



Alexander Milne
Developmental
Services

~

Our Story



MILNE

Formerly known as

“MILNE HOME FOR DESTITUTE AND ORPHAN GIRLS”

This history is initially dedicated to the memory of Mrs. Harry McCall.

Had it not been for Mrs. McCall's heartfelt initiative, dedication, and
exhaustive research in recording Milne's history,
so much would've been lost to the winds.

This history is also dedicated to our many residents throughout the years.
Without their love and laughter, without their embodiment, not only would
Milne have not been possible, but our lives wouldn't have grown richer.

Milne's emblem, the Scottish thistle, pays homage to our founder,
Mr. Alexander Milne.

Now, let's begin the story that is

Alexander Milne Developmental Services

MISSION STATEMENT

Alexander Milne Developmental Services is committed to providing the highest quality care services and life experiences to each person, allowing them to attain the optimal level of independence, self-determination, and self-fulfillment. The staff of Milne will treat each person with dignity, compassion and respect, allowing each person to participate fully in the development and delivery of these services. We are committed to being good stewards with our resources, ensuring we provide exceptional value to our corporation, donors, friends and every person. Nothing is more gratifying to us and our stake holders than success.



THE HISTORY OF ALEXANDER MILNE DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

CHAPTER ONE

Alexander Milne was born in the little village of Fochabers, Scotland, in the year 1742. Little is known of his parentage and early surroundings, but his parents did bequest him, in lieu of worldly goods, a strong constitution, much sagacity, true Scot's grit, and a spirit of independence. As a young man he worked as a servant to the 4th Duke of Richmond at Gordon Castle. However, when His Grace ordered his domestics to powder their red hair and conform to a new style of haircut, young Alexander refused. When the Master insisted Alexander comply, the servant sailed westward to seek his fortune in the New World.



At first the going was hard and for a time he is said to have been a strolling musician. We know though, that his first business in America was actually a vendor of lamps.

In 1776 he went to the Spanish town of New Orleans where he began selling hardware and making bricks. His business instinct served him quite well as the City, having been devastated by fire, was rebuilding itself in the Spanish style. Most of the bricks needed were furnished by Mr. Milne.

Although it's unclear as to when Alexander began another business endeavor, we do know that on May 25, 1808 he advertised the opening of his new Taffia Store in the Louisiana Gazette.

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Taffia.

THE Subscriber has opened a Wholesale Taffia Store, in Toulouse street, opposite the Government house; where dealers in that article may be supplied with a quantity on the shortest notice, and of as good a quality as any manufactured in this territory. Country Gin and Spirits of Wine may also be had at the same store.

Alex. Milne, Jun.

May 20

25 MAY 1808

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According to Webster's Dictionary, Taffia is an inferior rum, made especially from distilled sugarcane juice; primarily in the West Indies.

As his business prospered, he was able to buy valuable tracts of land; practically all that lay between what was then the city limits and Lake Pontchartrain. He was largely instrumental in building the Pontchartrain Railroad; the first in Louisiana, and, in fact, in the Southwest.

Its lake terminus was on his property and it was here that he laid out the town of Milneburg. This is where he made money selling lots in what was then a prosperous section of the city.

According to history, Alexander Milne was "small in stature". His head would generally hang down and his eyes were always bent on the ground. He was oblivious of street surroundings and dressed in the seedy garments of a beggar; for whom he was often mistaken by strangers.

He was a soft-spoken business man who was held in great respect by friends and colleagues alike. A gentleman of high esteem, honest to a fault who was always prudent, careful, and diligent in the management of his expanding businesses and real estate acquisitions.

Notwithstanding, he lived in a large mansion midway between what is now Bayou Road and Claiborne Avenue. Behind walls that resembled ramparts, he laid out spacious gardens with many fruit trees, shrubbery, and arbors.

The house itself was of the most elaborate architecture and looked like the abode of some colonial Spanish governor. Historical records indicate a northern community adjacent New Orleans was a virtual "gold mine" of land for Mr. Milne. This area became known as Milneburg, in his honor.



After switching at Milneburg, Smoky Mary No. 2119 stands ready for forward trip to town

Historical records also cite he personally generated in excess of \$3,000,000 cumulatively as he sold off parcels of real estate within just one week. His holdings exceeded 20 miles of shoreline encompassing Lake Ponchartrain and other substantial holdings of real estate in the Milneburg, Gentilly, Fillmore, and Fairgrounds neighborhoods of greater New Orleans.

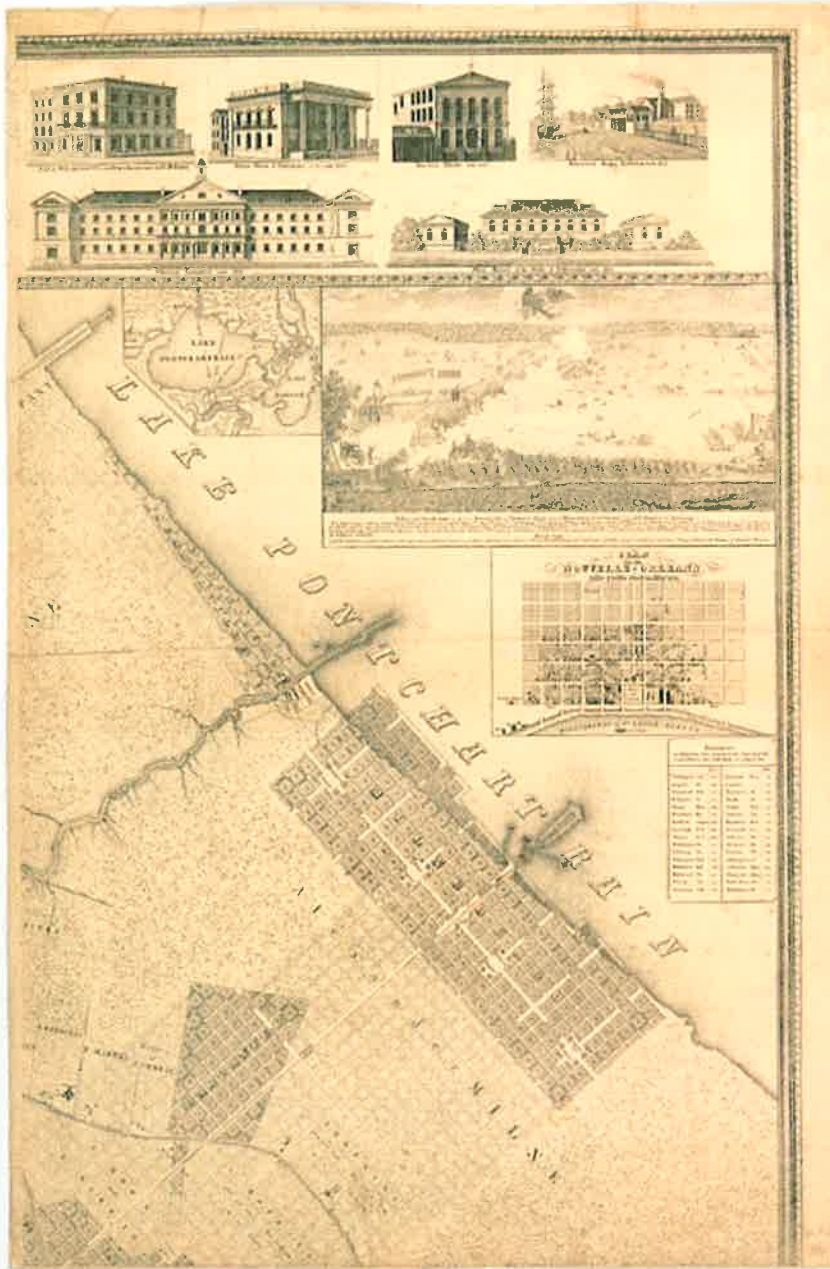
In 1832 Mr. Milne built one of the first wooden lighthouses on Lake Ponchartrain.

Pictured to the left is a replica of the brick lighthouse he built in 1858. It has since been moved to the University of New Orleans campus which is adjacent Lake Ponchartrain / South Shore.

While documents indicated at his time of death, Mr. Milne's assets were listed slightly below \$1,000,000. Historians stated those assets likely exceeded \$2,000,000 in 1838 and in today's currency, the value would have exceeded will over \$50,000,000.

Mr. Milne was ahead of his time in that he release his slaves and, upon his passing, had them placed on a per diem while he had homes built for them on real estate he owned.





Milne was insightful beyond his years; civic minded, and inspirational to all of his esteemed colleagues, friends, and many governmental leaders.

Having out-lived his eldest ancestor, Mr. Milne, together with his attorney, who was his closest friend and confidant, crafted his will. This was completed two years prior to his passing in October of 1838; he was 96 years of age. His attorney put Milne's words to pen citing the following:

"It is my positive will and intention that an Asylum for destitute orphan boys and another

for destitute orphan girls shall be established at Milneburg, in this Parish of Orleans, and under the names of Milneburg Asylum for Destitute Orphan Boys and Milneburg Asylum for Destitute Orphan Girls and that my executors shall cause the same duty incorporated by the proper authorities of this state, and to the said contemplated institutions, etc. I give and bequeath in equal shares of interest of $\frac{1}{4}$ of each, of all my lands on the Bayou of St. John and on Lake Pontchartrain, including the unsold land of Milneburg."

"An institute for my universal heirs and legatees in equal shares or proportions the said institutions, that is to say two intended at Milneburg, whom with two other asylums, (society for the for the relief of destitute orphan boys in Lafayette and Parish of Jefferson and the Poydras-French Society in this city) I give and

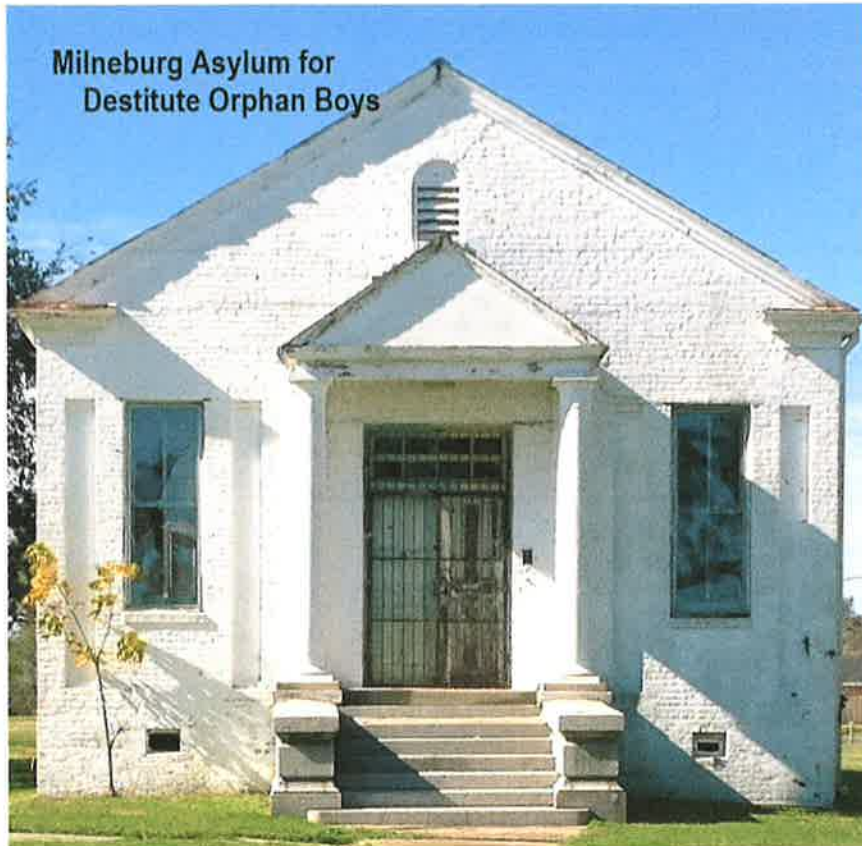
bequeath all the residue of all property and estate, moveable and immovable I may possess at the time of my decease, to be equally divided and apportioned among them."

"Unto the town of Fochabers, I give and bequeath the sum of \$100,000 to be employed in establishing a free school, with sufficient competent teachers, and supporting the said school in the said town of Fochabers, for the use of the parishes of Bellie and Ordifish."



Photo of statue representing Alexander Milne atop Milne's High School; used with permission.
Property of Milne's High School, Moray Council, Scotland

With the reading of his will, another side of his character was revealed. Mr. Milne emancipated all his slaves; and to ensure that they should not be a public charge, he left them ample provisions for their future. He also left the bulk of his fortune to charity, which consisted of a large amount of cash and valuable tracts of land. All his land on Bayou St. John and Lake Pontchartrain (including unsold properties at Milneburg) was left to the sole purpose of establishing two institutions at Milneburg.



These institutions were to be named the Milneburg Asylum for Destitute Orphan Boys and the Milneburg Asylum for Destitute Orphan Girls. \$100,000.00 went to his native town of Fochabers to be used exclusively for establishing a free school there.

Much litigation followed between the heirs and executors, the details of which are attached to this history. However, since we are chiefly concerned with a history of the Milne Home, it is interesting to note that with the work of the executors; George N. Morgan and Richard Relf, the legislature of Louisiana passed two acts of incorporation on February 27, 1839, incorporating the two Asylums at Milneburg. The way seemed clear now for Alexander Milne's wishes to be carried out.

The first Board of Directors for the Girls' Asylum was appointed in the year 1840, and consisted of the following individuals: Mrs. Claiborne, Mrs. Hennen, Mrs. T.W.

Morgan, Mrs. E. A. Cannon, Miss Bonet, Mrs. Brumaire, Mrs. Marigne, Mrs. Audry, Mrs. Merle, Mrs. Northland, and Mrs. Preston.

This Board proved both efficient and conscientious, but later Boards were less satisfactory in their haphazard management of the asylums. An article published in the *Times Picayune* on Sunday, December 23, 1922, reported that the first buildings at Milneburg were crude frame structures put up on Columbia Street; fronting the lakeshore.

They were occupied by the two asylums during the early fever epidemics and up to the Civil War, when overcrowded and damaged by a storm, the residents were removed to other asylums in the city.

The entire Board of the Boy's Asylum departed to the defense of their State during the Civil War and the last remaining officer of the Board, the treasurer, turned their funds over to the City Hall. An entry of funds and securities was carried in the city's books in the name of the Boys' Asylum and a cloud of forgetfulness fell upon the whole matter for nearly half a century.

In 1904 the New Orleans Land Company was engaged in draining some swamp lands and discovered that a considerable portion of the territory in which it was operating and originally belonged to Milne Asylum but that it had been sold for taxes.

In 1905 Governor Blanchard appointed a new Board of Directors. Had it not been for the efforts made by altruistic citizens, chiefly Mr. Norman Walker, this might have been the last record of Mr. Milne's bequests.

Mr. Walker was editor of the Times-Democrat and he set about investigating various trust funds including that of Alexander Milne, which was found to be practically non-existent. A few bonds belonging to the Boy's Asylum were found in the City Treasury.

An appeal was made to Louisiana's Governor Blanchard who appointed new Boards for each asylum and in 1905 they began to function. Miss Jean Gordon, renowned for her interest in public welfare, was appointed President of the Board for the Girls' Asylum.

When Miss Gordon protested, arguing her ignorance and unfitness for such a duty, the Governor replied that he wanted a good fighter, as he was sure she would have a fight on her hands.

The following ladies made up the first Board of Directors: Miss Florence Loeber, Mrs. Lucretia Horner, Mrs. Jeff Hardin, Miss Eleanor McMain, and Mesdames Lewis Graham, David Sable, and George D. Earl. This Board started to function under the charter of the Act of Incorporation of 1839.



Milne Girls Home, 1913 Gentilly Blvd, circa 2005

When the Milne money was turned over to the Board it was found to consist of the incredibly ridiculous sum of sixty-seven cents. Where it came from and how it was determined no one has ever known.

The other assets were 295 acres of land between Bayou St. John and a point adjacent to Milneburg on Lake Pontchartrain. The lands were swamp, a railroad was running through some of it and others had been sold for taxes.

