Bonnie Brae
1916-2016
100 years
10,000 Boys, 10,000 Families

Today and TOMORROW
THE CAMPAIGN FOR BONNIE BRAE’S SECOND CENTURY

Bonnie Brae
Dear Bonnie Brae Friends and Colleagues,

As Bonnie Brae begins its second century, we plan to enhance and expand our campus. The renovation of existing space to create a Family Center will transform care and allow us to impact the lives of families on a much greater scale (in terms of access, education, and comfort). A new 12-Bed Cottage will help us better provide life-changing services to our residents.

Results from our recently concluded capital campaign planning study confirm that there is broad and strong support for this bold vision for Bonnie Brae’s future.

This initiative marks a turning point as we begin our second century of commitment to transforming the lives of young men and their families. In subsequent pages, you will learn more of our plans in some detail. We are confident as we move forward that our friends will continue to demonstrate excitement and belief in what we do. We invite you to join us in making this initiative a reality.

Sincerely,

Paul D. Rieger, MSW
Chief Executive Officer

Louis DiGiovanni
President, Bonnie Brae Board of Trustees
Dear Friends of Bonnie Brae,

One hundred years ago, my grandfather, Judge Harry Osborne founded Bonnie Brae because he wanted to offer hope to troubled boys. He purchased a small working farm and soon had 14 young boys as residents. Later, he purchased a much larger farm – our current site – and provided more boys with employable skills, as well as a safe and therapeutic environment for personal and social development.

I’m not certain that my grandfather could have imagined the breadth and scope of Bonnie Brae today. He responded to what he believed was an urgent need, and now, a century later, we’ve helped more than 10,000 boys and young men overcome personal and family challenges, build new futures and become good citizens. My involvement with Bonnie Brae, and with “Today and Tomorrow,” honors my grandfather and is a tribute to his foresight and passionate commitment to helping youth and families.

Our family is inviting your family to be a part of this dream. Together we can help even more young men and their families achieve “Small Victories. Every Day.”

Sincerely,

Ted Osborne
Chairman, Bonnie Brae Today and Tomorrow
OUR INVESTMENT, THEIR FUTURE
A Premier Family Center and a New State-of-the-Art Residential Cottage

Our vision to take Bonnie Brae into the next century is bold. We’ve made significant investments over the last few years, but our planned renovation and construction project marks a milestone on our path to an even better future. These next two urgent on-campus priorities are: repurposing a historic cottage into a premier Family Center; and the construction of a new state-of-the-art Residential Cottage for 12 young men.

“I CAME TO BONNIE BRAE 20 YEARS AGO AS A TROUBLED TEENAGER,” angry and addicted to drugs. I had lost my will to live and had no one to turn to. I felt like a complete failure and had damaged every relationship and burned every bridge. Bonnie Brae helped me discover that life was worth living and I had something to contribute. Since leaving Bonnie Brae, I’ve devoted my life to sharing His gifts and serving and mentoring others. I was able to turn adversity into opportunity, and hope I can offer hope, encouragement and empowerment to others.”

- Pastor Timothy Hart
A PREMIER FAMILY CENTER: A DREAM TO CREATE THE BEST OF ITS KIND IN NEW JERSEY

"WE WANT TO BE A RESOURCE FOR YOU AND FOR YOUR FAMILIES IN OUR NEXT 100 YEARS.” - Paul D. Rieger, MSW, Chief Executive Officer

Our role in helping the boys and young men we serve, is based on a well-established formula of care, which heals families. Typically, 62% of our young men come from some type of supportive family system, and we hope to do more for these families and we want to do it better. Currently, we are limited by insufficient space to fully address family dynamics in ways that foster even greater progress and success.
OUR GOAL IS TO CREATE A PREMIER FACILITY FOR FAMILIES, THE BEST OF ITS KIND IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY. Bonnie Brae’s Family Center will meet this goal by offering the following:

- **Family Meeting Space:** Young men and families will visit in an ideal environment closely modeled upon home-life. The Family Meeting Space will have four private areas for family visits, where parents or families can spend time with sons or brothers, see progress and have meaningful dialogue. Because of insufficient space, currently we cannot maximize potential for family progress. Most weekends, there are 20 or more family members gathered in cramped office spaces throughout the campus.

