

2017 PEACE HAVEN ANNUAL MEETING – BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

By Cushie Switzer, November 11, 2017



Good Afternoon. It is with gratitude and love that we share with you today another year of Peace Haven's growth, blessings, and opportunities.

Hymn 342 shares our sentiments, "All perfect gifts are from above, and all our blessings show the amplitude of God's dear love which every heart may know..." (Christian Science Hymnal).

As a Peace Haven Board member, I have been inspired each day by the atmosphere of this facility. It is one filled with God's Love, a shared love that comes from all who love Christian Science healing and support Peace Haven: practitioners, staff, volunteers, visitors, families, the Peace Haven Board, our Christian Science nurses, and our communities near and far.

In the 1940s, a group of Christian Scientists in St. Louis had an idea about establishing a Christian Science care facility. Following the Benevolent Association's example, this group followed suit of Mary Baker Eddy's hope for "properly conducted institutions where those seeking relief through Christian Science might find such care and attention as would assist in their recovery" (*Christian Science Sentinel* Vol. 19: 110, October 7, 1916). With seven decades of Christian Science supporters ensuring Peace Haven is here for all of us today, it is now on our watch to ensure it is here for those to come. We are so grateful for that small dedicated group of Christian Scientists who had the insight and inspiration to start Peace Haven, which has been such a blessing for all of us.

Peace Haven thanks each of you for your love throughout the year. Thank you for supporting our mission "...to be an active expression of divine Love meeting the human need by providing Christian Science nursing care for those wholly relying on Christian Science for healing."

The Peace Haven Board keeps its mission ever at the forefront of thought. We actively strive, work, watch, and pray to support Peace Haven's purpose in meeting the needs of our Christian Science communities. We are so appreciative of each of you for joining with us in this holy work.

Our mission statement and 2017 metaphysical theme, "The New Jerusalem" go hand in hand. Mary Baker Eddy explains, "The New Jerusalem" in this way; "This spiritual, holy habitation has no boundary nor limit, but its four cardinal points are: first, the Word of Life, Truth and Love; second, the Christ, the spiritual idea of God; third, Christianity, which is the outcome of the divine Principle of the Christ-idea in Christian history; fourth, Christian Science, which to-day and forever interprets this great example and the great Exemplar." (*Science and Health*, pg. 577). Peace Haven works to reflect and demonstrate the loving Christ-like qualities represented in the "city four square", to ensure a place of peace, replenishment, and spiritual quietude.

Our Leader says, "Our cause demands a wider circle of means for the ends of philanthropy and charity, and better qualifications for practical purposes." (*Christian Science Sentinel*, October 7, 1916). As you will hear in later reports, the Peace Haven team has made a concerted effort to strengthen our communications and outreach with the local community and states surrounding Missouri in our efforts to help meet the needs for those desiring to rely on Christian Science for healing.

We are also grateful for and blessed with wonderful Christian Science nurses. Every day they are an inspiration as they come to our facility prepared and ready to assist with each individual need. Our Christian Science nurses and entire staff are dearly loved and cherished. Each staff member goes above and beyond what is asked of them. They answer calls for support without hesitation and they give

selflessly throughout the year. The many jobs they do at Peace Haven help us maintain a well-organized and harmonious home for our guests.

Our Board is grateful we are able to continue services of Skilled Christian Science nursing, Sheltered Care, Light Assistance, Visiting Christian Science Nurses, Outpatient and Mother and infant Care. These programs offer different avenues of care for our community. We are also grateful for the opportunity to be the Midwest Christian Science Nursing Arts Training School. It has been a joy to watch the current 10 students advance in their training throughout the year.

New this year is a weekly Bible study offering from our Manager of Inspirational Programs, which includes a Bible Research Center. Over 150 call-in or actual attendees are weekly utilizing this service. We are blessed to have the opportunity to offer this resource for Peace Haven and the greater community.

We express gratitude for the speakers who have come to enlighten our understanding of God, who give us clearer views of the reality of our being, for Bible Scholars who have given nourishing and inspirational talks to our community and beyond. We have loved hosting these speakers and also local practitioners who come monthly to share inspirational talks.

Last year at annual meeting we shared information relative to the needs of our current building. We discussed the significant decision that was in front of us regarding whether we should invest \$1.2 million to stretch out the life of the existing building as long as possible, raise \$8 to \$10 million for a new building, or if we should adopt a few options in-between. In January and March 2017, we gathered groups of representatives from the branch churches, Christian Science practitioners and teachers, Committee on Publication, The Principia, Longyear Foundation, and Glenridge, among others, to share information and updates regarding Peace Haven. This fall, additional conversations took place with key local individuals. Our community outreach conversations have steered us to the decision that our first priority is to work on our current building. Our immediate need is to invest \$1.2 million for system updates, and necessary refurbishments to extend the life of the building for another 10 years. This will give us the opportunity to pray through and fine tune our next steps. Doing nothing is not an option. We are actively putting together plans for how to raise the needed \$1.2 million and we will be in touch with the community sometime this year to share the information.

We will continue exploring future possibilities for our dear Peace Haven building over the next few years, and as mentioned in last year's annual meeting, look forward to the unfoldment of a place prepared of God.

Thank you, all—community members, foundations, Peace Haven staff, and all those near and far— who are helping us fulfill our healing mission and stay in the holy city, the New Jerusalem.

Lovingly submitted,

Cushie Switzer
President, Peace Haven Board of Trustees