for those with mental illness," Savannah stated. "It's a long-term goal to be a licensed clinician so I can be involved in clinical activities." And about that other thing? With that broad laugh, Savannah reported that there's a four-year plan to settle down with Louis here. . . or there. More on that later!



“

Working at Hopewell provides the opportunity to do a little good in the world.

HONORARY & MEMORIAL GIFTS

NOVEMBER 1, 2024 – FEBRUARY 21, 2025

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The wonderful staff who help people find their way

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440-247-0912 so that we may correct our records.

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At Hopewell, we empower individuals to function at their highest level of effectiveness, leading to a more satisfying, self-reliant, and independent life, both during and after their stay.

Using the healing powers of clinical engagement, our therapeutic community, nature, and meaningful work, Hopewell's program transforms the whole person: mind, body, and spirit.

25th SUMMER SOLSTICE *sponsors as of 2/28/25*

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We thank the generous individuals and companies who committed to sponsoring Hopewell's Summer Solstice Event!

See page 3 for additional information.

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