- **Private Family Therapy Rooms:** Our staff and counselors will be able to offer a more professional and holistic experience of family therapy in a space conducive to positive, healthy family interactions. The Family Therapy Rooms will also give us the ability to bring Bonnie Brae staff together to review issues, chronicle progress, strengthen communication, and deepen the understanding of our young men’s treatment plans. These meetings are critical to the development of our residents, to their families’ involvement in their growth, and to sustainable family relationships after leaving Bonnie Brae.

- **Compassionate Admissions Care:** Warm, inviting space will better allow us to welcome young men into the Bonnie Brae community during an often traumatic time in their lives.

- **Community Education/Classes:** Education space would allow us to share with larger Northern New Jersey communities our expertise from 100 years of experience. Typical classes/workshops might be on: blended families; adolescent mental health; foster care; health and wellness; as well as professional training for staff and internships for students from local colleges and graduate schools.

- **Potential Outpatient Services:** We are assessing opportunities to provide select outpatient services.

- **Welcoming Legacy Space:** Alumni and their families would be able to share memories with each other and other residents in a new Welcome Center with extraordinary displays highlighting our 100-year history. There will be space to share memories, renew friendships and to interact creatively with Bonnie Brae’s history and legacy, as well as meet current staff.

“THE WORK WE DO WITH YOUTH AND FAMILIES IS EXPONENTIAL: when we change a family, they go back into a community and engender change, and that change ultimately gets paid forward...In my 25 years we have tripled the number of young men and families that we work with, and while I am grateful for the resources we have, I am a realist to know that we can do better.”

- Jamie Rau, MSW
  Bonnie Brae Clinical Director
The New Residential Cottage

A stellar reputation, an exceptional track record and a legacy of distinction cannot help but result in even higher expectations and increased demand. Bonnie Brae is almost always filled to capacity and there is often a wait list. Since 2015, we are serving more boys on our main campus, and now we need additional living space! A new state-of-the-art Residential Cottage for 12 young men will provide more space to live, heal and grow.

“Cottage Life” plays a vital role in the growth and success of each young man. Bonds are formed between residents and cottage staff as they work through issues together, creating a healthy environment that cultivates positive growth and success. When a young man enters the Bonnie Brae community, expectations are set from day one and he is responsible for: actively participating in the physical care of his cottage; being respectful of others in his cottage; participating in daily “group” sessions where he receives feedback -- both positive and negative -- from his peers; and participating in team-building activities, which contribute to an atmosphere of pride and ownership.
Our new Residential Cottage will allow us to meet our expectations for a quality living environment, and offer the space and amenities to maximize positive growth and change for each young man. In the words of our Residential Director, Phil Errico, who has been with us for over 30 years, “The cottage will strike a nice balance between interaction and privacy,” offering large space for activities, 12 private bedrooms, a clinician’s office, and two laundry rooms. This “balance” will allow us to better address our residents’ emotional and behavioral challenges in a natural and holistic way. The cottage will also enhance our ability to offer multiple programs for the residents at the same time. There are even two porches for boys to sit and enjoy the beautiful views of our campus!
“WHEN I WAS TWO, MY FATHER LEFT HOME. My mother did all she could. She took in anyone who needed help. But some of the people who came into my life abused me. And, in turn, I became abusive to others. I was 16 years old when I came to Bonnie Brae. Bonnie Brae gave me a beautiful and safe place to heal, to learn, and to grow. The staff gave me tools to make better choices.”

- Rob, former Bonnie Brae resident

“Today and Tomorrow”

THE CAMPAIGN FOR BONNIE BRAE’S SECOND CENTURY

Our new strategic plan calls for us to “Transform more lives of at-risk youth and their families through a nationally recognized model of care.” The premier Family Center and state-of-the-art New Residential Cottage will allow us to expand our continuum of care, providing the best, most comprehensive services for at-risk boys and families, giving them the greatest chance to heal and realize lasting change.

We are initiating the largest capital campaign in our history to raise as much as possible of the $6 million needed for these two new capital projects. This expansion will enable us to help even more youth and families both at Bonnie Brae and in our surrounding communities.

