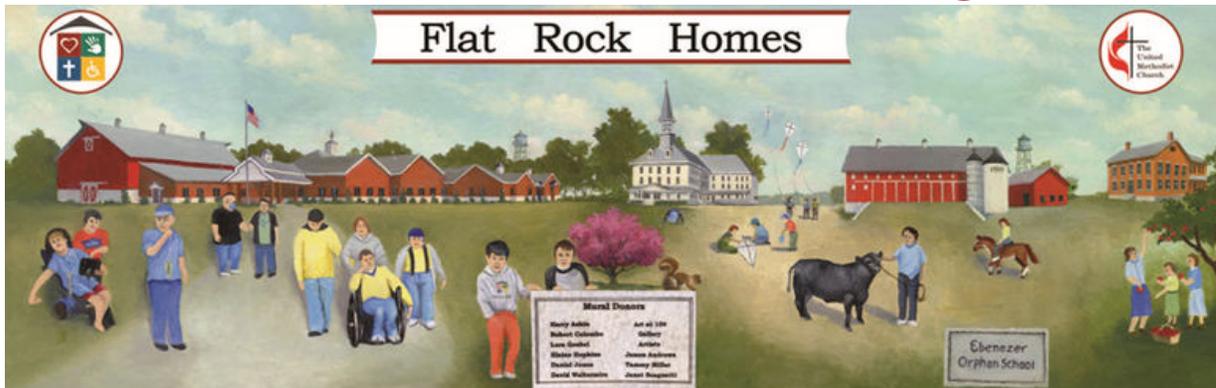




# FAITH CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER

Faith Connections shares inspiring stories and pertinent updates that reflect our values, celebrate our community, and strengthen the bonds between families, churches, volunteers, and supporters.

## 160 Years Mission Strong



You are invited to celebrate the 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Flat Rock Homes! From its earliest days as an orphanage in Tiffin, Ohio, to its present home in Flat Rock, our commitment to service and compassionate care has remained steadfast. Learn more about our history at [www.flatrockhomes.org/about/our-history/](http://www.flatrockhomes.org/about/our-history/). Watch for upcoming announcements on how you may participate in the anniversary celebrations.



**Kiwanis Party 2025**

### Thank you for an incredible year

As we reflect on 2025, we are filled with gratitude for the unwavering support of our donors, volunteers, partners, and friends. Your generosity, belief in our mission, and continued partnership made a meaningful impact throughout the year. Because of you, we were able to move forward with purpose, reach more people, and create lasting change. We couldn't do this without you—and we're deeply grateful for your trust and support. We look forward to continuing this important work together in 2026 and beyond.



**Kiwanis Members 2025**

Many thanks to the Adopt a Home sponsors, Bellevue Kiwanis Club, partnering churches, and other friends who filled the Christmas season with joyful celebrations for the individuals we serve!

Help us launch our 160th anniversary year by joining *Friends of Flat Rock* today!

[www.flatrockhomes.org/friends-of-flat-rock/](http://www.flatrockhomes.org/friends-of-flat-rock/)

**JILL KINSER, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT & SUSTAINABILITY ANNOUNCES THE RETIREMENT OF UMC DEACONESS SHERRI BUEHL, A CHURCH & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR AND VOLUNTEER MANAGER, BEGINNING JANUARY 31, 2026.**



For over six years, Sherri has been a vital member of Flat Rock’s Development team., faithfully sharing the mission and ministries of Flat Rock Homes with churches and organizations throughout the East Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church. Her ministry has included pulpit supply, leading spiritual gifts retreats, and guiding our volunteer recruitment efforts.

We are grateful for Sherri’s service to Flat Rock Homes and extend our prayers for Sherri and her husband, Rev. Theodore (Ted) Buehl, pastor of Trinity UMC, Sandusky, and Edison Memorial UMC, Milan, Ohio, as they enter this new phase in their life’s journey.

Rose Darling continues as Church & Community Engagement Coordinator, and is available for pulpit and/or music (piano/organ) supply, Disability Awareness programs, and group presentations, including her informative and entertaining message, “Many Hats: One Mission” Rdarling@flatrockhomes.org.



