



Board of Directors:

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Dan Miller, MD, Walnut Creek
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Bishop Advisory and Medical Advisory Committees also provide oversight.

Building Campaign is Underway

New Leaf Center has seen much growth since opening its doors in 2013. This is visible in several ways, such as increased patient numbers, more subspecialists coming for clinics and additional staff members being hired.

The basement of the medical building in Mt. Eaton has worked well for us, although admittedly, some areas are cramped. There were no definite plans to secure a permanent location. However, when the option to purchase our current facility as well as the adjoining property became available, the Board agreed unanimously that this was an opportunity we couldn't pass up.

Our location in Mt. Eaton

is convenient for most patient families as well as other providers. Village utilities are another positive factor.

The appraised value of the properties was \$476,000 and Dr. Elton and Phyllis Lehman, along with several other families, pledged lead gifts of \$238,000. At this printing, we still need \$82,000 to complete the campaign.

Current plans include some

simple remodeling for expansion of space in the basement. The two family physicians will remain in operation upstairs. In the future, an addition will most likely be constructed.

If you would like to contribute to this project, send gifts to New Leaf Center, PO Box 336, Mt. Eaton OH 44659. Label them "Building Campaign".



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Learning about Propionic Acidemia

New Leaf Center cares for many people with propionic acidemia (PA). PA is an inherited disorder in which the body is unable to process certain parts of proteins and fats properly. In their early years, children with PA may be floppy or delayed, and struggle with

seizures. Young adults with PA may have heart problems. Because we do not understand how PA harms the brain and heart, many doctors treat PA from ideas rather than facts. Thankfully, with committed work, ideas can be changed into useful facts. At New

Leaf, along with the Clinic for Special Children and Akron Children's Hospital, we are carefully gathering information from people with PA and their siblings.

Watch and listen for interesting updates.

Things to Think About



“My children all are precious, and none is like the rest. Each one to me is special, and the least is as the best.”

God Sent to Me an Angel

God sent to me an angel,
it had a broken wing.
I bent my head and wondered,
“How could God do such a thing?”

When I asked the Father
why He sent this child to me,
the answer was forthcoming,
He said, “Listen and you’ll see.”

“My children are all precious,
and none is like the rest.
Each one to me is special,
and the least is as the best.

I send each one from Heaven
and I place it in the care
of those who know my mercy,
those with love to spare.

Sometimes I take them back again.
Sometimes I let them stay.
No matter what may happen
I am never far away.

So if you find an angel
and you don’t know what to do,
remember, I am with you,
love is all I ask of you.”

Written by Paul Dammon (parent of a special child)
Used with permission

“We are more alike than different, but we are all individuals, with unique abilities and needs.”

“Parents of special children don’t see a disability when they look at their child. Instead they see the most precious and wonderful blessing of their lives. They see their child.”

“Even the most resilient parents need inspiration and reassurance sometimes.”
- Eliana Tardio (parent of a special child)

“Heaviness in the heart of man maketh it stoop: but a good word maketh it glad.”
- Proverbs 12:25

“Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones.”
- Proverbs 16:24

From the Executive Director



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I joined the New Leaf Center team six months ago and have been blessed in so many ways! I have also learned more than I thought might be possible in such a short time.

One of the things I learned very quickly is that New Leaf is incredibly privileged to have the support of the communi-

ty. Not only does this happen financially, but also with thank you notes, quick visits to see how things are going, and cookies every now and then. Each gesture on its own might not seem significant, but every one of these is encouragement to the staff.

The scriptures above re-

mind us to be encouragers. Families with special children often have a heavy load to bear. I hope we can find ways, no matter how small, to uplift these families. Believe me, they will appreciate it.

And, you can keep encouraging the staff as well.

From Dr. Wenger

Minding the Gap: Communication between Doctors, Nurses, and Parents

"A wonderful fact to reflect upon, that every human creature is constituted to be that profound secret and mystery to every other." - Charles Dickens

New Leaf provides insight into the *gaps between people*. These gaps create beauty or suffering. Every time two people come together, they merge their individual parts into one conversation. What happens when those individual perspectives contradict? In the next newsletter, I hope to reflect on potential conflicts between families of children with special needs and healthcare providers.

Let's start with two stabilizing principles for stressful conversations:

Mutual respect: God enjoys diversity. He created many kinds of flowers, animals, landscapes, and people. Many conflicts occur when we forget to show respect for another's perspective. Feeling pressured and helpless, a doctor may assume she knows what is best for a special child. Feeling powerless, parents may not share their true plans and/or

thoughts with the physician. As a result, the doctor feels shut out, lied to, or dismissed. The most useful conversations around disagreements occur on the ground level.

Awareness of feelings: In his book *Reconcile*, John Paul Lederach spells out three steps for "How to Create an Enemy:"

1. *Separate yourself from the other person.* Rather than focusing on the common goal of a thriving special child, parents and providers begin to focus on the differences between them. To paraphrase Lederach, we define who we are by who we are not.
2. *See yourself as superior.* "To construct an enemy we must create a sense that we are superior."
3. *Dehumanize the other person.* We begin to see the person on the opposite side of the conversation gap as non-human.

Children suffer most when adults, often wanting to sidestep pain or grief, avoid conversation altogether. Fortunately, God gives us a lifetime to learn how to talk to each other.

To be continued in the next issue.



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

News and Notes

* The 2nd Annual Fundraiser Dinner was held April 7th at the Mt. Hope Auction Arena. Nearly 500 people attended, including patient families, church representatives, health professionals and supporters. It was a wonderful evening of good food and inspiration. All funds from the fundraiser were designated

for the Building Campaign.

* In April, we sponsored a tea for mother's of children with Yoder's Dystonia. Six guests shared light refreshments and conversation with Dr. Wenger and other staff members.

* MEDENT has been selected as the Electronic Medical Record provider

and we are moving forward with implementation.

* If you receive multiple pieces of mail from NLC, please let us know. We want to keep the lists current. One address may be attached to a business as well as a residence. You are welcome to pass on the newsletter to others.



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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

Wish List

- * Small stuffed animals that are new or gently used and clean.
- * Car seats for infants and children that are used but no more than four years old. Call us if you would like to donate.



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 any state or federal grants but depend on assistance from businesses, churches, hospitals, and friends in the community.