

Changes to Lakeside Boards

Myers, McGlinn Retire from Board Service

Lakeside for Children honors Harvey Myers, Ph.D., and Daniel McGlinn, J.D., who have retired after long service on our board of directors.

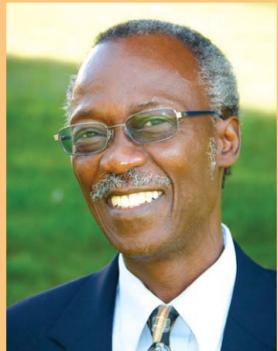
Dr. Harvey Myers was a research chemist and quality operations leader at Pfizer prior to his 2005 retirement. He served on the Lakeside board for more than 20 years, including service as board secretary. He was also instrumental in guiding fellow board members through regular policy and governance reviews.

"I enjoyed working with Lakeside board and staff members to help children improve their lives," said Myers. "Lakeside gives kids a second chance and helps them find their way. I'm glad I was part of that."

Dan McGlinn, an attorney and shareholder at the law firm Kreis, Enderle, Hudgins & Borsos, P.C., served for ten years on the Lakeside board, including service as board chair. His long-time unofficial title was pro-bono counsel, providing his fellow board members with legal guidance pertaining to contracts for service providers, campus expansions and more – all at no cost to the agency.

"The Lakeside board is an amazing group of very talented individuals, each of whom has made significant and meaningful contributions," said McGlinn. "I had a great experience on the board and feel that its current members are some of the best with whom I have ever worked."

Thank you, Harvey and Dan, for your long and meaningful service to Lakeside for Children.



Harvey Myers



Daniel McGlinn

New Officers Elected to Lakeside for Children Board

The Lakeside for Children board of directors held its annual meeting Feb. 6 and voted in a new slate of officers. **Rick Wordell** is now board chair, taking over for **A.J. Todd** who held the post the past four years. Wordell had been vice-chair. **Jeff Palmer** is now vice-chair and **Dannie Alexander** is now secretary, taking over from long-time secretary **Mike Pohlman**. **David Furgason** continues as board treasurer. Todd and Pohlman will continue to serve on the board. Thank you, Mike and A.J., for your dedicated service to Lakeside!

Kemerling Joins Foundation Board

Whitney Kemerling, an attorney at the Kalamazoo-based law firm DeMent & Marquardt, PLC, has joined the Lakeside for Children Foundation board of directors. She grew up in Portage, Mich., and earned a B.A. degree at Michigan State University in business administration and a law degree at University of Detroit Mercy School of Law. The Lakeside for Children Foundation supports the campus, programs and youth of Lakeside for Children. Welcome, Whitney!



Whitney Kemerling



3921 Oakland Drive
Kalamazoo, MI 49008

269.381.4760
lakesideforchildren.org

Save the Date: May 12, 7pm.

A Celebration of Success: An annual celebration of the lives and struggles of the youth in our community by "Speak It Forward" featuring youth from Lakeside Academy!

Lakeside for Children Board

Richard Wordell, Chair
Jeff Palmer, Vice Chair
David Furgason, Treasurer
Dannie Alexander, Secretary
Joseph Brogger II
Matt Kakabeeke
Debra Mixis
Mary Oudsema
Mike Pohlman
Sabrina Pritchett-Evans
A.J. Todd
Eric Wimbley
Don Nitz, CEO

Lakeside for Children Foundation Board

Joel J. Orosz, Chair
Joseph Brogger II, Secretary
Carlene Korchak, Treasurer
John Cooper
Bob Ezelle
Whitney Kemerling
Amy Upjohn
Debra Mixis, Director



Lakeside teachers and staff members are known to go the extra mile for their students. As evidence, check out these photos from the ugly Christmas sweater contest on campus this past December. Students loved it!

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Lines from Lakeside

LAKESIDE FOR CHILDREN • SPRING 2017

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Lakeside for Children

Providing at-risk youth an opportunity to learn new skills and behaviors in a caring hope-filled and supportive environment.

Announcing April 19 event

“The Greatest Place on Campus!” New Health & Wellness Center Opens at Lakeside

The lights are on and we can now enjoy the wonderful new Health & Wellness Center for student recreation, education, social development and happiness at Lakeside for Children. CEO Don Nitz received the keys to the 12,500 sq.-ft. building from Miller-Davis Co. construction personnel in early February, after it passed final City of Kalamazoo and State of Michigan inspections.