**Night to Shine: Shining Like Stars!**

On February 13, our individuals will gather for a fabulous dress-up prom night with dinner, dancing, and lots of fun!



Photos from 2025

This annual global prom for individuals with disabilities began in 2015 as a special event by the Tim Tebow Foundation. Flat Rock individuals are pleased to participate in Night to Shine at the Care Center, and other local celebration venues.



**Friends of Flat Rock Monthly Giving**

By joining our monthly-giving program, you can be assured your donations are immediately put to work to meet the needs of our individuals.

- You will receive updates of how your dollars are put to use.
- Your donation is automatically transferred to Flat Rock - no more monthly checks to write (unless you want to).

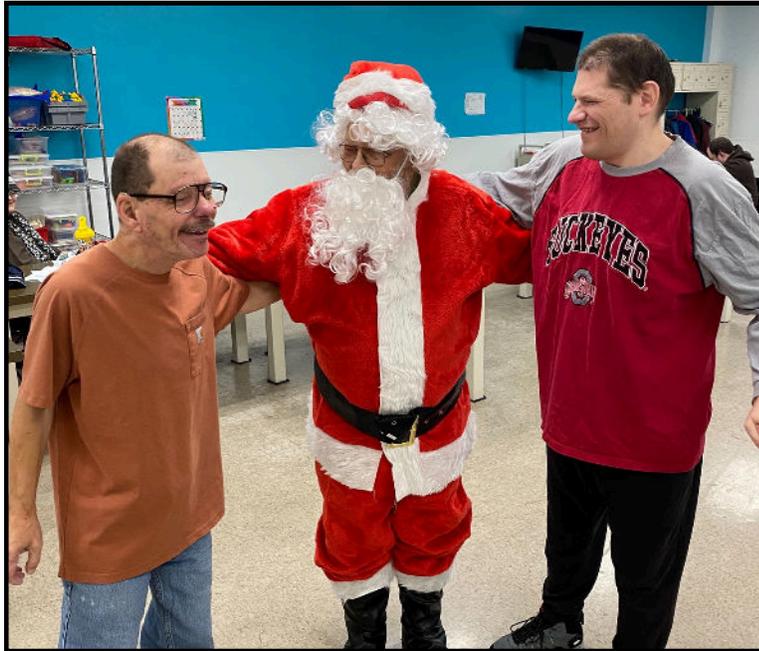
Please join Friends of Flat Rock today. [www.flatrockhomes.org/friends-of-flat-rock/](http://www.flatrockhomes.org/friends-of-flat-rock/)

**A Lenten Prayer**

Lord, who throughout these forty days for us didst fast and pray, Teach us with Thee to mourn our sins and close by Thee to stay. Abide with us, that so, this life of suffering is past, An Easter of unending joy we may attain at last. (C. Hermanen)

As we enter a new year, please keep Flat Rock Homes, Care Center, and Community Services in your daily prayers.





Clockwise: Santa's visit to Frontiers Day Habilitation, Community involvement with the Salvation Army, Community Services' Christmas party, Administrative Dept. members show off their jolly holiday sweaters, Members of the Development Team and Day Habilitation individuals enjoyed singing songs of the season, Pastor Beth Westphal and Care Center residents revisit the Nativity story during a Worship Our Way (W.O.W.) service.



As you prepare your calendar for 2026, we offer resources and presentations for:

- March Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month
- Disability Awareness Sunday
- Guest speakers
- Church pulpit supply
- Music supply, and more!

Email [engagement@flatrockhomes.org](mailto:engagement@flatrockhomes.org)



Fun with the animals at Doebel's Flowers in Clyde

The **ADOPT A HOME** program is a great way to build new relationships with our individuals.

We have several homes in need of your compassionate interaction!

Email [engagement@flatrockhomes.org](mailto:engagement@flatrockhomes.org).

## **SAVE THESE DATES**

February 13: *Night to Shine*

March: *National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month*

July 18: *Walk at the Rock*

July 31: *160 Years Mission Strong, a celebratory evening with UMC Bishop Hee-Soo Jung*

Watch for more information about these and other special events.