

Board of Directors:

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Brian Kempf, Apple Creek

Dan Miller, MD, Walnut Creek

Dannie Troyer, Fredericksburg

James Troyer, Baltic

Jason Miller, Millersburg

Scott Brace, Chagrin Falls

Stephen Steiner, Dalton

Bishop Advisory and Medical
Advisory Committees also provide
oversight.

Building Campaign is Completed

Much has happened since the last newsletter! With community support, enough funds were raised to purchase the building and adjoining property on July 1st. A few monetary promises remain for the end of the year and with those fulfilled the Building Campaign will successfully come to a close.

What was accomplished in such a short time could not have been predicted. Dr. Elton Lehman, who recently passed away, was an ardent New Leaf supporter. We remember clearly his visit to the office early in the year to inquire if the current location was a good one for New Leaf. The idea seed soon became reality and things moved quickly after that.

Thank you to over 225 individuals, businesses, and

churches that contributed to this project. Every gift means so much.

With the increased space in the basement, we started remodeling for a meeting room, and expanded offices and lab. James Troyer, NLC Board member, is overseeing the project. His crew began by knocking out walls and framing new ones. And now, so many people are working to complete the project that if we try to mention them all,

we most certainly will forget someone. You know who you are and we thank you. You have blessed us.

The new meeting room will have a full kitchen and meeting space for up to 20 people. We have long needed this space for family meetings, education, and staff use.

Our "new" space will be finished very soon. Drop-in and see it.

*Man says... show me
and I will trust you.*

*God says... trust me
and I will show you.*

Wish List

Wanted: a new or used executive desk and hutch for the additional office space.

Thank you to those who donated car seats and stuffed animals. A special thanks to volunteer, Mark Watson, who donated 329 Beanie Babies!

Gifts Help Accomplish Mission

Included with this newsletter is our annual appeal letter. Your gifts truly make a difference at New Leaf and we are able to:

- Offer quality care at affordable rates, especially for those who are self-pay.
- Collaborate with Ohio Crippled Children's Fund (OCCF) and their ability to negotiate lower rates at several children's hospitals. This helps both of our organizations immensely.
- Provide some medications, formula, and medical supplies at cost.
- Dr. Wenger and staff are closer to home for most patients and are easily reached.
- Discuss options for diagnosis, treatment, and care in a setting that understands the Plain culture and their beliefs.

Things to Think About



“The most basic of all human needs is the need to understand and be understood.”

“Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.” - Leo Buscaglia

“The most basic of all human needs is the need to understand and be understood. The best way to understand people is to listen to them.” - Ralph G. Nichols

When families come to New Leaf it takes time to listen to their stories. What are they really saying about their child? Are there other issues besides health concerns? For example, some families have financial hardships due to extensive medical bills and/or a low income. It takes patience and understanding to “hear” that perhaps they are resisting a certain treatment because of the cost. Or, they might believe the course of action suggested is not what is best for their child.

Dr. Wenger and other staff members must listen carefully and ask many questions because we do not want to make assumptions. That is part of the reason a visit to New Leaf might take longer. Careful listening can make all the difference.

Quotes from Parents with Special Needs Children

“A diagnosis defines a lot of things, but it doesn’t define love.”

“On particularly rough days when I’m sure I can’t possibly endure, I like to remind myself that my track record for getting through bad days so far is 100%. And that’s pretty good.”

“Your child will teach you more than you will ever teach them.”

“There is always room for hope no matter how hard or impossible it feels.”

“Take one day at a time. Sometimes it’s one hour at a time.”

“The strongest people are not those who show strength in front of us but those who win battles we know nothing about.”

From the Executive Director



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As I pondered what to write for this last newsletter of the year, the words of the old hymn, “Another Year is Dawning,” kept coming to mind. The first line says, “Another year is dawning, dear Father let it be. In working or in waiting, another year with thee.”

Frances Ridley Havergal, a prolific hymn writer, wrote

this in 1873. Though Frances was always in frail health, she led an active life and started writing poems at the age of seven. One of her most famous hymns is, “Take My Life and Let it Be.” She died from complications of a cold at the young age of 43.

While I am truly inspired by Frances’s poetic abilities and words, I am also inspired by

the adversity she overcame in her life.

Every week we see families at New Leaf who persevere in spite of the difficulties they face. The staff is energized by their sense of hope. It is our job to help make the journey lighter so hope can endure.

