

HBM

the hattie b. munroe pavilion

UNIVERSITY OF
NEBRASKA
MEDICAL CENTER

HATTIE B. MUNROE
IN 1922





BEGINNINGS

The Hattie B. Munroe Pavilion, which today is the home of a variety of innovative programs for children with special needs, has its roots deep in Omaha history.

On September 16, 1919, a meeting was held by a group of doctors who had realized the great need of corrective orthopedics in Omaha, and a group of women who were interested in charitable work. At that meeting, the Society for the Relief of the Disabled was organized for the purpose of making it possible for all disabled and crippled people in Omaha and vicinity to receive the benefit of orthopedic treatments.

This early movement represents the beginning of innovative programs and services for handicapped children which would be offered through the Hattie B. Munroe Pavilion (HBM).

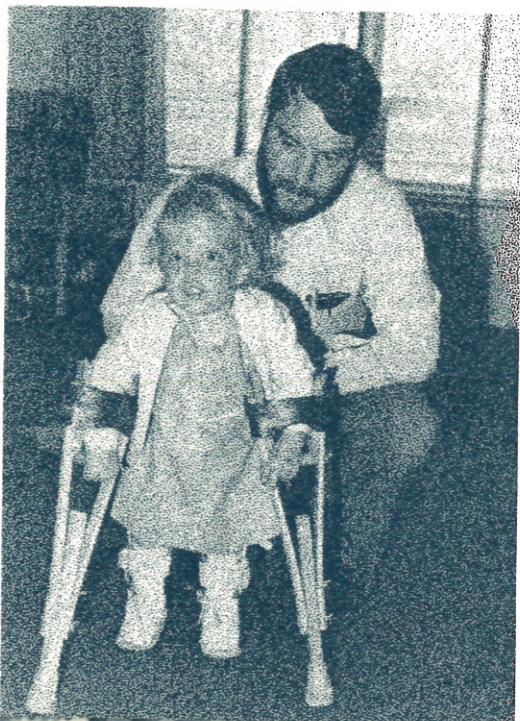
Founded September 1, 1922, the facility was established in memory of Hattie Baker Munroe by her husband, John A. Munroe, and sister, Clara Elder. Mr. Munroe, a retired Union Pacific Railroad vice president, knew that a home for convalescing children had long been a project close to his wife's

heart; she herself had been an invalid for many years.

When it first opened its doors, the Hattie B. Munroe Home for Convalescing Crippled Children — as it was then called — consisted of a 10-room house in the Benson area of Omaha, although two wings and a neighboring house were soon acquired. Normal capacity for the home was 40 children although by 1952, at the height of the polio epidemic, 52 patients were in residence. This increased demand, coupled with the distance from the home to other medical facilities, prompted an important move.

In 1956, the Home's directors entered into a 99-year lease on property at 4420 Dewey Avenue in Omaha and built a three-story facility on the University of Nebraska Medical Center campus. It was to become a part of a "children's medical center" which would include Children's Memorial Hospital, a rehabilitation center, and a school for handicapped children, along with the Hattie B. Munroe Home.

For several years the Hattie B. Munroe Home served as a residential, extended care facility for children involved in therapy or educational programs at the adjoining facilities: the Meyer Therapy Center (now known as Meyer Children's Rehabilitation Institute, or MCRI) and the J. P. Lord School, the Omaha Public School system's facility for physical-



ly handicapped children. The Munroe Home also accommodated pediatric patients needing convalescent nursing care.

In 1968, the Hattie B. Munroe Home entered into a contract with the University of Nebraska Board of Regents. Under the terms of this agreement, the Munroe Foundation retained ownership of the facility and contributed funds for the operation of programs planned and staffed by the University of Nebraska Medical Center. At that time, the facility's name was changed to the Hattie B. Munroe Pavilion.

The Hattie B. Munroe Pavilion continued for some time to provide extended personal care for the handicapped children who needed services at MCRI and the J. P. Lord School, and whose homes were too far away to permit daily commuting.

By the late 1970's, the Salk vaccine and preventive medicine, along with progressive action throughout Nebraska in the field of service to handicapped citizens, had substantially reduced the need for a residential facility. Accordingly, the Pavilion's directors have sought new ways to be responsive to the needs of children with handicaps.

Today, the Pavilion is the home of several University of Nebraska Medical Center programs which were established to provide specialized services to children with a wide variety of special needs.

Most of the programs also offer educational experiences to college and university students or technician level trainees who are seeking clinical training in varied fields involved with services to handicapped individuals.

THE PROGRAMS

NURSERY SCHOOL AND MULTIPLY HANDICAPPED CLASSROOMS

The Nursery School and Multiply Handicapped Classrooms serve children from two-and-a-half to 15 years of age. Specialists in many fields help the staff design and carry out individual education programs based on the particular needs of each child.

