MESSAGE TO THE COMMUNITY

A century ago, 14 deacons from the Reformed tradition vowed to change the delivery of care for the mentally ill. The goal was to offer compassionate, loving care guided by Christian principles. Their unwavering commitment led the renovation of a farmhouse on Goffle Hill into New Jersey’s first private psychiatric hospital.

From this 17-bed hospital sitting on 10 acres, Christian Health Care Center today has developed into a broad spectrum of mental-health, elder-care, and residential services with 11 buildings on 78 acres in Wyckoff and Hawthorne, in addition to a satellite location in Wayne. It has undoubtedly surpassed our faithful forefathers’ expectations.

Throughout its century of service, the Center has been blessed with trustees, staff, volunteers, and supporters who recognize the potential of the organization. They understand the need to be visionaries and to match the Center’s core values with the changing needs of the community.

We are privileged to serve this outstanding facility during such an historic occasion. The Center is a unique product of faith in God, and we are humbled to be part of an institution which successfully unites advances in medical science and technology with core Christian principles to deliver high-quality health care and services.

We extend our sincere thanks to the dedicated employees, physicians, and volunteers who put the Center’s mission and vision into practice every day. We are not seeking to be the biggest at what we do. We’re seeking to be the best. We have a responsibility to use the talents, abilities, and resources that the Lord has given us to care for our community. We look forward to our next century of service. We acknowledge God’s great providence and mercy toward us, and give thanks to Him for His continued guidance.

DOUGLAS A. STRUYK, CPA, LNHA
President and CEO
SANDRA DeYOUNG, RN, EdD
Chair, Board of Trustees

PASTORAL REFLECTIONS ON A CENTURY: IT BEGINS WITH TRUST

By Rev. James Knol, LCSW, Director, Pastoral Care; Chaplain, Ramapo Ridge Psychiatric Hospital

When the founders of Christian Health Care Center first gathered to commit themselves to a ministry of caring for the mentally ill, their concern was to address an immediate need. It actually took a number of months and years, however, to gather support. During the interim, there must have been days of uncertainty when they wondered if they were doing the “right” thing. Even though we may believe our decisions are well-grounded, we have no idea how they might finally materialize. So what is it that sustains us in our conviction to help others – especially when the hurdles seem insurmountable?

For that group of 14 visionaries a century ago, a clue resides in the way they chose to begin the meeting at which they formally organized the facility. They began by singing from the Psalms, the words to which read: “Be mindful of Thy mercy, O Lord, and of Thy steadfast love, for they have been from of old.” (25:6) Apparently, there was a sense of confidence that the God who had shown faithfulness in the past would again be merciful to them as they moved forward. When faced with an uncertain present, we can be comforted in the certainty of God’s faithfulness. If the Spirit of God is in the seed of the vision, then we can trust that God will bring it to fruition. Of course, the future will be plagued with hurdles and problems, but the reassuring promise of God is to be present in our journey.

The hymn “Gracious God, Whose Word Brought Forth”, commissioned for the occasion of our centennial year, makes reference to the Center’s trusting founders, bound like all of us to the present, but awake to the possibilities of future blessings. “Triune God … leading farther than we dreamed … keep us faithful, hopeful, true …” May the promises of God generate trustful beginnings in all our hearts.
How do you build a health-care facility?

On the surface, the process is fairly straightforward: acquire land or a building, develop architectural plans, and begin construction or renovation. But building an institution requires more than bricks and mortar. It requires a steadfast belief in and dedication to the organization’s mission which can stand the test of time.
Such is the foundation of Christian Health Care Center (CHCC). The non-profit organization – which today encompasses 78 acres in Wyckoff and Hawthorne, with a satellite facility in Wayne – offers elder-care, mental-health, and residential services in a compassionate and loving environment consistent with the Christian principles on which the institution was created.

The Center’s history begins the night of June 27, 1911, at the Second Christian Reformed Church in Paterson. A group of 14 deacons from local Reformed churches gathered to discuss building a hospital which would provide physical, mental, and spiritual care for individuals with mental illness. In attendance were John Minnema, John Lont, John Reitsma, H. Van Ostenbridge, R. Tulner, I. Blauw, John Walchenbach, Derk Kuiken, Rev. Jan Robbert, Peter De Leeuw, M. Lantser, H. Smit, Samuel Van der Meulen, and Shuart Andre. Mr. Minnema was chosen as Chair and Mr. Walchenbach as Secretary.

The institution, the group decided, would charge only minimal fees to cover overhead expenses. All individuals, however, would receive care, regardless of his/her ability to pay.

Treatment of the mentally ill was quite appalling. In the decades prior to the creation of Christian Health Care Center, individuals with mental illnesses were cared for in asylums, jails, and almshouses. In the late 19th century when asylums were created, local governments were expected to fund care for mentally ill patients. To avoid the expense, localities placed the mentally ill in jails and almshouses, where conditions were despicable. Because of the lack of funds, conditions at asylums became just as inhumane.

With the passage of State Care Acts between 1894 and World War I, treatment of the mentally ill slowly underwent a transformation. Financial responsibility for care was transferred to state governments, which designated funding to establish state asylums. Additionally, knowledge about mental illness was increasing. The disease, professionals realized, came in many forms and was treatable.

