As the saying goes, “A House is built of brick and stone, but a Home is made of Love alone.” Carrie Filling Vajen first built her Home on the love of Christ and then lasting examples of love and concern like those of Pastor Emil and Mrs. Moser. pages 2-3
The Blessings of Your Lasting Gift

Throughout our history, the LMM ministries have been blessed by countless donors who have stepped forward in creative ways to support and encourage the work of these vital organizations. More than 190 families have gone before us and made the legacy decision to support the work of Filling Homes, Luther Home of Mercy and/or Lutheran Social Services of Northwest Ohio through their planned gift. These considerate decisions have provided more than $5.8 million in financial resources to sustain these ministries for future generations. We are forever grateful for this legacy and for their trust in us, and we encourage you to think about ways you too, can bless your family and these important ministries with your own planned giving.

Making a planned gift does not depend on the amount of financial resources you possess. It is something all of us can do. I hope that you will take a moment and consider the important part you might play in our ministries’ futures:

- **A Bequest** in your will is a simple way to leave a lasting legacy. Through planning, you can protect and bless your family and those people and organizations who mean the most to you. A will can give you peace of mind, and it can provide a steady roadmap for your next of kin.

- **A Life Insurance Policy** is another simple way to make your charitable wishes known. Designating any of Lutheran Ministries of Mercy affiliates as the owner and/or beneficiary of a policy guarantees your final wishes are honored.

- **Retirement Fund Accounts** are often your largest asset. You can give all or part of these assets to the Foundations associated with Filling Home, Luther Home of Mercy or Lutheran Social Services of Northwest Ohio, both during your lifetime and/or upon your death.

- **Real Estate** (land, primary residences, vacation homes or farmland) can be donated to these ministries at any time and deducted at fair market value—currently at up to 30 percent of your adjusted gross income. These assets are retained for use by the ministries when appropriate or sold to benefit the work of the organizations.

- **A Charitable Remainder Trust, a Charitable Lead Trust and Donor Advised Funds** along with the very popular Charitable Gift Annuity and Appreciated Stock are other forms of gifting that you and your family may consider.

Many times, planning for your life’s legacy is overlooked or often postponed until late in life. Yet, it is one of the most important ways to bless your family, your church and the ministries you care about. If you would like to learn more, we would be pleased to connect you with experts who can assist you in exploring the benefits of many planned giving options. If you have already designated our ministries in your plans—THANK YOU—we would love to know. Please do not hesitate to call!

**Did you know?** Despite the importance of wills, more than 50% of Americans still don’t have one.
**Bridge 2 Equality**

A Rally at the State House

In a show of unity and strength in the Developmental Disabilities field, several representatives of Filling Homes joined hundreds of Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) at a rally organized on the steps of the Ohio Statehouse in Columbus, Ohio, on May 16, 2019. Also in attendance at the rally were many individuals who are served by DSPs; representatives from other provider organizations; State Representative Scott Lipps (R-Franklin); and director of the Department of Developmental Disabilities, Jeff Davis.

The purpose of the gathering was to encourage lawmakers to address the staffing crisis of DSPs and to bring attention to insufficient pay within the profession.

The average dsp wage is $10.55. The poverty level for a family of 4 is $11.05.

At this level of pay and with the good economy providing higher paid opportunities elsewhere, finding enough people to fill the positions necessary to provide care for individuals who need it, has become more difficult.

Staffing shortages cause burnout amounting to three out of five DSPs, or 35 percent, leaving the job within a year. This frequent turnover greatly affects the life of the person needing assistance. An example of the disruption was shared at the event describing a gentleman with Cerebral Palsy. The inconsistency of staff affects how he is able to get to work—whether he is able to arrive on time and ultimately whether he is able to keep his job and in some cases, whether he can get hired at all.

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**Lord Have Mercy**

It’s a simple prayer, one that we have offered many times through the years. Three words: “Lord, have mercy.” We know, of course, that Lord’s mercy is already there for all in need. Still we pray. Anyone who has ever struggled against a world of darkness would know the importance of such a prayer.

Seventy years ago, on July 31, 1949, Pastor Emil Moser was the featured Speaker for Luther Home of Mercy’s Annual Festival at Williston, Ohio. Prayers ascended in thanksgiving for the Light of God’s mercy. Though we have no record of title or text, the sermon hymn for Pastor Moser’s message was “Softly and Tenderly, Jesus is Calling.”

Why should we linger and heed not His mercies—Mercies for you and for me?

