



Twelveacres

Newsletter Spring 2006

In love and healing ministry show forth the Truth that makes men free. Christian Science Hymnal 12

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The Blessings for a Family Who Found Twelveacres for Their Son

Letter from Parent to the Executive Director:

During our recent conversation, I expressed my conviction that Twelveacres represents a social resource not appreciated enough for what it offers to the many families that struggle daily with the challenges of rearing a loved one who may be physically or intellectually challenged.

I cited briefly my family's history as an example of a striving to understand why a son was developing so differently than his siblings and how the demands of a constant devotion to his needs strained the fabric of our family unity. Our love for him was never in question but our collective emotional and physical capacities to cope were continuously under test.

We sought answers from prominent professionals in conventional medicine and all they offered us were drugs to manage his hyperactivity, which when administered left him unreceptive and exhausted—and that was intolerable. The consensus advice we received was to institutionalize him. They said: "He will never be more than you see him today. Direct your energies toward rearing your three other children; else he surely will ruin all of your lives."

It wasn't a prediction, it was a sentence, one that we could not believe and would not abide. Surely, we reasoned, a true and loving God did not give him to us conditionally. He was a special gift and one not to be discarded simply because he was different.

Although well intentioned, the recommendations we were given were mistaken. Thanks in great part to the spirituality, compassion, care and instruction he found at Twelveacres, our son no longer is given drugs of any kind and his hyperactivity has faded away. Now there are daily demonstrations of continuing growth and accomplishment which, however modest, make him an inspiration to our family. We see him as whole in all ways and his spirit perfect as the day he was born. We accept that the jour-

ney to fullness for him will be long, but we are comforted that he is the intention of a loving creator; however he may appear to others. ☺

*O Father-Mother God, whose plan
Hath given dominion unto man,
In Thine own image we may see
Man pure and upright, whole and free.
And ever through our work shall shine
That light whose glory, Lord, is Thine.*

Christian Science Hymnal: Hymn 12

Matching Grant Announced

The Board of Directors is pleased to announce an exciting opportunity for supporters of Twelveacres! Thanks to the generosity of The Daycroft School Foundation, a matching gift program has been established with a \$15,000 grant. Daycroft will match, 1:1, each dollar donated up to \$15,000. The original grant of \$15,000, matched by donations of \$15,000, will provide a total of \$30,000 for Twelveacres.

The purpose of the grant is to assist Twelveacres in its hiring and training of House Managers and a Program Director. The new staff will replace individuals who retired after long service to the organization and its clients.

Twelveacres' Board and staff are most grateful to the Board of The Daycroft School Foundation for their understanding of our mission and their desire to help us reach our goals.

We have six months in which to raise \$15,000 in matching funds. If you wish to join in helping Twelveacres meet the challenge, please send your donations before November 30, 2006. Remember to state that your donation is for the "Daycroft Matching Grant program." ☺



Current Progress and Healing at Twelveacres

*Christ's promise stands: they that believe
His works shall do, his power receive.*

Christian Science Hymnal: 12

Our current clients have had many wonderful demonstrations. As one House Manager said, "You would have to be here all the time to see all the healing that's going on. Even staff members who are not Christian Scientists have been healed while working here."



One of our clients at Braeburn House had spent much time in bed and had great difficulty moving. With the support of our staff, and the consecrated prayers of her practitioner, she is beginning to move freely.

Another client was quickly healed of a swollen eye after being brought home from her day program. A

client who was using a wheelchair for some time is now able to walk.

One client at Flores House who had difficulty talking is now talking so much that we are now teaching him when it's appropriate to talk. After a visit home for the holidays, his parents expressed great gratitude at the progress he has made in speaking in the last year. Several other clients have also made great progress in overcoming speech difficulties.

One of our clients did his taxes for the first time and expressed his newfound support for a tax decrease!

Many of our clients have reached or exceeded their goals in learning basic living skills such as cooking, cleaning, and caring for themselves. We have helped several individuals who have called us for help with caring for someone in another state. Truly, there is much to be grateful for! 🔄

Vocational Education Program

"Under Construction"

Due to the departure of some of our key managers, we have had significant challenges in implementing our Vocational Education Program for all of our clients. Just as, when a road is under construction, signs are posted and cars don't drive on the road until it's completed, we are not ready to share specific details about the program until the road is finished. Your generous donations for Vocational Education are reserved for that purpose, and we are deeply grateful for the outpouring of support. We will be sharing our testimony of healing in a future newsletter.



House News

The Braeburn House remodel is complete! This picture will give you an idea of the improvements

we have made to add a wheelchair accessible bathroom and ramps. We were able to purchase this home with a mortgage made possible by the generous help of a private foundation.

After much searching, with the assistance of Twelveacres Parents and Guardians Association member Karl Untch, we found and leased a larger, less expensive home to replace Harlan House. We will be moving into Bucknall House in June. ★

Healing the Unhealable

*...prove to all with following sign, the Word of God
is power divine."*

Christian Science Hymnal: 12

We had a *Healing the Unhealable* talk in Kansas City on February 21st. The speaker was Devon LaMaster, the Committee on Publication for Kansas. Her talk was well-received and we were grateful for the opportunity to meet many of our supporters in the Kansas City area. We look forward to meeting more of you at our talks in the next few months. Please contact us if a church or churches in your area would like to sponsor one of our *Healing the Unhealable* talks. On February 17th, we also had an informal meeting at Principia College and met several students who expressed an interest in working at Twelveacres. We hope to have at least one of them working with us this summer.

