HISTORY TIMELINE

The Home was started by REV. EMMANUEL BOEHRINGER, first superintendent
September 21, 1863 to October 25, 1864
Date of Founding – September 21, 1863
First contribution of $1.50 was received from J. Pflantz of Buffalo, N.Y.

REV. JOHN GANTENBEIN, second superintendent – November 1864 to August 30, 1866
   Home moved from Philadelphia to Bridesburg, Pa. on July 13, 1864. Incorporated by Legislature of Pennsylvania on February 17, 1865

REV. D. Y. HEISLER, third superintendent – August 30, 1866 to October 1868
   Property in Womelsdorf bought in 1867 for $33,000 - house and 26 acres 65 perches of land. Home removed to Womelsdorf, Pennsylvania on October 1, 1867

REV. D. B. ALBRIGHT, fourth superintendent – November 12, 1868 to April 1, 1886
   Name changed from “Orphans Home of Shepherd of the Lambs” to “Bethany Orphans Home” October 21; 60 acres and 65 perches of land (and farmer’s house) purchased for $10,600
   Main building destroyed by fire on November 11th
   Main building rebuilt and refurbished at cost of approximately $30,000
   Barn erected at cost of $2,313.15

REV. THOMAS M. YUNDT, fifth superintendent – March 25, 1886 to April 1904
   The Ladies Visiting and Advisory Committee organized October 6, 1886
   Laundry building erected, costing $1,300.00
   Connected with Long Distance telephone
   Santee Hall built and furnished at cost of $18,000.00; 7 acres & 78 perches of woodland bought for $524.12
   Large Bell – Gift of Sophie Gelbach installed on roof of Administration Building
   Boy’s workshop erected at cost of $1,200.00
   Frick Memorial Cottage built by Mrs. H.M. Housekeeper for $6,000.00
   New water works & reservoir built at a cost of $1,400.00
   Spring-house & pavilion built and improvements about spring for $795.61
   New school house built for $9,485.13

REV. W.F. MORE, sixth superintendent – July 14, 1904 to April 7, 1927
   Bricker property bought for $1,285; Steam heat plant in Santee Hall cost $592.80; Farm house enlarged & improved.
   Silo built
   Leinbach Cottage built for $12,587.87
   Electric lighting introduced
   Yundt Memorial Gateway erected $1,599.75
   Applegate Lodge built by Mrs. W.F. More in memory of her parents $4,678.00
   Reber Cottage/Infirmary built for $7,349.30
   Bausman Memorial Church built & furnished for $10,902.93
   Reservoir enlarged to 80,000 gallons
1915  Bausman Memorial Church destroyed by fire, December 19th
1916  Bausman Memorial Church rebuilt, $5,992.94
1917  Tower Clock donated and installed by B.O. H. League, Hains Reformed Church
1918  Water softening plant installed $2,348.24
1919  Dietrich Cottage built by D. Wellington Dietrich in memory of his parents, $23,030.42
1920  Anniversary Pavilion built
1921  Pipe Organ placed in church by W.O. Lerch
1922  Catherine Moyer Cottage built by Walter W. Moyer in memory of his mother, $23,000.00
1923  Machinery Hall built; Light pedestal and flag pole donated and erected B.O.H. Circle, Allentown, Pa.
1925  REV. WALTER R. CLARK, first assistant superintendent – April 9, 1925 to November 1, 1926
1926  REV. C. HARRY KEHM, second assistant superintendent – April 16, 1926 to April 7, 1927 – Spring covered and spring bubblers erected $400.00; Private telephone installed; D. Frank Knerr Cottage built $40,000.00; Heating plant installed, cost $10,375.00
1927  Memorial pump house built by Albert R. Laubach and children
1928  Cement road from Womelsdorf
1929  Death of Superintendent, Rev. C. Harry Kehm, December 17, 1929
1930  Death of Rev. W. F. More, D.D. Superintendent Emeritus, September 4th; Recreational department organized; Refrigerator built $5,000.00
1931  Spiese building erected $5,000.00; Ira S. Reed Cottage erected and furnished
1932  Lebo farm (60 acres) purchased $5,500.00; Fire lane cut around property
1933  First special education program in the state of Pennsylvania introduced at Bethany
1934  Emergency lighting system and fire alarm installed
1935  Centralized store room built
1936  Centralized heating system installed. Automatic stoker in Church and Applegate Lodge
1937  Front campus tiled for drainage
1938  Bausman Memorial Church and Administration Chapel renovated
1939  New barn built; Modern water softener installed in pump house
1940  Farm land bought from Dr. Horne (4 ¾ acres); Three acres woodland donated by Dr. Horne
1941  Tennis & volleyball courts built on front campus