I wonder if Carrie Filling Vajen and Filling family members might have been in attendance. Doers of the Word and not hearers only, they rarely missed these gatherings.

And, I wonder if Pastor Moser had any thought:

- That the Lord was already at work, nurturing the vision of another Home of Mercy—one that would be located in Napoleon, Ohio.
- That, in ten years time, this vision would be realized; and he would be called to serve as its pastoral leader.

Established in 1959, Filling Memorial Home of Mercy was the Lord’s doing, an answer to prayers offered years before. Still we pray, and the Lord continues to answer—every day, all day and all through the night.

Lord, have mercy.

- Pastor Don Wukotich, Executive Director Emeritus
This Home is Where the Heart is

It was 1958, and Carrie was 83 years old, when her conversation with the then pastor of Emanuel Lutheran Church in Napoleon took place. She wanted to build a home “to help handicapped children and adults” and those “who are completely helpless”.

The Filling family, who over the years worked hard and acquired a significant amount of property and farmland in the area, had a history of generosity in the community. It was no surprise that Carrie and her family wanted to donate a very large portion of the family’s estate to this new “venture in faith”.

The story continued at 1:30 pm on the afternoon of October 26, 1959, when Pastor Emil Moser and his wife, Miriam, welcomed Patty Lee Queen into the Home as the first resident and addition to the “Filling Family”.

Pastor and Mrs. Moser attended to Carrie Filling Vajen’s legacy, the Filling Memorial Home of Mercy, just as they would have any household. They often referred to their “Filling Family” and as father and mother of the family were known to tuck each of the

When Sophie Caroline Filling Vajen (affectionately known to us as Carrie) expressed her desire to build a home for people with disabilities, she wasn’t thinking of some sort of institution. She wanted it to be a home. A home where the most needful and fragile of us could go to be cared for in a family atmosphere—where love and concern and respect lived as well. She revealed what was in her heart and the hearts of the Filling family when she approached Pastor Emil Moser with her idea of a Home.

Top: Pastor and Mrs Moser pose for a Filling family picture for a Crescent News article, circa 1967. Lower: Sue Funchion poses for a quick picture with long-time friend, Sean Miller.
Residents into bed before retiring themselves to the apartment upstairs for the night. This domestic example would serve as the blueprint for care to be followed for the next 60 years.

As we have taken this time of the 60th anniversary to seek and find records of the Filling Memorial Home of Mercy’s history, it is clear that all who have come after those first pioneers of this Home, have been dedicated to sharing Carrie’s vision and carrying out her mission.

An example from the past is this 1971 story, taken from an issue of Memories of Mercy—the newsletter that reported the happenings of the Home from 1959 until 1975—written by Filling’s second administrator, Pastor Raymond Quade: “What do you give one who cannot walk or talk or play with a toy or feed himself or dress himself or do the other “ordinary”, taken-for-granted things? Very simple: give him love in large doses—not for Christmas, but for Christ. Every day... It is doubtful that you will find joy and happiness evidenced more genuinely than in the faces of Tim and Chris, our Twin boys here at the Filling Home. They are the response to the kind of (care) that says to them, “I love you”. The smiles are their way of saying, ‘Yes, we know you love us. This is the greatest.’” A present example from this 2019 reflection on the legacy of Carrie Filling Vajen, taken from a conversation with one of Filling Homes’ health services coordinators, Sue Funchion, RN, who recently celebrated her 40th work anniversary at the home: “Filling Homes’ original purpose and that it’s faith-based is what makes it special. Carrie had a heart of gold. It wasn’t about the money to her. She was a giving person that wanted to care for those who couldn’t care for themselves or couldn’t find the care they needed. (As a nurse) I believe our passions are the same—I have that in common with Carrie. After 40 years, I can honestly say that 99.9 percent of the time, I want to get up and go to work. I love coming here, because the residents have accepted me as part of their family. It’s like my home too.”

These and so many other stories of love and family are shining examples of how Carrie’s sincere Christian desire to love and serve, and how the Mosers’ commitment to caring for family live on with all who have come after and surely all who are to come.

