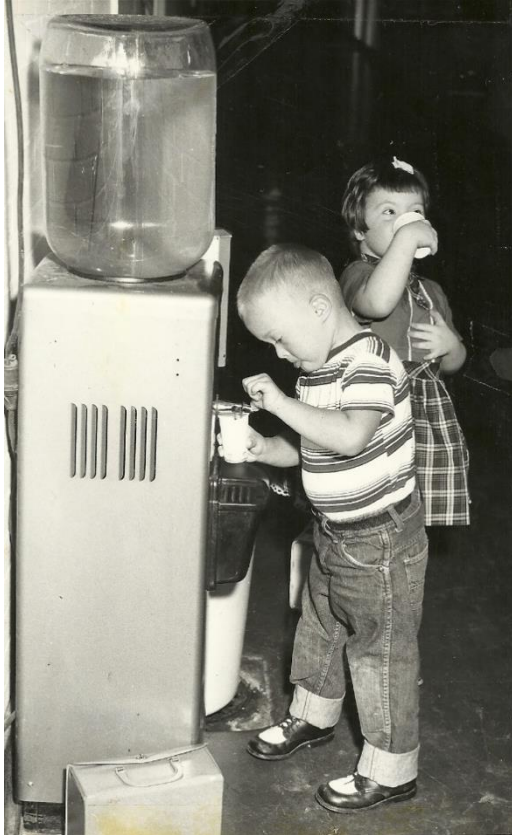


## Chapter Two- Successfully Surviving The 1960s



*Two children of the Ashtabula County Child Welfare Board's Happy Hearts School take a drink during a break in their school day. David Patton and Mary- Jo Wilson enjoy the refreshing drink. November 12, 1963.*

### **Expanding and Establishing a Sheltered Workshop in the 1960s**

The Ashtabula County Council for Retarded Citizens operated Happy Hearts School until the 1960-1961 school year. In 1959, the voters of Ashtabula County had passed an operating levy and the school received financial aid for the first time from Ashtabula County. In 1960, Ohio State law mandated that the Child Welfare Board supervise the community classes and the Child Welfare Board employed a director to operate the Happy Heart's program. During the decades of the 1960s and 1970s, several classrooms, a sheltered workshop, a pre-school and home visitor programs were added to the Happy Hearts program.

By April 1961, the cost of operating Happy Hearts caused a financial crisis. If it had not been for the interest and generosity of the citizens of Ashtabula County, Happy Hearts would have been

forced to close its doors. Employees, family, and friends of Happy Hearts successfully publicized the school's mission and its financial crisis and many community contributions helped the school finish its term.

## **Moving to Ashtabula County Children's Home**



In September 1961, Happy Hearts left its Austinburg site to move into the basement of the Ashtabula County Children's Home and the Child Welfare Board legally took over jurisdiction of the school. The school's basement quarters included four classrooms, a music room, an office, and a play area. Happy Hearts now offered four classes for its 48 students and their teachers were paid about \$400 a month.

Responding to the School's chronic financial problems, the Ashtabula County Commissioners approved a resolution placing a .2 tenth of a mill levy on the November 1961 ballot to operate Happy Hearts School. The Council for Retarded Citizens worked tirelessly to publicize the

school and its programs, and the voters passed the levy by a wide margin. The Child Welfare Board would disperse the tax monies which would not be available until January of 1962.

Another state approved class began in February 1962, and a teacher hired to handle the class. The state mandated that Happy Hearts teachers have a maximum class load of 12 students and it also required children attending Happy Hearts to have an IQ between 30 and 50, and be toilet trained and ambulatory.

Once again, Happy Hearts School opened its new term in the basement of the Ashtabula Children's Home in September 1962. Five classes and five full time teachers accommodated the approximately 60 students. Three aides were also hired to help with some of the classes. The Child Welfare Board purchased five small busses which began operating in November 1962.



*Gilbert Thomas Graf, First Director of Happy Hearts*

In October 1962 the Child Welfare Board hired G. Thomas Graf of Lancaster, Ohio as the first Director of Happy Hearts, and Mrs. Dorothy Shumake, a registered nurse from Conneaut as the first Home Visitor. Thomas Graf starred at football and wrestling at Ohio State University while earning a masters degree in special education. He conducted research in sheltered workshop development and curriculum development for the retarded child, and he also studied physical fitness for the retarded child.

Dorothy Shumake's responsibilities included helping to evaluate and prepare retarded children at home for pre- school and the regular training classes at Happy Hearts.

By 1964, Director Graf had guided Happy Hearts to the number two school for the mentally retarded in the state of Ohio. He explained his philosophy for educating mentally retarded

students. “Basically, the mentally retarded child is the same as the normal child. He must feel he is wanted, loved, and important.”

He said that the mission of Happy Heart’s School was to develop social, physical, emotional, academic, and vocation abilities of all trainable mentally retarded youngsters in Ashtabula County.

According to Director Graf, not accepting their mentally retarded child for themselves and what they can accomplish is the worst mistake parents can make. He also stressed that parents should not blame themselves for mental retardation. “Anyone can have a mentally retarded child,” he said.

## **1963-The Sheltered Workshop Program Begins**



*Children learn to use their hands in training and get experience in the Happy Hearts Division of Goodwill Industries. Boys show their parents how they refinish heavy plank benches for an industry. From left are Mrs. Ed Pickett, John and Orville Pickett, Larry Moroski, Mrs. Jocelyn Louys, boys’ division teacher, and Gene Moroski, retarded children advisory board member. Ashtabula Star Beacon, September 12, 1964.*

Enrollment in Happy Hearts continued to grow as broadly as a parent’s hope for the future of their child, and in January 1963 one of the classes moved to the Goodwill Industries to form the first Sheltered Workshop program. The boys in the Sheltered Workshop had many different jobs including cleaning plastic bags for the industry, sorting buttons, and refinishing furniture. The girls performed tasks like sorting, washing, mending, and ironing clothes.

## **New Rooms at Happy Hearts**

In 1963, Happy Hearts School established a room for a Home Economics class with a triple sink, built in cupboards, stove, refrigerator and many more conveniences to help better train children

to maintain their homes in the future. The two older classes at the school had a physical education program with each class spending 45 minutes a day in the recreation room.