“Our new building was designed to offer the maximum quality of educational and recreation opportunities for students,” said Nitz. “Three classrooms and an all-purpose room – all with state-of-the-art interactive technology – will provide new options for teaching and learning. We are confident this will inspire our teachers and encourage students to stretch beyond high school and reach for junior college or university degrees.”

John Thompson, principal of Lakeside Academy, the charter school on campus authorized by Kalamazoo Regional Educational Services Agency, agrees. “A large number of our students have fallen behind in their academics by the time they come to us,” he said. “Recovering lost credits and catching up is very important to them. The new classrooms and instructional equipment will help them reach grade level or beyond. We will also be able to offer students important new health and wellness programming.”

The new building is bustling with activity, led by Lakeside Academy Titans Boys Basketball players and coaches who have played their first two seasons without a home court. All students and staff were eager to get inside and see the new gym,

complete with a regulation high school basketball court, six retractable basketball hoops, volleyball and badminton nets, a retractable wrestling mat, digital scoreboards, bleacher seating for 255, visitors’ locker room and more.

“The Center has quickly become the favorite destination for everyone on campus,” said Nitz. “It’s a beautiful building that enhances the daily routines of all staff and students and provides a normal environment for teenage socialization.”

The Health and Wellness Center, designed by Eckert-Wordell Architects, is the result of a yearlong, \$2.3 million fundraising campaign and nearly nine-month construction phase. It replaces a small gym built in the 1960s for an elementary school age population and adds classrooms to accommodate the 124 students on campus.

“This is the greatest place on campus,” said Lakeside student Maurice, age 16. “We finally have a cool spot to show off our skills and learn new ones.”

On behalf of all Lakeside students, staff and teachers, the boards of directors for Lakeside for Children and Lakeside for Children Foundation extend a huge thank you to all donors who helped make our new Health and Wellness Center a reality. We invite you to visit campus at any time. It is important that you see first- hand how your donation dollars have impacted student life and the continuing health of our agency in the Kalamazoo community.

Lakeside “still a caring place” say recent visitors

Lakeside for Children welcomes visitors to our beautiful campus. Don and Dottie Dooley, two people with a deep connection to Lakeside, recently toured campus for the first time in many years and came away with a renewed affection for a place they once called home.

Don Dooley first came to Lakeside in February 1944 as the 11-year-old son of Clarence “Pops” Dooley, then the new director of Lake Farm Boys Home, as the agency was called. The 30 to 35 boys in his care were all local kids, ages six to 16. Some had been abused and neglected, others came from poor families that could not care for them. Some were orphans.

The Lakeside campus in 1944 consisted of a small two-story house, a large three-story house, a barn and a few outbuildings. There were six employees, two draft horses, a big German shepherd named York, “and a collection of barn cats that would we would squirt in the face during milking time,” Don recalled with a laugh.

Don and his dad lived on the second floor of the small house with Don’s younger sister, Marianna, and his mother, Helen. Carl and Peg Drake lived downstairs. Carl took care of the buildings and grounds. Peg served as head matron to the boys, all of whom lived on the second and third floors of the big house, above a large dining room, living room and library.

A farming couple, the VanderWeides, lived in an apartment on the second floor of the big white house. Mr. VanderWeide tended the dairy cows and other livestock, along with a portion of the 50-acre campus planted in hay and other crops (plus 80 acres west of town). Mrs. VanderWeide served as seamstress and assistant matron. Edith Dooley, Don’s aunt, was the boys’ cook. Don’s mother pitched in around campus when needed.

All the boys had chores that included tending the coal furnace in the big house, milking cows and taking milk to a local creamery. They also helped feed livestock, harvest crops and keep buildings clean. Older boys helped younger ones and everyone attended school at nearby Oakwood Elementary or Kalamazoo Central High School.

“We constantly played softball on a diamond where the current administration building and parking lot now sit,” Don said. Hiking through nearby woods and looking for golf balls that came from the Kalamazoo Country Club next door were popular pastimes, as were swimming, fishing, sledding and ice skating on Whites Lake.