On this inadequate foundation the Board was to build an asylum to carry out Mr. Milne's bequest. The final result after years of devoted labor was the Milne Asylum at 1913 Gentilly Boulevard where 70 ladies were cared for, protected and given work suited to their abilities.

CHAPTER TWO

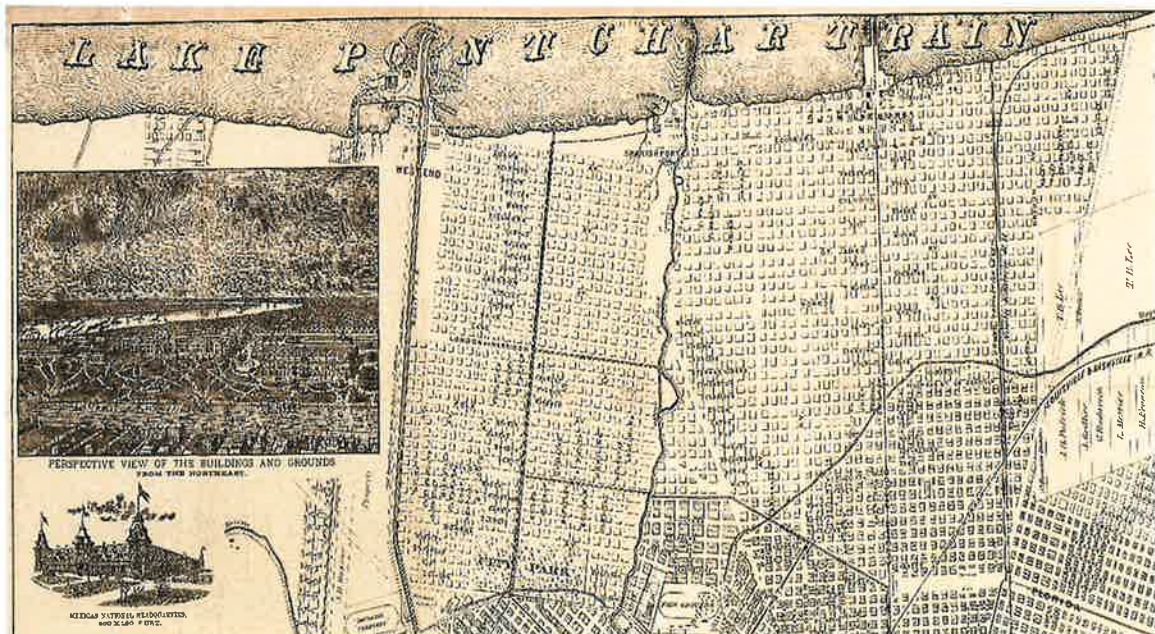
The first meeting of the Milne Board of Directors, the proud possessors of the sixty-seven cents, was held on Thursday, February 2, 1905, in Miss Loeber's office. Miss Gordon, by virtue of her appointment as President, presided and the following officers were elected: Miss Loeber, Vice President, Mrs. Hardin, Treasurer, Mrs. Horner, Secretary. Besides those elected to office, also present were Mrs. Lewis Graham and Mrs. Wilmchester Bowling.

Miss Gordon outlined the task that was before them and appointed a committee to draw up a set of By-Laws. The first necessity to be addressed was that of raising money.

During that year, eight regular and four called meetings were held; By-Laws were adopted at this time. A question arose as to the validity of the title to certain lands formerly belonging to the Milne estate and later being developed by the New Orleans Land Company.

The Board of Directors for the New Orleans Land Company met with the Board of Directors of the Milne Asylum for Destitute Orphan Boys at which time it was agreed that they would accept an offer from the New Orleans Land Company for a specified number of shares of their capital stock plus a sum in cash provided that all claims to said lands on the part of the Board be waived.

An additional settlement was made by the railroads running out of New Orleans in order to clear their titles. This enabled the Board to pay all taxes on property belonging to the Asylum. Through the kindness of Mr. A.J. Villere, a map of the Milne lands lying between Spanish Fort and Milneburg was secured.



Conferences were held with the Board of the Boys Asylum relative to the possible co-operation of the two asylums by the two institutions. The plan to merge the two Boards and establish an asylum for both boys and girls on the cottage system was finally given up.



In 1908 Miss Gordon advanced the plan of using the Milne money to maintain orphans in private homes since the city already had 23 orphanages.

The Board of Directors of the Girls' Asylum accepted this plan and a superintendent was engaged to manage the clearing house, but the Boys' Asylum rejected the plan and the superintendent was dismissed.

Gradually the fund of Milne money was built up. In 1908 the Board considered favorably an offer made by Hibernia Bank & Trust company for settlement of any claim the asylum might hold against that section of the Milne Lands known as Tract "L". For a cash settlement and refund of all

money paid by the Board in taxes or attorney's fees, the claim was relinquished.

During these critical years the Milne Board was also occupied with questions of surveying, drainage, and squatters' rights, and by January 1909 Miss Gordon was able to report that the Board now knew the exact extent of its holdings and location of its boundaries through existing maps. Although the question of how to carry out Mr. Milne's wishes was still unanswered the Board was holding regular meetings for consideration of this matter.

The year 1908 was a very busy one for Miss Gordon. Not only was she already taking on the duties of Milne's Board President, but she was also appointed the first woman factory inspector for the City of New Orleans; a position which broadened her field of observation of the many ills of the poorer classes. At a meeting of the Southern Child Labor conference her attention was for the first time directed to the feeble-minded by an appeal from Dr. Hastings Hart of the Russell Sage Foundation.

As the Milne Home owes its very existence to Miss Jean Gordon, no history of it would be complete without a character sketch of this remarkable woman. To quote

her sister and co-worker, Miss Kate Gordon: "I suppose if I were asked to name the outstanding quality of her character, I would say "fearlessness". When convinced that a thing was right, it did not matter what it cost her.

She would brave public opinion, no matter how unpopular, in its behalf. I have never known in all my vast experience with women of all kinds and conditions a keener, kinder intelligence in regard to persons asking for her (advice) or for her assistance. Because of her patience and sympathy, because of the intelligent handling of cases, her home has been the mecca of the unfortunate."

In her official capacity as a factory inspector, Miss Gordon came in contact with a class of women known as "repeaters" – young girls who drifted from one factory to another unable to hold their jobs and who finally took refuge in prostitution. Miss Gordon investigated and found that the fundamental cause of the maladjustment of these unfortunates was often feeble-mindedness.



Miss Gordon and other Factory Inspectors

She then began studying what was being done to alleviate the situation, realizing the incalculable benefit to the community at large if these "misfits", as they were called at the time, could be segregated, cared for, and given the opportunity to lead useful and happy lives; or "...at least be prevented from spreading disease". As Miss Gordon's power of livid and pungent expression was unequaled, a quotation from one of her annual reports will give the best idea of the situation.

"At this time, all over the country, the fiat has gone forth that legalized vices must go, and that houses of prostitution be closed. In every city good men and women attempted to rescue these poor child-like women. With a beautiful faith in the regenerating ability of environment, they established houses in the country."

"The thought is that if these ladies could be removed from the temptations of the city and surrounded by the uplifting influences of Mother Nature then these "diseased and mentally spineless victims of heredity" could be physically rejuvenated; making brain cells grow where none had been before."

"The intention was good, and I am very grateful to the men who secured the old plantation house at Frellsen, about 18 miles above Kenner and owned by the late William Edenborn. Here they spent about \$18,000 building a dormitory to care for 50 women. The women were supposed to come voluntarily to be reformed but none came. Then the courts committed a few, fifteen in all; five of whom were colored women from Baton Rouge."

"The place opened in November and by January 5th, one unfortunate was all that was left to reform. The others having been claimed by brothers, fathers, or male relatives of all degrees of kin."

"Finally, the one soiled dove flew away, and the matron who had been sent down from Pennsylvania by the American Protective League was left alone amidst boxes of gingham and unbleached cotton which had been bought by the matron in order to teach these poor women to sew. She hoped that this domestic route could lead them back to the paths of virtue."

"Now, of course, I do not pretend to be an expert social worker, never having had a college education nor a six-week course in a school of philanthropy. And I suppose many of the men working under the direction of this American Protective League were rather familiar with this class of women and thought they were doing the right thing. In those days we had not heard much of psychology and the influence of this kind of work in reforming.

But I know I would never begin to reform ladies whose souls yearned for chiffons, lace, bright lights, phonographs, and jazz music, by commencing with gray striped gingham for dresses and unbleached cotton for teddies or negligees."

It was not long before that empty reform school in Kenner, with the high salaried matron from Pennsylvania, had so gotten on the nerves of the American Protective League that they were trying to wish it onto anybody who would buy the bolts of gingham, grosses of thread and thimbles, and pay enough rent to settle certain bills that were still unpaid.

CHAPTER THREE

At this point the Milne Board saw a chance to get started. The first step was to ascertain if, under the provisions of Mr. Milne's will, funds left for the care of destitute orphan girls could be diverted to care for the feeble-minded. Legal opinion was that the Milne property, having been turned over to the two corporations that were created by acts of the legislature in 1839, had become irrevocably the property of the two corporations, who could do with it what they would within the limits of the respective charters.

Miss Gordon had every reason to be disturbed over the care of the feeble-minded because at that time, in the state of Louisiana, care for such was non-existent. It was not until 1918 that a state law was passed providing for an institution that would care for "mental defectives"; even then, no appropriation had been made. It was not until 1921 that a state institution was opened, which showed Alexander Milne as truly the pioneer for such an institution in this field in the state of Louisiana.

Prior to this time, Louisiana had proven itself backward in this matter. Massachusetts had established the first institution for the exclusive care of those once thought of as "idiots" in 1848. The first Southern state to follow this lead was Kentucky, followed by North Carolina and Virginia, and finally Louisiana.

In 1913 the Extension Department of the Institution for the Feeble-Minded at Vineland, New Jersey, had established a committee for provision for the feeble-minded; Dr. Alexander Johnson was appointed as Field Secretary. Dr. Johnson had been connected with organized efforts on behalf of more effective state laws and increased institutional provisions for the feeble-minded.

This renewed interest in the field of mental retardation was first brought to the attention of the Milne Board in 1914 by Dr. D.S. Hill, who requested that the work be taken up.

After a formal vote was taken, the problem was now under consideration and in 1916 Miss Gordon visited Vineland and became interested in this endeavor. In 1917 Dr. Johnson, as Field Secretary of the committee dealing with the provision the feeble-minded, was given charge of the southern states and established headquarters in New Orleans.

As his function was to urge the establishment of institutions for the feeble-minded, he was only too glad to cooperate with the Board of Directors of Milne Home in their efforts to establish an institution of this sort. As usual, the question of money presented great difficulties.

The Board had tried to raise money to start building an institution; plans had even been drawn up that would allow a modest beginning with room for expansion. However, the money could not be raised and, as building costs were very high during the First World War, the project was abandoned.

In 1918, Miss Gordon suggested that an attempt be made to rent property in some districts where rents were low. Enough grounds could be obtained reasonably to give employment to the inmates of the contemplated institution.

Now, in April of 1918, Dr. Johnson wrote with the hope that he might be able to come to New Orleans to start such an institution. The motion to obtain Dr. Johnson's services to start the institution was unanimously carried. A motion was also made to ask the Louisiana State Federation of Women's Clubs to co-operate with the Milne Board in obtaining an appropriation from the Legislature to establish the Milne Home but; by the end of the year, the outlook seemed hopeless.

Due to the lack of funds, shrinkage of bond values, and other obligations, the Board decided to hold onto their lands while trying to get tenants to work them. It was also decided to postpone, just a little longer, the completion of their project.

With the rumor of oil on Milne Land, hope was again revived. An offer from R. Louis Jewett to lease the land and drill for oil, gas and other minerals was accepted. He was to pay 1/8 royalty, but only the rental of \$100 and \$5 to bind the contract was realized.

It was at this point in June of 1919, that Mr. Weinberger offered Miss Gordon the farm in Kenner for a rental of \$50 a month as long as it remained unsold. This farm was formerly occupied by the American Protective League and owned by Mr. Edenborn. The Board unanimously voted to accept the proposition.

Dr. Johnson was invited to the July meeting of the Board to outline his plans. He suggested giving shelter to twenty girls between the ages of ten and fourteen, starting with the middle grade of mentally retarded. He submitted a rough budget, making the running expenses about \$450 a month.

Dr. Johnson had previous engagements which prevented him taking charge at once. However, he did make a few other suggestions about the buildings, such as changing the dormitory, adding a bath tub, and putting in beaver board for warmth - all of which were carried out in his absence. He returned to Milne Home on August 18th and the doors opened with one girl, Lou Donnelly.

The motto "Happiness comes first, all else will follow" was adopted. The 67 cents Milne Home started with had been built up to \$18,000 and the rent for the building was only \$50 per month.

Dr. Johnson had generously accepted a salary at a figure of one half what he had been earning which was acceptable because the finances of the Home were still in a precarious position. In January 1920, it was estimated that there were not enough funds on hand to run the institution for fifteen months. However, Miss Gordon was indefatigable in soliciting funds and persuaded many kind friends to contribute generously. Inspired by Miss Gordon's enthusiasm the Board never lost

faith and continued to hold on to the hope that someday a large sum of money would be realized on the Milne land.

Due to Miss Gordon's well-organized publicity, people were awakening to the advantages of segregating and caring for the mentally handicapped. Gradually the Home grew, and work went on in the consciousness that it was fulfilling a need in the community.

In March 1920, Dr. Johnson was obligated to resign due to ill health. He was succeeded by his daughter, Miss Enid Johnson, who had been his assistant since the beginning. Miss Johnson remained in this position until October 1920, when she was succeeded by Mrs. Russell, who had been trained at Vineland.

By this time the Home had reached its' capacity of 25 ladies and was subsisting on a state appropriation of \$5,000 a year (passed by the legislature of 1920) plus contributions from a selected list of friends. It had now become evident that the Home would soon outgrow its' quarters in Kenner.

The fall of 1921 brought about an opportunity to purchase the Mioton property at 1913 Gentilly Road for the sum of \$60,000. After negotiating a loan for this purpose, Milne Home was moved from Kenner to a site on Gentilly Boulevard by April 1922. That same month Miss Helen Seymour, a graduate nurse with ten years' experience as head of the Seventh Street Orphan Asylum, became the superintendent.

The new location was ideally suited for gardening and dairying, a factor which soon contributed to the robust health of the girls. The area was very sparsely settled at that time and, except for two houses, became known as the Derby Houses – owned by the Anti-T.B. Association, there were no near neighbors.

Miss Jean Gordon and her sister Miss Kate Gordon were able to rent these houses for a time for their own occupancy, but when the Anti-T.B. League required their buildings, Milne's need of a dormitory became apparent. Although the question of money seemed to raise an insurmountable barrier, Miss Jean Gordon was not without resources.

She obtained the old dormitory at Kenner and persuaded a house-wrecker to contribute six of his expert workers to take the buildings down. Thirty-one trucks were then borrowed to transport the materials.

So many donations of bricks, lumber and other materials were secured that the completed dormitory became known as the "Gift House" in acknowledgement of the many contributions that had made it possible. The Gift House was dedicated in 1923 and immediately all available space was occupied.



Photo used with permission. Property of The Historic New Orleans Collection, Gift of Alexander Milne Home School for Girls, 97-44-L.3

In 1925 the DiCrespino property, paralleling the Mioton property on the Southeast, was bought. A street, now known as Trafalger, intervened, but a viaduct was constructed connecting the Gift House with the building on the other side which was to be used as a school for the girls and was called the Annex. This was also the year Milne received her first bequest; Mr. Larose left the Home a legacy of \$1,000.00.

The garden was a great success and materially reduced the subsistence bills. The dairy more than paid for itself. A barn and chicken house were built. Fifty-three girls were cared for that year and the financial condition of the Home had greatly improved. The girls were kept busy and well fed; and, in consequence, happy and healthy. By this time Miss Jean Gordon was managing Milne Home herself as its' Superintendent.

1929 was, as in all places, a year of disaster. Flood, fire, and freezing temperatures were all endured. Three different times the plants and earth were washed away on Marigny Street.