The school also hired a school nurse who made home visits and taught a class two days a week for preschool children who would be eligible for the beginner's class the next year.

The four school classes were given four big parties during the school year, including one at Halloween, Christmas, Valentine's Day, and Easter.

Seven Council for Retarded Citizens members attended the eleventh ARC convention held in Toledo, Ohio from May 3<sup>rd</sup> to May 5<sup>th</sup>. Eunice Kennedy Shriver, sister of President John F. Kenney, spoke at the convention where Happy Hearts received an outstanding achievement award for the second-best program for retarded children in Ohio.

A May open house at Happy Hearts shared the school's progress with the citizens of Ashtabula County who helped make its program one of the best.

Miss Marjorie Taft supervised a swimming program at the YM-YWCA in Ashtabula along with Thomas Graf, school director and Stephen Woitovitch, physical education director. Bowling, tumbling, marching, and dancing were also added to the physical education program.

During the summer, Happy Hearts students enrolled in swimming classes at the YM-YWCA and the Salvation Army summer program at Camp Herrick in Mentor.

In September 1963, more than 60 pupils attended Happy Hearts in four full time classes and at the Ashtabula County Children's Home location. A pre-school clinic was also located in the basement.

## **Santa Visits Happy Hearts in January, 1964**



*On January 6, 1964, Santa made a late visit to Happy Hearts School. Three of the children thanked him for what he brought them for Christmas and he explained why he made a personal trip after instead of before Christmas.*

The United Commercial Travelers Lakeshore Council #330 sponsored what had been planned as a Christmas Party until the Christmas weather turned it into an after-Christmas party. A heavy snowfall the week before Christmas snowed the children homebound and forced Santa to keep busy making toys for them in his North Pole workshop and deliver them after Christmas. Instead of telling Santa what they wanted for Christmas, Happy Hearts pupils thanked him for the toys they received for Christmas.

G. Thomas Graf, Happy Hearts Director, said the United Commercial Travelers have been “a tremendous asset to the Retarded Children’s Program.” He said that besides the annual Christmas Party, the UCT also provided some Happy Hearts Teachers with full tuition scholarships to take classes in the mental retardation field.



*New officers for the Ashtabula County Association for Retarded Citizens are (from left seated) Nadine Moroski, treasurer; Charlotte Lovas, secretary; Elva Roux, vice president; and Charles Thomas, president. The officers were installed by Dr. William Hall (standing) at Happy Hearts School on January 16, 1964.*

## **1964- Camp and Statistics**

As of January 1964, 78 children were enrolled in the Happy Hearts program with 28 more added during the year. A total of 102 children were served with 15 leaving because of the age 21 limit. Others left because they moved; they remained at home; they secured part time work; or they died.

In September 1964 the state added a sixth class and hired a sixth teacher. There were 72 students enrolled at Happy Hearts.

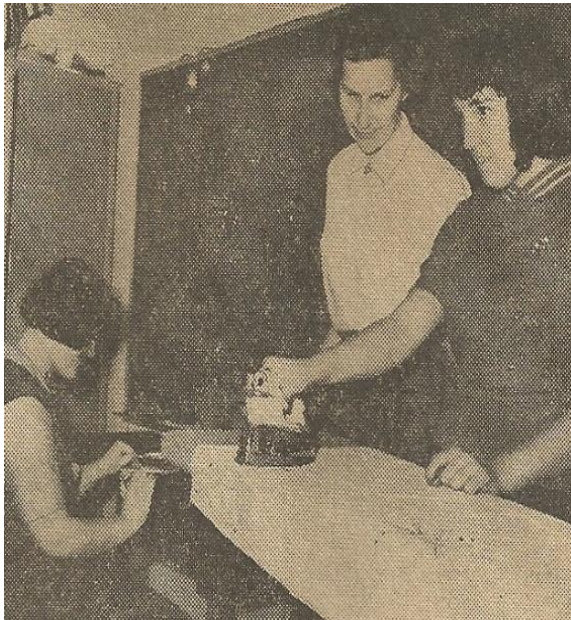
The Salvation Army Camp Herrick held retarded children’s camp once again and many children from Happy Hearts enjoyed the seven-day camping experience.



*New teachers met for special instruction prior to the staff organizational meeting Monday at Happy Hearts School. With G. Thomas Graff, director, are (left to right) Mrs. Robert Louys, new workshop teacher in the boys' division; Miss Betty Hartley, primary teacher Mrs. Phil Miller, teacher aid; and Miss Elizabeth Lukes, intermediate class teacher. Ashtabula Star Beacon, September 3, 1964.*

In 1964, Boy Scout Troop No. 24 was chartered, and Scoutmaster Joseph Urban and Assistant Scoutmaster Harry Summers introduced the boys to the scouting program. A Cub Scout Troop was established with Mrs. Elva Roux as den mother and Girl Scout Troop No. 99 formed with leader Mrs. Harold Covert and assistant leader Mrs. Myron Hudson. All of the scouts participated in the Memorial Day Parade.

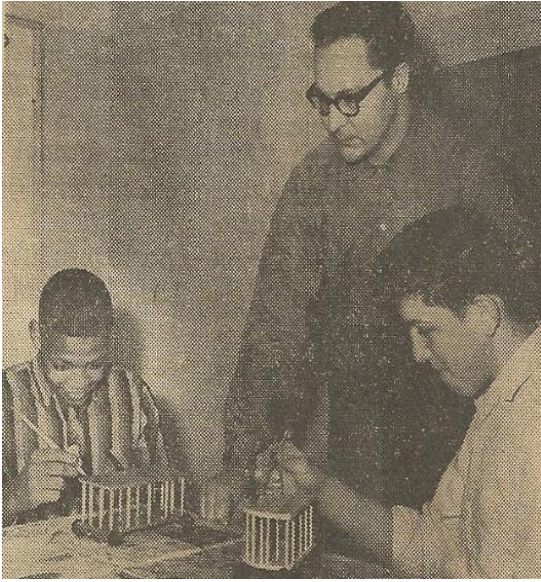
## **Happy Hearts Wins a State-Wide Reputation**



*Mrs. Dorothy Bishop (center) teaches Home Economics.*



*G. Thomas Graf is the first Director of Happy Hearts School.*



*Steve Weitovich (center) a teacher at Happy Hearts School, helps boys with their handicraft projects.*

A Cleveland Plain Dealer story dated December 12, 1964, explored the success of the Happy Hearts program.