REV. R. S. VANDEVERE, ninth superintendent – elected November 5, 1943, assumed duties February 1, 1944 to May 30, 1954
1944  Full-time social worker initiated; Retaining wall and new lawn built on campus
1945  Main entrance road rebuilt and macadamized
1946  Philadelphia Ladies Auxiliary renovated Santee Hall dining room; Back road macadamized
1947  Chimes and Public Address system installed by Ladies Committee
1948  New reinforced concrete Anniversary stage built; New laundry installed
1949  Sewage disposal plant installed, cost $40,000.00; New flag pole donated by Carpenter Steel Co., Reading, Pa.
1950  More Memorial Park completed and dedicated
1951  Spring shrubbery planted by Ladies Committee as a memorial to Mrs. R. S. Vandevere
1952  Complete renovation of Superintendent’s office
1953  Complete renovation of Infirmary
1954  New refrigerator plant installed in Spiese building; Complete renovation of main kitchen

REV. GARNET O. ADAMS, tenth superintendent, elected March 18, 1954; assumed duties June 1, 1954 to July, 1985
1954  Enlargement of Board of Managers to include Synodical Representatives
1955  Complete renovation of Frick Cottage; New Boiler House & Heating plant completed
1956  New electrical service installed throughout campus; Baseball field built; Adel Naomi Brobst Cottage built by Mrs. Francis Brobst in memory of her daughter, $108,000.00; Knerr Cottage renovated; Living room established in Santee Hall; Social worker added to staff
1957  Moyer Cottage renovated and redecorated; Pasteurization of milk started;
1958  Name changed to Bethany Children’s Home October 6
1959  Eck & Knorr Cottages completed and occupied at cost of $240,000; Administration building no longer used as residence hall; Peters and Zartman Lodges, new farm houses built and old farm houses demolished; Dietrich Cottage renovated; Leinbach Cottage renovated
1960  New swimming pool constructed; Central library established in Administration building; Administration building renovated; Temporary Emergency Care Program established
1961  Recreation room added to Frick Cottage; Heating plant converted to oil
1962  Ceramics Program added to Home Life Program; Charter changed to provide for conference representatives
1963  Centennial observance; Bausman Memorial Church renovated; Recreation center completed in church basement
1964  Use of school house for school purposes discontinued; Front road named Vandevere Drive
1965  Infirmary renovated – dental clinic located in infirmary; Skating rink completed on campus; Hess Cottage constructed at cost of $137,000.00
1966  Largest class in Bethany history (17) graduated from high school
1967  Ski run on campus built by boys; Dubbs Cottage for Boys completed at cost of $140,000
1968  Smith Lodge for superintendent’s family completed; Dietrich Cottage renovated; Junior Advisory Board organized for Bethany; On-campus school program started; Barn destroyed by fire
1969  New barn completed; Knerr Cottage renovated as educational-activity center
1970  Second on-campus school class started; First Bethany conference for ministers held
1971  Bethany helps to organize Pennsylvania Association of Children’s Institutions; Plans approved for replacement of Administration & Santee buildings; Cub Scout programs started at Bethany; Putting green built on front campus
1972  Addition of regular psychiatric consultation services; Conversion of heating system to individual cottage units
1973  Administration building and Santee Hall demolished; Work started on new Administration – Social Service – Food Service building
1974  Leinbach Cottage renovated; Tent camping added to program
1975  Butkofsky-Wagner-Santee Hall completed at cost of $740,000.00; Consumer education program started
1976  Tony Ross, Bethany senior, wins state championship in hurdles; Victor Ramos, Bethany senior, named to All-State Soccer team
1977  Two new all-weather surface tennis courts constructed on the front campus; Dubbs Cottage renovated after fire damaged the building
1978  Bethany takes over operation of Tubman Center for Girls in Philadelphia as a group home; New cottage planned to replace Frick Cottage; Campus schoolhouse torn down to make way for new cottage
1979  Frick Cottage closed as cottage residence
1980  Keck Cottage constructed
1981  Bethany Counseling Ministry started in Pennsylvania Southeast, Penn Northeast, and Penn Central Conferences of the United Church of Christ
1982  Individual Service Plans program started at Bethany Children’s Home
1983  Reed Cottage renovated
1984  Frick Cottage renovated – changed to activity center

