



Faith Connections Summer 2025

Flat Rock Homes, Care Center, & Community Services is a faith-based, mission-minded ministry supported by churches of many denominations, individuals, families, businesses, and foundations.



Happy Birthday, Flat Rock Homes!

As we celebrate 159 years of ministry and service, our 2025 Birthday Appeal looks ahead to the future and our new Flat Rock Community Services Journey initiative. Housed at The Seybert Center, this program empowers individuals to take meaningful steps toward greater independence and inclusion through community outings, peer connections, and new experiences. Watch your mailbox for the birthday appeal or email engagement@flatrockhomes.org.

"Thank You" for The Dick Parks Memorial Race at the Rock Success



The 2025 Dick Parks Memorial Race at the Rock has crossed the finish line! Family, friends, churches, businesses, staff, and our individuals joined in the fun on a breezy morning, raising over \$33,800 and celebrating our twentieth race. Congratulations to our runners, walkers, and fundraisers. Your support enables us to continue to provide love, care, and services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

A special thanks goes to our Presenting Sponsor, Sutton Bank, and Gold Star Sponsor, First National Bank. Church and community sponsors are listed at [The Dick Parks Memorial Race at the Rock | Flat Rock Homes](#). We thank each of you for your partnership and participation!

Congratulations to our winners:

- 5K overall Runner Female: Elizabeth Burkey
- 5K Overall Runner Male: Teague Burkey
- Mile Walk: First place: Maeve Burkey; Second Place: Nora Pugh; Third Place: Ron Smith
- Top individual fundraiser: Pastor Ed Kovacic
- Top Church Fundraiser: The Lake Erie Posse (Huron UMC and Lakewood UMC)
- Top Non-Church Fundraiser: Team Dennis

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Geranium Appeal

The 2025 Geranium Appeal that supports the Main Campus beautification program raised nearly \$6,900. We appreciate your generous donations! When you come to visit, you will see the geraniums, and other summer plants all in their colorful glory!

Bountiful Blessings Benefit Bake Sale to Support Flat Rock Homes



- Hold a ***Bountiful Blessings Benefit Bake Sale*** at your chosen location and time, the weekend of September 20-21, 2025.
- Donate proceeds to Flat Rock Homes for the Flat Rock Community Services' Frontier Foodies program at our Adult Day Support program.
- Donations will provide new cooking and baking equipment and pantry items for culinary delights prepared by our Community Services individuals! Won't you help and have fun doing it? Donate here: [Make a Gift | Flat Rock Homes](#) and note it is for **Frontier Foodies**. Or send it to Flat Rock Homes, PO Box 1, Flat Rock, Ohio. 44828, ATTN: Stephanie.

Bell Dedication and Reception

We are pleased to announce the dedication of the newly restored administration building bell at Flat Rock Homes' main campus, made possible through a generous donation from Bishop John and Elaine Hopkins. Our dedication event will honor our history, community spirit, and the enduring power of generosity. The bell was originally installed in 1888 and will soon be back home.

Join us on Wednesday, July 30, 2 PM at the Main Campus TRL Outdoor Therapeutic Center located at 7353 County Road 29, Flat Rock, Ohio 44828. A reception follows. For more information, contact Kaylee at 419-483-7330.

Annual Conferences



Representatives of Flat Rock Homes shared our ministry, history, and mission at three Annual Conferences. In May, UWF Deaconess and Flat Rock's Church & Community Engagement Coordinator/Volunteer Manager Sherri Buehl, was on hand at the West Ohio Annual Conference (UMC) in Columbus. Flat Rock Homes President/Karen Kilgo and Director of Development and Sustainability Jill Kinser were joined by volunteers Rev. Ted Buehl and Geoffrey Darling for the East Ohio Annual Conference (UMC) at the



College of Wooster in June. Sherri offered a report of the Order of Deaconess & Home Missioner during the Laity Session. A week later, Jill represented Flat Rock at the Allegheny West Annual Conference of the Global Methodist Church, held at Mount Vernon Nazarene University. Representatives are available for your Missions Fairs and other events. Contact: Engagement@flatrockhomes.org.

W.O.W. Worship Our Way



In April, Care Center residents and staff gathered for a service of Christian hymns and songs, and a message from a local minister. A naming contest was held and Lisa Hart, our Care Center's Director of Nursing, won with the title "W.O.W. Worship Our Way." Ministers from the Bellevue area have participated by leading prayers and sharing an illustrative message. These include Pastor Scott Jones, Bellevue Faith Baptist Church; Rev. Wayne Chasney of Monroeville United Church of Christ; and Pastor Matthew Ong (shown) from Harvest Baptist Temple, Clyde, with Flat

Rock's Church & Community Engagement Coordinator Rose Darling providing the music. A special note of thanks to Norwalk UMC for the donation of a keyboard for use at W.O.W. and other activities. Local pastors and/or laity are invited to be the guest minister for the monthly W.O.W. service on the second Tuesday of each month at 3:30 PM. Contact engagement@flatrockhomes.org.

NOMADS Volunteer at Flat Rock



NOMADS (Nomads on a Mission Active in Divine Service) are shown here at work setting up fencing for the TRL Outdoor Therapeutic Center on Flat Rock's main campus. This Methodist group is comprised of volunteers who travel to various churches, camps, colleges, and other locations to help build, renovate, and, as they say, "pretty much do it all." (<https://www.methodistnomads.org>).

Flat Rock welcomes and thanks these skillful and dedicated volunteers as they give of time and talent to benefit the lives of our individuals.

Walmart's Sparkgood Program

Join Walmart's SparkGood Round-Up Program and donate your change or registry items on Walmart.com. You can now round up every time you shop on Walmart.com and choose Flat Rock to receive these donations! Getting started is simple! Find out more: <https://www.walmart.com/sparkgood>

Photo Gallery

Individuals from the Frontiers Adult Day Program enjoyed an exciting excursion to the Attica Fire Department, where they tried on gear, explored the fire trucks, and learned what it takes to be a firefighter. The firefighters were gracious and welcoming, and the smiles said it all!





Left: Residents enjoyed planting seeds and seedlings in anticipation of a bountiful harvest this fall.



Right: Allan from Community Services had a fabulous time at the Maple City Madness Demo Derby at the Huron County Fair, thanks to Jeff Clark from Throwdown TV!

Adopt-A-Home

Members of The Light Group, Cuyahoga Falls UMC, enjoyed handmade button flowers from their Adopt-A-Home residents.



Race at the Rock

It was a blustery day, but residents, family, staff, and guests had a great time at the 20th Race at the Rock. We appreciate all who helped make this event possible. Food trucks from MacaRonnie's and STR8JUICE were on hand with delicious beverages and breakfast foods.



Visit with Seneca County Commissioner

Seneca County Commissioner Bill Frankart visited the Flat Rock campus and enjoyed a personal tour from Karen Kilgo, and Jill Kinser. Thank you, Commissioner for taking the time to visit and learn more about Flat Rock Homes, Care Center, & Community Services.