A program to help mentally retarded children become more self-sufficient is proving to be a success at Ashtabula County's Happy Hearts School in Kingsville.

The program emphasis shifted from teaching subjects like reading and writing to teaching the children personal hygiene, and how to perform simple tasks and household duties.

Because of the revised program, many pupils who formerly were totally dependent on their parents and care givers can care for themselves in varying degrees. Those who are more advanced have gone on to jobs with Goodwill Industries in Ashtabula.

Parents have called the progress their children have made "almost miraculous."

"We have found there is little to gain in spending years teaching a child to memorize, for example, a third-grade reader," said Thomas Graf, the school director. "There are more functional things they can learn and put to daily use."

Director Graf believes that the key is developing the individual assets of each child, and the Happy Hearts curriculum includes a program for the parents.

In the home economics class, some children have progressed to unraveling threads. Others have learned to use the sewing machine. Others have learned to prepare simple meals and perform other kitchen tasks. Each child performs according to his or her individual capabilities.

Handicrafts, health, and physical education are taught in a like manner, with each contributing to the whole. The program is recognized as one of the best in Ohio by the State Division of Mental Hygiene. Enrollment in this session is 48 in the school classes, 24 in the Sheltered Workshop sponsored in cooperation with The Goodwill Industries, 6 in the Pre-School clinic, and 14 in the Home Instruction Program.



The school owns six buses to transport pupils to and from their homes throughout the county each day. Classes are held in the Ashtabula County Children's Home in Ashtabula.

Last November 3, the voters in Ashtabula County passed a .2 mill levy that will provide \$65,000 annually toward Happy Heart's \$100,000 budget. The rest is paid by the state and in tuition from the school districts where the children reside.

"The public schools cannot take an average student and make him an Einstein or a genius no more than we can take a retarded child and make him normal," Director Graf said. "But we can help him to attain his potential to live a useful life."

## **Director Graf Resigns and Wayne G. Reese Continues Push for New School Building**

The 1965 guidelines for Happy Hearts School enrollment included an age range between 6-18 years old and an IQ range between 25 and 54. Both teachers and children had to pass the muster of the Ohio State Department of Mental Hygiene. The Happy Heart's curriculum featured language development, health and safety education, manual training, academic subjects, and home economics.

In November 1965, the current Happy Hearts enrollment numbered 65 children: 48 in the school, 12 in the sheltered workshop, and five in kindergarten.

Before his resignation from Happy Hearts in 1965, G. Thomas Graf prepared a building study and presented it to the Child Welfare Board as it became more apparent that Happy Hearts School needed better quarters. Director Graf resigned in August 1965 to accept a position in Atlanta, Georgia, with the Retarded Children's Program.

On September 7, 1965, Wayne G. Reese became director of Happy Hearts and continued to make plans for a new building for Happy Hearts School. As of September, 19 children were enrolled in the home visitation program, six in the pre-school, and 48 students from age five to 18 years in the school program. The Sheltered Workshop served 26 students age 18 and over and Goodwill Industries added a second workshop class. A new physical education director was hired and an over 21 class organized.

## **1966-Plans for a Permanent Home for Happy Hearts**

May was a busy month for Happy Hearts, for the Ashtabula County Council for Retarded Citizens, and Happy Hearts students and teachers. Six Council Members and Happy Hearts Director Wayne Reese attended the 14<sup>th</sup> ARC convention in Columbus from May 5-8<sup>th</sup>. Many Happy Hearts pupils attended the Salvation Army Camp Herrick in the summer and Happy Hearts held a Summer Recreation program for two days a week in July with 24 children attending. Physical education students and their director also presented a gym show at the school.

In the fall of 1966, Happy Hearts focused on acquiring funds for a new school building.



## **The Geneva Free Press Endorses Bond Issue for Happy Hearts**

Vote 'Yes' for Happy Hearts Bond Issue

Geneva Free Press, October 31, 1966

The mentally retarded child deserves the same opportunities in public education as the normal child.

It has taken Americans a long time to come around to this viewpoint, and Ashtabula County can take pride in the fact its program for the retarded is among the best in Ohio; that in fact, Happy Hearts School has been a pioneer venture both in its inception as a privately supported facility and in the successful efforts of its mentors in making it tax-supported,

The devotion of a small group of parents, ministers and others concerned with brightening the future for these exceptional children was rewarded several years ago when countians overwhelmingly endorsed an operating levy.

They no longer had the need to go begging at service clubs and businesses for donations. They no longer had to conduct endless rounds of bake and candy sales.

The tax money permitted the hiring of a director, the best teachers available and improved teaching aids and other equipment. The money, however, could not be used for building.

And today, enrollment having mounted steadily, the school has outgrown its quarters in the basement of the Children's Home at Ashtabula – quarters far from ideal when first occupied but representing a vast improvement over facilities formerly housing the school. These were educational rooms at two churches and abandoned former elementary buildings at Austinburg and Kingsville.

Voter approval of a \$670,000 bond issue this Nov. 8 would provide funds for construction of a school building designed for the special needs of these special pupils. It would be all on one floor and have ramps instead of steps in certain critical areas. Bids were accepted for the \$525,000 structure to be located in Kingsville Township in front of the County Home on Route 84. Plans for the new building included a gymnasium, a shop, a cafeteria, and about twelve classrooms for the over 100 pupil student body. The bond issue would be paid off at the average rate of .133 mill per year over a 22-year period. The cost to the average residential homeowner would be under 80 cents. The issue should receive the wholehearted endorsement of all Ashtabula Countians.

In November 1966, Ashtabula and Ashtabula County voters passed the Happy Hearts Bond Issue.