Filling Homes Community Center was filled on April 25th and 21 beautiful, designer purses went home with lucky bingo winners! Thank you to all who made Filling Homes Designer Purse Bingo a great success in 2019! With your support, we reached our goal! The $11,500 raised allowed us to purchase a new hydro-massage therapy tub for one of our living units. The tubs are vitally important pieces of equipment that ensure the good health of Filling’s residents. We are so grateful!
A History Rich in VOLUNTEERS

From the Men’s Garden Club of Henry County who placed the pine trees—the symbol of ever-green Christian faith according to Memories of Mercy, Dec 1960—that surround the original property (260 trees and shrubs in all), to the multitude of women from different churches, who sewed bibs and bed pads, baked birthday cakes for residents, processed and canned various garden fruits and vegetables, decorated Christmas trees, hosted events for the Home, to those who provided haircuts for residents, planted grass seed and a rose garden, filled in for staff when the Home was struck by the flu, did odd jobs around the grounds—the list goes on and on—Filling Homes has always been blessed by the generosity, kindness and can-do spirit of our leagues of volunteers! Truly, this ministry could not have endured these 60 years without you.

Speaking of volunteers...

The ladies pictured here (left to right) Marie Baker, Carol Dille, Arlene Freytag, Dora Titgameyer and Lillian Wachtman—each of whom have dedicated countless volunteer hours to Filling Homes over the years, went a step further, recently. To be helpful with sharing the story of Filling Homes for our 60th anniversary, they spent an afternoon over coffee sharing the wealth of their collective experiences and historical recollections of the Home, the Guild and volunteers in general. Thank you, Ladies, for always being willing to help!

In appreciation of Filling Homes’ regularly scheduled volunteers, a celebration was held at Johnson’s Ice Cream Shoppe, Napoleon. April is Volunteer Appreciation Month and a perfect time to say an extra special thank you. Terri Rodriguez, CEO, and Nancy Arps, volunteer coordinator, treated three very dedicated people to lunch and ice cream on behalf of Filling Homes because of their commitment to serving regular hours each week. They are: Kathy Higbea, Information Management; Laura Lause, Laundry; and Marcia Bearly (not pictured), Chapel Organist. We are so grateful for these and all who are give their time to further the mission of Filling Homes!
TRINITY PLACE
Amy Layman, information management secretary for Filling Homes in Williams County, recently asked participants of Trinity Place for help with a very special project. Her daughter, Katie Freese, occupational therapist for Community Hospitals and Wellness Center, was in need of blankets that would be donated to a program for Williams County Jobs and Family Services that gives them to kids in foster care as a tangible sign that they are loved. Amy donated the fleece and Trinity participants cut and tied it into 5 blankets! Katie rounded up 30 blankets in all! Trinity Place loved giving back to the community!

FILLING HOMES COMMUNITY CENTER
Melissa Spencer, participant at FHCC, presented a basket that she and other participants and staff assembled for the Henry County Health Department to be given to a family in need seeking services from the Help Me Grow program. Commissioner Mark Adams and staff members gratefully received the basket. Way to go FHCC!

HAB CENTER
To honor the memory of our dear friend, Kate Harding who passed away earlier this year, Filling Homes’ Habilitation Center designed t-shirts that were a spot-on depiction of the Kate we all loved. She was a strong and mission-driven woman who wanted to make every day count doing for others. These shirts were sold and proceeds were used to pack and distribute care packages to people fighting cancer. Kate would be thrilled to know that her friends remember her by helping others.

SOARING ARTS STUDIO
Once again, Soaring Arts has left a colorful impression on the City of Napoleon! There was a terrific turnout for Soaring Arts Studio’s revealing of four new murals for the downtown pocket park across from the Studio on W. Washington St. In addition to the murals, the public was introduced to new bicycle sculptures and a community piano. Add to all this art a DJ (Loco Sounds), a food truck (2nd Chance Food Truck) and a Studio open house, and it was quite a street party celebration! We are so thankful for the support of our community! Congratulations artists!
MEMORIAL

The following gifts were received between April 31 and June 30, 2019

In Loving Memory of Albert Hahn
Thelma Hahn, Hamler, OH

In Loving Memory of Alvin Warncke
Charles & Kathy Flory, Defiance, OH
Lonnie & Constance Warncke
Defiance, OH

In Loving Memory of Arlene Agler
Karmen Knipp, Holgate, OH
Verl & Merna Homier, New Bavaria, OH

In Loving Memory of Barry Flanagan
Paul & Sandra Oehrtman, Napoleon, OH

In Loving Memory of Birgit Passler Cox
Ray & Marie Cox
Indian Rocks Beach, FL

In Loving Memory of Carl Dettmer
Betty Ward, Napoleon, OH

In Loving Memory of David Feichtner
James & Elaine Brooks, Amarillo, TX

In Loving Memory of Delbert Behrman
Rita Mahlman, Deshler, OH
Walter & Lorna Houglad, Napoleon, OH

