



## **A bit of history from your Executive Director Jenny Warner**

After serving orphans and then widows of civil war soldiers for many years out of a small brick building on Magnolia Street (the current grounds of Miami Valley Hospital,) the Widows Home of Dayton relocated to S. Findlay Street in 1883, where we remain today. At that time, a new Victorian-style, 3 story brick home with a full basement was built on a 1.89 acre site donated by a Dayton banker, William P. Huffman (photos of the Huffmans can be found in our front parlor.) There were 30 sleeping rooms in the structure in addition to the reception room, parlor and kitchen. A large hall and bath were located on each floor. There was no elevator so the aged women were compelled to climb the long stairs to reach their quarters.

During these times, finances were tight and the Home was forced to send out appeals to the community for help. When the Home needed food or supplies, ads were run in the newspaper asking "would it be asking too much for each housekeeper to spare a glass of jelly or one jar of fruit from her store?" In these days, an annual Harvest Home would be held every October when many would bring food for the meal along with extra food to leave for the pantry for the residents. They brought linens and other supplies, even whiskey for medicine!

Thus began the Home's Harvest Home campaign, which has continued for decades ever since. This fall, our generous donors can choose to contribute to Activities and Personal Care items to benefit residents directly, to ongoing capital improvements of the building and grounds, or simply for the Home to use as best seen fit.

I look forward to sharing the results of this year's Harvest Home campaign as we continue the tradition of serving our Dayton neighbors.







## What Can We Learn From John Wooden? Part 2

In Part 1 of this article, we discussed 5 of the 15 blocks of the Pyramid of Success developed by John Wooden, the remarkable Head Basketball Coach at UCLA from 1948 to 1975. Today we discuss 5 more: Self-control, Alertness, Initiative, Intentness and Condition.

Self-control means leading a disciplined life and being able to manage your own behavior to positively influence the behavior of others. Alertness results from being constantly aware of what is going on around you and looking for ways to improve your performance and that of the team you are on.

Initiative involves being able to make a decision and following through with it. As Coach Wooden said, "Failure to act is often the biggest failure of all." Intentness involves staying the course. Wooden advised that, "When thwarted try again; harder; smarter. Persevere relentlessly."

As for Condition, Wooden notes that, "Ability may get you to the top, but character keeps you there-mental, moral, and physical."

What comes through with these blocks of the pyramid is the sense of needing to be "awake" by living in a disciplined way, being constantly aware of what is going on, having the focus to act, the perseverance to not give up and the character to live a consistent life.

Next time we will cover the last five blocks of the pyramid: Skill, Team Spirit, Poise, Confidence and Competitive Greatness.

Once again, I encourage you to Google "John Wooden videos" and hear the man for himself. There is a 55 minute one that is called, "Values, Victory and Peace of Mind" which is particularly good. It is well worth the time. E-mail me at [dunsons@widowshome.org](mailto:dunsons@widowshome.org) with any feedback. I would like to hear from you.

## Upcoming Dates

Thursday, November 13th  
2:30 - 4:00

### In Service Training

The in-service training is mandatory for **all** staff and will be paid. For any staff who are **absolutely** unable to attend, materials must be picked up and read by the end of the month in order to receive credit for that month's education.



### Thanksgiving Dinner

Sunday, November 23rd.  
Seatings will be offered  
at 1:00 and 4:00.

Family holiday photos  
will also be offered that  
day!

Watch for more details in  
the mail.





## Resident of the Month

June Arnold has been living at the Widows Home off and on for three years now. During that time she has certainly been the source of some of the laughter and joy that echos in the halls. June is a native Daytonian. She has two boys and 6 granddaughters. She enjoys Bingo, puzzles, and friendly people.



June Arnold

I asked June, if you were stranded on an island and can only bring one movie and staff member, what and who would they be? She answered with "Dirty Dancing" (because of Patrick Swayze) and Vickie Coots. I asked why Vickie? June replied, because I love to aggravate Vickie, and this way she couldn't run from me.



June, your sense of humor is amazing, never lose it!

## Employee of the Month



Katy  
Smith

Katy Smith has been working at the Widows Home for three years. Katy follows the path of her grandmother and uncle who both worked at the Widows Home a number of years ago. She is a mother of one son and has lived in Ohio all her life.

Katy is certainly the full package employee. She is smart, hardworking, dedicated and a great person to work with. She loves to make the residents laugh and when I asked to take her picture for this article, she certainly made me laugh.

Thank you for following in the footsteps of you'r family members and becoming a part of the Widows Home team.



# Halloween Night 2014



## A special thank you to the Kitchen staff!!

Last month the Widows Home hosted the "Eat Better, Eat Together" cookout. The kitchen staff worked extra hard to ensure it would be a great event for the staff and residents to have a great time. During the preparation time, our dietary manager, John Funner, was so excited to create an atmosphere that would blaze a trail of fun and excitement, he lost control of the grill. The local fire department had to come and do a safety check and turn the fire alarms off. In the end, it was just smoke that set them off. All in all, it was a great day. Thank you so much to all those who participated.