A fire in the main building was caused by defective wiring, but the girls were equal to all emergencies. They behaved calmly and extinguished the blaze before the firemen arrived. The freeze destroyed the remnants of the vegetable garden which meant canned goods had to be brought.

However, in spite of these setbacks, the financial aspect of the institution improved to the point where, in January 1931, Miss Gordon was able to begin her annual report with these words: "On presenting this, the 26th Annual Report of the Milne Home, I do so with much pleasure and pride.

As we enter the year 1931, every mortgage note is reduced, every outstanding bill paid and some balance in our Capital Fund, though we spent quite a sum of money on very much needed improvements." Truly a remarkable record. However, as the end of the road of self-sacrifice was in sight, Milne Home suffered a great tragedy with the death of Miss Jean Gordon who passed away on February 24th, 1931.

For 25 years she had worked tirelessly and had really brought the institution from nothingness to its important place in the welfare work of the community. With much sadness, the Board passed the following resolutions on March 17, 1931:

"We, the members of the Board of the Milne Home for Destitute Orphan Girls, wish to express our bereavement, our sorrow, at the passing, into life eternal, of our friend and guide; our most esteemed leader, Miss Jean Gordon. As much as she did for the Community at large, she did more for women in general.



Photo used with permission. Property of The Historic New Orleans Collection, Gift of Alexander Milne Home School for Girls, 97-44-L.1

She taught us to come out into the open and work with men for the city and state. She led us to express the brightest ideal of Christianity by her love for the poor and helpless, for the destitute and forsaken. She came to the assistance of the traveler, the stranger at the gate. She protected dumb animals and tried to protect the feeble-minded. She gave her service and won the fight to protect the children from factory labor.

She did a man's work in the right to introduce a proper system of sewerage and a pure water supply for the city. Her most effective work, if not her noblest, was championing the cause of the feeble-minded; rescuing the bequest so long neglected in the records of the city, of Alexander Milne, who dying in 1838, left his home and tract of land to the orphaned boys and girls of the community. The result of this heroic legal contest of Jean Gordon was the organizing and establishing of the Milne Home, as we know it today, and it is known throughout the country, model of care, kindness, and economic administration.

For this work she was presented with the Times Picayune Loving Cup. But no cup could hold the love she bore for the most helpless and pitiful of all God's children. No cup could ever hold the love and admiration that is given to her by her friends, and by the Community, by all who ever came in contact with her, and most of all by those who worked with her on this Board of Directors for the Milne Home under her leadership and inspiration."

Miss Kate Gordon was elected President of the Board and also took up Miss Jean's work as Superintendent, moving into the Home. She carried on the work following her sister's ideas until August 1932 when she too, laid down her burden.

Mrs. J.B. Parker was elected President, but as she was unable to take up the duties of Superintendent, the Board was fortunate enough to engage in this capacity Mrs. Ida B. Little, who Administered the Home from that time until her retirement in 1957.



Kate Gordon

During Mrs. Little's administration, the Home managed to live within its income due in large part to the help of friends' numerous donations as well as an increase in the State Appropriation from \$5,000 per year to \$8,000 per year in 1936 and in 1938 it was upped to \$10,000. Overhead was not great because of the continued maintenance of a dairy and a large vegetable garden.

Life went on in a routine sort of way until the years of World War II which, as a matter of fact, had little to no effect on Milne. Mrs. Little, the Superintendent, was able, by standing in line, to obtain all necessary food stamps.

An alarm system was installed by the city and the girls were given air-raid drills. Mrs. Little and Mr. Webb, the gardener, were air-raid wardens. Due to gasoline shortages, Board meetings were held at the residence of Mrs. Charles Crawford, the President.

CHAPTER FOUR

1943 saw the beginning of an opportunity brought about by the emergence of the neighborhood adjacent to Milne Home. With the growth of the city, the complaints from new neighbors forced the Home to sell its cows and close the dairy.

Streets were being laid out on what was once unused lands and as subdivisions continued to form the effect this was to have on the future of Milne would prove itself to be profound.

The City of New Orleans negotiated, in 1944, with Milne for a strip of land that was needed to open a street between Trafalgar and De Saix. In 1949 the Bancroft land along Bayou St. John was sold and subsequently developed as Oak Park.

The Board's attention was directed in 1953 toward new buildings for Milne. The first step was to do a survey of the property, which was completed in October. The plant at that time consisted of the following buildings:

1. The Administration Building, an old brick residence which contained the Superintendent's quarters, a bed/sitting room, a bath, and kitchen; the office and Board room, a dental clinic; and dormitory for 14 girls.
2. The Gift House joined to the Administration Building by a viaduct and contained a dining room, kitchen, recreation room and upstairs dormitory for 36 girls.
3. The Annex, joined to the Gift House by a viaduct crossing the Trafalgar Street containing a school room upstairs and a dormitory downstairs for 18 girls.
4. A gardener's cottage which was occupied by a resident gardener until 1949.
5. The laundry, built in 1936, was still in excellent condition, needing only termite proofing and painting.
6. The barn, where the cows had been stabled and the tractor and station wagon were kept, as were the garden tools. This required extensive repairs; complete remodeling, and a new roof.
7. A small store room between the kitchen and the laundry, used for other garden tools, fertilizer, etc. and equipped with tubs for washing vegetables.
8. A shed in the back of the annex was in great despair.

In the late 1950's the Trafalgar Street Annex was sold for the purpose of opening a subdivision. The money realized from all of these sales was invested by the Milne Board and a building with new, more modern facilities. In 1954 the School Board made an offer to purchase the land at the back of Milne. Months were spent in

negotiations and finally, in January 1955, eight acres were sold for \$100. Much later in 1955 the Orleans Parish School Board bought a piece of land to the rear of the institution in order to erect a school.

In 1956, the subject of selling the land and buildings of Milne was thoroughly discussed. The wooden two-story buildings were potential fire hazards, and the heating system was entirely outmoded which caused trouble each year with the fire department.

The Administration Building, made of brick, was condemned. Due to sub-surface drainage installed in the neighborhood it had settled, and large cracks appeared in the upper hall. Though not immediately dangerous, the Board was warned that they would be held responsible for any injury that may be incurred by anyone working on the place.

Repairs were considered, but on July 18th Mrs. C.D. Bartlett, then President of the Board, called a special meeting to consider a report made by Colbert & Lowrey, the architectural firm who had been called in to evaluate the condition of the Administration Building.

According to the report made by Mr. Colbert, the condition of the building had become considerably worse. The brick work had cracked further through – wall leakage was apparent in many places, several roof leaks were evident, and a general air of deterioration was increasingly apparent. The whole situation was considered dangerous, and the girls were removed from the dormitory on the second floor. The school was transferred to the playroom in the Gift House.

A realtor, Mr. Joseph Blum, was called in to appraise the land and buildings and to further discuss moving the Home. It was ascertained that no land was available other than beyond Gentilly Woods or across the River. Mr. Blum's opinion was that the institution would not profit by selling and buying land elsewhere.

At another special meeting on July 30th of that same year, the Board finally and definitely decided not to move but to consider rebuilding. The plans for a new building Mr. Colbert submitted were accepted at the October Board meeting.

As the firm of Colbert & Lowrey, and especially Mr. Colbert, has had much experience in institutional building, the Board was confident that they had made a wise choice. This confidence was justified by the outcome. The greatest difficulty that presented itself was where to house the girls after the old buildings had been torn down and before the new ones were finished.

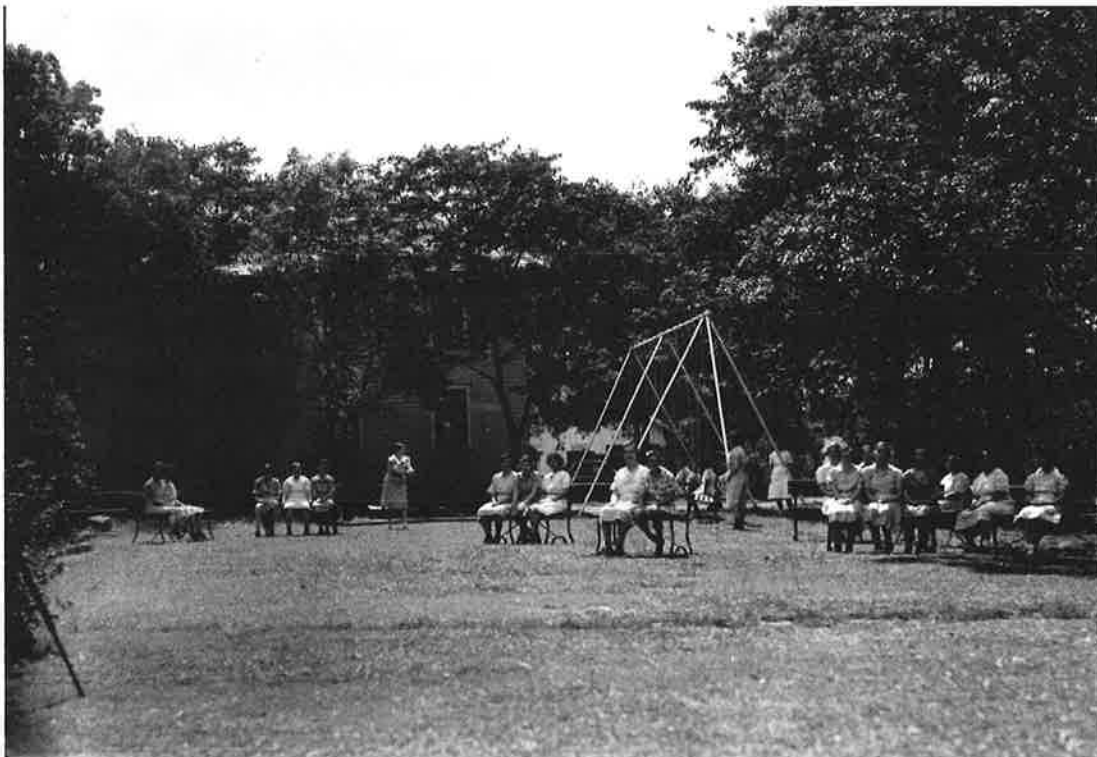
This concern was solved by Mr. Colbert who divided the building plans into two units and changing some of the new buildings so that the old ones need not be taken down until the new build was ready for occupancy.

Unit number one consisted of two buildings. The first being a new Administration Building which was comprised of the following: a Superintendent's quarters, an office and Board room, and a dormitory for 36 girls. The second building contained the kitchen, dining room, and recreation hall.

In February 1957, Mrs. Little tendered her resignation effective June 1st and Miss Euna Holbrook, who had been with Milne for 20 years, was appointed as her successor. The May Board meeting was held at the home of Miss Anna Many, President of the Board, and was to be the last one attended by Mrs. Little in her position as Superintendent.

Speeches were made expressing appreciation of Mrs. Little's 25 years of tireless and devoted service. After which she was presented with a silver bowl as a token of their appreciation. She lived in retirement until she expired in 1959.

In 1957 Mr. Lowrey and Mr. Pat Little, attorneys for the Board, attended the regular June Board meeting. Mr. Lowrey broke down in detail the sealed bids secured by his firm. Both gentlemen answered all questions posed by the Board members so that the situation was clearly understood. A motion was made and passed that, subject to Mr. Little's approval, the low bid of \$119,711, from the Gurtler-Hebert Company be accepted and that the President and Treasurer would be authorized to sign the necessary contracts which slated the demolition work to begin July 15th.



Milne residents relaxing in the courtyard at Milne

In the meantime, the problem of furnishing the new buildings had to be considered because the furniture was old, dilapidated, and beyond repair. A decision was made to send a letter to Friends of Milne who had helped in the past. This letter would request a donation to help with this need, especially with the purchase of new beds.

The list of Friends of Milne could not be found so Mrs. Bartlett furnished a list of furniture dealers who may be willing to help. Other members of the Board handed in a list of personal friends also. The answer to the appeal was astonishing: \$5,195.50 from the letters, \$150 donated before the letters, and \$583 realized from the sale of old furniture, making a grand total of \$5,993.50.

The new buildings were occupied in April 1958 and in May an open house was held so that the Friends of Milne could see the new buildings.

In November the demolition of the remaining old buildings began. In order to pay for the second phase, the Trafalger Street Annex was sold for \$32,500. The school was closed and the girls were moved from the Annex. They slept in the recreation room until the completion of Phase 2.

The half of the Gift House containing the kitchen and dining room was torn down, and the new buildings were put to use in April 1959. Mr. Anderson, head of the Department of Institutions, inspected and reported that Milne had the best plant of its kind of any institution in the State of Louisiana.

The completed plant of the Milne Home consisted at this time of the following buildings:

1. Administration building which was comprised of the superintendent's quarters, a dental clinic, an office, a Board room, and a reception room.
2. A building containing two dormitories accommodating 18 girls each, two private rooms for each of the matrons in charge, and a recreation room.
3. Another building containing two dormitories, two private rooms, a large storage room for clothes and house supplies, an infirmary with an attached bath (which could be occupied by a matron if necessary), and two rooms for the kitchen attendants.
4. The school house consisting of one large room with a closet for supplies.
5. Kitchen and dining areas with adjoining living quarters for two matrons.

As a result of a \$50,000.00 bequest to Milne by Miss Mabel Dresser, work on Phase 3 of the Milne building program was completed in 1963. This was a combination room for crafts, a walk-in cooler and four living quarters for the staff. The buildings are all fireproof and on one level. There is a patio furnished with outdoor chairs and tables. This patio is located between the Administration Building and the dining room. There is a sufficiently large recreation room where

the girls may enjoy fresh air and exercise. The old laundry is still in use but has been completely repaired and re-equipped. The building originally used for the barn has been renovated and is now used for a garage and garden equipment.

Mrs. C.D. Bartlett was Chairman of the Building Committee from its inception in 1957 until the time of the new build's final completion. Her tireless work was a determining factor in the success of this enterprise.

Chapter Five

1964 - 1968

The year 1964 saw the beginning of a program of beautification and landscaping of the grounds at Milne. A committee of Board Members headed by Mrs. Philip Farnsworth purchased four live oaks and three wax myrtles which, together with the gift of two more oak trees from benefactors, added much needed shade to the whole area.

To complete the planting a large quantity of oleanders, azaleas and daylilies were transplanted from the Fred Taylor Estate on the Jordon River in Mississippi when that property was sold.



Milne Dance, 1965

With Hurricane Betsy, September 1965 brought hardship for eight days to Milne Home. During that time Milne was without electricity and everybody had to go to bed before dark and get up after daylight.

Food was stored with various friends in the Metairie area and was picked up as needed. There was no telephone service for three weeks because the cable was under fourteen feet of water.

However, insurance covered the roof damage and the parents of the children worked together to clear the driveway of fallen trees. Miraculously there were no emotional problems in the girls who remained.

The years 1966 – 1967 were marked by administrative problems which were a direct result of a Fair Wage Labor Law instituted by the government. This involved a great amount of added bookkeeping on hours worked by the employees of the Institution.

Later in the year Miss Margaret Pickering arrived to work as both teacher and assistant to Miss Holbrook, the Superintendent. This proved to be an important step forward in helping to ease administrative burdens, which at this time were beginning to multiply.

Other events during these years were the death of Miss Carrie Stanley, a beloved friend and music teacher to the girls which provided a sad Christmas that year. Moving along to Mardi Gras things brightened considerably when the first parade passed in front of Milne Home.

The Krewe of Endymion honored the girls with special seats in the stands and bestowed many favors upon them. Another highlight was the acquisition of two color television sets, a happy solution to the lack of a music program and too many emotional and disciplinary problems arising from Miss Stanley's death.

It was now apparent that Milne had come an even longer way from the rural environments from which it had begun. The garden is no longer planted on a large scale on the remaining parcel of land; property lying between the Home and the Douglas White Elementary School.

Since the cost of labor to keep up such a piece of land now far exceeds the benefits derived, the Board voted at its annual meeting in January 1968 to call in two leading real estate firms for an appraisal of this property with respect to selling it, if possible.

Gardening Club, 1973



Miscellaneous Pictures



Milne Dance, 1970

Summer in the Courtyard



Elks Club Party, 1985

Chapter Six

1980 – 1989

During the 1980's Milne had major maintenance and repairs to the facility. The kitchen had major deterioration of cooking and serving equipment. The Board of Directors decided to upgrade to stainless steel tables and carts.