The deacons who met in Paterson vowed to offer a higher level of care following Christian principles. They left the June 27 meeting with a plan of action. Each would go back to his congregation to discuss their proposal and, hopefully, receive support.

Three months later, on September 28, another meeting was again held at Paterson’s Second Christian Reformed Church. This historic gathering marked the formal establishment of the Christian Health Care Center, individuals with mental illnesses were cared for in asylums, jails, and almshouses. In the late 19th century when asylums were created, local governments were expected to fund care for mentally ill patients. To avoid the expense, localities placed the mentally ill in jails and almshouses, where conditions were despicable. Because of the lack of funds, conditions at asylums became just as inhumane.

The original farmhouse circa 1920s

At the dedication of Building 2 May 23, 1921, two young girls, Ruth Lista and Jacoba Wynbeek, dressed as nurses and held pails in which to collect donations.

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Insane Asylum Association. The association, which had grown to 50 members, elected a board of directors, which would later be called a board of trustees. The slate included Rev. J.C. Wielhouwer, President; John Minnema, Vice President; Adrian G.D. Gerritsen, Secretary; William S. Pontier, Corresponding Secretary; John Walchenbach, Treasurer; John J. Vermeulen, Assistant Treasurer; and John Sikkema, General Assistant. Paterson attorney Frank Smit handled the legal details. The official Certificate of Incorporation was received from Passaic County November 21, 1912.

The association’s first order of business was to raise funds to purchase land and build the hospital. Meetings were held at various churches. Congregants were encouraged to become association members for an annual fee of $1. Church collections and private donations, combined with membership fees, contributed to the treasury’s growth.

The association’s fund-raising efforts coincided with the time period during which the reputation of asylums was unfavorable. Consequently, a name change was approved at the June 15, 1916, meeting. The Christian Sanatorium Association Inc. was selected as the new moniker. Sanatorium comes from the Latin sanare, meaning to restore to health, and sanus means whole, healthy, and well. Sanatoriums were institutions where individuals with chronic diseases or who were recuperating from physical and/or mental problems received appropriate treatment.

By summer 1916 the treasury had grown to $1,100 – sufficient funds to buy land. A committee was charged with inspecting plots in Bergen and Passaic counties; all visited were unsuitable, however. Shortly thereafter, Mr. Vermeulen spotted an ad posted by Mr. and Mrs.
Charles Boonstra on Goffle Hill in Franklin Township, as Wyckoff was called at the time. The property consisted of 10 acres of land, a farmhouse with seven rooms, a large barn, and a 92-foot deep artesian well. The committee approved the property and location. The selling price was $4,500, but the Boonstras agreed to accept $1,000 in cash with the balance in bonds and a mortgage. The deal was completed September 14, 1916.

It was time to turn the dream into reality. Association members rallied together to renovate the farmhouse to make it suitable for patient care. The first task was to get running water in the farmhouse. Arend De Vos dug trenches and Mr. Vermuelen laid pipes. Mr. De Vos, with the assistance of Andrew Luiken, demolished the barn and, with the aid of Adrian G.D. Gerritsen, painted the farmhouse. Mr. De Vos, who lived in Prospect Park, eventually figured that, “I walked up and down Goffle Hill 178 times since there were no autos in those days, only horses and wagons. We timed ourselves. It took three-quarters of an hour to walk up the hill and one-half hour to walk down.”

In August 1917, after nearly six years of hard work and tireless fund raising, the Christian Sanatorium was dedicated in the name of God as the first private psychiatric hospital in New Jersey. William Veenstra, MD, who provided medical care free of charge, and Head Nurse Johanna Bartels, RN, were assisted by staff nurses Clara Meima, Marie De Boer, Christine Woudenberg, and Martha Rozendale. The first patient was admitted August 20.

A short time later, 10 rooms were added at a cost of $4,500. The project was funded by issuing $10 notes; most were re-paid, but some were donated to the association.

Christian San, as it became known, was immediately filled to capacity. The demand for its services led to overcrowding in a relatively short period of time. By fall 1919, the facility’s 17 patients were straining the San’s resources. New applications were received, but had to be denied due to lack of space.

The board met to discuss ways to accommodate new admissions while...
The trustees recognized that if the work of Christian San was to continue, the institution needed to grow. A campaign committee was organized to raise funds for new construction.

The committee raised $15,000, ample funds to purchase the property adjacent to Christian San which was owned by Mt. Arlington Farms Co. The 14 ½-acre plot included a stucco building suitable for the future superintendent’s residence and sufficient land on which to erect a second hospital. The $8,000 purchase was approved by the board May 4, 1920.

As Christian San grew and the daily operations became more involved, the board decided to hire a superintendent. Mr. Vermeulen was offered the position and assumed the post June 15, 1920.

With a new superintendent and plans for the future, Christian San began construction of Building 2, which would sit 165 feet behind the first hospital and accommodate 35 patients. The $50,000 cost would be covered by $14,000 in donations and a $36,000 loan. The cornerstone, laid October 9, 1920, bore the inscription “Bear ye one another’s burdens” (Galatians 6:2).

Building 2 was dedicated May 23, 1921. Visitors arriving to inspect the new building were greeted by two young girls, Ruth List and Jacoba Wynbeek, who were dressed as nurses holding pails to collect donations, which totaled $366.44. This would become a tradition for many subsequent building dedications.