Two classrooms are geared toward children with severe handicaps who are between two-and-a-half and 10 years of age. With the passage of legislation (LB 889) mandating educational services for handicapped children from date of diagnosis, these classrooms provide an important model and staff training site for education programs serving handicapped children, particularly those in the preschool years.

Children with severe handicaps who are between 10 and 15 years of age are served through a third classroom. Training is provided in the activities of daily living, along with prevocational skills.

A fourth classroom is designed for children from five to 10 years of age who have complex combinations of sensory and orthopedic handicaps. The emphasis here is placed on the development of communication activities, although work on cognitive, motor, sensory, and social skills are taught, all presented according to each child's strengths and needs.

In addition, support services are available to any child in the Nursery School and Multiply Handicapped Classrooms from the MCRI departments of physical therapy, occupational therapy, psychology, and dentistry.



PROJECT FOR INTENSIVE SERVICES TO FAMILIES AT RISK

(October 1977 - September 1980)

This three-year demonstration and research project aims at helping families for which there is a strong possibility that a child may need to be removed from the home due to inadequate care-taking.

The program is one of seven projects funded by the HEW Agency on Children, Youth and Families. The federal grant is awarded to the Nebraska State Department of Public Welfare which in turn contracts with the University of Nebraska Medical Center to operate the program.

The project is testing procedures for case-management aimed at improving the quality of life for the child without removal from the biologic home. Program staff, primarily through home visits, help the parents secure or develop the material and emotional resources required for the healthy maintenance of the family.

DEAF-BLIND PROGRAM

The Deaf-Blind Program serves children who have combined visual and auditory impairments which require special methods of education and communication development. The program is funded under the Title VI-C grant administered through the Mountain Plains Regional Center for Services to Deaf-Blind Children in Denver and the Full Service Grant of the Nebraska Department of Education. Children served in the Deaf-Blind Program participate in the Nursery School and Multiply Handicapped Classrooms.

This program is involved in identification, evaluation of potential deaf-blind children, direct services for infants as a component of the Variety Club Infant Development Program, and Technical Assistance, consisting of resource assistance, training, and parent and family social services.

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VARIETY CLUB INFANT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The Infant Program is based on two important concepts: that therapeutic intervention should come as early as possible in the life of a child with handicaps, and that parents can be trained to effectively provide this intervention in the course of daily life at home.

The program serves infants and toddlers from birth to three years of age. A variety of developmental disabilities are included: cognitive delay, motor handicaps, sensory impairments, and multiple handicaps. Teachers in the program work with parents to establish and implement goals in cognitive and pre-language development.

The Variety Club Infant Development Program offers several service options so that families who do not live in the Omaha area can take part.

ADAPTIVE EQUIPMENT WORKSHOP

The purpose of this shop is the design and construction of specialized equipment for developmentally disabled children in Nebraska and western Iowa. The development of the workshop is

a joint effort of the Hattie B. Munroe Pavilion, Meyer Children's Rehabilitation Institute therapists, staff from HBM/MCRI programs, and parents of children participating in these programs.

New equipment is designed and constructed by workshop carpenters according to specifications provided by therapists. Also, existing equipment may be brought in for modifications to meet individual needs.

The workshop is the only one of its kind serving children in this area. It is also open for patronage by adults with developmental handicaps.

EARLY EDUCATION TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE RESOURCE CENTER

The Early Education Technical Assistance Resource Center provides ongoing services to handicapped children from birth to five years. It is funded through a specific appropriation from the State Department of Special Education budget.

Prior to the passage and implementation of LB 889, which gives school districts responsibility for educational services to handicapped preschool children, the Resource Center assisted families and

schools in identifying and understanding problems of their handicapped preschoolers, and in securing and developing appropriate services.

It is anticipated that as the schools assume these direct service responsibilities, the Early Education Technical Assistance Resource Center will focus on providing inservice training and technical assistance to professionals in the schools serving this population of children.

FUNDING

Programs offered through the Hattie B. Munroe Pavilion receive their funding from the HBM Foundation, federal, state, and local grants and contracts, **and contributions from individuals and organizations.**

These contributions are vital to HBM and to the handicapped children who are served here. The generosity and compassion shown by contributing organizations and individuals have helped provide for the expansion and ongoing support of programs and projects.

QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions about the services and programs in the Hattie B. Munroe Pavilion at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, we'd like to hear from you.

Write to: Rhoda Davis
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4420 Dewey Avenue
Omaha, Nebraska 68105
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**HATTIE B. MUNROE
IN 1980**