Chairs were needed in the dining room, carpets were wearing badly in the residents' TV rooms, seventy closets had to be replaced, repaired and/or painted, and the station wagon needed repairs too.

As always, the Board had major decisions on financial matters and investments to ensure that Milne's needs would continue to be taken care of now, and in the future.

In March of 1983 the Board began taking bids to build a brick wall around the property for added security.

Lawn mowers and gardening equipment were replaced, and the facilities only walk-in cooler was in need of major repair. The entire facility inside and out had to be painted along with the laundry.

Because of continued repairs on the old station wagon the Board faced the decision of repair vs. a new vehicle. A decision to purchase a new station wagon was reached.

During 1984 the roofs on several of the buildings were in need of being replaced; the air conditioning and heating systems had to be repaired or replaced, and the drainage system had to be dug out, repaired, replaced or rerouted under the kitchen.

In 1985 generators were installed, new showers were installed in all of the dorms and the sidewalks had to be replaced or repaired.

In 1986 fans were placed in all of the recreation and gathering areas. 1987 brought about purchases of major appliances for the kitchen; also needing to be replaced were the hot water heaters for the laundry.

Chapter Seven

1990 - 1999

By 1990 it was becoming apparent that the physical plant again needed to be replaced with a more modern facility and a less institutional building. However, the cost of providing services and the State's gradual reduction of appropriations stalemated these efforts.

The next two years for Milne saw a continued effort to make the needed repairs and replacements which kept the facility nice for residents. A computer system was purchased in 1992, a new book keeping system was implemented and a part-time accountant was hired.

During the next few months the State began having cut backs and employee layoffs in many areas; one of which was from DHH (Department of Health and Hospitals). DHH was funding \$30,000.00 a month to Milne and if this funding were to be lost, a significant burden would result.

Meetings with the Governor's office began to resolve this concern. He agreed to sign a continuance of the contract with Milne for the 1993 fiscal year. Because of this, planned repair work continued through the summer of 1993.

The year 1995 saw corrections that were needed to meet the new Labor Law criteria regarding employee hiring. The applications and the new Safety Manual were developed by a firm of attorneys who were familiar with the new Fair Labor Law standards and Workmen's Compensation regulations.

A time-clock was purchased, annual evaluations were implemented and before the end of the year a new fire alarm system was installed to meet the regulations governed by the office of the State Fire Marshall.

Milne saw many staff changes before the end of that year. Staff members who'd been with Milne Home for quite some time had decided it was time to retire. And Mrs. Dot Holbrook, Superintendent, had her resignation forced upon her because of her pro-longed health concerns. The Board regretfully accepted Mrs. Holbrook's resignation.

Mrs. Holbrook's position was filled by a new Administrator, Ms. Melba Thornton and an interim Assistant Administrator, Ms. Margaret Reid. The new administration began having hurricane awareness meetings with their staff to ensure the best way to care for their residents as it was only a matter of time when such a need would present itself.

Street flooding had already taken its toll when May's flood waters began backing up into some of the lower buildings; including the room used for recreation and crafting.



Jewelry Class in the Recreation Room, 1995

Repairs to all of these buildings only added to the costly repairs that were already needed to the other buildings. Because of the recurring dampness, carpenter ants had destroyed part of the back wall of the recreation/craft room. The safety and well-being of the residents mandated this area be torn out and rebuilt.

Sandbags were made for protection of the buildings from future flood waters and boards were cut to cover the large windows if evacuations were necessary. Milne received confirmation from the State that their contract would be renewed again for the upcoming fiscal year. Insurance monies in the amount of \$27,587.15 finally came in which helped cover the cost of repair to the damage that occurred during the May flood.

In 1996 the Board of Directors began discussing the preservation of Milne history by submitting documents to the New Orleans Historical Collection. This would be a time-consuming job, but one that would make sure Milne was never forgotten in the annals of Louisiana's history.

A new Milne Policy Handbook had become a priority for the Board. Ms. Julie Livaudais, Attorney at Law, was hired to work on the new handbook and presented it to the Board upon completion.

The year 1996 brought still more changes to Milne's staffing. A new kitchen supervisor was hired and Direct Care Service workers had been hired to replace the dorm mothers who were being retired.

Also new to Milne were Activities Instructors who were hired to broaden and improve the residents' lives. Once again Milne continues to provide the best possible environment for its' residents. The Board of Directors continued to work tirelessly and vigilantly to ensure Milne's financial future is taken care of by the most qualified investment professionals.

Roof repairs began on many of the buildings. Damage to the roof tops over the years had come from bullets being shot into the air then landing on the buildings. Wind and storms; not to mention age, had, of course all had a bearing too.

Not only had Milne seen changes in staffing, but they'd begun to experience changes in the neighborhood as well. Changes which heightened the need for increased security. The following measures were taken to aid with this need: more fencing was installed, an electric gate to better secure Milne was built, and larger security lights were installed to replace smaller ones.

New office equipment, a paper shredder, a fax machine and a postage meter were installed to help bring Milne up to date. A new Safety Manual was completed and job descriptions have been updated. Resident Service Plans were changed to comply with the current State regulations and every resident's pertinent information was updated as well. Work schedules were all re-evaluated to comply with the State mandated programs.

The summer of 1996 was quite busy with State Inspections and State Audits. Also taking place that summer was training for staff on "Maintaining Total Control". Local fire department personnel were invited to meet the residents and staff.

The ladies were kept busy with summer activities such as trips to the Audubon Zoo, the IMAX theatre, bowling, road trips, movies, and a July 4th party, just to mention a few. Weekly church services were arranged, and transportation was provided. It was a good summer for everyone.

The State of Louisiana approved Milne's contract for another year so 1997 was expected to hold steady. More good news was received by knowing that Milne had the ability to receive private pay citizens from any state.

Everyone was in full Christmas spirit and gala with Milne's first Open House held on December 1, 1996. Milne Home was beautifully decorated on the inside and outside with decorations of all sorts and some lovely poinsettias. Invitations were printed and mailed out to family, friends and local Representatives. Also invited were State Senators and the Department of Health and Hospitals. The Open House was a huge success, and everyone enjoyed touring the facility.

Another year brought excitement of a different note. A lightning storm struck near Milne which caused major damage to the security system. Televisions, telephones, security lights, air conditioners and heater switches were damaged as well. But most importantly no one was injured. By this time, the dental office needed

updating. Milne's dentist, Dr. Marcello, offered to donate the dental equipment that was so badly needed. This was much appreciated by the Board and residents.

The Board of Directors voted to add other monies to buy more dental equipment, tools, etc. to help with the upgrade. After months of work, Ms. Julie Livaudais George, Attorney at Law, completed the new Employee Handbook for Milne. Upon completion she met with the Board to present this handbook; disbursement to the employees took place on April 23, 1997. This was not a year without staff changes. Melissa Brogdon, Secretary, resigned to advance her career as a legal secretary.

Mrs. Wanda Smith, who had experience in this capacity, was asked to transfer from her position as activities and assistant dorm mother to serve as Secretary. She began her new duties in March, and in May Miss Corrine Samiec was hired as music therapist and assisted in the arts and craft area. The Board of Directors continued working tirelessly on Milne's finances. Committees were appointed to make sure Milne's portfolio continued to grow.

A Parents' Forum was held in Baton Rouge. Parents and family members of several of the residents attended the Forum and reported that it went really well. There was only good to report about Milne to the committee. Those in attendance, who represented Milne Home, expressed their desire for their family member to remain at Milne.

Everyone looked forward to inviting friends and family to visit with the residents and staff at Milne's annual Open House which was scheduled for December 7th of that year. Invitations were prepared from a list that included all of the guests from last year's Open House and many more. Great success has been had with this event and through public relations Milne is being recognized for its' dedication to the less fortunate.

The Board of Directors started out 1998 with changes to the administrative office. The Assistant Administrator, Margaret Reid, was transferred to the Arts and Crafts Department. The Board of Directors asked Mrs. Wanda Smith to be the new Assistant Administrator and Ms. Joan Dupuy to transfer from the Activities Department to the secretarial position. These transitions took place during the first three months of the year.

Mardi Gras is always high on the activity list for the ladies and staff at Milne Home with their annual Mardi Gras Ball and Court being a highlight. The Elks Club invited Milne Home to enjoy parades with them this year and sent an invitation to come back next year.

Medical Consent Laws were discussed by the Board and Administrators. Miss Andre' Boudreaux, Attorney and Board member verified with the State that all regulations were followed. The Administrators asked that all residents with family members be contacted for authorization regarding Medical Consent so such be completed and placed in the master files.

The Board of Directors began a discussion regarding Milne Home's rate for resident care. The cost of living was continually on the rise and yet there hadn't been an increase in tuition for many years. Because of this, the monthly tuition being charged did not cover Milne's cost of living expenses.

The residents' trip to the Zephyrs baseball game on May 6, 1998 was made possible by a friend of one of the residents. The ladies really enjoyed their outing, cheering the team on for a win.

Beautification of the Milne grounds is well underway this time of year. The trees have been trimmed and the grass cut. New plants sprang forth with blooms and the grounds were groomed to perfection.

During the summer Milne performed routine repairs and maintenance to the buildings and especially the kitchen area where the vent hoods were cleaned. Gutters were torn down and new ones installed, block fencing was repaired, and painting of the facility continued. The alarm system continued to have problems and the residents' security was, once again, highlighted to the Board.

Milne Home now displays a very warm and welcoming appearance for the residents and visitors alike. Azaleas are in full bloom this time of year and the squirrels and parrots keep residents intrigued with their daily visits.

Feeders and bird baths are routinely cleaned and filled. This has become a very important part of some of the residents lives; some of the animals will even eat straight from their hands which brings much enjoyment to everyone.



Glad Baptist Church, Laurel, MS

Glade Baptist Church in Laurel, MS graciously offered their facilities should Milne find themselves under an evacuation order. The extensive evacuation plan was reviewed by Mrs. Thornton and the Board of Directors. The Board was pleased with the thoroughness and details of the plan for our residents' welfare.

Little did everyone know that within days an evacuation order would take place. Hurricane warnings were given and, due to drills and the plan that was in place, all the sound

planning resulted in an extremely smooth, successful, and safe adventure for all concerned.

During the fall and early winter months of 1998, Milne came alive with parties given by St. Jude League, Sesame Street Live at the UNO Arena, Garden Club sponsored picnics and bus tours of local attractions.

To top everything this season, ghosts and goblins visited Milne on Halloween night! The old school building was turned into a haunted house true as any that could be found. Staff and their family members volunteered their time to work at this event. Each resident who was able, and wanted to do so, walked through the haunted house. They were escorted by dressed up witches and ghosts. The residents and staff had a great time and treats were enjoyed by everyone afterwards.

This was just the beginning of the holiday season with Thanksgiving and Christmas just around the corner. Thanksgiving was a fun time at Milne with a singing program presented to the staff by Milne residents.

Every resident was given an opportunity to tell what they were thankful for. Each and every resident in attendance told of being thankful for their home at Milne.

The dining room and dorms at Milne were decorated with newly made wreaths by the craft department and Christmas trees were decorated in each dorm. A large Christmas tree was bought for the dining room and everyone had an ornament to place on it. Christmas time was always so special to everyone.

The attendance at Milne's Open House grows in number each year with more and more people wanting to become involved in the growth of Milne. This year's third Open House was no exception and proved itself to be just as successful as in the past.

Milne's residents were invited to attend *Celebration in the Oaks*. Not only did they enjoy looking at the lights but also singing and each other's company. The evening rang with the ladies' excited giggling; much as one would hear when little children are waiting for the big night when they receive their gifts. Christmas Eve finally came and the night was filled with cookies, hot cocoa and a visit from Santa.

The State contract for 1999 was renewed. Milne now has a total of 67 residents. We have a full staff with Dorm 4 converted to the "Retirement Dorm". Those placed in this dorm either needed more medical attention or were elderly which necessitated more employees being transferred to care for those residing in this dorm.

Residents in the Retirement Dorm seem quite content, telling anyone who'll listen that they love living there. They've been heard adding that they are retired and don't have to do chores any more.



Christmas Party, 1998

The following year, 1999, kicked off with the parents of one of Milne's residents and The Knights of Columbus treating the ladies to a night of fun, good food, music and dancing; square dancing was a particular favorite. This party was an annual event the residents looked forward to each year.

February arrived with Mardi Gras parades and parties. The New Orleans Rotary Club brought King Cakes, The Charity Club Auxiliary brought party favors and beads.

The Memory Lane Band provided entertainment and the Elks Lodge provided private stands in Metairie on Veterans Avenue for parade viewing. The Elks Lodge adopted Milne and made sure the ladies had the best viewing site every Mardi Gras season! They also provided plenty of food for a party and even got the King Cakes.

For the first time security guards were hired for Milne during Mardi Gras and Jazz Fest. This worked out well because, especially during this time of the year, the area is so congested because of its proximity to the Fairgrounds area.

On three different occasions in the next few weeks rocks were thrown over the brick fence either hitting a dorm wall or breaking windows. Drug trafficking and shootings were becoming more common in the surrounding area.

Police were called when three males scaled the wall and came onto campus during the day. Shootings during the night caused the residents and staff to be very uncomfortable, resulting in lockdown procedures being implemented.

Our staff and residents were trained on what to do when such events occurred. When the neighborhood around the facility began to prove itself less than desirable the Board of Directors began to discuss whether security guards should be hired for the nightly protection of residents and staff.

Staff training continued every month at Milne with the residents' wellbeing a priority. The Board of Directors wanted all staff members to be properly trained to ensure residents had the best care possible.

CPR training for all employees was now a requirement to work at Milne and in-service training was enhanced by hiring professionals to teach staff members what to expect with residents, considering their age and health issues.

During the summer months of 1999 the attending physician, Dr. Tonti, was unable to continue caring for Milne's residents. The Board quickly reached a decision that it was indeed necessary to start looking for a new doctor.

Not long after, Dr. Cathy Fontenot from LSU Lyon's Clinic was secured to care for the ladies' healthcare needs. Dr. Fontenot first became acquainted with Milne Home when she met one of our residents who was taken to the Emergency Room at Mercy Hospital. Dr. Fontenot was inquiring of the staff member who had accompanied the resident to the ER about Milne.

She told the staff member that she would be very interested in visiting the campus. Unbeknownst to the staff, Dr. Fontenot was Chief of Staff at LSU. She just happened to be in the ER taking a call; something she normally didn't do – except in special occasions. It was the considered opinion that God was taking care of Milne's ladies.

Dr. Fontenot and her Nurse Practitioner, Carol Schwaner, were very delighted to learn all about Milne and consented to work with them as their Healthcare Provider. Dr. Fontenot and Miss Schwaner were a welcomed addition to the Milne family. The care shown by them made each of the ladies feel so special. They took the time to listen to each resident no matter how long it took.

The State Contract was renewed again for the fiscal year 2000. After the State reviewed licensure requirements, some changes were mandated. One of which was that all facilities for disabled persons in the City of New Orleans, and its surrounding areas, had to evacuate prior to a hurricane. Surplus supplies were now being stored at our evacuation point in storage rentals.

Every resident had to have enough clothing, food and medication prepared for at least three days which was the average amount of time for evacuations according

to Emergency Management Personnel. Not wanting to risk the residents' health and well-being, it was decided that provisions for at least one week would be set aside rather than just three days.

The turn of the century was fast approaching and with it, the beginning of a new decade was upon us. Rumors and warnings about computer system shutdowns and problems with communications abound in every newspaper and on television and radio stations so, of course, it was the talk of the town. And Milne was no exception.

Everyone was very apprehensive, and no one knew what to believe. Milne's CPA was given \$10,000 by the Board of Directors to prepare Milne for Y2K by getting new computers and/or software upgraded in case something did happen.

Even with all the preparation for the Y2K event as well as all that was being done to ensure quality of care for the residents, they didn't skip a beat. However, there was nothing to prepare the Milne and its' residents for the sad news that two of the ladies would be diagnosed with terminal cancer.