We need your help to complete these urgently-needed initiatives. The ultimate success of Today and Tomorrow...The Campaign for Bonnie Brae’s Second Century will depend upon generous philanthropic support and partnership from friends, corporations, and foundations in assuring future success in the lives of so many New Jersey youth and families.

“WE CAME OUT OF SOME PRETTY NASTY PLACES. Our chances of survival weren’t real good. Most of us were from families that had fallen on hard times and couldn’t provide a home for us. We had orphans, wards of the State, kids from the street, and some boys sent by the courts. One way or another, we were all abandoned children. Some of us arrived at eight years old and stayed until we graduated high school. For all of us, Bonnie Brae was a refuge. I gained the confidence I never had as a young person. Admiraible people cared about us and went out of their way to make sure we did okay. These kids here today are pretty much us.” - Art Knowlton, Bonnie Brae resident, 1953
BONNIE BRAE TODAY

Having celebrated 100 years of caring and service in 2016, Bonnie Brae today is an extraordinary residential school and therapeutic community for New Jersey boys and young men in crisis, ages 8-21. A fully-accredited and nationally-recognized residential treatment center, Bonnie Brae provides a safe haven for boys to heal, to learn and to grow. Nearly all boys who come to Bonnie Brae have suffered abuse, trauma or neglect. Many have had addiction issues and/or gang involvement.

Treatment is primarily based on forming positive relationships between traumatized children and caring, knowledgeable staff. Since its founding in 1916 by Judge Harry Osborne, over 10,000 boys at risk have been helped. Today, 93 boys are served at the main campus which is situated on 100 beautiful acres in Liberty Corner, and 21 young men are in community-based transitional living homes in New Brunswick, Bound Brook and Bridgewater. Our history, track record of success and strong leadership have provided a foundation which we can build upon and expand even further into New Jersey communities.
Residents live on a beautiful 100-acre campus complete with a pool, fields and plenty of open space; where they have mentors and peers, and consistent, compassionate care and a structured living schedule.

**CLINICAL CARE**

Our dedicated and seasoned team offers compassionate care and expertise helping youth through: trauma; addictions; neglect; emotional management; physical and sexual abuse. Staff members are trained to utilize every hour of every day to replace learned destructive behavior with new positive skills. Clinical staff licensed to deal with specific issues facilitate individual, group and family therapy, and act as liaisons between residents, family members and other social service agencies.

**EDUCATION**

Boys and young men at Bonnie Brae attend a full day of school either on or off campus. Specialized education is provided in small classes tailored to meet each boy’s individual needs. Teachers work with individual students to discover their interests, strengths and hidden talents.

**HEALTH SERVICES**

From routine exams, to treating injuries and illness, to providing medications, psychiatric care and referrals, our medical team offers round-the-clock care while establishing an ongoing, trusting, therapeutic relationship. Residents receive annual exams, twice-yearly dental exams, annual eye exams, lab work and HIV testing, and consultations with specialists as needed.

**RECREATION**

Staff “re-create” the experiences of life through sports, performing and visual arts, outdoor recreational activities, and serving others. By participating on a team, acting on a stage, competing in a tournament, volunteering in a soup kitchen, and even taking a vacation, boys take risks, learn coping strategies and interpersonal skills, gain confidence and experience sacrifice – all while having fun.
WORK EXPERIENCE
Youth gain employment skills, basic training and certifications; they experience building homes with Habitat for Humanity, preparing food, landscaping and customer service.

COMMUNITY BASED TRANSITIONAL LIVING
Young men gain independence by going to school, working, volunteering and living in the community at one of three community-based transitional living residences: the Powers House in New Brunswick; the Van Houten House in Bound Brook; and the Brozowski Liberty House in Bridgewater. The program strengthens the fragile progress achieved on-campus; completes the cycle of treatment; promotes the prevention of regression; and provides a greater chance for ultimate success in the transition to independent adult life.

AFTERCARE
Aftercare is a bridge of support – practical and therapeutic – for youth returning home or gaining independence, and assists our graduates at their most statistically vulnerable points when they are beginning life as an independent adult. Former residents: find safe, affordable housing; pursue stable employment; continue education or enroll in vocational job training; learn to manage physical and mental health issues; and develop basic personal and life skills necessary for self-sufficiency.