History soon repeated itself. Both hospitals were filled to capacity, and the waiting list continued to grow. The situation was discussed at a special board meeting August 26, 1924. Trustees authorized the purchase of an additional seven acres adjoining the San which were owned by M. Van Genderen. The $3,000 parcel included a plot on Sicomac Avenue running the length of Christian San’s current property, as well as a land which would provide access to Mountain Avenue. The final sale would take place in early 1925.

To aid fund-raising efforts, and contribute to the San’s ministry, 40 women gathered March 11, 1925, to form the Ladies’
Auxiliary. The group, which met the third Wednesday of every month in the parlors of the First Christian Reformed Church in Paterson, was led by Mrs. John J. Vermeulen, President; Mrs. H. Bouma, Vice President; Mrs. W. Tulner, Secretary; and Mrs. A. Stap, Treasurer.

Construction crews settled in once again in the fall of 1925. New structures included a Nurses’ Home, which would eventually become Building 5, and a third hospital, Building 3, which would house ambulatory patients on the first floor and those requiring additional nursing care on the second floor.

A majority of the furnishings for the two new buildings were provided by the Auxiliary, which had separated into two groups a little more than a year after its formation. Auxilians from Passaic found it difficult to attend meetings in Paterson, so a separate group was formed April 28, 1926. Meetings were held the first Tuesday of each month in the parlors of Passaic churches.

On July 24, 1926, the Nurses’ Home, with a cornerstone bearing the scripture “Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations” (Psalm 90:1), was dedicated. The cornerstone of Building 3, proclaiming “Be ye merciful” (Luke 6:36), was also laid. Building 3’s dedication took place nearly a year later on June 18, 1927.

Shortly after the dedication, the board focused its attention on the need for a hospital to house the growing population of male patients. Construction, therefore, began again. Building 4, with a cornerstone inscription of “God is our refuge” (Psalm 46:1), was dedicated January 1, 1930. The two-story structure, furnished with the assistance and generosity of the Auxiliaries, accommodated 40 male patients divided into two separate units: one for those requiring quiet and rest and the other for those who “unfortunately are more or less disturbed at times.”

The early 1930s were marked with changes in administrative structure.
and an eye toward education. When Mr. Vermeulen expressed interest in becoming the San's Spiritual Advisor, the board appointed Taeke Bosch, MD, to the combined position of Superintendent/Resident Physician. Maria De Bower, RN, became Supervisor of Nurses, and Agnes Hoogstra, RN, Assistant Supervisor. These three individuals, aided by Bible instructor Mrs. Taeke Bosch, also formed the staff of the newly established Christian Sanatorium School for Trained Attendants. The first class, which graduated May 12, 1933, included Nettie Harding, Ida Ethel Ket, Maud Ethel Tyler, and Jessie McKinley MacGowan.

After nearly 24 years of successful ministry and growth, tragedy struck November 24, 1935. A fire, believed to have been ignited by a short circuit in Building 3's basement laundry room, took the lives of two patients, Mary Duke and Barbara Sinke, and destroyed the structure. Nurses and firemen made heroic efforts to reach the bed-ridden women, but flames drove them back. Low temperatures, icy roads, and gusty winds hampered rescue efforts as well, but the staff’s fire-drill training and the skills of area firemen resulted in the rescue of 36 patients.

Only the four walls of Building 3 remained standing. Rescued patients and medical records were relocated to other buildings, and the chapel in Building 4 was turned into a dormitory. Paterson General Hospital and St. Joseph’s Hospital supplied beds, and Hackensack General Hospital offered its services. Members of the Hawthorne Legion canvassed friends and neighbors for linens, cots, and mattresses. Surrounding communities donated food and funds.

Construction of a new, fireproof Building 3 began in spring 1936. The three-floor structure would be able to accommodate 100 patients. Each floor would include a separate kitchen, dining room, sun porch, and “all the newest devices for a patient’s comfort and treatment, and for the instruction of a trained staff.”

Christian San celebrated its silver anniversary with the dedication of the new Building 3. At this milestone, the institution encompassed 36 acres with five buildings and a superintendent’s residence. The staff now numbered 48, and the number of patients cared for to date totaled 1,374.

Christian San’s silver anniversary year was also highlighted by the first licensure of the facility by the State of New Jersey. As a non-profit institution, Christian San was not required to hold such licensure, but the board decided “it was desirable and believing we have a worthy institution, we made application and are now able to state that the inspectors expressed their appreciative approval and licensure was issued.”

As Christian San continued to grow, so, too, did the average age of current and potential patients. In the 1941 annual report, Medical Director Wendell H. Rooks, MD, noted the increase in admission applications from older people and wrote that “this is not altogether unexpected in view of the increasing longevity.”

World War II, however, put further discussion of the aging population on hold. The number of male employees dwindled as they were called to action. The reduction was so severe that a wing of the men’s building was forced to close due to lack of male attendants. The staff of female employees.
decreased, too, since some joined the war effort by volunteering to work in Army hospitals. The San’s staff and patients were temporarily relieved of the stress of the war by a visit from Crown Princess Juliana of the Netherlands in May 1944.