It would be very long battle for them. Most disheartening was their inability to understand the pain they were enduring. With their intellectual capacity being that of a small child; this illness, and the unjustness of it, was very hard for them to understand. A support system of Board and staff, family and friends, and, of course, Dr. Fontenot and her staff, all came together for them.

During the fall months of 1999 the Board of Directors diligently worked to keep Milne's finances in order. The Finance Committee reported on investments throughout the summer months and asked Milne's Investment Consultant, Mr. St. Dennis J. Villere, to attend a Board meeting that fall. They requested that he explain some of the losses that had occurred and what could be done to prevent a repeat of this in the future.

September 1999 brought more State instituted guidelines on a new Board reporting procedure covering various categories. Such was prepared before each annual Board meeting and voted on by the Board of Directors. The State at this same time also required Milne to hire more staff for the night shift.

Mr. St. Dennis J. Villere and his son, Mr. Sandy Villere, were guests at the Board of Directors' October meeting; various aspects of Milne's portfolio were to be covered. The Board asked for an overview of account values and account income comparison from 1975 to 1999, offering their insights into income producing investments.

A summary of securities was discussed as was client appraisal of individual securities. An introduction of internet stocks, some futuristic investments and the advantages of Milne moving its' securities to Schwab was discussed in detail.

It was time again, for Milne's annual Open House. Preparation started with the grounds being meticulously groomed and Christmas decorations gone through with much love and care. Such could be found displayed everywhere at Milne! The holidays were always special with the ladies giving it their all at the programs they'd put on for family and friends.

The Open House on December 5th was, again, a huge success. It was attended by more people than ever. Everyone was entertained by the residents' musical program. Ms. Melba Thornton, Administrator, performed by singing a medley of songs. Food was prepared and served by the dietary staff. A local Representative and her assistant both came and were very complimentary of Milne's hospitality.

Everyone toured the campus and visited with the residents. Santa paid a visit this Christmas and programs and parties were attended by the ladies. Williams Blvd. Baptist Church invited the ladies to participate in their annual Christmas program.

A gift of a bus tour to *Christmas in the Oaks* was donated and enjoyed by all. A church youth group from Laurel, Ms. sang Christmas carols with the residents and visited with them for hours on end. Such an enjoyable time was had by all, especially with our visitors being young people!

Chapter Eight

2000 - 2002

Y2K came and went without any problems evidenced. The Board of Directors began the year with in-house auditing and taking care of finances. Security guards were put in place following much discussion with attorneys about the liabilities of Milne having armed guards on site. It was decided that the security guards could be armed and that they should be able to provide proof of Liability Insurance coverage.

Excitement is in the air as Mardi Gras preparations begin. The Elks Club had Milne as their guest at the Rhea Parade in Metairie on March 5th where the ladies were treated like Royalty and fed like Queens. They enjoyed every minute and brought home buckets of beads. King Cakes were freshly baked and brought to the ladies which topped off their day.

Easter finds its way to basket making, Easter egg hunts, club parties and a special invitation to the Williams Blvd. Baptist Church luncheon.

Spring is always a busy time at Milne with flower gardens being groomed and prepped with all kinds of beautiful plants. Easter shopping is an exciting time for all because everyone gets a new outfit and a new pair of shoes!

To date, Milne now has 66 residents.

Mother's Day is near and the ladies love making and giving little gifts. Some make ceramics in class while others stitch away making pillowcases. The ladies who are fortunate enough to still have their mothers around will be going home to celebrate with their families.

Maintenance had started working on A/C units only to find that two of the large dorm units could not be repaired. Summer was coming fast, and dorms 1 & 2 had no air conditioning. The two units that supplied the air had to be replaced at a cost of \$1,500.

May 2000 was a challenging month. Ms. Deborah Joseph, from the State Licensing Board came to inspect Milne; her stay was longer than any inspector before. Ms. Joseph said that Milne could not comply under DSS (Department of Social Services).

She commented that the present medical program and dormitory style living were not acceptable and noted 43 deficiencies. From no deficiencies the year before to 43 this year was very troubling to the Board of Directors as well as to our Administrative Department.

In June the Board of Directors met with Mr. Stephen Carleton, Attorney at Law, who was with a firm in Baton Rouge that specialized in legislative issues; Simoneux, Carleton, Rowe, Dunlap and Oliende, L.L.C. The Board hired his firm to help Milne settle the issues with the State.

Summer finally arrived, and all repairs had been completed. Everyone had cool air and snowball parties. The Charity Crib Auxiliary of New Orleans donated everything for snowballs! The ladies and staff really enjoyed a cool treat this hot time of the year.

That summer the bus line Star Coach donated a touring bus trip to River Road for the ladies. They enjoyed seeing many of the old plantation homes and, after returning back to the city, the tour continued through downtown New Orleans. This was a very enjoyable outing for the ladies; seeing places they had not seen in years.

The summer months were very hot and cold watermelon parties quickly became a favorite past-time that everyone looked forward to. At the July 4th party, fried chicken and all the residents' favorite side dishes were served. Some of which were hamburgers, hot dogs, baked beans, and potato salad. Topping it off was homemade chocolate cake which was enjoyed by everyone!

The dining room was decorated with American flags and streamers of red, white and blue. Flags were flying outside in the breeze and everyone gathered under the covered patio to end the celebration by singing patriotic songs.

A big bar-b-que seemed to be the perfect way for the ladies to say good-bye to Summer. Staff and family members cooked all day for this event, even the security guards took a turn with cooking.

August brought trips by Board members and Administration to Baton Rouge to meet with DHH, Department of Health and Hospitals. Milne's attorneys always accompanied staff to these meetings. Problems had to be worked out with the State if Milne was to continue taking care of its' residents as had been done for over 100 years.

Because August had been designated as staff appreciation month, a luncheon was given in their honor which was followed by an afternoon party. The Board of Directors wanted all staff members to know how important they were to the quality of care Milne residents enjoyed.

September 2000 brought more meetings with DHH and the State inspector who'd given a bad inspection report. DSS and DHH battled back and forth as to what department would be the best fit for Milne's needs. It was decided that neither department would truly be a "best fit" scenario.

So, at this point in time, Milne was listed with the State of Louisiana as a Shelter Home. Many new rules were outlined and adherence to such was mandatory; inspections occurring on a more frequent basis could be expected.

Donations of over \$3,000 had been given by October and were to be used for a greenhouse that was to be built for the ladies. The Board of Directors asked Ms. Thornton to check with Mr. Dan Gill who works with greenhouse designs and buildings.

Mr. Gill agreed to advise Milne as to whether this project could be started by next Spring. Everyone is excited about having a greenhouse providing home-grown flowers with which to decorate Milne.

The end of the year was fast approaching and before long the holidays would be here. Plans and preparations had started for the 5th Annual Open House and, as always, Milne was hustling and bustling with excitement. Christmas expectations had already begun and decorations were going up, which always promotes cheer around Milne Home.

Starting Open House preparations in November aided to the feeling that Christmas had lasted a whole month this year. The staff and residents alike were ready to have some peace and quiet.

Christmas trees were put in all the dorms and Christmas music was filling the air. Parties and *Christmas in Oaks* were already being enjoyed by residents and staff. Thanksgiving seemed as if it came and went in a flash.

A dear friend of Milne and longtime in-service consultant, Mr. Otis Johnson, succumbed to cancer on December 3rd.

Mr. Johnson had been associated with Milne for many years, working as liaison between the State and Milne. Two days later on the 5th of December, the Open House was, once again, a huge success.

Every year it had grown in size and every year there were more and more guests which meant that this had really become a big event for Milne. Not only in terms of PR, but in regard to fund raising. Christmas Eve came, and Santa made another visit. Gifts were opened, and hot chocolate was served.

The New Year, 2001, came in with a boom! Milne's new security company, New Orleans Private Patrol was initiated to the surrounding neighborhood on New Year's Eve night.

As bullets showered down on and around Milne most of the night the guards had to take cover inside the buildings to avoid being hit. The maintenance department spent days digging bullets out of Milne's roof tops.

A provisional license from DSS that would last until June 2001 was finally secured and presented to the Board by Mrs. Doris Boudreaux, Board President, at January's Board Meeting.



Christmas 2000

The battle with the State had been won and permanent waivers were received for medication programs and building regulations.

The Board and staff thanked Miss Andrea Boudreaux for her continued hard work on the licensing situation and for her time and effort in getting the problems with DSS resolved.

The parties for Valentine's Day and Mardi Gras were combined this year as a gift to the residents by The Charity Crib Club. The group "Glitter and Gold" performed and sang, adding to the wonderful time the ladies had dancing and socializing.

The Mardi Gras Court was introduced at the annual Mardi Gras Ball on February 21st. As with any Mardi Gras Court, the queen and her maids were dressed in formal attire, escorted in and introduced to Milne's friends and families.

The Elks Club of Metairie once again welcomed the ladies of Milne by sharing their private stands on Veteran's Blvd. so they could enjoy the parade of floats. The weather was brisk but sunny and a meal of hot dogs, chips and King Cakes was also provided by the Elks Club.

Everyone returned to Milne loaded down with throws of all kinds and full bellies. A staff member's daughter was in the dance band at her high school which thrilled the ladies when they saw her. They'd watched her grow up playing and visiting at Milne. This was a very special time for the ladies because most of them had held her when she was a baby.

The 2001 census is down to 65 residents.

With Milne's census having dropped from 68 to 65 over the last five years the Board of Directors asked Ms. Thornton to seek out local ministries and clubs to evaluate the best way to reach out to prospective residents. This decline is due to age related illnesses resulting in discharges to either nursing homes or, sadly enough, to death.

On April 19th, a representative from DHH, Ms. Doris Dudley, brought the State contract for 2001 – 2002. This was an exciting event since so much trouble was had the past year trying to satisfy state regulations. A new requirement from the State was given at this time that the use of blister packs be implemented for administering all medications.

A meeting with the pharmacy revealed that they could provide this service for an additional cost of \$1.00 per prescription. Mrs. Doris Boudreaux and Ms. Melba Thornton began a quest to enroll those residents without Medicaid into the State sponsored program. This would help with their medication cost and their medical bills.

The Board of Directors reported to Ms. Thornton during the April Board meeting that a van with a lift needs to be purchased to comply with our Workmen's Compensation insurance.

Summer months at Milne always had some kind of excitement. Once again, a lightning storm provided a lightning strike that affected Milne's security system, the fire alarm system, the cameras, and the electric gate. Major damage was sustained to all of these areas.

On July 4th multiple police units were in pursuit of a vehicle when it turned down Trafalger St., the street behind Milne. An emergency "lockdown" was implemented and remained in effect until it was safe. The chase immediately halted when the fleeing car slammed into the sidewalk stopping approximately six inches from the brick fence located behind the kitchen gate.

A shootout ensued; ending when the police apprehended the two suspects along with drugs and weapons that were in their possession. None of the residents were alarmed nor did any injuries occur.

Through Summer the maintenance department replaced tiles in the dorm bathrooms and continued painting where it was needed.

Milne now has 63 residents.

September 11, 2001 brought all of Milne to a standstill, as it did with the rest of America. Everyone was vailed in shock after watching the most horrific incident that had ever taken place during our lifetime. The Twin Towers in New York City were hit by two airplanes; a direct attack by terrorists; the Pentagon in Washington D.C. was hit next. Thousands of people were killed and thousands more were injured. As was the rest of America, Milne was hypnotized by the events of the day as the shockwave of realization hit.

On September 17th, the Board meeting began with Mrs. Doris Boudreaux asking for a moment of silence for the victims of this horrific attack. The meeting continued with financial matters relating to Milne. Milne's assets had recently gone down in value over the recent months and with the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks, the future of the Stock Market was very uncertain. The Board of Directors had much to deal with, but as always, Milne's future was their top priority.

With the sadness that shrouded the United States since the tragedy that took place on September 11th everyone is ready for something happy to look forward to. The following month was a welcomed relief because of the lighter mood that accompanied it. October kick starts the holiday season which is always filled with fun events.

Milne residents were treated to a surprise Magic Show and since Halloween was near treat bags were given to each of the residents. One of our resident's family brought cupcakes and another brought huge cookie cakes for the ladies to enjoy.

An Open House is planned for the 6th year in a row and with Thanksgiving being close at hand everyone is trying so hard to make this year more enjoyable than the last. The sadness experienced in September has drawn the staff and residents much closer to each other.

Everyone is always mindful that there is so much to be thankful for, but this Thanksgiving touched hearts more than normal.

November 1st brought added excitement to Milne's ladies. They were treated to Big Bird, Elmo, and other Sesame Street characters; it was clear that everyone had a great time. Thanksgiving Day saw a traditional meal of turkey, dressing and

all “the fixins” being served. As with so many households, football was watched all afternoon.

This was a happy day for many of Milne’s staff and residents. Happy thoughts of the year’s memories only slightly tainted with the memory of those who were lost during the year. The ladies enjoyed the musical talents of “Glitter and Gold” who entertained the ladies again this afternoon.

Soon afterward excitement set in with Christmas shopping and Open House preparations well underway. The grounds have been decorated and the dorms were filled with Christmas music and gift wrapping. December is such a busy time of the year for Milne with shopping, church programs, club parties, Open House activities and finally the big day with Santa.

Of course, Open House was a huge success! Attendance continued to grow every year as more and more families are coming and getting involved with Milne’s residents. This has been the highlight of having the annual Open House. This event has become as important as Christmas to the residents who are asking to invite more and more family and friends every year.

A hard winter had taken its toll on Milne once again which meant that major repairs were a welcomed sight in 2002. Damage was caused from water leaks over the kitchen and dining room area so roof replacements were in process.

The dishwasher stopped working right after Christmas and then the garbage disposal broke. The main heater in one of the dorms had stopped working and had to be replaced.

The Board of Directors annual meeting was opened in 2002 by Mrs. Maurice Provosty, Board President. A recap of the past year involved, as always, the financial status of Milne. Workmen’s Compensation would be changed and Milne’s Charter was to be renewed. New guidelines from the Department of Social Services needed to be implemented starting with a projected budget for 2002 in July. State inspectors would now ask to see budgets with their annual inspection.

Repairs and their related costs continued to rise for Milne. The dishwasher that broke after the Christmas holidays was replaced costing \$14,000. The heaters, now two dorms in need, had to be replaced which would cost almost \$4,000 and renewing the Charter would be approximately \$10,000.

A new handbook for family and friends was written. Outlined therein were requirements for prior visits that were to be initiated as well as specific visiting times. Of course, all changes were approved by the Board of Directors.

The DHH-OCDD called on February 28, 2002 to request a visit to the Milne campus. This was a surprise because no one from that department had ever made such a request. The invitation was extended and twelve persons from DHH-OCDD

came for a tour. The State license had yet to be received at this time. Ms. Thornton called Baton Rouge and was made aware that a supervisor was reviewing it.

On March 4, 2002, a license to operate was received, but it was only a provisional license. At this time there are still 63 residents. Milne's previous provisional license expired on December 31, 2001. A license to operate until June 30, 2003 is still in process.

Dr. Craig Marcello who had been with Milne for 17 years will no longer be Milne's dentist. Dr. Marcello was in the military and had been transferred to Japan. Dr. Mike Appleton from Slidell, was set to begin taking care of the residents' dental needs.

On March 21, 2002, Milne Home underwent a very extensive and very detailed follow-up inspection by the DSS Inspectors.

During this inspection, Milne's administrators were told they could not have a nurse on site. The LPN on staff would have to be let go in order to comply with State regulations which was contradictory to why the LPN was hired in the first place - the State had said that a nurse was needed on staff.

Spring arrived, and with it, the rebirth of flowers, birds, and much more "friendly" temperatures. A party was given by the Charity Crib of New Orleans to celebrate the arrival of Spring. The ladies played games, ate cake, enjoyed coke floats and candy treats.

Milne Home was now in receipt of a letter from DSS that revoked the previous waiver for a medication assistant. A decision was reached that it was time to turn this concern over to Mr. Frank Simoneaux, Milne's attorney.

Donations continued to be received for the greenhouse project; another combined amount of \$1,650 had been given as well.