“BONNIE BRAE DIDN’T CHANGE ME. IT DIDN’T PUT OUT MY FIRE. I AM WHO I AM.
The same things that got me here are the same things that make me interesting and awesome today. I just didn’t know what to do with all of it then and now I do. Bonnie Brae provided me with the tools I needed to grow, problem-solve and evolve into the best rendition of me possible. It helped me discover strengths I didn’t know I had. I think of this place as a university of self-discovery and an opportunity to learn how to live as your truest self in a way that will benefit you the most.” – Bonnie Brae Alumnus, Frank Vignola
Bonnie Brae is an extraordinary residential school and therapeutic community for New Jersey boys in crisis, ages 8-21.

In 100 years, Bonnie Brae has helped more than 10,000 boys and 10,000 families.

Bonnie Brae has 22 buildings on its 100-acre main campus in Liberty Corner, NJ, and three community-based residential treatment centers in New Brunswick, Bound Brook and Bridgewater.

Nearly all of the boys who come to Bonnie Brae have suffered abuse, neglect or abandonment and arrive after an average of 5.6 out of home placements.

Residents represent nearly every county in New Jersey:
- In 2015, 40% were African-American; 34% Caucasian; 17% Latino; 8% Biracial; and 1% Asian.

Bonnie Brae is:
- Fully licensed by The State of New Jersey;
- Accredited by The Joint Commission;
- A member of the Association of Children’s Residential Centers;
- A member of The Alliance for Children, Youth and Families.
Currently, Bonnie Brae serves as many as 114 boys at a time:

- 93 on our main campus situated on 100 acres in Liberty Corner
- 8 at our Community Based Transitional Living Home in New Brunswick, the Powers House
- 8 at our Community Based Transitional Living Home in Bound Brook, the Van Houten House
- 5 at our newest Community Based Transitional Living Home in Bridgewater, for young men 18-21, the Brozowski Liberty House

Bonnie Brae offers a comprehensive continuum of care which includes:

- Residential
- Clinical
- Healthcare
- Education
- Recreation and Allied Therapies
- Work Experience
- Transitional
- Aftercare and Intensive In-Community Services

“Bonnie Brae is the best thing that ever happened to my son. He wouldn’t be in college or where he is today without Bonnie Brae.”

– Alumni Parent
Bonnie Brae’s recent investments include:

- A $2.1 million renovation to create four state-of-the-art, LEED Silver cottages
- Community Based Residential Treatment Homes in New Brunswick (expanded 2010), Bound Brook (opened in 2013) and Bridgewater (opened in 2015), our first home for young men, ages 18-21

Over the past 15 years, Bonnie Brae’s experienced management team and Board of Trustees have:

- More than doubled the number of boys served
- Dramatically increased the scope of services offered to boys
- Increased annual revenue over expenses by 126%
- Reduced management costs from 17.7% to 11.1% of general expenses (vs. the average non-profit 15%)
- Added a solar array that provides for 85% of the campus energy needs
- Added Aftercare and Work Experience Programs

Bonnie Brae’s gifts to the community are plentiful

- Bonnie Brae Builders have constructed more than 50 homes with Habitat for Humanity
- Knights Drummers play in community parades and events
- Bonnie Brae Ambassadors feed the homeless with Bridges Outreach; provide water for participants of the Tunnel to Towers run; and assist at many other community events including: Miles for Matheny School; Tour de Cure for the American Diabetes Association; Elijah’s Promise Soup Kitchen; and the Hillside Food Bank

When boys arrive at Bonnie Brae:

- They average 5.6 out of home placements prior to admission
- 64% have been runaways
- 67% had been abused, neglected or witnessed violence inside or outside the home
- 70% were taking psychotropic medications
- 95% had school problems including multiple suspensions, expulsions and truancy

When boys leave Bonnie Brae:

- 85% have graduated successfully from our program
- 64% were reunited with their families and 67% felt Bonnie Brae helped them to get along better with family members, friends and other people
- 67% either decreased or were reduced to no psychotropic medications
- 100% of eligible seniors graduated from high school

Three years after leaving Bonnie Brae:

- 81% are living in the community in stable living arrangements
- 44% are working part-time or full-time jobs in the community
- 73% are enrolled in high school or have graduated
- 26% are enrolled in post-secondary education
Bonnie Brae