In Loving Memory of Don Botjier
Fred & Peggy Weber, Hamler, OH

In Loving Memory of Emily Jackson
Gary & Carol Bernath, Napoleon, OH
Steven & Lori Siclair, Napoleon, OH
Michael & Linda Francis
Bowling Green, OH

Napoleon High School Swimming Boosters
Napoleon, OH
Shirrel & Janet Petzoldt, Holland, OH
Todd & Carol Slight, Napoleon, OH
Terry & Jean Cohrs, Napoleon, OH
Pamela Ferguson, Defiance, OH
Cheryl Ritchey, Napoleon, OH
Anthony & Lori Adams, Napoleon, OH
Patricia Mitchez, Metamora, OH
James & Lynne Etoil, Napoleon, OH
Marsha Perkins, Swanton, OH
Michael & Margaret Whitman
Liberty Center, OH
James & Lori Drewe, Napoleon, OH
Paul & Sandra Oehrtman, Napoleon, OH
David & Eileen Stough
Ridgeville Corners, OH

In Loving Memory of Fred Koster
Elverna Koster, Hamler, OH
Wanda Lou Badenhop, Hamler, OH

In Loving Memory of Gerald Franz
John & Anne Taylor, Napoleon, OH

In Loving Memory of Joann Schappert
Friends & Family of Joann Schappert
Napoleon, OH
St. Mark’s Lutheran WELCA, Defiance, OH

In Loving Memory of Joseph DeCair & Janet Vajen
Carma DeCair, Defiance, OH

In Loving Memory of Karen Kemper
Randolph & Theresa Reeder
Cincinnati, OH
Tom Alexander, Chapel Hill, NC
Terry & Sherrilyn Kerns, Dayton, OH
David & Sherri Luthman, Kettering, OH
State Farm Insurance Companies
Centerville, OH
Glenn & Patricia Alexander
Miamisburg, OH
Detroit Tire, Xenia, OH
Chris & Cindy Schubart, West Chester, OH
Anthony & Marliou Rulli, Fairborn, OH
Dan & Connie Vanderhaar, Blue Ash, OH
Linda Meyers, Kettering, OH
James Frey, Springboro, OH
Hamid & Razia Abdulla, Dayton, OH
Tom & Patty Sableski, Dayton, OH
Thomas & Cheryl Hoefler, Kettering, OH
Abby & Max Kemper, Miamisburg, OH
Douglas Gentry, Dayton, OH
Faye Haag, Cincinnati, OH
Lawrence & Susan Bernhard
Cincinnati, OH
Harworth Tire and Auto LLC, Xenia, OH
Michael & Cindy Payne, Wilmington, OH
Carroll High School, Dayton, OH
Donald & Judith Birchfield, Dayton, OH
Amie Gentry, Franklin, OH
James Belcher, Kettering, OH
Fenske, Foust, Cheeks, Klein and Sisk Families
Beaufort, SC
Stephen & Suzanne Frankenberger
Dayton, OH
Neil Korte, Cincinnati, OH
Steven Weaver, Dayton, OH
Laurie Fuhr, West Chester, OH

In Loving Memory of Larry Bockelman,
Shirley Dorner, George Troutman
Paul & Ruth Bockelman, Port Royal, SC

In Loving Memory of Laureen Boff
Mark & Linda Boff, Bloomfield Hills, MI

In Loving Memory of Lawrence Langenhop
Ronald & Diane Sonnenberg, Hamler, OH

In Loving Memory of Lillian Knappe
James & Phyllis Defiance, OH

In Loving Memory of Loved Ones
Rita Mahlman, Deshler, OH

In Loving Memory of Mildred Miller
Emanuel Lutheran Church Women
Napoleon, OH

In Loving Memory of Mildred Slagle
Betty Ward, Napoleon, OH

In Loving Memory of Nicole Hunt
Donald & Kim Cordes, Napoleon, OH
Todd & Carol Slight, Napoleon, OH
Albert & Sandra Bell, Napoleon, OH

In Loving Memory of Paul Scapaticci
Glenn & Patricia Alexander
Miamisburg, OH

In Loving Memory of Rita Welker
Kenneth & Janet Meyer, Napoleon, OH

In Loving Memory of Russell Butler
Gene Cline, Mark Center, OH
Gloria Hussey, Chicago Heights, IL