During the April Board Meeting reports were given by Miss Andre' Boudreaux about the problems with Licensure. The attorney's firm, Simoneaux & Carlton, believed that the best solution for Milne was to approach the State Legislature to ask for a special designation for Milne; stating specifically the kind of facility they are going to classify Milne as and guidelines that both entities could live with.

Meetings were immediately arranged with State Representatives Charles Bruneau and Lambert Boissere, Jr.

Along with State licensing problems, concerns with guardianship and representatives for some of the ladies now arose. According to the State of Louisiana, all residents must have a legal guardian or representative to give permission for medical procedures.

The process of securing appropriate documentation in resident files began. According to DSS no one at Milne can be the legal guardian or have a Power of Attorney for a resident. Many of Milne's ladies came to Milne as orphans so they do not have family.

Problems with getting a license have arisen this year because the State decided to not sign a contract for the upcoming year.

The Board of Directors appointed a committee to go to Baton Rouge to determine if something can be done to rectify the problems Milne continues to have with the State.

The following individuals were appointed to this committee: Mrs. Maurice Provosty, Mrs. Francis Favalaro, Mrs. Jack Bartlett, Ms. André' Boudreaux, Mrs. Melba Thornton and Mrs. Wanda Smith. A meeting was arranged with Milne's law firm followed shortly by a meeting with the State Legislature. This committee has four major problems to resolve:

1. Secure a legislative statute adequately designating what type of facility Milne is – a residential care facility for women with intellectual disabilities who reside in a dormitory style environment.
2. Give staff the authority to care for residents' medical needs, allow Milne to provide a nurse on staff, and to make contracts for medical and dental care.
3. Give staff the authority to make appointments, order medications, and assist residents in making it to these appointments.
4. Establish a retainer relationship with an attorney from the firm of Simoneaux and Carlton to serve as representative and liaison between Milne and the State, monitoring any changes in rules and regulations which may affect Milne.

Summer in the South can be sweltering so it was no surprise when problems with the air conditioning were presented. There was an electrical fire in the kitchen on July 11, 2002; 911 was called and many fire trucks responded. All electricity was cut off until an electrician could address all areas of concern. The high voltage unit was replaced and everything was back up and running in no time.

The maintenance department had a busy summer staying one step ahead of repairs and maintenance. As Milne ages and the cost of living increases, continued maintenance becomes even more costly.

It was reported during the September Board meeting that no correspondence from the State had been received. Neither Mr. Simoneaux nor any of the Legislative Committee had heard anything pertaining to our request. Both Mr. Simoneaux and

Ms. Thornton placed calls to Baton Rouge asking for an update. Discouraging news was received when they were told that someone from the State would have to return a call.

Milne still has 63 residents at this time in 2002.

Hurricane season found us facing down Hurricane Isidore who had grown to a Category 3 and was heading straight toward the Gulf of Mexico. Because of this threat an evacuation was ordered for Milne on September 24, 2002. The families of seven residents came to retrieve their loved ones.

A bus arrived at 1:30 p.m. to take the remaining 56 residents and 11 staff members to Glade Baptist Church in Laurel, Ms. Prior arrangements made the evacuation an easy one so the residents thought they were taking a little vacation.

The ladies had a good time during their trip to Laurel. Everything just seemed to carry right on as if they were still in New Orleans. Their return trip home on Saturday September 28th took place without any incidents. Milne Home was found just as it had been left. The only exception was that there were a few leaks over the recreation room which were minor in nature and some debris scattered about on the grounds needed to be picked up.

Another hurricane, Lily, decided to head straight toward New Orleans on October 2nd. Everything was still packed from last week's trip so the bus ride back to Laurel was even easier. This time 12 residents evacuated with their families so 51 residents and 13 staff members boarded the bus; returning home within three days.

While on evacuation one of the older residents became very ill. An ambulance was called and she was taken to the emergency room. The Laurel Medical Community took us right in and took care of everything. Mrs. Wanda Smith contacted an old friend of hers; a surgeon by the name of Dr. Rex Applewhite.

He found the resident to be obstructed and would need immediate surgery. Her family requested she be brought back to New Orleans if this obstruction was not a threat to her life. Dr. Applewhite prepared her and spoke with Dr. Cathy Fontenot before transporting this dear resident by ambulance to Mercy Hospital.

Because of the hurricane, special permission had to be obtained for transport into New Orleans. This permission having been secured by Dr. Applewhite and the ASAP Ambulance Company, she was returned to New Orleans and underwent immediate surgery.

It was discovered that not only did she have one obstruction, but she had twelve! She underwent the procedure, tolerating it well and stayed until after the hurricane evacuation order had been lifted. After which time she returned home to Milne to

begin convalescing. Her family was very appreciative to Milne and the Laurel Medical Community for all the help with their loved one.

Bethlehem Baptist Church, the first church that Milne Home had accessed as an evacuation point, donated \$1,450 to Milne's Emergency Relief Fund. They'd told Milne that they would always be available anytime they're needed. Appreciative as



Bethlehem Baptist Church, Laurel, MS

Milne was of this knowledge, Ms. Thornton changed the evacuation site to her church which began Milne's relationship with Glade Baptist Church.

Activities such as Christmas shopping and Thanksgiving Day preparations keep Milne residents and staff busy in November. In December Milne Home is usually bustling about with Open House and Christmas. Milne's 7th annual Open House was to be held December 8th this year and preparations are already under way.

As expected, the Open House was a great success. Everything was decorated with red poinsettias and twinkling lights. Large candy canes line the walkways and

Christmas trees were set up on the lawn. Family and friends were very complimentary of the campus; even commenting about how much better the Open House is each year.

Christmas parties, caroling, and church functions were just a part of December's activities. A traditional ride through *Christmas in Oaks* and our Christmas Eve party was enjoyed by all.

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As no records relating to the years 2003 through most of August 2005 could be found, it is presumed that this data was lost in the flood waters of Hurricane Katrina. However, once everything settled down from Katrina's aftermath and we were finally able to wrap our heads around the full impact of what had happened, we began chronicling Milne Home's incredible journey once again.

CHAPTER NINE

Hurricane Katrina ... 2005

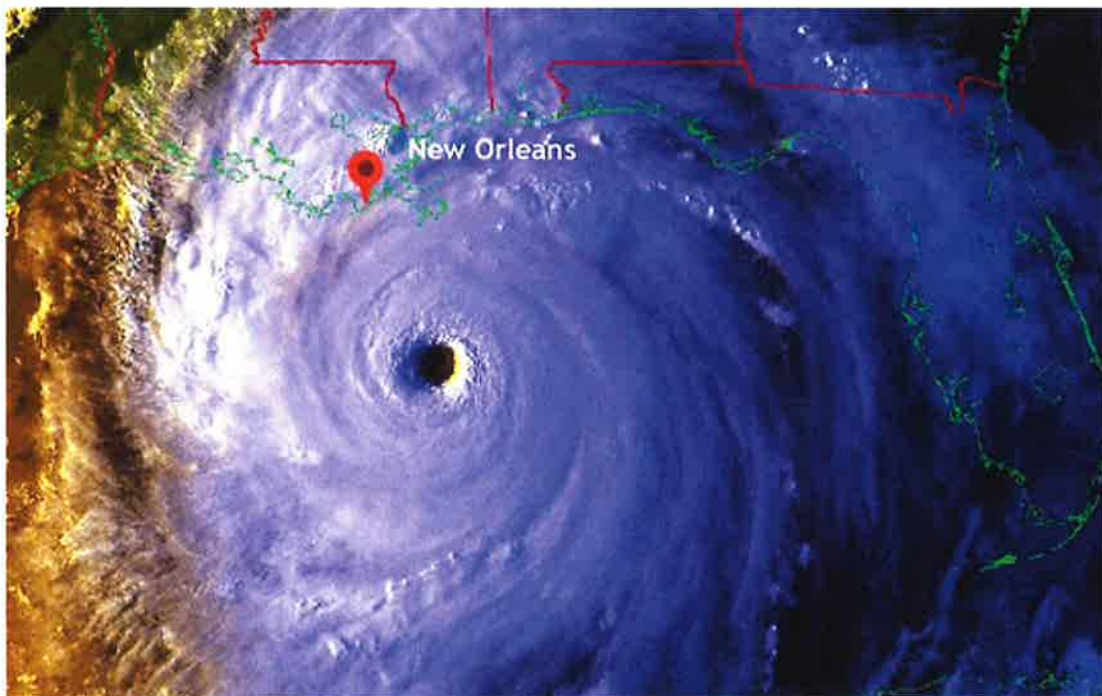
Residents and staff at Milne were busy with daily activities the end of August 2005. This day was much like any other day with classes meeting in the recreation room, cleanup from breakfast was going full force and lunch was being prepared. The Administrative staff (Joan Dupuy, Secretary, and Wanda Smith, Assistant Administrator) was busy with paperwork to close out the month.

Despite the hurricane out in the Gulf, the weather was of no concern because the National Weather Service reported just the day before, Thursday, August 25th, that Hurricane Katrina had turned away from New Orleans. Everyone was more relaxed; and didn't see the need to be mindful of such.

Friday, August 26th

However, it was just the next day when Mr. Rick Smith, Mrs. Wanda Smith's husband, called to ask if we had heard about the change in Katrina's direction. He told us we really needed to know what was going on because Hurricane Katrina had just taken another turn and New Orleans was directly in her path.

We turned on the TV and found that Katrina was already approaching the Gulf as a Category 3 hurricane and was expected to strengthen quickly. Ms. Thornton was called with this most concerning update.



Hurricane Katrina, August 2005

The Mayor of New Orleans called for a mandatory evacuation starting Saturday at noon. Milne's established evacuation plan was immediately implemented. Ms. Thornton called our bus line and asked them to come to New Orleans to pick up our residents and staff first thing Saturday morning.

There was a great deal of work to be done prior to the bus arriving and the first step was to remain calm. We alerted staff members to put our hurricane plan into effect; telling them to return all residents to their dorms. We called the dietary department and told them to have breakfast ready for Saturday morning and a traveling snack to go.

Every file in the main office was loaded into the Secretary's SUV. All information contained in the Medical Department, including the residents' medications and medical charts, were packed into plastic containers, labeled appropriately, and loaded into the Assistant Administrator's SUV. The DSWs worked tirelessly that day preparing for the evacuation the next morning.

Of course, the State came during this time to inspect us for our license. While it was imperative to have this inspection done to secure a license for another year, our residents' health and well-being were paramount at this point.

We tried to be as accommodating as we could, but our primary concern was not the State and their needs. Thankfully, the State Inspector decided that perhaps today was not such a good day to conduct an inspection.

Saturday, August 27th

Saturday morning came and we were ready to make the trip to Glade Baptist Church in Laurel, Ms. There was only a limited time to leave before the "Mandatory Evacuation" order began.

When the City's evacuation order went into effect marshal law became the rule and a specific order had to be followed to ensure public safety. Certain sections of the City were allowed leave first; another group would be second in line, a third group would then be allowed to leave, and the last area (which included Milne) would finally be allowed to evacuate. The City decided that this was the most efficient way to ensure that the greatest amount New Orleanians and anyone else visiting the City would be able to safely evacuate and do so in time.

Again, all we wanted to ensure was the safety and well-being of our ladies. That's what we were working toward; that was our priority, that was our goal. We knew there was no way we were going to be the last to leave! Because we had two major bridges to cross on our way out, we knew we'd be caught in traffic and we knew that wasn't acceptable. The first bridge was the High Rise in New Orleans East and the other one, the Twin Span in Slidell.

On any given day traffic congestion is a major factor in the New Orleans area and we'd learned from our first evacuation to not wait until we were "allowed" to leave.

We'd learned to get out early to avoid what was normally a 30-minute commute turning into a 12-hour trip between New Orleans and Slidell. We all worked diligently to ensure nothing was missed. Once we were satisfied that everything pertinent was now loaded in vehicles or secured under the bus, everyone was loaded onto the bus and the facility was locked up tight. It was somewhat surreal to see the lights as they were turned off.

The Mayor of New Orleans made an announcement that barriers would be put in place just north of Slidell which will turn all traffic North in one hour. Thankfully, we were on our way by the time this announcement was made. By the time we passed through Slidell there were only 11 minutes before the barriers were to be put in place. If we hadn't left when we did, we would've had to wait until the very last to evacuate.

Once outside of New Orleans, the traffic was still normal which made the trip to Laurel much easier than expected. We arrived around 4 o'clock that afternoon to find that our newly donated air mattresses had been prepared by Mr. Gene Prince, Mr. Rick Smith, Mr. Doug Thornton and his son Daniel. Mrs. Wanda Smith's sister-in-law, Mrs. Libby Rushton, had cooked a huge meal and was ready to serve everyone when we arrived. The ladies really thought they were on vacation now.

With Laurel being as far from the Gulf as it was, we felt quite safe. More evidence of our safety was the fact that the sky was only a little cloudy and it was very warm. Now we just settled in and waited to see what Hurricane Katrina was going to do next.



Evacuation Center, Glade Baptist Church

Sunday, August 28th

The clouds started rolling in on Sunday and the rain began making the air thick with tension. The National Weather Service predicted that New Orleans would sustain a direct hit on Monday. We all were praying that our families and friends had made it out and that Milne Home would, once again, make it through yet another storm.

Monday, August 29th

Monday came and the winds started blowing terribly hard in Laurel leaving everyone to wonder if we were far enough away from Katrina's expected land-fall point. Before long, news came that New Orleans had definitely taken a direct hit.

The winds in Laurel had begun to reach 120 mph. The Family Life Building we were in started creaking and the metal roof sounded as though it was playing the drums. Soon after, the electricity went out. We were sheltered in the gym and it began to really get hot.

The watermain had been broken by uprooted trees which resulted in a loss of water. Thankfully, we had access to bottled water and the knowledge that we knew we had food and medication for at least a week gave us a sense of comfort. We were able to cook because we had a gas stove and huge grills outside.

We'd made sure to bring clothing for the residents for at least one week but the ever looming thought of "What happens after one week?" was prevalent in our minds. News started rolling in that Laurel had sustained major damage not only to Jones County where Laurel is located, but the surrounding counties as well.

We couldn't get out because the roads had downed trees and power lines covering them. Staff members who were from Laurel began to wonder if their homes had been damaged. The phone lines were down everywhere as were cell towers, leaving no access to phones of any sort. It was getting hotter and hotter in the gym. There wasn't any way to get generators to our location, and even if we did, we couldn't get diesel fuel to run them.

Days went by and emergency crews came in from everywhere to help. The people of the community were pulling together to help each other. Nearby teens stayed up all night one night and cooked venison on the grill for our ladies. Conrad Dupuy, Rick Smith and Gene Prince kept our grills churning daily to keep up with the donated meats and our gas stove never stopped cooking.

Everyone had just filled their freezers with harvest of spring and summer gardens only to see them starting to ruin. Rather than have that happen, neighbors from near and far were bringing vegetables in from their freezers. We cooked and

cooked and cooked, all day; and night sometimes. Everyone reaped the benefit of this blessing, not just our residents and staff.

We were all coming together as a community, as a town. Even though it was 90 degrees on a cool day we all knew we were blessed to have survived without any loss of life. We had a place to stay that was nice and we were doing our part by helping others.

Problems on the horizon ...

Bathroom issues arose very quickly. We had no water so therefore we had no working commodes. One of the church members owned a portable potty business and cleaning service. He brought four portable potties and placed them right outside our back door. What a blessing this was!

Trash was the next problem that presented itself. We had no way of getting rid of trash for approximately 80 folks. Once again, a friend of one of our employees was the Beat 3 Supervisor for the area.

He gladly helped us by bringing a dump truck and leaving it so we could place our garbage inside of it. When it got full, he would come get the truck, dispose of the refuse and bring the dump truck right back.

Another major problem was the ever-growing mounds of laundry. We had to come up with a way to do laundry without any of the essentials. There were no washers or dryers; there wasn't any water and electricity was completely out of the question. Thank goodness we had seasoned staff that had lived during an earlier era and knew exactly what we were going to have to do to remedy this concern. To solve this problem, water was gathered from the well and large cattle vats were set up. We had three staff per vat; one for washing, one for rinsing, and one for wringing.