## **1967-Ground Breaking and a New Board**

Happy Hearts experienced heart and house warming events in 1967. School again opened at the Children's Home for all the children except those in the Sheltered Workshop who attended classes at Manpower Training Center on Jefferson Road. The Pre-School clinic was dropped for lack of space, but plans were made to reestablish it in the new school.

In March 1967, Happy Hearts started using the former manpower training building as a training center with Director Wayne Reese as supervisor.

Ground breaking ceremonies were held for the new Happy Hearts School off Route 84 in Kingsville in July and Buckeye Masonry and Construction Company of Jefferson began to erect the new Happy Hearts School.

Happy Hearts School and its students and staff had called many places home since its first home at the First Methodist Church on Elm Avenue in Ashtabula in 1955.

These homes included:

- First Happy Hearts class held in basement of the Elm Avenue Methodist Church in Ashtabula.
- Christian Education Building at Harris Memorial Presbyterian Church in Ashtabula.
- Little school building in Kingsville on School Street.
- Austinburg Grade School Building.
- East Side Presbyterian Church in Ashtabula.
- The basement of the Children's Home on Route 20 in Ashtabula.

- The Sheltered Workshop was located at Goodwill Industries in Ashtabula for a short time. In 1978, the Ash/Craft building was built and the sheltered workshop then moved into the new building.

On October 4, 1967 Ashtabula County Commissioners created the Ashtabula County Mental Retardation Board. Earlier, the Ohio General Assembly and Governor James Rhodes passed Senate Bill 169, which created 88 county boards of mental retardation to raise funds, provide services, and support people with developmental disabilities and train and educate people to teach them. Senate Bill 169 provided alternatives to state institutions and focused on providing retarded people with home services, work activity, and sheltered employment. It provided developmentally disabled people the opportunity to live, work, and contribute to their own communities. The state law eliminated the Child Welfare Board in Ashtabula, replacing it with the Ashtabula County Board of Mental Retardation, which would work cooperatively with the Ashtabula County Council for Retarded Citizens.

An Ashtabula Star Beacon story explained how the Ashtabula County Commissioners appointed the Ashtabula County Mental Retardation Board which would have the responsibility of administrating and operating the Happy Hearts School for Retarded Children.

The Ashtabula County Commissioners appointed Dr. David Luck, Mrs. Niles Koski and Charles Von Tesmar to the board for four-year terms and Gene Moroski and Joseph Hunter were named for two-year terms. All five were present members of the Child Welfare Advisory Board.

Probate Judge Calvin Hutchins was given the responsibility of appointing two additional members to three-year terms. The new law charged the Ashtabula County Mental Retardation Board with the administration, operation, and employment of personnel and providing facilities and equipment for training programs for mentally deficient persons. In Ashtabula County, Happy Hearts School provided this training.

The Ashtabula County Board of Mental Retardation assumed its official duties on October 25, 1967, with Wayne Reese its first Superintendent. Since then, this board has operated under three different names: The Ashtabula County Board of Mental Retardation; the Ashtabula County Board of Mental Retardation/Developmental Disabilities; and the Ashtabula County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

In January 1968, the Federal Government granted Happy Hearts School a special certificate to conduct a sheltered workshop which would be operated under the Federal Labor Wage and Hour Department. The Sheltered Workshop moved from Jefferson to the new Happy Hearts School in August.

## **Council for Retarded Children Officers Installed at Annual Dinner Meeting**



*Newly elected officers for the Ashtabula County Council for Retarded Children are (left to right) Mrs. Paul Berg; Fred Ruffo; Mrs. Paula Wilson; Mrs. Stanley Gaumer; and Dr. Edward James.*

The 1968 officers for the Ashtabula County Council for Retarded Children were elected and installed after the annual dinner meeting at Topky Memorial Chapel. The new officers took their oath accepting their new office in an installation ceremony conducted by Dr. Edward James. Installed were Dr. James, President; Fred Ruffo, Vice-President; Mrs. Stanley Gaumer, Secretary; Mrs. Paula Wilson, Treasurer; and Mrs. Paul Berg, Financial Secretary.

Joe Hunter, president, recognized and honored the past presidents who attended the dinner. They were Gene Moroski, Woodrow Utter, Mrs. Berg, and Mrs. Wilson. Unable to attend but sending letters were Winthrop Davies and Mrs. Myron Hudson.

Mr. Hunter congratulated them for the work done for the Retarded Children's Council and Happy Hearts School. He presented each one with a set of "Flaming Hope" candles made by mentally retarded persons. These candles just represent just one of the many projects the mentally retarded are capable of doing.

Council officers and committee chairmen gave their annual reports. These include Mrs. Henry Roux, secretary; Mrs. Berg giving the treasurer's report in the absence of Mrs. Hudson; Mrs. Hunter, Ways and Means; Mrs. Annette Giddings, membership; Mrs., Roux, Cub Scouts; Mrs. Dorothy Covert, Girl Scouts; and Joe Urban, Boy Scouts.

## **October 1967- The Training Center, and Happy Hearts Classes**

The Ashtabula Council for Retarded Children published a newsletter called "The Link." The October 1967 issue reported the happenings at the Training Center, later Ash/Craft, and in the Happy Hearts classrooms.

The year 1967 had gotten off to a good start in the Training Center, with the workers enthusiastic about being trained in work habits and learning new skills. Mr. Buchtinec reported that the young men were refinishing furniture, including using stripping compound, sanding with different types of sandpaper, using steel wool and sometimes electric sanders and varnishing.

They are learning the proper use of power tools like electric drills, electric sanders and an electric buffer.

The workers are also earning to wash and wax the school's buses.