In Loving Memory of Ruth Johnson
David & Eileen Stough
Ridgeville Corners, OH

In Loving Memory of Terry Guelde
Pauline Knapp, Winter Haven, FL

In Loving Memory of Vicki Gray
Fred & Peggy Weber, Hamler, OH

In Loving Memory of Walter Nelson
Lola Nelson, Perrysburg, OH

In Honor of Ervin & Lorena Grobogad
William & Marilyn Schwiebert, Hamler, OH

In Honor of Sue Function’s Work Anniversary at Filling Homes
Glenn and Patricia Alexander
Miamisburg, OH

IN-KIND

Carol Flowers McClure, OH
Kevin Gerken Napoleon, OH
Henry County Historical Society
Napoleon, OH
Karen Harms Napoleon, OH
Margaret Rupp Napoleon, OH
Marian Dickmann Napoleon, OH
Mark & Colleen Dotson Waterville, OH
New Bavaria Firemen’s Auxiliary
New Bavaria, OH
Sharon Dailey Elmoe, OH
St John Lutheran Church Deshler, OH
St Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church
New Bavaria, OH
Suzanne Johnson Archbold, OH
Toledo Mud Hens Toledo, OH
Trinity Lutheran Church
Wapakoneta, OH
Wauseon Women’s Guild
of Filling Memorial Home
Wauseon, OH
Zion Lutheran Church
Ridgeville Corners, OH

“God provides his children with material abundance not primarily to raise our standard of living but to raise our standard of giving”
-Randy Alcorn
A recent visit from the Vintage Motor Car Club of America-Defiance Chapter offered staff and residents an opportunity to see great vintage vehicles and visit with club members. For the second year, the VMCCA has donated $1,000 to Filling Homes ministry when coordinating their annual coffee stop at Filling Homes.
Change of Address

Please clip and return this form, if you or someone you know has changed addresses. Thank You!

Name______________________________________________________________
Address____________________________________________________________
City________________________________State____Zip_____________________
Phone________________________________email__________________________

☐ Please make address/name correction
☐ I am receiving two copies
☐ I would like to receive the newsletter via email

We are thankful for donations of any of the following items to help out in the kitchen:

| Snack-pack | Peanut butter | Crackers |
| pudding    | (saltine, graham) |
| Jello      | Soup (all types) |
| Fruit juice| Canned meat |
| Rice       | Canned fruit (all sizes) |
| Macaroni   | Canned vegetables (all sizes) |
| Spaghetti  | Syrup (pancake, karo, chocolate, strawberry) |
| Noodles    | Drink mixes |
| Mustard    | Zip lock bags |
| Catsup     | Cupcake liners |
| Cream of Wheat | Paper bags (brown, white) |
| Cream of Rice | Paper towels |
| Oatmeal    | Sugar (brown, white) |
| Cold cereals | Cooking oil |
| Mixes (cake, pancake, muffin) | Shortening |

Community Chapel Service Returns

Visitors from Trinity-Moulton Lutheran Church in Wapakoneta made Filling Homes’ first Community Worship service extra special. Pastor Denise spoke to a packed chapel about how life is a lot like brownies, and Trinity members sang provided instruments for all to participate! As an extra special gift, they brought a donation of supplies collected by their congregation and gave a hand-made pillow to each of our residents and clients to remind them that they are loved. Thank you to Pastor Denise for a wonderful service and to all who attended to make it such a great success. Especially thank you to Pastor Melody, the youth group and all the members of Trinity-Moulton who came, for caring and for reaching out!
† Filling Memorial Home of Mercy †
N160 State Route 108
Napoleon, OH 43545
419-592-6451
fillinghome.org

Change Service Requested

The Women’s Guild of Filling Homes...
Festival of Tables
Ladies Luncheon

Saturday
September 28, 2019
12:00 noon

at Filling Homes
N160 State Route 108
Napoleon, OH 43545

in the Therapy Center
(Doors open at 11:00 am for a preview of the tables)

Tickets $15 (presale only)

Proceeds benefit the residents and clients of Filling Homes

There’s still time to serve as a table hostess!
Call Micky 567-454-9741 or
Bonnie 419-533-5661
to find out how!

Featuring...
THE HOT FLASHES

These "young at heart" ladies sing 3-part harmony with a twist! They will entertain you with renditions of songs that will take you back to the golden years of the ’50s and ’60s. The Hot Flashes will have you tappin’ your feet and singin’ along in no time!

Enjoy the creative table designs, the fabulous lunch, the doo woppin’ entertainment and the support of a great cause!
Please join us!