The end of World War II marked the return to adequate staffing at Christian San and to revitalized discussions concerning the care of older patients. The continued growth of the elderly population at the facility led to the segregation of older and younger patients. The 1949 annual report noted that “more and more aged people need institutionalization because they are unable to be cared for in modern crowded homes and are not safe except under personal supervision.”

As Christian San continued to grow, so, too, did the Auxiliaries. A third division, the Junior Women’s Auxiliary, was formed April 21, 1952, with Mrs. William L. Hiemstra as President. The group’s goals mirrored those of the Paterson and Passaic Auxiliaries: promote the study of mental hygiene and stimulate interest in and knowledge of Christian San. The Junior Auxilians originally were slated to meet at the San, but interest in membership was so great and adequate meeting space so lacking that meetings were relocated to the Calvin Christian Reformed Church in Wyckoff.

Also in 1952, the San instituted a 40-hour work week, and Ida Ket became the first employee to “enjoy the benefits” of the organization’s pension plan. Publication of the Christian Sanatorium Quarterly began because trustees felt the “urgent need of bringing the Christian Sanatorium, your hospital, to you. We think that only an informed community can be an interested community.” Also, construction was completed of a power station which could generate sufficient energy under emergency conditions. The station was put into use for the first time after Hurricane Hazel in 1954.

In 1955, the board of trustees made a firm commitment to the care of the elderly by voting to convert Building 4 into a specialized care facility for older patients.

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**CHRISTIAN HEALTH CARE CENTER**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES LEADERSHIP 1911 TO PRESENT**

From 1911 to 1990, the board leader was called President. From 1990 to present, the board leader is called Chair.

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Years</th>
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<tr>
<td>The Rev. J.C. Wielhouwer</td>
<td>1911 to 1916</td>
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<td>The Rev. N.H. Beversluis</td>
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<td>The Rev. W. P. Heeres</td>
<td>1919 to 1920</td>
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<td>Samuel Steen</td>
<td>1920 to 1922</td>
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<td>John Sikkema</td>
<td>1922 to 1925</td>
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<td>Garret Egedy</td>
<td>1925 to 1959</td>
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<td>Abram M. Vermeulen, MD</td>
<td>1959 to 1963</td>
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<td>Lambert H. De Vries</td>
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<td>Daniel Bergsma, MD</td>
<td>1973 to 1974</td>
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<td>Arthur P. Steensma</td>
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<td>Andrew R. Jeltes</td>
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<td>Herbert Schipper</td>
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<td>Cornelius Bushoven</td>
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<td>Edward Nieuwenhuis, DPM</td>
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<td>Garret J. Dykhhouse</td>
<td>1995 to 1999</td>
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<td>Anthony Van Grouw Jr., MD</td>
<td>1999 to 2008</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sandra DeYoung, RN, EdD</td>
<td>2008 to Present</td>
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In 1955, the board of trustees made a firm commitment to the care of the elderly by voting to convert Building 4 into a specialized care facility for older patients.
a nursing home. Garret Egedy, board chairman and Christian San Coordinator, reported that the San “was in the process of planning and working out a reconstruction program to add nursing-home facilities to our job ... this is an unlimited field, and we recognize our duty to cover it.” Accomplishing this goal required the renovation of Building 2 to accommodate an additional 34 mental-health patients. The project was partially funded by a $78,900 grant from the Ford Foundation.

Renovations were completed expeditiously, and Christian Sanatorium officially entered the elder-care arena September 4, 1957. The 45-bed Christian Nursing Home, as it was called, was dedicated in the name of God as a residence “to give nursing care to the aged, to convalescents, and to those with chronic illness.”

Also in 1957, Christian San developed a limited outpatient mental-health counseling service. The program was placed under the guidance of the Rev. Theodore J. Jansma, hospital Chaplain. “Mental illness,” wrote Administrative Director Aaron W. Rosendale, MD, “has a brighter outlook today as many more recoveries occur and more people are rehabilitated than was dreamed possible a few years ago.”

The expansion of services and programs continued throughout the 1960s. In 1961, de Snoep Winkel Gift Shop opened in Building 2 for the convenience of residents. Personal items and refreshments were sold. The volunteer program began in March 1961 under the direction of Verna Kramer. Mrs. Kramer was visiting her mother at the San when Theresa Bushman, RN, Director of Nursing, stopped to chat. Mrs. Kramer told Miss Bushman about her experiences volunteering at a mental-health facility. “A few days and several phone calls later” they created Christian San’s volunteer program. At the program’s inception, volunteers were known as Cherry Blossoms in reference to...
the color of their smocks. After 80 hours of service, volunteers were “capped.”

In 1962, a new structure, Building 1, was erected to house outpatient counseling, inpatient therapy, and offices for administration, nursing, finance, physicians, and pastoral care. The cornerstone, which reads “He careth for you” (1 Peter 5:7), was laid May 5, with the dedication a few months later on October 20. Following the opening, a chapter in Christian San’s history closed with the demolition of the original farmhouse.

Representatives from the three women’s auxiliaries gathered for Auxiliary Day June 20, 1962. A luncheon was held on the lawn adjoining the birch-wood grove, which sits behind what is now Evergreen Court.

In adhering to the Christian principles on which it was founded, Christian San decided to share its abundant property for the establishment of a 50-bed hospital for the care of developmentally disabled children. In 1964, the San’s board began a process which eventually resulted in giving a parcel of land to a group seeking to create Eastern Christian Children’s Retreat. Miss Bushman was instrumental in persuading the board to provide the plot for the construction of the Retreat, which would open in 1972.