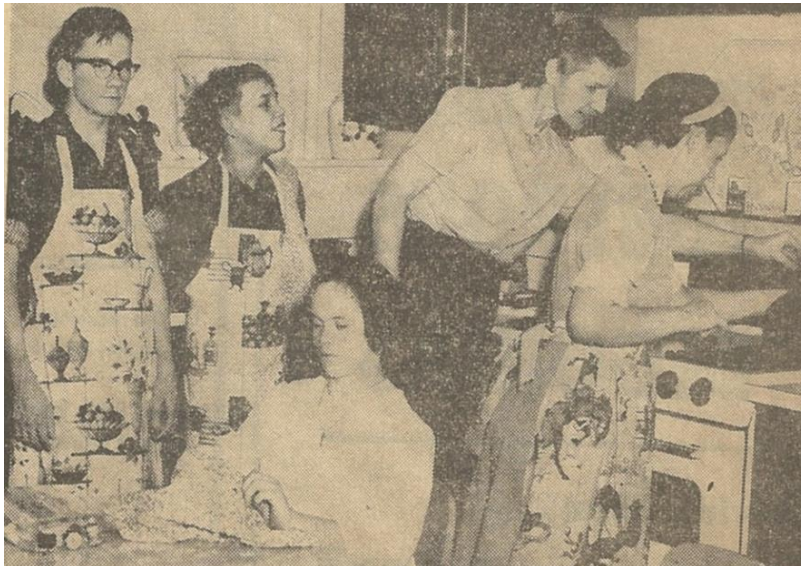
Mrs. Allds reported that the girls have been busy doing volunteer work all year. They are making diapers, pads and bandages for the Cancer Society and kit bags for the Red Cross. All of this has been good training and review in measuring, pinning, basting, and machine sewing.

Mrs. Smith highlighted a new and interesting project involving making bows for gift packages. This operation had six steps: Operating the machine that made the bow; cutting off the ribbon as each bow was completed; placing an adhesive sticker on the back of the bow; finishing by tucking ribbon on top to cover the bow pin; next, came counting and packing the bows in plastic bags and stapling the bag closed and attaching a Training Center tag.

Almost every girl and some of the boys can operate the machine, and every girl can do some part of the operation. Approximately five thousand bows have been made in the past three weeks!

With all of this activity going on and much more planned, we have great hopes for the future of our Training Center.

### **Mrs. Dorothy Bishop – Departmental Classes- Home Economics**



*Mrs. Dorothy Bishop teaches Happy Hearts pupils the art of cooking and homemaking. Twenty-four girls and boys learn kitchen skills in her classes.*

We are all happy to be back in our kitchen classrooms and have started this year with four new girls and five new boys in our classes. This leaves us fifteen boys and girls with former experience in our Home Economics activities. We all ironed our own aprons and have started to review cooking skills. Both classes have made Kool-Aid which gives such good practice in measuring, stirring, and pouring. Both classes have made Jell-O, again a lesson in measuring, stirring, and serving. We have started on our turns at dishes and are trying to keep the tea and coffee cups very clean. Everyone has had a chance to assemble and operate the sweeper, and we will sweep the various strips of carpeting around school.

Sewing is under way with a finished pincushion in almost every box. Our new students are doing very well. Many have finished a potholder for our kitchen, and various felt animals have been started. We are having practice on the sewing machines and will be stitching soon.

The change of season always brings out lots of conversation and awareness of the beauties around us. We have been working on swimming terms and words, and our functional words like ON, OFF, and DANGER.

For our pillows and animals, we continue to need nylon hose and count on our friends to send them in. We can also use left-over pieces of new material.

The girls' class was very pleased to win the September award of \$2.00 for the best parent attendance at the Council meeting. The money was spent for a new record of songs that we enjoy very much and a hammer for our room so we don't have to borrow one. Many thanks.

### **Miss Aili Hokkanen- Department Classes-Arts and Crafts**



*Baubles, bows, ribbons, and paper flowers adorn the colorful, handmade Easter bonnets that the older girls of Happy Hearts School made for Easter. Home Economics Teacher Mrs. Dorothy Bishop assisted Arts and Crafts teacher, Miss Aili Hokkanen in helping the girls make their bonnets. (First row) Frances Mudenhalf; Sandra Carpenter; Beth Fogle; Annette Bluhm; and*

*June Chichy. (Second Row) Sharon Jones; Jane McCarthy; Carol Horne; Susan Bradley; and Patty Kapen. (Third Row, standing) Sara Smith; Karen Benton; and Shirley Lott.*

In the Arts and Crafts Department, the girls have been busy making card holder cans, string pictures, paper beads, get-well and birthday cards. They have been learning to braid. Some have worked on French Knot handwork. Bird houses have been made by means of folding papers of magazines. Papier- Mache pins were made which seemed to interest the children. Paper plate potholder containers were also made.

The boys have made macaroni covered banks and ash trays. They have made pictures by means of blowing paint through straws. It's amazing how lovely the results were. Cutting paper and making paper beads from wallpaper and construction paper also took place. At the present time,

the boys are making napkin holders. They made Papier-Mache brooches. These boys have also been learning to fold the sheets of Reader's Digest books to form bird houses.

Cutting with scissors seems to be rather difficult for these children. We are attempting to help them to learn how to do this. Perhaps it would be a good idea if the parents would allow their children to cut pictures from magazines in order to give them additional practice in cutting. They seem to enjoy cutting pictures.

Recently, Toy Boy, Mrs. Foy's poodle and Miss Hokkanen's cat, Tupsu, were visitors at the school. The children seemed to enjoy meeting these pets.

## 1968 -Welcome Home to Stay, Happy Hearts!



Three students at the new Happy Hearts School helped the three County Commissioners cut the ribbon during the dedication of the new school. The children from left are David Urban, Diane Bowers, and Robert Hunter. Commissioners, standing are: Thomas Nassief, W.B. McCoy, and Harold Fuller. Photo: Jefferson Gazette, November 5, 1968.

In 1968, a permanent home was completed for Happy Hearts School and Ash/Craft off Route 84 in Kingsville.

An overflow crowd of more than 4,000 persons attended the dedication and open house of the new Happy Hearts School, Sunday afternoon, November 3, 1968 in Kingsville.

Congratulating the community on providing the school, speaker Dr. Patrick J. Doyle, professor and chairman of the Department of Community Medicine and International Health at Georgetown University, pointed out that the only alternative to such a program was outmoded



and costly institutional care. He was also a member of President Johnson's Committee on Mental Retardation from 1966-1968.

