

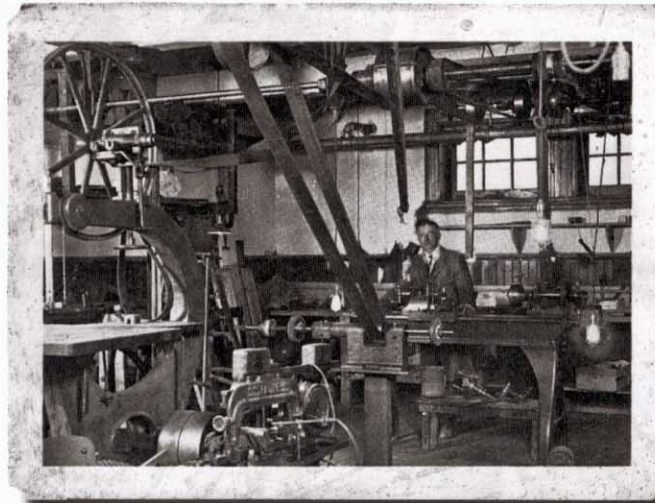
Expertise and Expansion



14

The girl had contracted polio when she was only two years old. She lost her ability to walk and pulled herself around on the floor until she was 13 because nobody in her community knew how to help her. Then she herself heard about the Home and was admitted. Seven years later—at the age of 20—she took her first steps. The Superintendent, who guarded the girl's privacy by not naming her, wrote, "This important moment should have come to her many years before. . . . Caring for a child immediately after having infantile paralysis is an important step toward the elimination of deformity."

By 1919 nearly 75 percent of the children living at the Home were recovering from infantile paralysis—the crippling polio that first hit hard in 1916 and then wracked the country for nearly 40 years, twisting bodies and taking lives. For all those years, post-polio rehabilitation was a major emphasis of the Home.



Local brace and artificial limb shops were over-taxed because of the Great War, and delivery delays threatened the progress of children at the Home—so in 1919 the Home opened its own facility. Superbly equipped, the Home's shop was soon turning out work not only for its own patients but for those at other area institutions.

1919
Brace and Artificial Limb Shop is opened at Home

1921
Alumni Association is organized to keep in touch with "graduates"

1922
Insulin, prepared by Canadian physicians Banting, Best, and Macleod, is first administered to diabetic patients

1924
Pitt Chancellor John G. Bowman announced plans for a Gothic skyscraper to be built at a cost of \$10,000,000 and known as the Cathedral of Learning

Surviving—and Thriving

Accreditations and other formal acknowledgments of the

Home's high standards came quickly. One example: The Home was the first comprehensive rehabilitation center for children in the U.S. to be accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities. Such acknowledgments were vital to the Home's survival because they paved the way for reimbursement by third-party payors, which historically had not paid for rehabilitation services.

In the years after polio was conquered, the Home began to see a new type of patient—the child with a severe handicap who needed more than the expert medical and educational services that had been the core of the Home's work during the polio era. The Home quickly responded by returning to the more comprehensive approach of its earliest years and creating a range of high-level medical, educational, social, psychological, and prevocational programs.

That responsiveness served the new young patients well and set a pattern that would allow the Home to continue to fulfill its mission despite great change—sometimes even upheaval—in health care, the economy, and American society.

For decades the Home's school had helped its young inpatient students develop both academic and life skills. The success of the school program prompted the Board of Directors to offer school services to children with disabilities who were able to live at home. Today, The Day School is one of the largest state-

approved private schools in Pennsylvania, with an enrollment of nearly 250 students from pre-school through age 21. Although most of the students face major physical, cognitive, or emotional challenges, The Day School's atmosphere is like that of any good school—lively, stimulating, and fun.



1957
"Industrial" dropped from Home's name, which becomes Home For Crippled Children

1957
T. P. Hipkens named to lead Home as Executive Director; guides move to more comprehensive rehabilitation

1959
Nikita Khrushchev arrives in Pittsburgh and speaks of eagerness for peace. Thousands are on hand to see him

1960
Home's occupational and speech-language therapy departments expand

1960
The Pirates beat the Yankees in the seventh game of the World Series with a home run by Bill Mazeroski in the ninth inning

1961
Alan Shepherd makes first U.S. space flight