The 1960s was also when Christian San was presented with a new, unprecedented challenge: the projection of government into the delivery of health care. New rules and regulations began to change how the organization functioned on a daily basis. State and federal laws now mandated that drug distribution must be conducted by a registered pharmacist. Wages, working hours, safety, civil rights, and medical records were regulated and monitored. And two new federal government programs, Medicare and Medicaid, were created to ensure care for the elderly and the poor, respectively. “Just how this legislation (Medicare) affects us, and how deeply we should be involved in this program is a problem which we should study diligently in the months to come,” wrote Christian San Clinical Director Richard Rosendale, MD, in the 1965 annual report.

On August 1, 1966, the Mental Health and Outpatient Counseling Center became a full-time service, and a Foundation Fund was created to provide financial resources for those unable to pay for care. The fund’s goal of $150,000 was to be amassed through bequests, gifts of marketable securities, etc.

As the delivery of health care changed, so, too, did the composition of Christian San’s population. Due to increased knowledge about mental illness and its treatment, inpatient psychiatric...
programs grew across the region and the country. Consequently, while Christian San’s outpatient program continued to grow, the demand for inpatient admissions decreased. Requests for nursing-home beds, however, continued to escalate.

Occupancy at Christian Nursing Home held steady at nearly 100 percent, while the waiting list continued to grow.

Demographic data revealed the aging of America. Advances in medicine and technology, aided by healthier lifestyles, was boosting longevity. With an eye toward the future, the board of trustees convened a committee in 1968 to explore the feasibility of increasing the nursing home’s capacity from 45 to 100 beds.

At the end of 1971, after two years of research, the board decided against expanding the current nursing home. Instead, Christian San would construct a new facility to accommodate 120 residents, thereby tripling its capacity. The construction project was funded in part from Christian San’s sale of 14 acres between Sicomac Avenue and Route 208 in 1969. Additional monies came from fund-raisers sponsored by the Auxiliaries, which combined in 1971 to form a single Auxiliary under the leadership of Connie DeYoung.

While construction was underway, Christian San participated in its first survey by the Joint Commission, the nation’s oldest and largest accrediting body dedicated to improving the quality of American health care through voluntary accreditation. Accreditation by the Joint Commission, which Christian San received on its first survey in 1973 and every subsequent survey, recognizes a significant commitment by an institution to providing quality care.
By fall 1974, not only was the new nursing home complete, but Christian San was heralding a new name: Christian Health Care Center. “Christian Sanatorium no longer describes the wide scope of services for nursing care and mental-health care,” proclaimed an article in The Quarterly, the newsletter published by the Center. “We expect for many . . . (that) the beautiful hospital grounds will always be thought of as the Christian San . . . but for those who need our services, and especially those within the community to whom we witness, the name sanatorium carries a connotation no longer applicable. While it may be appropriate to change the name of the institution to include the variety of services offered, each division continues to be an extension of Christ’s kingdom, and ministering in the name of the Master is really what this institution is all about.”

On October 19, 1974, New Jersey Gov. Brendan T. Byrne, New Jersey Senator Garrett W. Hagedorn, and community leaders joined the Christian Health Care Center family to dedicate its new nursing home. The modern structure, which today is Heritage Manor East, or Building 7, included space for physical and occupational therapy, solariums, a beauty parlor, administrative offices, laundry, storage, a kitchen, and resident and employee dining areas. The building’s cornerstone proclaims “I will lift mine eyes to the hill, from whence cometh my help? My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth” (Psalm 121:1-2).

History soon repeated itself again, however; the additional space proved to be inadequate to meet demand. Requests for admission continued to rise steadily. Although the waiting list grew, the board of trustees, which welcomed the first female
trustees in 1979, decided to analyze the needs of those requesting admission before approving an expansion project.

The health status of the elderly population varied greatly. Some unquestionably required the intense level of care provided at the nursing home. Others, however, were fairly independent and only in need of assistance with some activities of daily living. Another segment would benefit from an adult day care program addressing social and medical needs. This latter program had an additional benefit: respite for caregivers.

On May 15, 1986, the board of trustees approved an unprecedented $12 million expansion plan. The project not only included the construction of a 120-bed addition to the nursing home, but also an 80-bed psychiatric hospital and a centralized area to accommodate a chapel, administrative offices, support services, and de Snoep Winkel Gift Shop.

Additionally, plans called for the renovation of Building 4 as a residential health-care facility for seniors on the upper level and an adult day care program on the lower level.

As construction got underway, the Center introduced a new service in April 1988: the Dual Diagnosis Program. Partially funded by a $150,000 grant from the Bergen County Department of Human Services, the program was New Jersey's first partial-hospitalization service designed specifically to treat adults 18 and older who experience both a developmental disability and a mental-health disorder. A year later, the program name was changed to Pathways.

The Center family was once again joined by dignitaries, supporters, and friends September 16, 1989, for a dedication ceremony marking the facility's tremendous expansion. The opening of Ramapo Ridge Psychiatric Hospital; Heritage Manor West Nursing Home; Hillcrest Residence, an assisted-living facility with accommodations for

Gov. Brendan T. Byrne, right, attended the ribbon cutting for the new nursing home on October 19, 1974.