"Every effort should be made to keep the retarded child and adult in his own home and community, serving to the best of his ability," Dr. Doyle commented.

"There has been nothing done in the field of mental retardation that was not started by parents," he said, emphasizing that parents needed community support in providing regional centers to give the needed special care.

He stressed that each retarded child should be trained to be independent, with supportive help as needed. With the public and business community recognizing his abilities and limitations, the retarded person can be helped to utilize his talents in productive work.

Accepting the keys to the new school from Ashtabula County Commissioners, school director Wayne G. Reese, said, "It is for and with these people in mind that I accept these keys." The Commissioners, Thomas Nassief, Harold Fuller, and Walter McCoy, cut the ribbon, officially opening the school.

James White, Columbus, executive director of the Ohio Association of Retarded Children, said that this is the fifth such school in Ohio.

A. Gene Moroski served as master of ceremonies. Dr. Edward J. James, president of the Ashtabula County Council for Retarded Children, welcomed all those attending. Chairman of the Ashtabula County Mental Retardation Board, Charles von Tesmar, also spoke. Mrs. E.S. McConnell, patriotic instructor of Paulus Women's Relief Corps 304, presented a flag to the new school.

One member each of the Happy Hearts Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops participated in the Pledge of Allegiance. The flag used in the ceremony was presented to the school by Mary Stanley Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, and donated by Mrs. William Swedenborg.

The school's classrooms, training center, pre-shop, cafeteria, kitchen, gymnasium, and Ash/Craft center were open to the public until 6 p.m.



*The new gymnasium at the Happy Hearts School on South Ridge East is put to good use on the first day of classes in 1968. Boys here have picked teams and are lining up in the middle of the gym floor. At the present time the gym is also serving as a storage room.*



Happy Hearts students enjoy bouncing on the trampoline

## Happy Hearts Holds “Meet the Teacher” Night

November 11, 1969

Approximately 75 parents and friends attended the October 21, 1969 “Meet the Teacher” night held at Happy Hearts School. Wayne Reese, administrator, introduced the teachers and then parents took the place of their child in the classroom and teachers performed a mock daily schedule. Mrs. Bert Smith’s Workshop and Mrs. Gene Triozzi’s Class won the parent room count.

An Interfaith church school program is conducted every Sunday morning at 10:30 in the Fellowship Hall of First Presbyterian Church. Family swim program is set for every second and fourth Tuesday at Ashtabula County YM-YWCA from 6 to 6:45 p.m., with a small fee charged. Parents and friends were invited to participate.

Dr. Edward James remarked on promoting the tax levy program and committees. Serving on the committee were: Mrs. Stanley Gaumer, chairman; Mrs. Joseph Hunter, speakers; Mrs. Myron Hudson, posters; Mrs. Stanley Giddings, leaflets; and Mrs. Richard Robbins, publicity.

A Halloween dance was held on October 31. The youth group of the council decorated the gym and handled all arrangements.

The next council meeting is scheduled for November 18 with the Reverend T. Gobel from Cleveland as guest speaker.

Parents were reminded to send in gift items to the school or take to next council meeting for the Christmas box to be sent to the Columbus State Institution. Anyone wishing to add any gifts to this box may contact the school.



*Happy Hearts Superintendent Wayne Reese inspects a project in the Ash/Craft Sheltered Workshop.*

## Sixties Snapshots



*Dominic Landelli, second from left, checks arrangements for a benefit dance sponsored by Knights of Columbus District 35. The dance will aid Happy Hearts School Scouting program. Looking on are Joseph Urban, Scout Master, Mrs. Myron Hudson, council president, Mrs. Eva*

*Roux, Cub Scout leader, and Mrs. Dorothy Covert, Girl Scout leader.*

### **K of C Dance Will Aid Happy Hearts Scouting**

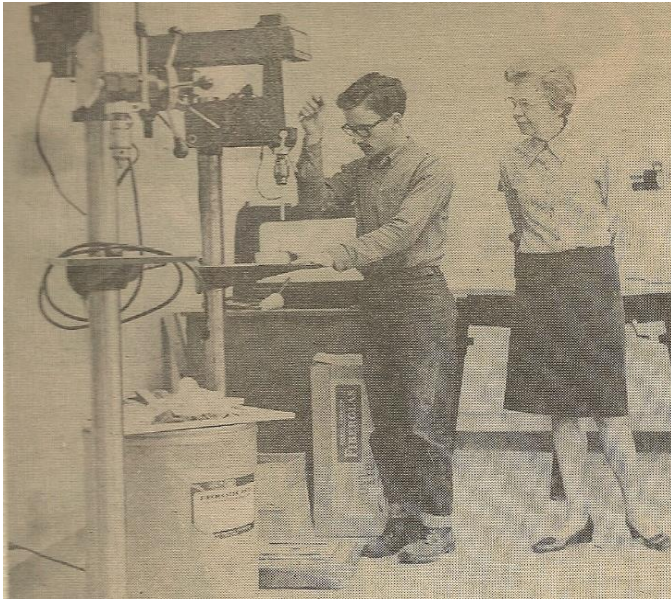
For benefit of Happy Hearts School Knights of Columbus District 35 will sponsor a dance on June 6. Bob Billick and his orchestra will play from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. at Skateland North Bend Road. Refreshments will be served. District Deputy Dominic Landelli planned the dance for the newly organized Boy and Girl Scout Troops at Happy Hearts School.

Although Happy Hearts School is the Institutional Representative for the Scouts, it cannot provide funds for the scouting movement since it is a tax-supported school. The Scouting program is the responsibility of the Council for Retarded Children, official parent organization of the school. Funds will be used to purchase equipment so that 13 Boy Scouts, 11 Girl Scouts, and eight Cub Scouts make take part in the program.



