



Remarks from Director of Development and Communications

Clearview Home Grand Opening and Annual Gathering

June 29, 2019

Thank you all for being here. There can never be enough gratitude. It's my time to specifically thank some people. First — a new staff member who started just as the plans for the event were picking up speed. Carol Johnson has been an immense help to me and this event. In fact, her husband Craig has also been a huge help, by writing nametags and signs into all hours of the night. In my book, Craig and Carol are the royal couple.

Also, I want to thank our angelic army of volunteers. Earlier this year, we revived the Volunteer program. And we had several people that offered to be on the Volunteer Startup Committee.

Special thanks to Susan Kruger, Diane Sheth, and Amy Thomas. They are helping in many ways today! And we have about 20 volunteers helping now, too! Big hugs and thanks to you all. Let's give them a big hand! [Applause]

I'm the newest on the management team at Clearview, and I am very grateful to God for bringing me here to this marvelous organization and for the conscientious and inspired work that this current board and staff have done in the last few years. I also appreciate the many volunteers, donors, and staff that have helped this facility to shine over the decades, as Dave mentioned.

Listening to God and acknowledging his direction is a good mode to be in. Just the other day I was driving to a meeting at a church — not my regular church — and I took the country roads instead of the freeway. While driving I was filled with a such a sense of beauty. How beautiful were the fields and farms, the homes and trees, the businesses, churches, flowers, and sky. It was deeply beautiful, and I felt God was saying that this is how much beauty I am always sending you and MORE. This is what I created and more, and I felt it was a gift to feel that.

It also reminded me of a time when I was working in New York state. I was giving a workshop at a church in Buffalo. The Christian Science nurse I was with had never seen Niagara Falls. So, we had a few hours and went over to look at it. As I was preparing for the workshop, this message came to me, "See how much water is flowing over that falls. That is just a bit of the love God has for us, and more."

Why am I telling you this? Because it is important for all of us to feel and recognize how much love and beauty God has for us. It is the foundation of *our* prayers, *our* actions, and *our* peace.

Have you noticed I've been saying *OUR* a lot? If I have a feeling of goodness, I know that all of us can experience that, too. No one is left out. We are in this together. We are a community. Fundraising theory says that you should say *YOU* a lot. *You* are helping to build a house. *You* are buying the food for the hungry -- *you* are. Well, I want to suggest we should really be talking about *we, us, our*.

This is *our* Christian Science nursing facility and services. Whether students of Christian Science or not it is here to love, bless, shine for *all*. Across city and state borders — into Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, anywhere.

So, what can we do to be a part? Engage? Help? What beautiful and loving gifts can we send along? The abundance of beauty and love that I just mentioned, enables and impels us to help where it is needed.

Pray for inspiration to take the right actions. Our budget is designed to make our services affordable and it depends on contributions. We do not consider ability to pay before admitting a patient.

Annually our budget is about — using round numbers — 1 million dollars.

The first half million comes in easily from service revenues and our current level of contributions. Over the years, large one-time gifts, like wills, estates, and church sales have built up reserves that we could use in the leaner years. We discovered, however, that even these reserves run out. This is not a sustainable situation. We encourage you to put Clearview near the top of your list of charities to support *every* year. Call it your readiness fund — helping to assure our doors are kept open for an unexpected need from a loved one or a stranger. Many people like to give monthly by credit card or autopay. That's what our annual campaign and general fund is for. This way Clearview does not dip into its savings.

And then, our new vision is calling us to do more. We also have a Building Campaign. We want to immediately start to design and plan for Phase 2, Sheltering Care in a larger building. Pledges are being accepted for this Building Fund. Clearview appreciates those that have already pledged. These are extraordinary gifts, in addition to your annual gift, that invest in *our* future. There's that *our* again. This is something that benefits *us* all. It blesses our community here in Delafield. It blesses the region and globe by supporting Christian healing. Our Building Goal is 7 million dollars, and the next building is estimated at 4.5 million dollars. Just to put those figures in perspective, each million dollars still starts with *one*. Think about it.

Please consider making a pledge today from yourself or family, your church, or a foundation you may be connected to. Thank you all in advance. You are very beautiful people!

--- And now our Executive Director, Elizabeth Harned, will tell you more about our expansion plans...