

We have a story to tell...

The photographic history of the Children's Free Hospital and Michigan

Hospital School in Farmington prompts an endless list of questions about what life was really like for the children who were treated for polio and other childhood debilities on what is now the campus of Botsford Commons Senior Community. If you were a patient, employee, volunteer, or involved in the construction of the facilities that originally served as the Children's Free Hospital, what part of the story can you tell?

When were you here? For how long? Were you being treated for polio? Or other **childhood illness**?

There was an operating room on site. Do you recall what **types of operations** were performed? Which narrow room had the painted mural on the wall? The architectural drawings label a casting room. Were you ever casted? For how long? What do you recall about that process?

How did your **family** learn of this location? How often did they visit?

Did you keep in touch with anyone you met at this hospital? Were you a member of **Boy Scout Troop 49**? We have photographs of children being taught. Who taught you? Did you get credit for school lessons? Did you stay on schedule with your grades?

How did your **illness** change your childhood? Your life?

We have **photographs of two separate pools**, but can only identify one. Were there two pools? Did you use the hydrotherapy pool? Did it help?

What do you remember of the grounds surrounding the facility? **Did you play** in the creek? Did you ever play in the play house? In the wading pool? Did you play deck **polo**? **Archery**? **Camp**? Do you remember the ramp and the slides?

What do you recall about world and area events at the time? The buildings were marked as **fallout shelters**. Did you practice for alarms? How?

What type of assistance did you require? Were you able to play? What types of toys or games did you play with?

Which hospital did you arrive from? Did any of your **friends** contract polio? Where did they go for treatment?

What was your **daily routine**? Which staff members do you recall? What was your favorite meal? What do you recall about **holidays** spent at the hospital? What was the most mischievous thing you did while at the hospital? Do you recall what your impression was of the hospital when you arrived?

Did you meet **Blanche Van Leuven**? We understand she purchased **Fred Goers' farm** to create the property which constituted the site for the **Children's Free Hospital** (Michigan Hospital School). Did you meet **James Couzens**? His \$1.1 million gift in honor of his wife's birthday played a key role in the design and construction of the Albert Kahn designed buildings. Did you meet **Sister Elizabeth Kenny**? She was neither a nurse nor a nun, but was very well known for her polio treatment methods.

There are children in front of a significantly **large white building** on the hospital campus. What purpose did the building serve? When was it built? And when was it torn down?

Join us for our [Welcome Home – A Reunion](#)
Saturday, September 13, 2008
10:00 am – 2:00 pm
Reservations Encouraged
Call Kim Gimmarro
(248) 426-6851
www.botsfordcommons/reunion

...and you may be part of it!