*United Commercial Travelers Lake Shore Council present scholarship checks to teachers at Happy Hearts School in September 1963. G. Thomas Graf (left), director of the school stands beside Ernest Humphrey, senior counselor of the Lake Shore Council of United Commercial Travelers as he makes the awards to Mrs. Dorothy Shumake, home visitor, and Steven Voitovich physical education teacher. Supporting projects for the mentally retarded is one of the*

*main functions of United Commercial Travelers. The local chapter has also sponsored Christmas parties for Happy Hearts School.*



*The Ash/Craft Department gives young men an opportunity to learn woodcraft and furniture refinishing. Mrs. Martha Pifer, supervisor, is assisted in the department by John Buchtiner, Gertrude Smith, and Linda Nichols.*



*Happy Hearts physical education director, Steve Woitovich, shows two youngsters the proper grip in bowling. November 16, 1963.*



*Conferring about new school concerns.*

*Official groundbreaking in 1967 for the new Happy Hearts School centering around four gold colored shovels. Officials from the County Child Welfare Board, the Happy Hearts School Advisory Board, and county commissioners attended. With shovels are W.B. McCoy, commissioner; Miss Eleanor Jammal; Wayne Reese, school principal, and commissioner Thomas Nassief and Roger Henderson, chairman. Others (from left) are Mrs. Elizabeth A. Frederick, Gene Moroski, Mrs. Ruth Hill, Joseph Hunter, Matt Kujala, Lawrence Hill and Dr. David Lusk.*



The new Happy Hearts School on Rt. 84 east of Ashtabula was dedicated in November 1968. Dr. Patrick J. Doyle, a member of the President's Committee on Mental Retardation participated in the dedication.



*Box after box of supplies for the new Happy Hearts school are checked by administrator Wayne Reese and Carolyn Mackey as they prepare for the opening in November 1968*



*The annual Christmas Seal campaign receive an assist from children at the Happy Hearts School who prepare envelopes for mailing October 22, 1963.*



*Students at Happy Hearts School under the direction of Steve Weitovich, instructor, and Miss Elizabeth Chaffee, Child Welfare Director, package educational pamphlets for the Ashtabula County Mental Health Association. The leaflets are for distribution to waiting rooms and offices of doctors, lawyers, dentists, beauty salons, barber shops and depots.*



*Fill up those envelopes! is the battle cry at Ashtabula's Happy Heart's School as students stuff envelopes for the annual Ashtabula County Tuberculosis and Health Association Christmas Seal Campaign. More than 10,000 envelopes containing Christmas seals and appeal letters are to be mailed this year on November 15<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Robert Louys, Happy Hearts instructor, and Mrs. Harry Madden, executive secretary of the TB Association instruct students.*



*Happy Hearts School pupils do their share. Teachers Mrs. Margaret Dunkin and Mrs. Jean Allds help the children stuff envelopes with Christmas Seals to be later sold for charity work. November 11, 1962.*



# DO YOU KNOW WHAT ASH/CRAFT IS??

**Ash/Craft** is the sheltered workshop division of Happy Hearts School.

**Ash/Craft** is the adult training program for the mentally retarded of Ashtabula County.

**Ash/Craft** can be the solution to your production problems.

**Ash/Craft** does collating, labeling, salvage and nuisance work as well as indoor and outdoor maintenance on a sub-contract basis.

Those of you who have work to contract out of your shop, **Ash/Craft** is your answer.

Let **Ash/Craft** prove to you that you can benefit by helping **Ash/Craft** help you.

Do not hesitate - call now - give **Ash/Craft** a chance to prove itself.

REMEMBER TO CONTACT  
**ASH/CRAFT**

2505 South Ridge East  
Ashtabula, Ohio  
Telephone 224-0947

*March 10, 1965*

# Looking at Levies

## BEAUTY-RAMA 1960

### HOW YOU CAN HELP THE HAPPY HEARTS SCHOOL

This school is for the severely mentally retarded children of Ashtabula County and is presently located in Austinburg, Ohio. The future of the school is uncertain unless adequate funds are provided to maintain the education of the children.

There are approximately 48 students attending the school and there is a waiting list of children who are unable to attend because of the lack of sufficient funds.

More than 50% of the money necessary for operating the school now comes from private contribution. Without the generosity of many interested people, the school would have to close. This year, expenses at the school have increased greatly. Transportation alone will cost at least \$9,200.00, due largely to the fact that the pupils are transported from great distances through-out our county area.

There will be a PROPOSED TAX LEVY ON THE NOVEMBER BALLOT for the school. Legally the Ballot reads as follows: An additional tax for the benefit of Ashtabula County, Ohio, for the purpose of paying the current operating expenses of said county, and specifically to provide an adequate amount for support of Child Welfare Services. To wit: the care of and training of retarded children in Ashtabula County, Ohio, at a rate not to exceed two-tenths mill for each one dollar of values for the tax years 1961 - 1963 inclusive.

FOR LEVY

AGAINST LEVY

PLEASE NOTE that neither the working of Happy Hearts School or the Ashtabula County Council for Retarded Children appears on the Ballot. ALL the funds collected from this levy, however, will be used solely for the operation of the Happy Hearts School.

VOTE FOR THE CHILDS WELFARE LEVY AND ASK OTHERS TO DO THE SAME!



*These women are working hard in the levy room at the Happy Hearts School informing voters what is at stake in the November 4 election. Standing from the left are Mrs. Duane (Flora) Roosa, Conneaut; Mrs. Helen Millspaugh Ashtabula; Mrs. Duane Mast,*

*Conneaut; Mrs. Joseph Hunter, North Kingsville; Mrs. Myron Hudson, Pierpont. Seated from left are Mrs. Nadine Moroski, Kingsville; Mrs. Henry (Elva) Roux, Jefferson; Mrs. Stanley Giddings, Ashtabula; Mrs. Fred Ruffo, Ashtabula; and Mrs. Stanley Gaumer, Ashtabula county chairman for the Board of Mental Retardation. November 3, 1969.*

A 2/10 of a mill tax levy, state aid, and donations supported Happy Hearts School in 1966. It offered seven classes for developmentally disabled students: one class for preschoolers, ages 3-6; four classes for students 6-18; and two workshop classes for students over 18. The school employed a director, seven teachers, two teacher's aides, a school clerk, secretary, eight bus drivers, and a custodian. Teachers with a degree earned \$500 a month, and those without a degree earned \$420 a month. Happy Hearts held four classes at the Children's Home, two at the Goodwill Industries, and three in the basement of the East Side Presbyterian Church in Ashtabula. Citing inadequate facilities and overcrowded conditions at Happy Hearts, the State of Ohio threatened to withdraw its aid. Happy Hearts needed to find new facilities.