We Welcome to Twelveacres, Lin Watts

as Twelveacres Administrator and Executive Director

Recently, I heard a mother tell about how God guided her son's career in an amazing and unexpected way to help a village in Sudan. That got me thinking about how grateful I am for the journey that brought me to Twelveacres. When I look back on my career so far, I am amazed at the wonderful unfoldment of God's plan.

Many years ago, when I began helping my parents nurse my grandmother, I had no idea where that simple act would take me. I had thought I was going to law school after finishing college, but I enjoyed helping my grandmother so much that it led me to take training at The Arden Wood School of Christian Science Nursing in San Francisco.

Ever since then, it has been my joy to serve the cause of healing as a Christian Science nurse. Prior to working at Twelveacres, I became a Special Education teacher and taught in public schools in the Seattle area. I also served as the Director of Christian Science Nursing for El Dorado Vista, in Phoenix. While nursing, I witnessed many wonderful healings, including healings of growths, wounds, and the return to life of someone who had apparently passed away, but none of these healings were more wonderful than what I witnessed when I first arrived at Twelveacres.

When I first visited Twelveacres, I toured Twelveacres' homes and met one of the men who lives there. I was told that, prior to his coming to Twelveacres, he had been like the man who Jesus encountered in the tombs, (Mark 5:1-20),

"And when he was come out of the ship, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit,

Who had his dwelling among the tombs; and no man could bind him, no, not with chains:

And always, night and day, he was in the mountains, and in the tombs, crying, and cutting himself with stones."

When I met this man, he welcomed me with a hug and took me on a tour of the house. He was, to paraphrase the Bible, "...clothed and in his right mind." It was as though I had been transported to

the Bible times of old...But this happened a few months ago, at Twelveacres. At that moment, I felt the power of Twelveacres' holy work. I have felt it many times since.

This is an exciting time to work for Twelveacres. We are seeking to increase our service to the cause of Christian Science healing through our *Healing the Unhealable* talks and our Vocational Education Program.

With your support, we hope to give more of our *Healing the Unhealable* talks throughout the United States. We often receive phone calls from people from all over the country who are struggling to help Christian Scientists challenged with developmental issues. Those in need often cannot move to California or are too young to receive our services. For these individuals, our *Healing the Unhealable* talks will offer an opportunity to begin to find help, to get the training and resources they need. The question and answer sessions that we hold at each talk are a vital, first step to help Christian Scientists of all ages with special needs.

We are in the process of a nationwide search for House Managers and a Program Director to replace individuals who retired after long service to Twelveacres. Recruiting managers with the greatest possible experience in education and care is vital for our continuing operations and for this mission of expanding our healing outreach.

We are grateful to all of you who have caught the vision of Twelveacres and who give generously of your prayerful and financial support. Such unselfish giving has helped make our accomplishments possible. 🍷



Lin Watts

“Such unselfish giving has helped make our accomplishments possible.”

Changes to Twelveacres Board

A Warm Welcome to New Board Members

David Creighton has undergraduate degrees from Stanford University, and received his MBA from the University of Pennsylvania. He retired after 17 years with FMC Corporation, working in Strategic Planning, Operations Management and International Program Management. Subsequently, he volunteered in the Fremont public schools for 6 years, directing junior high choruses. He became interested in Twelveacres as a possible residence for his son who is identified as developmentally disabled.

David Howell spent three decades in ownership and financial/administrative roles with two different companies to develop alternate energy resources. He's a graduate of Principia College (Mathematics) and Stanford University (Graduate School of Business). He welcomed opportunities to serve the full range of elective, appointive, and membership assignments as a branch church member, and recently spent five years working in various capacities in Boston at The Mother Church.


Jack Pihl retired after 33 years with Thomson McKinnon Securities, serving as Executive Vice President. He has worked in the community, receiving a distinguished service award for civic service from the Anderson, Indiana Chamber of Commerce, where he served as president. He has

experience in community art, music, and theatre organizations, serving on numerous fundraising committees. He has worked with the Asher Student Foundation and the Adventure Unlimited national development committee.

Donna Kneeland, New Role

Donna Kneeland, former Board member for Twelveacres, has stepped down from her Board role to undertake a year-long project of carrying out Development efforts for Twelveacres.

The Board of Directors feels it is important that Twelveacres use recognized and proven development strategies to obtain better cash flow and to achieve greater financial stability, both in day-to-day operations and in the long term.

Donna has served as Principia's Associate Director of Patrons, Development Director for the Monterey County Symphony and, most recently, as Development Director for the Monterey Museum of Art for seventeen years before she resigned in 2003. Now a consultant to non-profits, she assists organizations in all aspects of fundraising, including grant writing and planned giving. 

Heartfelt Thank You

Our deep appreciation to **James Munch** and **Barry Gray** for their years of dedicated service serving on the Twelveacres board.

Twelveacres Board of Directors

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Lin Watts
Executive Director

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From October 17, 2005 through April 30, 2006 Twelveacres received greatly appreciated donations in the names of the following:

In Memory of:

Jerome Burman	Alice Hellyer	Sam Lugonja	Norma Louise Sheldon
Margaret Caldwell	Bob Hickman	Jim McGrew, CSB	Natalie Shepard
Charles M. Carr, CSB	Kay Holser	Kathryn L. McWilliams	Sallie S. Shepard
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In Honor of:

Kendall Alisch	Robbin Collins	Amy Long	Alan Schmidt
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