Two ambulances with crews from the Wyckoff Volunteer Ambulance Corp were needed in 1974 to move 43 residents into the new nursing home at the renamed Christian Health Care Center in 1974.
Original 1959 caption: Shown, left to right, are Jacob Schaper, carpenter; Cornelius Bosloper, painter; John H. DeYoung, Supervisor of Maintenance (grounds, buildings, vehicles); Cornelius De Haan, general maintenance; Paul Van Houten, gardener; and Walter Hoogmoed, chauffeur. Not shown, Jasper Koster, night watchman. These are the men who are on call 24 hours a day. They make sure that the wheels of the Sanatorium are kept in motion.

Original 1977 caption: Father and son share a common interest. Former trustee Anthony Van Grouw looks over reports with his son, Anthony, recently appointed medical representative to the board. The elder Van Grouw served 28 years on the board, including many years as its secretary. Dr. Van Grouw is an orthopedic surgeon.

The Plant Operations and Maintenance staff in 2011 included, front row, from left, Fernando Aramayo, Sam Filja, Ray Finamore, Larry Stephen, and Wally Rickets. Second row, from left, are Dante DeStefano, Vinny Lardiere, Jack Dowling, Gram Malile, Joe Timko, Hadi Raji, Arthur Cardillo, Mike Simchera, Mary Ring, Charles Cardillo, and Jim Sauter. Third row, from left, are Danny Asani, Jesse Goodman, Doug LaMonte, Sejhan Bajramov, Howell Jones, and Larry Castiglia. Fourth row, from left, are Ozzie Galogos and Luke Axiotakis.

40 seniors; Woodside Adult Day Care Center; and the Commons greatly increased the Center’s ability to fulfill the needs of the community. The cornerstone of the Commons, which links Heritage Manor East and West, as well as Ramapo Ridge, proclaims “Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me” (Matthew 25:40).

As the Center grew, so, too, did its volunteer and Auxiliary programs. A Junior Volunteer program was launched during the summer of 1990. Teenagers 13 to 17 years old were invited to volunteer during July and August. Later that year, Mrs. DeYoung, Auxiliary President since 1971, opened Ye Olde Country Store in Heritage Manor East. With the evolution of de Snoep Winkel, which opened in its new space in the Commons October 5, 1991, into a gift shop primarily for sponsors and visitors, Mrs. DeYoung recognized the need for a store selling

Representatives of area churches and the Glen Rock Women’s Club made hospital gowns out of men’s old shirts. From left are Vietta Halliday, member of the Westside Presbyterian Church of Ridgewood service circle; Sylvia Martoccio, Glen Rock Women’s Club President; Theresa Bushman, Christian Health Care Center Nurses’ Director; Alice Johnson, Glen Rock Women’s Club American Home Department Chair; and Marge Van Grouw, member of the Ebenezer Netherlands Reformed Church of Franklin Lakes Lois Circle.
personal items for residents and patients. Ye Olde Country Store would continue to serve residents for 17 years.

Programs for seniors at the Center continued to grow. In 1992, Heritage Manor West established a Dementia Special Care Unit. The unit was created in response to the increasing number of patients diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease and other cognitive disorders. With the relocation of the psychiatric hospital, Building 3 was an ideal choice to renovate for yet another growing segment of the elderly population: independent seniors. Evergreen Court, as the facility was named, opened in December 1995 with 33 apartments. The waiting list immediately swelled, so Building 5, Evergreen Court Annex, was renovated by September 1997 to include an additional seven independent-senior apartments.

While Evergreen Court Annex was being renovated, the Center opened Southgate. This now 40-bed, long-term care nursing program was created to provide behavior-management treatment for adults 18 and older with behavioral problems that prevent them from receiving care in traditional facilities. Southgate was designed to modify combative, disruptive, and disturbing behavior associated with some forms of cognitive illnesses. The program was a model for the region approved by the New Jersey State Department of Health and Senior Services.

The Longview Assisted Living Residence at the Center began with the launch of a $1 million capital campaign during fall 1997. The successful fund-raising effort resulted in the October 1999 opening of the facility. The Longview, which can accommodate 95 residents, was designed to foster independence, dignity, and a sense of community, while providing nursing support and supervision. The Longview also includes The Courtyard, a special residence designed to meet the needs of residents with dementia.

The first female members of the board of trustees were elected in 1979. They were Madeline Van Dyk of Ridgewood, left, and Carol Kuiken of Hawthorne.

In 1980, Christian Health Care Center launched Wyckoff’s Meals on Wheels program by preparing the first meals for town citizens. From left are Wyckoff Women’s Club members Coralie Molnar, Marion Greer, and Ruth Bell. Mrs. Molnar and Mrs. Bell assisted in meal deliveries, and Mrs. Greer was in charge of transportation.

In 1990, the Christian Health Care Center was renovated.

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needs of those with early-stage types of dementia, such as Alzheimer’s disease, while fostering independence in a secure environment. The Longview also houses the Child Day Care Center on the lower level.

With the opening of The Longview, Hillcrest Residence was converted into supportive senior housing – the middle ground between independent and assisted living. With 39 private and semi-private units, Hillcrest was designed to offer companionship, activities, and support services to seniors who value their independence, yet seek the comfort and security of having others nearby.