Another year is dawning!

- Barb

From Dr. Wenger

Part 2 — Minding the Gap: Communication Between Doctors, Nurses, and Parents

In the Spring/Summer 2016 newsletter, we reflected on two stabilizing principles for stressful conversations (mutual respect and awareness of feelings.) The most useful conversations around disagreements occur on the ground level. In the face of conflict, can parents and providers act early, before disagreements explode beyond intervention? Sometimes adults must “agree to disagree” - going their separate ways. However, when children’s suffering arises from adult conflict, the grown-ups must act early to reconcile their differences.

In addition to *starting at ground level* to resolve conflict, we must remember conflict transformation occurs best *on level ground*. Malcolm Gladwell, in his book, “David and Goliath”, writes that “Giants” (viewed as likely winners) and “Davids” (viewed as likely losers) *may actually be more evenly matched* than we might first think. What if David only viewed Goliath through Goliath’s massive strength and armor, forgetting the advantages of being small and light? Luckily for Israel, David remembered giants move slowly. Goliath planned to fight up close. David had other plans.

When you disagree with a “Goliath,” how do you act? Do you tell an intimidating doctor everything you are feeling? Probably not. If you suspect someone will scold you for a choice you’ve made, is it easy to admit the truth? Not for me! On the other side, doctors may feel like the responsibilities they bear are giants too. They may feel that a family they counsel will ignore their advice. How do doctors act when we think no one is listening to what we are trying to say? We get anxious. We threaten. We behave badly. Do special children benefit when we see each other as “Davids” or “Goliaths,” like enemies meeting in a valley? Special children need doctors and parents to meet on level ground, where we learn from one another.

Work with special children is meaningful and rewarding, but I need others to help carry the responsibilities of my role. Daily, I seek support from family, friends, staff, counselors and mentors. In the same way, when a child’s parents and doctors are too frustrated to see straight, an outside party must be invited into the conversation. Our area’s Amish Medical Ethics Committee is a valuable resource for

struggling parents and doctors. If you are facing conflict around the care of a special child, New Leaf staff can connect you with appropriate resources.



“The most useful conversations around disagreements occur on the ground level.”

News and Notes

Upcoming Events

* SNIP-1 Family Day, December 2, 10-2 at SpringHaven Counseling Center.

* Bishop Advisory Committee/Church Contacts/ Board Meeting, January 26, 6:30 p.m. at SpringHaven Counseling Center

* C.F. Parent Education Day, February 10, 2017, 10-2 at

SpringHaven Counseling Center.

* Annual Fundraiser Dinner, April 6, 2017, 6:30 p.m. at Heritage Community Center.

Church District Notice

To churches who send us checks, please put the district number from the *Ohio Amish Directory* on the check. Sometimes, it takes us quite awhile

to track down what church a gift has come from. We greatly appreciate your help in saving staff time.

Handyman Services Needed

New Leaf needs someone local to help with simple repairs and maintenance. This would be on an “as needed basis” and the pay per hour is negotiable. Contact Barb at 330-359-9888 with questions or interest.





CLINIC FOR SPECIAL CHILDREN

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Email: info@newleafclinic.org
Web: www.newleafclinic.org

Office Hours: 9 a.m.- 5 p.m. M-F
After Hours Phone: 330-263-8500

Our Mission

Our mission is to provide medical care to Anabaptist children with inherited disorders.

The four elements of our care:

- cost-effective
- culturally appropriate
- cutting edge
- locally accessible

Updates

Nov. 5th Propionic Acidemia Family Day Take Home Points:

1. Doctors need to improve communication around PA care.
2. If we don't know which treatment is best, we need to keep working and listening to each other until we find it.
3. By January 2017, NLC will offer regular PA clinics with reasonably priced echocardiograms and a thoughtful approach to blood and urine tests.

Team Members

Barb Reinford
Executive Director
Olivia Wenger, MD
Medical Director
Arie Troyer, LPN
Office Manager
Kathy Troyer, RN, BSN
Nurse Manager
Angela Zuercher, RN, BSN
Clinic Nurse
Janice Rufener, RN
Office Assistant/Nurse

New Leaf Center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit clinic. We do not receive state or federal grants but depend on assistance from businesses, churches, hospitals, and friends in the community.