REV. HAROLD A. HENNING, eleventh superintendent – elected September 5, 1985, assumed duties December 23, 1985 to September 2000
1985  Berks I.U. leases Knerr Building for Special Education classes
1986  Council for Health & Human Service Ministries of the U.C.C. names Eugene & Patti Havlik “Employees of the Year” for 1986; Council for Health & Human Service Ministries of the U.C.C. names the Rev. LeRoy Brumbaugh, President of the Board of Managers as “Trustee of the Year” for 1986; Plans initiated for reorganization of Bethany Children’s Home structure
1987  Ground breaking service for new gymnasium activity building – May 20, 1987; Alternative education program developed with the cooperation of Conrad Weiser Area School District
1988  Mark Groff earns 6th place in State AA Wrestling championship; Additional silo erected on the farm; New Bethany logo adopted in commemoration of 125th Anniversary; Dedication of Adams Brumbaugh Center, May 22, 1988; Storage building constructed; Dubbs and Knorr Cottages renovated
1989  Bethany Planned Giving Ministry implemented; Reed Shelter Care Ministry implemented; Life Skills program for all ages implemented
1990  Leinbach Cottage renovated
1991  Short Term Intensive Treatment programs started
1992  Knorr Cottage becomes a cottage for girls in the Short Term program; Knorr and Eck Cottages renovated; P. Buckley Moss, internationally known artist, visits Bethany; Japanese professors visit Bethany to study Bethany’s programs
1993  Board of Managers approves a cooperative “Artist in Residence” program with Conrad Weiser Area Schools for 1993-94 school year; Council of Health & Human Service Ministries of the U.C.C. names Rev. Harold A. Henning as “Executive of the Year”; Machinery Hall and Dietrich Cottage renovated
1994  Rev. Harold A. Henning chairs Pennsylvania Council of Children’s Services; Pool pavilion built; Campus sewage system replaced; Bethany connects to Womelsdorf sewer system
1995  Program evaluation started; Computer network system installation; Visitors from a children’s home in Finland; Applegate Lodge renovated

1996  ABC Child Care program begins; Anniversary Stage constructed in memory of Mary Violet Hazlett, granddaughter of the Rev. Emmanuel Boehringer; Plans approved for a Capital Fund Campaign in 1998-99; Challenge Course constructed in the wooded area; Lee Armbuster receives Children’s Award

1997  P. Buckley Moss receives Children’s Award

1998  Plans approved to build a new Shelter Care facility, expand the Adams Brumbaugh Center and expand the Administration building; Bethany and Rev. Harold A. Henning receive commendation from Governor Tom Ridge on the 135th Anniversary of Bethany Children’s Home; Minnie Diefenderfer receives Children’s Award