In an effort to reach community members who may need access to the Center and to broaden support, the Christian Health Care Center Foundation was formed in 1999. The foundation’s mission is to support the Center’s ministries through financial gifts, volunteer efforts, and prayer. The foundation sponsors annual events, such as the Golf Classic, as well as special events, including the Center’s 100th anniversary gala October 6, 2011.

Also in 1999, the De Roo House was renovated to serve as accommodations for individuals visiting their loved ones at the Center. Located on the CHCC campus, the house is dedicated to the memory of Clarence De Roo, who served as a Center trustee and employee for more than 40 years, and his wife Hilda, a long-time dedicated member of the Auxiliary. The DeRoo family lived in the house for more than 35 years. In lieu of fees, guests are asked to make a donation to the Center.

The Center started its ninth decade of service by reaching out to individuals affected by the terroristic events of September 11, 2001. Emergency-services personnel, workers in the Twin Towers, and other individuals personally affected by the tragedy were offered counseling free-of-charge. The Center also provided office space on its Wyckoff campus for the Christian Reformed Response Team, an organization established to support local churches in a Christian response to community members impacted by terrorism.

Also in its ninth decade, the Center continued to expand and create programs in response to demand. The Center’s Bergen EASE mental-health program, coordinated by the county Department of Human Services, began in 2001 to provide at-home mental-health services for older adults and individuals with disabilities over age 18. In 2003, a second adult day services program opened at Siena Village in Wayne. In 2005, 24 beds in Heritage...
Manor were designated for short-term stay patients. The demand increased rapidly and by 2011, The David F. Bolger Post-acute Care Unit could accommodate 68 patients requiring short-term nursing care and rehabilitation following a hospitalization. Patients typically are hospitalized for complex medical conditions, surgery, or other illnesses, such as cardiac disease, pneumonia, and renal disease, and need concentrated therapy and other skilled services to help them transition back to the community.

Also in 2005, ground was broken for an addition to Ramapo Ridge. Gov. Richard Codey, who delivered the keynote address at the ceremony, commended the Center for its heritage of caring for the mentally ill. The first floor of the addition, which opened in 2006, was designated for the relocation of the Ramapo Ridge Partial Program. The second floor expanded the inpatient program by providing space for 12 additional beds, a Nurses’ Station, and individual and group therapy rooms.

Technological advancements marked the latter half of the decade. Electronic medical records (EMRs) debuted, first at Heritage Manor and Southgate, in 2008. EMRs have proven to be a tremendous benefit to patients, residents, and clients because the process allows for more time dedicated to direct patient care and helps

Ground was broken March 25, 1988, for the Center’s unprecedented $12 million expansion project. From left are Neil Bushoven, board Vice Chair; Anthony Van Grouw, MD, trustee and Leadership Gifts Chair; George Belanus, board Chair; and Robert Van Dyk, Center Executive Director.

Celebrating the opening of Evergreen Court in December 1995 are, from left, Edward Nieuwenhuis, DPM, former board Chair; Senator Henry P. McNamara; Douglas A. Struyk, CPA, LNHA, President and CEO; William “Pat” Schuber, Bergen County Executive; Arie Leegwater, trustee; and Garret J. Dykhhouse, board Chair.

Stephanie Ferrari of Glen Rock, Miss New Jersey 1998, brought a group of Glen Rock High School students to meet the seniors at Hillcrest Residence in recognition of “Make A Difference Day.” The students performed solos, duets, and piano pieces.
ensure that medical information is current, accurate, and easily accessible to the clinical staff. EMRs also enhance confidentiality and ensure adherence with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act.

A significant milestone was reached in April 2008 with the election of the first female Chair of the board of trustees. Sandra DeYoung, RN, EdD, a registered nurse and Dean of the College of Science and Health at William Paterson University of New Jersey, had served as a dedicated trustee for a total of 18 years over three decades. Dr. DeYoung's dedication to the Center is part of her family's fabric: her father, John, was a 35-year employee and her mother, Connie, served as an Auxilian for 51 years, including 36 as its President.

At the groundbreaking ceremony July 22, 2005, for the Ramapo Ridge Psychiatric Hospital addition, keynote speaker Gov. Richard Codey commended Christian Health Care Center for its heritage of caring for the mentally ill.

With a dedication to “going green,” the Center began demonstrating its commitment to environmental stewardship. By 2008, everything used by the Center, to some degree, had a minimal or reduced impact on the environment. For instance, the Heritage Manor East Great Room, which opened in 2008, was composed of about 90-percent environmentally responsible materials. All fabrics were made from either recycled content or by a process that doesn’t produce any emissions. Carpeting was 100-percent...

Original 1961 caption: Coordinating volunteer work at the Sanatorium is a full-time job and one that presents a constant challenge. This effective charting of duties and the placing of volunteer workers in the right jobs at the right time is effectively done by Mrs. Walter Kramer of Fair Lawn, Senior Cherry Blossom.

This year, Dot Faasse, Coordinator of Volunteers, will manage a team of 141 adult volunteers and 124 junior volunteers.

The DeRoo House was renovated in 1999 to serve as accommodations for individuals visiting their loved ones at Christian Health Care Center. In lieu of fees, guests are asked to make a donation to the Center.
recycled. Wall coverings had lead-free ink. The Center’s green philosophy extended to the community through participation in events such as Wyckoff’s Team Up to Tidy Up, an initiative which promotes litter-consciousness by assigning volunteers to clean a specified part of town.

