

Hopewell Celebrates a Quarter Century of Service

Throughout 2021, Hopewell will celebrate twenty-five years of service to adults with serious mental illness. The first resident was welcomed to the farm on **February 3, 1996**.

In a book published in 2016 (available for purchase at www.hopewellcommunity.org/support-us/store) to commemorate Hopewell's twentieth anniversary, founder and life trustee **Clara T. Rankin** described her original vision for the organization:



"I visualized that future residents would come to Hopewell to find a wholesome and serene atmosphere, with acceptance of the best that is in each of them. They could begin to thrive and move on with their lives. I imagined a place where residents would get a feeling of being close to nature, to the earth. I've always believed that nature has great power to heal."

Mrs. Rankin was initially encouraged by **Dr. Herbert Meltzer**, a researcher in schizophrenia at University Hospitals, who explained that the concept was not unique; therapeutic communities existed in Europe as early as the fifteenth century. But the idea had not taken widespread hold in the United States, and today Hopewell remains one of only five therapeutic communities in the country that are based around working farms.

"My husband Alfred, who was a good, practical man, told me to be prepared that Hopewell might not succeed. His comments did not affect me at all. I never had any doubt about bringing the idea to fruition. I did not think about failure."

Of course, with the hard work of Mrs. Rankin and the unwavering support of her family and many other friends and advisors who shared her vision, Hopewell did succeed. Today the organization proudly maintains Mrs. Rankin's original vision, providing a **comprehensive healing model** that combines the power of nature with excellent clinical care, meaningful work experiences and a supportive therapeutic community that has helped hundreds of adults with mental illness discover a life of meaning and fulfillment.

Hopewell plans to celebrate the organization's Twenty-Fifth Anniversary throughout 2021 with activities taking place on the twenty-fifth of each month starting in February. A special **"Anniversary Celebration" will be held on June 25, 2021** replacing the organization's traditional "Summer Solstice" benefit which was cancelled in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Details for this event and other celebratory activities will be announced soon.

In the meantime, Hopewell is extremely grateful to Mrs. Rankin, the Board of Directors, residents, staff and families, and the hundreds of volunteers and friends who have contributed time, talent, and treasure over the past quarter century to provide this wonderful community for adults with serious mental illness. We look forward to the next twenty-five years with great anticipation!

SOME OF HOPEWELL'S HISTORIC MILESTONES INCLUDE:

- 1993 Board of Directors formed and organization incorporated as a non-profit.
- 1994 Property acquired in Mesopotamia, Ohio – a former working farm and bed-and-breakfast is reimaged as a therapeutic community.
- 1996 First resident welcomed.
- 1997 New resident cottage built and dining room added to Main House.
- 1999 Second resident cottage built.
- 2000 Hopewell Endowment Fund is established with a fundraising campaign.
- 2001 Hopewell is licensed by Ohio Department of Mental Health.
- 2003 Equine Assisted Learning Program launched.
- 2006 Hopewell receives first three-year accreditation by Committee on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities. (Hopewell remains the only such farm community in the U.S. so accredited by CARF.)
- 2010 David Cutler Conservatory constructed and dedicated.
- 2019 Richard J. Swadey Community Center dedicated with nearly 8,000 square feet of community, education and year-round exercise space for residents and staff.
- 2020 Despite a global pandemic, Hopewell launches a Transition Services Program in partnership with University Circle, Inc. and Circle-based institutions to provide discharged residents with housing, employment, education and cultural opportunities in addition to continued clinical support. Hopewell Annual Fund sets fundraising record.