Two staff members were tasked with hanging the items out to dry. We had stretched one rope from one SUV to a volleyball pole and another rope from a second SUV to a support pole on the porch. When the lines began to sag because of the weight of the wet clothes, we simply pulled the SUVs out just enough to stretch the lines taut.

All of the members of the Board of Directors had to evacuate. For a time, we were uncertain when we'd hear from them again. After two weeks Mr. Gene Prince traveled until he could get a cell phone signal and placed a call to one of our Board members, Mrs. Elizabeth Little.

She and her husband graciously offered to help with our finances at this time until we could re-establish business with our financial institutions. All of our banks in New Orleans were destroyed by the storm and there was no way to immediately access needed funds.

September ...

By the beginning of September people were coming in from every state to help; Tennessee, Georgia, Florida, California, New York and many more states were represented. They just wanted to help us in any way they could.

One morning, the entire area was engulfed in an extremely loud noise that startled more people than not. A helicopter was landing in the parking lot! The pilot had heard about our plight through the internet and flew all the way from California just to see if he could help. We were amazed; humbled, to be more precise, to see such love being shown by people who didn't even know us.

The growing concern of heat ...

Two and a half weeks had now passed and the heat was beginning to take its toll on our older residents. Signs of dehydration had begun despite our best efforts to make sure there was plenty to eat and drink.

Mrs. Wanda Smith knew the Administrator at South Central Regional Medical Center in Laurel, Mr. Doug Higginbotham. She turned to him for help with this most recent concern with dehydration.

Reports had traveled through the grapevine that many of his staff had lost everything and that he was providing living areas for those who would just come in to work. He also provided a "Chinese Laundry" as he laughingly described it for his employees to have their clothes washed for them while they were working.

The very next day after Mrs. Smith contacted Mr. Higginbotham, he, his assistant, and the Director of Nursing came through the door asking what they could do to help. They were indeed a welcome sight! Before the day was over, they had contacted every department in the hospital and a representative from each showed up on site.

Mr. Higginbotham asked the emergency department to send supplies to aid us and before we knew it, nurses and doctors were coming too. Health screenings were started immediately and IV's were administered for those suffering from dehydration. From that day on we had healthcare for residents and staff at no cost to anyone. It was unquestionable that they were gifts from God!

We soon began to run out of medication. Our pharmacy in Metairie had, of course, been closed due to damage sustained by Hurricane Katrina so we had no way of securing the needed refills.

Some of our staff members were friends with a local pharmacist who owned a drug store in Laurel. He was gracious enough to meet with us. When we told him of our circumstances, he took us under his wing and told us not to worry about a thing.

He took orders and filled every prescription for our ladies. He again said that we shouldn't worry about paying for anything until our finances were back in order. Everyday God blesses us with new friends.

"It all washed down the river"...

Weeks turned into months. The loss of everything in New Orleans had truly begun to sink in and was now feeling very surreal. Shock had turned to sadness.

The reality of no longer having a home in New Orleans was devastating to us. Counseling was offered to staff members and residents who were in need of coping with this loss. Families would tell horrific stories of what they had gone through and they expressed fears of how New Orleans would never be the same.

After a while several of us returned to Milne in New Orleans to see what, if anything, was left. Our hearts simply broke. Mold was growing out of the walls and floors. Everything had been under water for a very long time. Nothing was left. It was clear that if we hadn't taken something with us to Laurel, it was gone.

The roofs had already started to fall in on themselves. This was an extremely sad time for all. Pictures were taken of the buildings and of the damage sustained. Everything that once was beautiful was now dead.



1913 Gentilly Blvd (South Elevation)







Levee Breaches, Hurricane Katrina, August 2005

We returned to Laurel in nothing less than a state of shock. We had no idea of what we would tell our sweet ladies. They wanted to know about their belongings; about their home.

We gathered everyone together in the church and told them as delicately as possible that our home, as we once knew it, was no more.

One of the ladies asked about her pictures and one of the other ladies looked at her and said, "Well, it all washed down the Mississippi River Joanie!" At this point we all started laughing so hard we could not finish our talk. Dear sweet Jody had pretty much summed it up!

"It all washed down the Mississippi River..." Who could top that!

Over the next month Milne ran as smoothly as possible but everyone was getting really tired by this time and nerves were a bit frayed, needless to say. Some of the staff members had begun resigning; wishing to work closer to home. This caused a great hardship on the few staff members who remained. The process of interviewing prospective new staff from the local area began.

Our Board of Directors began to show up. So many stories rang heavy with the same air of surreality. Many had lost their home; still others had family members who had lost their home. Despite their personal tragedies, they knew we absolutely had to have somewhere for our ladies to live.

The Surgeon General's office in Washington, D.C. sent several doctors, nurses and technicians to give our employees a break. They arrived in a bus that was so covered with love bugs that the driver could hardly see. We gathered our ladies into the gym and made introductions. Our visitors immediately fell in love with the ladies. But then, who wouldn't.

The team stayed and worked with us for a week. In their time here, they had grown quite fond of our ladies and didn't want to leave when the time came to do so. We will always cherish the memory of our new friends. But as their bus rolled out of Laurel, the reality of still being in need of somewhere for our ladies to live rolled to the forefront of our thoughts.

Once again, Mr. Doug Higginbotham and the medical community of Laurel came to Milne's rescue.

Early one afternoon he and the Director of Nursing came for a visit. He asked Mrs. Wanda Smith to take a ride with them because he had something to share with her.

On the way, there was talk about the condition of our facility in New Orleans. Then Mr. Higginbotham asked what our plans were since our beloved home had been destroyed.

Ensuring that our dear ladies continued to receive as close as possible to the same quality of care they'd been used to having was taking a great deal of our thought processes. So, we really hadn't had a chance to think that far ahead. We simply didn't know what we were going to do yet.

It was then when he said he had an offer for the Board to consider.

CHAPTER TEN

Our new home; away from home ...



Milne, 616 E 19th St, Laurel, MS

We drove up to 616 E. 19th Street. It was an old nursing home building that the hospital had been using for several years as their hospice office. His employees had a new office and they were in the process of moving out of the old office and into the new one. Thankfully, they didn't mind us touring the building. He wanted to know if I thought this might do for a future home for Milne. A report to the Board would read that there was indeed a "light" at the end of the tunnel, if they were interested.

Mrs. Linda Bartlett, President of the Board, was contacted about the facility. As in the past, the Board started the process of securing a place for Milne residents to live. After the hurricane, construction companies, electrical companies, and plumbers were overbooked with construction projects for months.

We could obtain the property but we couldn't get anyone to renovate it. Mrs. Bartlett met with Mr. Higginbotham and told him of our dilemma. He offered to help with this problem and contacted a commercial building contractor, an electrical contractor, and a commercial plumber. Renovations began soon after the purchase of the property on E. 19th Street, \$125,000, had been finalized.

Months of work lay ahead but not a person complained. We knew we were working toward providing Milne's ladies with a new home and that was the only thing that mattered. The ladies were being taken care of and the staff had settled down to somewhat of a normal life at the church. Paint colors were poured over as were carpet swatches.

So many decisions to be made for the new facility. Excitement was growing and the anticipation of a new home soon being realized had everyone in a state of euphoria. Then Mississippi's State Inspector arrived and everything came to a halt.

Any mention of the word "State" had become a dreaded word for us, sending shivers down our spines. After Mississippi's inspection was over, we realized what a daunting task was in front of us if we were to be in compliance with the State of Mississippi.

We left Louisiana fighting for our residents and now it seemed as though Mississippi would pick up where Louisiana and Katrina left off. At this point the Board of Directors, the Administrators, the Secretary, and now the contractors were ready to resolve these problems and get those dear ladies moved into their new home.

Meetings with the State of Mississippi took place and, contrary to what we had expected, we were welcomed with open arms and waivers.



Milne Spring Dance, 2006

Mardi Gras 2005



On May 6, 2006, Milne officially opened its' doors. We finally had a beautiful home in Mississippi. This was one of the best days Milne had had in quite some time, one for the history books.

Life, as we once knew it, had begun again only now with new surroundings. If not for the grace of God, the graciousness of Glade Baptist Church and their members, Doug Higginbotham and his staff, Diket's Pharmacy and their staff, along with hundreds of new friends, we simply would not have made it.

From 2006 through 2008 Milne Home pretty much enjoyed life as we once did in New Orleans. Accompanying Spring are beautiful flowers, much more pleasant weather and, yes, our annual State inspections.

Summer wouldn't be the same without the presence of hot weather and watermelons. With Fall comes our annual Fall Fest and Halloween parties followed closely by Winter; Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays and Santa. Life is good at Milne.



Christmas Party, 2007

Valentine's Day Party, Glade Baptist, 2010



Vacation Bible School, Glade Baptist Church, 2013



Saints Party, 2013

Ms. Melba Thornton retired at the end of the year as Administrator. She had served in this capacity since March 15, 1989. She had seen Milne through many ups and downs; Katrina landing at the top of her endeavors. Ms. Thornton continues to be involved with Milne; ferrying the ladies to off-site activities as time permits.

The following year, 2009, brings with it still more changes for Milne. Milne employed its' first CEO and the first male, Mr. Frank Lamier (Danny) in May of this year. The Board was ready to bring Milne into the 21st century and did so by hiring Mr. Lamier. Mr. Lamier (Danny) started by restructuring the way Milne had been operating.

By the time 2010 came around, Milne had gone through many needed changes and all for the betterment of Milne. Mr. Lamier continues to lead Milne to a brighter tomorrow and definitely a great future.

Ever since its' beginning, Milne Home was officially and legally known as Milne Asylum for Destitute Orphan Girls. This is a corporation organized under the laws of the State of Louisiana, by Act No. 3 of the State Legislature of 1839.

The Board of Directors and Milne's management team turned their focus to tackling an even greater challenge; relocating all of the residents and staff back home to Louisiana.

It was at this point when the Board took measures to change Milne Home's legal name from what it's always been to something more descriptive of who its residents truly are now days. The Board voted in December of 2006 to officially change its name to Alexander Milne Home for Women. "... pursuant to the resolution of the members of the corporation, adopted by unanimous written consent of the members of said corporation ... it was resolved that Section 1 and Section 9 of the aforesaid charter and articles be amended to read as follows:

"Section 1. The name and title of this corporation shall be: **Alexander Milne Home for Women** and it shall possess all the powers, rights, privileges, capacities and immunities which nonprofit corporations are authorized to possess under the Constitution and laws of this State.

"Section 9. The domicile of this corporation shall be St. Tammany Parish and its registered office shall be 11 Country Club Park, Covington, Louisiana, 70433."

Now comes 2012 and much consideration has been given to the future of Milne. The Board meeting held on February 28th of that same year was called to order by Ms. Cunningham, Board President. A discussion to amend the charter to once again change the name of the organization to properly reflect the services Milne now provides was ensued. A motion was made to prepare a resolution with an

addendum to the charter for a name change. This resolution was to be sent electronically to each Board member for their review and/or vote. The decision resulted in eleven (11) Board members in favor of this change with four (4) Board members abstaining.

On August 20, 2012 an amendment to the Articles of Incorporation of Alexander Milne Home for Women officially changed the name and title of said organization to what we know today; Alexander Milne Developmental Services.

Careful, incremental planning and decision-making efforts were implemented as a newly created and well-constructed community was designed specifically for Milne and her residents.



CHAPTER ELEVEN

Milne Moves Home



New Milneburg Site, Waldheim LA

Everyone knew this new community needed special attention and design, enabling all residents to stay safely within the confines of their own residence should a level 5 hurricane ever again impact the area. After several years of planning – and numerous meetings on the federal, state, and local levels, 2013 saw a groundbreaking ceremony that took place on Thursday, May 9th.



Groundbreaking Ceremony, 2013



Groundbreaking Ceremony, 2013

It wasn't until nearly two years later in April 2015, the 15th to be exact, when we were finally able to begin moving our beloved ladies and staff back home to Louisiana. Our new facility, Milneburg, is located on 55 spacious acres in Waldheim, a community just outside of Covington, Louisiana.



The Community Center is spaciouly designed to allow for creatively artistic endeavors, be it Mardi Gras, Christmas, or whatever spurs the imagination of residents, staff, and guests alike.

There are also numerous offices, meeting rooms, and classrooms of all sizes; even a beauty salon. The commercial kitchen comes complete with a chef and is designed to respond to everyone's palate with fantastic home-made meals morning, noon or evening at Cafe Milne which is open to the public as well.

Adjacent to the Community Center is the Administration Building that houses a beautiful Board room and offices for executives and staff members. We pride ourselves on being a self-sufficient community. Should the need arise to provide nursing services to one or two of our residents this facility is capable of providing an elevated level of nursing care. In the interim, we can use it for multi-purpose medical functions as we are proactively staffed for any emergency.

Milneburg was designed to be self-contained; inclusive of the following services: semi-private electrical service incorporated with power plant and generators, sewage and waste water treatment, and drinkable water for the community.



One of the cottages at Milneburg, Waldheim, LA

Every home is uniquely customized and individualized with each resident personally selecting the color scheme of their bedroom. Each kitchen has its own cabinetry style and color which is also complemented with a compatible but unique flooring style and coloration. All of the residents have their meals in home with many of them assisting in the preparation of their meal. There are times when they choose to forego use of the dishwasher because they really enjoy washing and drying the dishes by hand. All of the residents truly enjoy the creature comforts their new home provides.

Miscellaneous Pictures

Sweetheart Rodeo



Town Hall Bingo



New Orleans Museum of Art

Having Fun



Rainbow Camp



Spring Fling Dance



Taking Control



CHAPTER TWELVE

Our Continuing Story

A great deal has happened since Milne Home moved back home to Louisiana. It's important to point out that while a concentrated effort was made to keep the following events in chronological order, some may have inadvertently been placed either before or after the fact. Just the same, these events are in the correct year.

2015

- Starting February 15, 2015, the Louisiana office began interviewing for new staffing.
- Construction begins on the Louisiana site.
- The Fire Marshall approved temporary 45-day occupancy for the new facility.
- In January, the first eight ladies began the process of being approved for Medicaid with the State of Louisiana.
- Licensure and Certification requires that Milne have residents living in the first two houses and have active treatment on the day of the accreditation survey which is scheduled to take place mid-June of 2015.
- A motion to approve men living on site at Milne was voted on and approved at the May 20, 2015 Board meeting.
- The Advocate (newspaper) published an article welcoming Milne residents back home.
- Intricate planning was put in place to move our ladies back home.
- By September of 2015 all the ladies had been moved into their respective homes and the facility in Laurel MS has been closed.
- Milne's first Employee of the Month was introduced at the October Board meeting.



2015 Active Awards Celebration (St. Tammany Parish) – Blue Ribbon Winner – Grace Sisson

2016

- As there has been no interest in the purchase of the Laurel, MS site, the Board voted to reduce the asking price; donating the property is also being considered.
- The Department of Health and Hospitals outlined a \$131 million in cuts to meet anticipated budget shortfall.
- Unprecedented flooding occurred in March; one (1) Board member and 15 employees were affected by this rain event.
- "Milne Work Opportunity Project" (MWOP) is established.
- "Friday Night Movies" will be held for the residents during the month of October.
- Café Milne' is now open and the zoning change is effective.

- In addition to a Restorative Dental Fund established for residents who may be in need, residents now have a dental plan that will allow for up to two cleanings and exams per year.
- “Friends of Milne” is established. This is a volunteer adjunct committee of the Fund Development Committee.
- Diagrams for the pavilion have been received.

2017

- Milne now has male residents.
- The St. Tammany Farmer published an article about Café’ Milne and the King Cakes the ladies of MWOP make. This was article is entitled “A King Cake with a Mission” and is found in the section “North Shore Stories”.
- The facility in Laurel, MS sold – closing date, February 2017.
- Milne CEO, Danny Lamier, and Board President, Johanna Averill, gave an interview at “The Lake” radio station.
- Milne hosted the West St. Tammany Chamber Business after Hours gala.
- Miniature horses are now on site for the residents to assist in taking care of them.
- “Friends of Milne” had their first meeting. The purpose of this group is to aid in fund-raisers and events related to Milne.
- “Meet and Greet” type meeting with Dr. Gee, Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health.
- First annual Fall Festival.
- DSWs to begin training as CMAs (Certified Medication Assistants).
- Some of the residents’ recreational outings this year were to the Folsom Horse and Wagon Parade, Miniature Golf, Zoo To U Petting Zoo, Celebration in the Oaks, and weekly trips to church on Sunday and mass on Saturday are always enjoyed.
- Weekly Yoga classes and the beauty shop are always favorite on-site activities.

