

THE BLOOMFIELD FOUNDATION, INC.

Post Office Box 2

Ivy, Virginia 22945

The oldest charity in the Diocese, The Bloomfield Foundation, is a non-profit 509 (a) (3) corporation within the Diocese of Virginia of the Episcopal Church. It began in the early 1920s when Virginia Episcopalians recognized the need for a facility to care for the needs of children with disabilities. It continues to serve young people of every faith, denomination, or background in all three dioceses. Bloomfield has been known over the years as "All Saints' Home," Saint Anne's Preventorium," "Bloomfield School" and now "The Bloomfield Foundation, Inc." The name is taken from its last residence, a farm in Albemarle County.

Over the past century our Board of Trustees has worked hard to be faithful to its mission as society has changed. When the Commonwealth of Virginia ceased funding institutions for disabled children, Bloomfield could no longer provide a home for its residents. The Albemarle property was sold and the proceeds invested with the Diocesan Missionary Society. The yearly interest from this investment, together with donations made by churches and kind individuals, enabled our Trustees to meet the critical needs of dozens of physically disabled children and young adults.

Applications for financial assistance come from medical professionals, caseworkers, therapists, parents, and foster parents from all over Virginia. The requests are for life-supportive equipment that cannot be provided by federal or state authorities, public schools, service organizations, insurance companies, *or any other source*. Requests are for special beds, hygiene and bathing equipment, wheelchairs, bi and tricycles and mobility devices, braces, strollers, special lifts for automobiles, computers that can be operated by a child's chin, and many other aids. The needs are desperate and heartbreaking. The price of such equipment, which improves the quality of young people's lives, is increasingly very costly and becomes more so every year. The applicants have nowhere else to turn. For years we have been unable to meet the needs of many who seek our help. The trustees are in routine contact with our excellent equipment providers, with whom we work regularly to achieve the lowest possible prices.

As Bloomfield has no salaried employees, all operational needs are managed by its trustees, a diligent group of about ten people. Some have served for as long as thirty years. Others are relatively new. They have backgrounds in medicine, psychology, special education and childhood development, law, theology, and management. *Only 2% of annual income covers expenses such as postage, printing, and audit, with 98% of our income directly benefiting those in need of help.* Over the years, and especially during COVID, Bloomfield has ceased to receive donations from any churches, with very few exceptions, in the three Virginia dioceses. Our hundreds of letters to clergy and outreach chairs go unanswered.

What a faithful witness it would be if everyone who reads this report returned to their parishes and moved their vestries to make a yearly gift of five hundred dollars to Bloomfield. It would be a blessing for the many who come to Bloomfield as a last resort. Christ calls us to serve the needy and helpless, and Bloomfield needs your support in our ministry to do so. May God bless you all.