1999  Construction begins on the expansion of the Administration Building, Adams Brumbaugh Center and the new Shelter Care facility; Shelter Care facility is named The Henning Center by the Ladies Visiting and Advisory Committee; Expansion of the Administration Building is named Diefenderfer Hall in honor of Dr. Paul and Minnie Diefenderfer. The Community Corporate Campaign raises more than one million dollars; Rev. Henning elected President of the P. Buckley Moss Society; Fire alarm systems in four cottages upgraded; Caroline Engel Statue dedicated as a tribute to children commissioned by the Ladies Visiting and Advisory Committee; Groundbreaking for the new construction on May 24, Bethany approved as a clinical training site for music therapists; P. Buckley Moss paints “The Old White Barn” depicting Bethany’s old barn; Bob & Sandy Zechman and Katie Ziegler receive Children’s Award; Web Page goes on-line

MR. JONATHAN L. HENNING, assumed duties as the twelfth Executive Director

September, 1, 2000

2000  The dedication of three new buildings: The Henning Center, Diefenderfer Hall and the Education Wing of the Adams Brumbaugh Center; Rev. Harold A. Henning receives Children’s Award; Mr. Lee Potteiger named CHHSM Volunteer of the Year; Mr. Jeffrey Riegel received the Lee Douglas Armbuster Award for Achievement

2001  Mr. Edward Fritsch receives the Lee Douglas Armbuster Award for Outstanding Life Achievement; Rev. LeRoy Brumbaugh and Mr. Franco Harris receive Children’s Award

2002  Atty. Sid Kline Jr. receives the Children’s Award; Ms. Leslee Wilson receives the Lee Douglas Armbuster Award for Outstanding Life Achievement; Hope Fund established

2003  Dr. Maggie Clouser receives the Children’s Award; Jose Davilla receives the Lee Douglas Armbuster Award for Outstanding Life Achievement; Renovation of More Memorial Park on Bethany’s campus

2004  Mr. Ed Shultz receives the Children’s Award; Lisa Allen receives the Lee Douglas Armbuster Award for Outstanding Life Achievement; new carpet installed in Bausman Memorial Church after water damage

2005  Dedication of the Desiree Tellado Memorial Garden; Dietrich Cottage, Relief Houseparent quarters renovated; Robert “Tory” Landry receives the Lee and Karol Armbuster Award for Outstanding Life Achievement; Heifer Barn and other farm improvements; Basketball Court renovated; More Memorial Park upgraded; Organization restructuring begins; loss of resident Mary Bell; Gil Boehringer descendant of Rev. Emmanuel Boehringer spends a month at Bethany researching its history.

NEW ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE PUT IN PLACE. Three top administrators include a Chief Executive Officer, Chief Program Officer and Chief Operating Officer;
2006  Campus flag pole illuminated with spotlight; Mr. Ron Light receives the Children’s Award; Jamie Walczak receives the Lee and Karol Armbruster Award for Outstanding Life Achievement; Construction of the manure pit at the farm; ABC Child Care celebrated its 10th Anniversary; Music Therapy celebrated its 10th Anniversary of the Internship Program; Renovations of siding and installation of new carpet in Eck and Knorr Cottage; Conversion of oil tanks to gas at Leinbach, Brobst, Knorr and Eck Cottages; The Bethany Counseling Ministry offices were consolidated for administrative purposes; Spiritual Life Campaign: Spirit Seekers kicked off with a goal of $40,000 to enhance the spiritual life offerings on the campus and to upgrade the existing church paraments; Front road macadamized

2007  “Love Others to a Greater Degree” campaign launched to install air conditioning in all campus residences and therapeutic/activity buildings, with a goal of $500,000.

2008  Bethany is invited by the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare to participate in the inaugural training of the Sanctuary Model of Care for Children®, beginning an intensive program toward certification.

2010 Development and implementation of the Independent Living Program, geared toward youth, ages 16 to 20, who have demonstrated the ability to function appropriately with a minimal level of supervision, and the Foster Care Program. August 4, 2010, Bethany Children’s Home becomes the first Sanctuary® certified Residential Agency in the state of Pennsylvania.