“My dad and the other adults made it as pleasant as it could possibly be,” Don said. “They all showed kindness and love to the boys. They were firm, but kind.”

After high school, Don earned a degree from Michigan State College of Agriculture and Applied Science (now called Michigan State University). He managed the farm at Lake Farm until he and Dottie married in 1955. He worked for International Harvester for 17 years, moved to Traverse City and purchased, with a partner, an IH (now Navistar) dealership. Now retired, he and Dottie divide their time between Traverse City and Florida.

By the time “Pops” Dooley retired in 1972, he’d led the institution through a period of construction growth, including a small gym and cottage style dorms where students still live. Lakeside also changed from a farming operation and home for homeless boys, to a residential treatment facility for boys with mental health and behavior problems. The number of employees also increased, with many holding academic degrees and certifications more closely aligned with state requirements for treatment and care of the changing campus population.

Lake Farm Home for Boys also became simply Lakeside, Inc., during his tenure. Later, it became Lakeside for Children.

“I’m overwhelmed by all the changes in buildings, programs and numbers of staff and students,” Don said. “I can see by the attitudes of the people we’ve met during our visit that one thing has not changed: It’s still a real caring place. Lake Farm was appropriate for its day, Lakeside for Children is, too.”

Dottie Dooley agreed. “Don’s dad would be so pleased to see how what this place has become, how it’s thriving,” she said. “And it all stems from the love that the staff and leaders have for the kids. You couldn’t do it otherwise.”

If you’d like to take a tour of the Lakeside for Children campus, contact CEO Don Nitz at (269) 381-4760 or dnitz@lakesideacademy.net.

“...a culture that’s anything but normal, which anyone would wish to be their workplace norm.” by Cheryl Ririe-Kurz

People at Lakeside are great. That may sound trite, but it’s an apt description and recognized as the cultural norm here – even if our work and the culture in which we do it are... well... not quite the norm.

We work on the front lines of caring for abused, neglected, at-risk, troubled kids – 24/7 with comprehensive treatment and education programs like none other in or near our area. On a good day, the work is demanding. Yet, two shared beliefs guide and sustain us in all we do. One is that we’re here to keep people safe – our students, ourselves and the larger community. The other is that through our own behavior, staff members have the power to influence positive changes in each other as well as in the youth we serve.

I’ve worked all over the country in several fields. I’ve consulted for global corporations and educational organizations, written for major newspapers and operated my own small businesses. I still teach at Western Michigan University. Nowhere have I witnessed or participated in an environment of mutual care as I have at Lakeside. Every aspect of our work focuses on building and maintaining a supportive culture for our students and ourselves. Moment by moment, day by day, everywhere on campus, the environment is more cohesive than anything I’ve experienced.

Lakeside culture is all about translating ideals into action. We role-model what we expect of our students, so there’s

little preaching, much practicing. If I’m concerned about someone or a situation, I have license (with supervisor awareness and support) to go to the person or persons involved and talk it through. In fact, our culture and policies oblige us to talk to one another to solve problems. We seek understanding and encourage each other’s growth, all in pursuit of our shared mission to help these kids.

Successful outcomes for at-risk youth are hard to measure over the long term. But Lakeside staff members know – and the courts and agencies that send students to us agree – we successfully guide students through supportive treatment programs while giving them a rigorous education. Yes, it can be challenging work. But I feel great to be a staff member here. I can say it’s the best place I’ve worked, especially with its anything-but-normal culture – one anyone would wish to be their workplace norm.

Cheryl Ririe-Kurz, M.I.M., B.A., B.S., designs and teaches an English language arts curriculum for grades seven through 12 at Lakeside Academy, the charter school sponsored by Kalamazoo Regional Educational Services Agency on the Lakeside for Children campus. She also serves as primary mentor for ten or more students each semester.



New Graduate

Congratulations to Connor Meredith, a recent graduate of Lakeside Academy, our fully accredited charter school. Lakeside Academy is authorized by Kalamazoo Regional Educational Services Agency and governed by an independent school board. Students, ages 12 through 17, attend classes year-round focusing on core disciplines of English, math, science and social studies. Each student’s educational plan follows the graduation requirements of his/her home district so that courses taken here transfer back to the home district. Connor is one of several students who graduate from Lakeside Academy each year. Well done, Connor!