## Time Line 1960s

1960

- August 8, 1960. Board Member of Happy Hearts School at Austinburg, Dr. Laurence Fisher accepted a check for \$105.84 on behalf of the school from Mrs. Charles Owen and William Hall, representing the Ashtabula High School Class of 1945. The money came from extra class reunion funds.

1961

- Program moved to basement of County Children's Home. a
- Enrollment at 48.
- Four full time teachers.
- Jurisdiction of program now under Child Welfare Board (by law.)
  
- July. Money needed for Happy Hearts School. There is still great financial need for the Happy Hearts School. The money from the tax levy will be unavailable until 1962. The school's new quarters are in the basement of the Children's Home, and a large portion of the necessary funds to remodel must be obtained by the Ashtabula County Council for Retarded Citizens. To help raise money, a Candy Booth will again be sponsored by the Council at the County Fair, August 8-12. All of the candy will be made by Council mothers and volunteers. Anyone wishing to donate candy may contact Mrs. Gene Moroski or Mrs. Charles von Tessmer.
- Mrs. Delores Shoaf, Orwell, has been hired as a teacher at Happy Hearts, replacing Mrs. Roger Sisson who has resigned.
  
- Voters approved a two tenths of a mill operating levy for three years.

1962

- A fifth class was started.
- Five full time teachers
- G. Thomas Graf, Director, was hired.
- Mrs. Dorothy Shumake, registered nurse, was hired as a home training worker.

1963

- A class of young adults moved to Goodwill Industries to form "a Workshop Program."

1964

- Sixth class was started.
- Sixth teacher was hired.
- Enrollment at 72.

1965

- Present director resigned. Replaced by Wayne G. Reese.
- Children's Home basement provided: four classes, one preschool class, administrative office, small multi-purpose room.
- Two classes held at Goodwill to compose the Sheltered Workshop Program.
- Five twelve passenger buses used for transportation as well as one 20-passenger bus.

1966

- Council establishes a summer recreation program.
- Program now located in three places: Children's Home, 4 classes; one pre-school class; Goodwill "Over 21" Sheltered Workshop; East Side Presbyterian Church Basement, three classes.
- A seven-tenth mill bond issue passed by voters for a building. (72 per cent majority).
- Fleet of buses numbers seven.
- Site of new school selected.

1967

- The passage of Senate House Bill 169 which mandated the creation of county boards of retardation.
- Sheltered Workshop moved to former Manpower Training Center in Jefferson.
- School basketball team participated in state tournament at Springfield.
- Certification for sheltered workshop issued by Federal Wage and Hour Department. Name of Ash/Craft adopted by the board of directors.
- Construction begun on new school.
- Ash/Craft went on annual basis.
- Pre-School closed because of lack of space.

1968

- Moved into new school August 1.
- Ash/Craft moved from Jefferson to new school.
- Four young adults from the program participated in the Special Olympics in Chicago.
- Started Developmental Classes for school age children.
- Enrollment as follows: two primary classes; one intermediate class; two department classes; 25 trainees in Ash/Craft; Home Training; Consultant caseload at 45.
- Dedication of new building on November 3, 1968,

1969

- Reopened preschool class.
- Ash/Craft increased to 30 trainees.
- Started a preworkshop.
- Present caseload: Home Services, 55; community classes, 80; Ash/Craft, 30.

## Inez and Stanley Gaumer Make a Fateful Decision About Their Son Claude

In a 2005 Ashtabula Star Beacon story commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Happy Hearts and Ash/Craft Industries, Inez Gaumer tells the story of the beginnings of her involvement with Happy Hearts in a matter of fact way.

“The doctors told my husband Stanley and I to put our son, Claude, in an institution and forget we ever had him,” she said. The doctors also told them that Claude, who has Downs Syndrome, would not walk, talk, or function.

After over a decade of struggle, the Ashtabula County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities guided the successful passage of supporting levies and built the Happy Hearts School and Ash/Craft Industries. Shortly after Claude turned a year old, Ashtabula County voters passed an operating levy that opened new possibilities of support from the community. In 1966, Ashtabula County voters passed a levy that opened up possibilities for the future. The Board added a sheltered workshop, preschool, and home visitor programs as well as several classrooms.

Around this time, Claude Gaumer started school at Happy Hearts. His mother is tremendously satisfied with his Happy Hearts education.

“His Happy Hearts Education has helped him tremendously in his development,” Inez said. “We’ve always had such a dedicated staff who really cares about their students and clients,” she said.

In 1966, the voters of Ashtabula County approved a bond issue for the construction of a new school building. The Kingsville Township location of Happy Hearts and Ash/Craft permanently opened its doors in 1968.

By the 2005 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, the list of services that Happy Hearts and Ash/Craft offered included bus transportation, hot breakfasts and lunch, physical, speech and occupational therapies, adaptive physical education, academic learning and self-care skills, a full-time nurse, Early Intervention, five satellite locations, and support services. For the early students, now adults, Ash/Craft Industries has become a way for them to continue to learn and truly be productive.

“The program gives back to the community, the clients spend their paychecks here, and there is a real production of goods being made and grown,” Inez Gaumer said.

Claude Gaumer , now grown older, walks, talks and loves his work at Ash/Craft. He participates in Special Olympics where he plays softball, runs track, bowls every Saturday and is an excellent swimmer. He also likes to arm wrestle.



*No Crooks Here. Ashtabula County Sheriff William Johnston arm wrestles with Claude Gaumer from Happy Hearts School during the Happy Hearts Ashcraft/Christmas party held at the Elks Lakefront Lodge 208 on Lake Road on December 18, 1986. The Elks Lodge, sheriff's department, Joe Lovas Insurance and Mike's Farm Market helped to make the party a success for the more than 250 who attended. Ashtabula Star Beacon photograph by Jim Matthews.*