Concurrently, the Center also enhanced its commitment to keeping the community-at-large healthy. CHCC began using its resources and energy to evaluate and strive to meet the varied needs of the community, whether the community was across town or around the globe. Among other activities, Center employees conducted blood-pressure screenings and flu clinics at health fairs; helped ensure equitable health care and protection of patient rights through advocacy efforts on local, state, and national levels; and provided education through lectures. Care packages were assembled for troops in Iraq. Coins for Katrina raised money for Louisiana residents affected by Hurricane Katrina, while Hands for Haiti did the same for earthquake victims. Additional fund-raisers benefited breast-cancer and Alzheimer’s disease research.

In December 2006, the 11 remaining members of the Christian Health Care Center (CHCC) Women’s Auxiliary decided to disband the group after 81 years of service. Seated, from left, are Auxiliary members Sandra DeYoung, RN, EdD; Hilda DeRoo; Johanna Meyne; and Attie Dekker. Standing, from left, are Gertrude Vander Wende; Lillian Hoogerheyde; Roseann Van Dalen; Anthony Van Grouw Jr., MD, CHCC board Chair; Connie DeYoung, Auxiliary President; Douglas A. Struyk, CPA, LNHA, CHCC President and CEO; Nelly Vandenberg; Garberdina Nywening; and Madeline Puma.

Cutting the ribbon at the Heritage Manor East Great Room dedication September 18, 2008, are, from left, Raymond G. Hallock, Columbia Bank President and CEO; JT Bolger and David F. Bolger of The Bolger Foundation; Joan McNamara and Sen. Henry P. McNamara; Douglas A. Struyk, CPA, LNHA, Christian Health Care Center (CHCC) President and CEO; Lucia Palestroni and Kristine Sayrafe of the Alfiero and Lucia Palestroni Foundation; John Golden, CHCC trustee; Garret J. Dykhouse, CHCC Foundation Board of Trustees Chair; and David N. Connolly, Wyckoff Township Committee member.
In the year preceding its centennial, Christian Health Care Center had 842 employees and 325 adult and junior volunteers. Heritage Manor had 184 beds; The David F. Bolger Post-acute Care Unit, 68; Southgate, 40; and Ramapo Ridge, 58. Longview could accommodate 95 residents and Hillcrest, 39. Evergreen Court had 40 apartments. Client visits at Christian Health Care Adult Day Services totaled 19,452; Ramapo Ridge Partial Program, 1,983; Christian Health Care Counseling Center, 17,213; and Pathways, 2,679.

If history is a guide, then the Center’s future promises continued growth, which includes the prospect of additional residential living for independent seniors, to fulfill the needs of an ever-changing community, while never losing sight of the Christian principles upon which the institution was founded.

“The success of existing programs and the promise for new ones will result from our continuing acknowledgement of a gracious and loving Lord who has blessed Christian Health Care Center in so many wonderful ways,” said Douglas A. Struyk, CPA, LNHA, Center President and CEO. “Throughout our history, the Center’s board of trustees, staff, and volunteers have consistently held no responsibility to be more important than keeping our focus on the Lord and the work of His kingdom.”

Harvestfest provided a time to say thank you to Christian Health Care Center’s supporters. From left, at the 2009 event, are Douglas A. Struyk, CPA, LNHA, Center President and CEO; Tony and Phyllis Chernalis and Marjorie and Herman Jeffer, Harvestfest lead supporters; and Thomas G. Dykhouse, Executive Director and Head of School, Eastern Christian School (ECS). The Center and ECS co-hosted Harvestfest.

A special 2009 Flag Day ceremony featured members of Golf Company, 2nd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, which was stationed in Iraq. The flag raised during the celebration was a gift from the Marines, who received care packages from Christian Health Care Center staff and residents.

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The mission of Christian Health Care Center is to provide a continuum of high-quality services consistent with the Christian principles on which the institution was founded. Care is provided to those in need of long-term care, mental-health care, and residential living in a compassionate and loving environment. The mission is rooted in the belief that we minister to the whole person, recognizing that a person’s faith should be utilized, strengthened, and nourished. Accordingly, we respect and care for the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of our patients, residents, clients, and their families.

Christian Health Care Center seeks to be the hands of Christ through expressions of mercy and love. We aspire to live out our ministry of healing and caring to fulfill the need for quality services offered in a Christian environment. We seek to provide an ever-widening and enriched continuum of high-quality services. We commit ourselves to the Christian principles on which we were founded, thereby enabling us to carry out God’s work with integrity and compassion.
Celebrate Christian Health Care Center’s centennial by sharing a favorite memory or photo of the Center. Former and current residents, patients, clients, sponsors, donors, employees, volunteers, and physicians are invited to submit prose or pictures to be considered for inclusion in a special issue of *Center Life* which will be published later this year.

Share your story and/or photo by:

- emailing CHCC100@chccnj.org;
- sending your materials to:
  Karen Hockstein, Director of Publications
  Christian Health Care Center
  301 Siccomac Ave.
  Wyckoff, NJ 07481; or
- calling (201) 848-4463.

*All photos will be returned.*