2018

- LSU Dental School offered to donate a brand new dental chair as well as providing annual dental evaluations for Milne's residents.
- First annual Covey Rise Sporting Clays Tournament.
- The Mardi Gras Ball was enjoyed by all in attendance.
- Director of Residential Living, Mr. Mark Martinolich retired; Ms. Bridgette Carter-Miller, former Executive Director for ResCare will serve as the new Director of Residential Living.
- "Move-In" permit received for the pavilion; officially named the Sue Beeler Pavilion.
- Participating in GiveNOLA Day and other fundraisers.
- Petition sent to the State to have some of Milne's residents approved for Complex Care consideration.
- Changes to Food Service were made in an effort to keep our residents' weight at a healthy level.
- Discussions on using Bingo as a mode of fund raising; a decision was made to opt out when all the details came out as to what it would cost Milne.
- Strategic Planning Retreat – September 22nd .
- Milne Work Opportunity Project (MWOP) is now known as STEP; Skills, Training, and Employment Program.
- Milne's second annual Fall Festival was a huge success for the residents and fund raising.
- Recreational outings this year ranged from a trip to Baskin Robins, Mardi Gras parades, bowling, a trip to Movie Tavern, baseball games, a Mandeville Live Concert, trips to Fontainebleau State Park, Pelican Park, and Vacation Bible School.
- Other outings were to the Maritime Museum, the Space Center, the Global Wildlife Center, the Saints' Museum. And we also volunteered at the Humane Society.
- Outings to various local eateries and snowball stands were enjoyable trips as well. But most enjoyable was the trip to the Saints' Training Camp!



- Ribbon cutting at the Sue Beeler Pavilion. Some of the guests in attendance included Ms. Pat Brister, St. Tammany Parish President, Covington Mayor Mike Cooper, and Reverend Reyn Sewell of Waldheim Methodist Church. One of our residents who was very close to Ms. Beeler, Ms. Hawkins, spoke of her memories of Ms. Beeler. Zorica Dinova, violinist with the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra was gracious enough to play our processional and recessional.
- Discussions regarding a Memorial Garden have begun as well as additional planting and an irrigation system.
- Friday night at the movies is always a really fun on-site activity.

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

So begins the year 2019 with January's Board meeting. Great acclaim of the Christmas performance presented in December was echoed. The residents sang and acted out the events surrounding the birth of Jesus. Mary and Joseph even stopped by the Inn Keeper's door with a miniature horse. The Shepherds and Wise Men paid tribute and an angel danced for them. Other songs such as "Up On The Roof Top", "Jingle Bells", "Have a Holly Jolly Christmas", "Away in the Manger", and of course "Jingle Bell Rock" was sung.



It was at this time when Mrs. Whiteley, Board President, presented a photo of a clay image of the Milne Pin that India Stewart so graciously offered to design for Milne.

Orders are being taken for the Mardi Gras t-shirts and so much excitement is in the air for prepping for the Ball that'll be held on February sixteenth! Milne's King and Queen are very excited for their opportunity to shine this year!



In and among all this fun, the business of keeping Milne running is on-going with the staff and Milne and the Board. Resolutions to the By-Laws are in the works and attention turns to the financial concerns that are ever-present.

Keeping within Medicaid guidelines and what's in the best interest of the quality of care for our residents, changes to staffing and Food & Nutrition have been made to help with the financial challenges Milne, as a non-profit, is currently facing.

In an effort to aid with our finances, Milne has been working with the Department of Health and Hospitals to request additional funding for our more complex residents. The Board of Directors is also hard at work trying to get a bill, House Bill 373, passed in the Legislature. If passed, this bill would change the peer grouping for Intermediate Care Facilities. Currently, the peer grouping starts at a 1 – 8-bed peer group; our bill would divide that group into a 1 – 4-bed peer group and a 5 – 8-bed peer group.

Another big change this year is the retirement of our CEO, Mr. Danny Lamier. Mr. Lamier will be leaving us and passing his hat on to someone new at the end of June. Mr. Lamier has led, guided, and directed us for 10 years now and such a change will be quite the adjustment. However, with Mr. Lamier's expert advice and leadership of our new CEO, Milne's operations certainly won't skip a beat.

Our residents still enjoy being pampered by our hairstylist, going on outings, and their many shopping trips.

In January a few of the outings included a trip to the Movie Tavern, a dinner at Garcia's, Baskin Robbins, square dancing in Abita Springs, Café Du Monde, and the volunteer groups have been to the Humane Society and Habitat Restore. Of course, there are the weekly trips to church; Saturday night Mass, and other churches on Sunday. Birthday parties here at Milne are always enjoyed by everyone too.

The outings in February and March included trips to various Mardi Gras parades, the New Orleans Aquarium, the New Orleans Audubon Zoo, Chick-fil-A, Outdoor Steak House, Olive Garden, and the Audubon Insectarium, just to name a few.

The volunteer groups continue to enjoy trips to the Humane Society and Habitat Restore as well as the thrift store in Covington. Church outings and birthday parties remain a favorite for everyone.

The miniature horses and chickens housed here at Milne continue to provide a source enjoyment for our residents. It's wonderful to see how well they take pride in feeding the animals just the right amount of food.

We started out with just a couple of chickens, but now our coop has a great deal more hens and even a couple of roosters. There's even talk of either a bigger coop or an additional one.

The chickens' names are always fun to choose; The Grey Sisters, Breesy (after Drew Brees), Thunder, Cloudy, Speedy, Fluffy, and two new chicks who have yet to be named. Now that growth is really something to crow about!



The Garden Club is still actively planting and enjoying the beautiful colors and bounty of their harvest.



Changes in the STEP program (formally known as MWOP) seem to be making a big difference with the residents who are participatory members. They're

taking cooking classes and have made cinnamon rolls, apple pie, and king cakes.

Mrs. Megan Lamier, Director of Marketing and Fundraising, is currently working on the 2nd Annual Covey Rise Sporting Clays Tournament. We're hoping this year's event is just as big of a fundraiser for us as was last year's event.

Among other outings, April saw Milne's residents attend an outdoor concert, a trip to Putt-Putt Golf in New Orleans, bowling, Movie Tavern, and different trips to volunteer at a local humane shelters and thrift stores.

April 24, 2019 ... Our bill, HB 373, to change the peer grouping for Intermediate Care Facilities has passed out of Committee! The next hurdle is for the Legislature to pass this bill. A "phone tree" of calls to our Senators and Representatives in an effort to make this happen is next on our "to-do" list.

May 20, 2019 ... HB 373 passed the House today; 89 – 0!

Vote: House Vote on HB 373 FINAL PASSAGE (#397)

Vote	Tally	Democrat	Republican	Other
Yea	89	29	56	4
Nay	-	-	-	-
Not Voting	-	-	-	-
Absent	16	11	5	-
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>105</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>61</i>	<i>4</i>

Result: Passed

May 21, 2019 ... HB 373 – Read for the second time by title and referred to the Committee on Health and Welfare for discussion on May 29th.

May 29, 2019 ... HB 373 – Passed by the Health and Welfare Committee. Hurdle number two; check.

Date	Chamber	Action
2019-05-29	Senate	Read by title. Recommitted to the Committee on Finance.
2019-05-29	Senate	Senate Committee amendments read and adopted.
2019-05-29	Senate	Rules suspended.

May 30, 2019 ... HB 373 will be heard tonight by the Committee on Finance! The agenda has listed our bill second from the last. No worries, it's on the agenda!

HB30 BACALA VOTERS/VOTING - Provides that a U.S. military identification card may be used at the polls for voting purposes (EG +\$110,200 GF EX See Note)

HB373 THOMAS HEALTH CARE/FACILITIES - Provides for calculation of Medicaid per diem rates for certain intermediate care facilities for people with developmental disabilities (EG1 +\$894,496 GF EX See Note)

HB600 TALBOT TAX/GAMING - Levies a state tax on the net gaming proceeds of fantasy sports contests, and authorizes a fee for issuance of certain licenses or permits (RE1 +\$346,500 SD EX See Note)

May 31, 2019 ... For reasons unknown, our bill was pulled from the agenda. We're back on the phones, petitioning Senators for support of this Bill and to get it back on the Finance Committee's agenda.

June 4, 2019

We are sad to report that HB 373 was never put back on the agenda which means, of course, that House Bill 373 didn't make it out of the Finance Committee. Rather, it was suggested that our Bill be made an amendment to another Bill. However, the authors of that Bill objected because of how it would adversely affect their Bill.

The Senate and House are making HB 373 a resolution. This means that, although both entities are wanting this Bill to happen, there's no guarantee that DHH will comply with the resolution. A Bill would've ensured their compliance.

Back to matters at home.

June's calendar has been published and all activities for the month are made known. Coffee hour during the weekdays always provides an opportunity to catch up with each other and the yoga classes each Monday are a great way to start the week.

Weekend trips to area churches are scheduled as are trips to go bowling, Baskin Robins, local eateries with all types of cuisine, Miracle League basketball camp, Movie Tavern, and that's just a few of the activities on this month's calendar.

A trip to pick blueberries is also planned. And mouths are already watering for Outback Steakhouse. A really special event everyone's really looking forward to is Vacation Bible School at the end of this month!

Milne's CEO, Mr. Frank (Danny) Lamier retired from service to Milne in June. The Board of Directors threw a surprise retirement party after his last Board meeting on June 20, 2019. All residents, Board and staff members, and a few guests were in attendance for this joyous celebration of Danny's accomplishments while at Milne.

Pictured to the right are Danny and Amy who presented him with a gift from the residents.

During his time with Milne, Danny mentored and inspired many. He felt a great passion for Milne's residents and paved their way back home; ensuring Milne's mission statement was strictly adhered too.



Mrs. Jodie Robinson, current CFO, will begin her new role as Milne's new CEO/Executive Director and Mrs. Bridgette Carter-Miller, current Director of Residential Living, will begin carrying out the duties of Assistant Executive Director. Lastly, Ms. Janice Briggs will step into the role of Assistant Director of Residential Living. These transitions will become effective Monday, July 1st.

Milne's psychologist, Mr. Joseph Easterly, tendered his resignation as well. His last day with Milne will be the same as Danny's, Friday, June 28th. Kendra Marshall, Milne's former Behavior Specialist, will be returning to Milne upon Joseph's departure and will fill the role of psychologist.

This will be a time of loss, of reunion, and, yes, a time of growth.

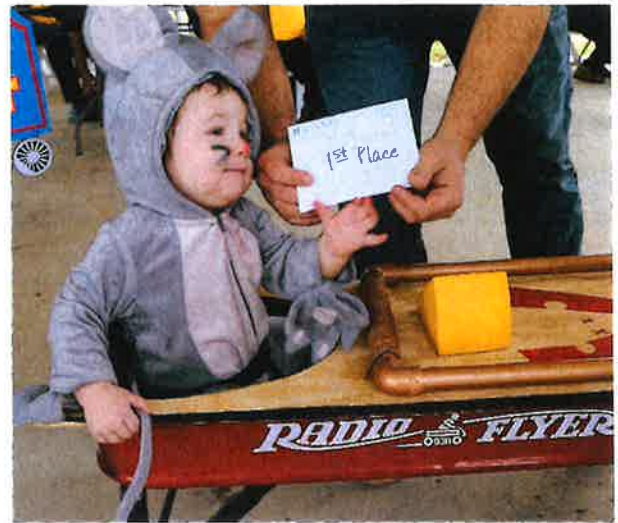
October saw a couple of wonderful fundraisers for Milne. Our second annual Sporting Clays Tournament was held on October 5th and our third annual Fall Festival was held on the last Sunday of the month, October 27th.

Participants at the Sporting Clays Tournament commented that they really enjoyed this year's event and are looking forward to next year's tournament. Cabins were offered this year and the prizes for teams and individuals were highly sought after as were the door prizes.



Sunday, October 27, 2019, couldn't have been a nicer day for the third annual Milne Fall Festival. Residents and attendees alike had a great time enjoying all the games, face painting, mask making, and the live band play under the Sue Beeler Pavilion. The costume contest and hayrides were nearly as much fun as the trick or treat goodies, and some local artisans and vendors were able to highlight their talents. The boy scouts of Troup 111 seemed to have as much fun as those who participated in their many booths.

The kittens who were up for adoption drew a constant crowd of residents and visitors eager to hold and love the sweet, little, furry visitors; four found a new home! The cupcake walk and ring pumpkin toss were huge successes too.



With everyone gearing up for the holiday season and rehearsing for the Christmas program in December the month of November proved itself to be a fairly quiet month. Just the same the residents made time for participation at Miracle League and Movie Night here at Mine. Classroom activities and trips to the Farmer's Market in Covington were always fun. Many residents enjoyed a Thanksgiving weekend visit with their families. For those who were able to stay home, a delicious holiday dinner with all the trimmings was served on Thanksgiving Day.

"As leaves that before the wild hurricane fly..." (credit: T'was the Night Before Christmas by Clement Clarke Moore) December came and went in a great flurry. The Christmas Program was a huge success again this year as the Milne Choir told of the birth of Jesus in story and song. The choir really cut loose with Jingle Bell Rock and a few other traditional Christmas songs.



Many residents enjoyed the craft walk held at Milne; caroling was also enjoyed by everyone and the Garden Club's Christmas party was a rousing success! What a sight it was to watch our CEO, Jodie Robinson, and our Assistant CEO, Bridgette Carter-Miller, have fun baking Christmas cookies with the STEP employees. These goodies and more were sold at the Tchefuncte Country Club during their celebration of "Tchefuncte Yule Y'all Christmas Market".





Angel Tree



Christmas Cookies



Various jellies



Milne Pin
Designed by India Stewart

The end of December finds us closing another decade and opening another chapter in the everlasting story of Alexander Milne Developmental Services.

Here's to looking back on so many wonderful memories of residents' smiles and laughter, hugs, and looking forward to many more years of loving and living at Milne!







So concludes another year at home with Alexander Milne Developmental Services.

THE PRESIDENTS OF THE MILNE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1905 – 1931	Miss Jean Gordon
1931 – 1932	Miss Kate Gordon
1932 – 1936	Mrs. J.B. Parker
1936 – 1939	Miss Lydia Frotscher
1939 – 1941	Miss. Mary Soule
1941 – 1946	Mrs. Charles Crawford
1946 – 1949	Mrs. H.B. Gessner
1949 – 1952	Mrs. Harry McCall
1952 – 1954	Mrs. Lawrence Himel
1954 – 1957	Mrs. A.J. Bartlett, II
1957 – 1960	Miss. Anna E. Many
1960 – 1963	Mrs. A.J. Bartlett, II
1963 – 1965	Dr. Mabel Wood
1966 – 1968	Mrs. C.D. Bartlett
1969 – 1971	Mrs. Richard Page
1972 – 1975	Dr. Mabel Wood
1976 – 1978	Mrs. A.J. Bartlett, II
1979 – 1981	Mrs. Robert M. Williams
1982 – 1984	Mrs. James Kostmayer
1985 – 1988	Mrs. Francis Favoloro
1988 – 1989	Mrs. Lloyd Hawkins, Jr.
1989 – 1994	Mrs. Conrad Appel, Jr.
1994 – 1997	Mrs. Linda Bartlett
1997 – 1999	Mrs. Elizabeth F. Little
1999 – 2001	Mrs. Doris Boudreaux
2001 – 2002	Mrs. Linda Provosty
2002 – 2003	Mrs. Linda Bartlett
2003 – 2005	Miss Andrea Boudreaux
2005 – 2009	Mrs. Linda Bartlett
2009 – 2011	Mrs. Linda Feringa
2012 – 2014	Mrs. Gay Cunningham
2015 – 2017	Mrs. Johanna Averill
2018 – 2019	Mrs. Conlee Whiteley
2020 – Present	Mrs. Meg Charbonnet