

## Bloomfield Foundation

In the 2016 annual Council meeting Bishop Shannon announced he would like to investigate some outreach to the Indian Reservations in Virginia. What type of support he had in mind was not made clear. Bloomfield wrote a letter stating it would be able to support cases of children and young adults requiring equipment for physical disabilities and were open to discuss the needs. We did not receive a response so assumed the project never moved forward. Now Bloomfield is going forward in 2019 to investigate needs in the Indian reservations surrounding Virginia and perhaps the Appalachian trail.

Since 1920 when the Deaconesses had a small home in the hills of Charlottesville, many changes have been made. Their original efforts were centered on Children with tuberculosis. As that was eradicated they cared for Children with Polio. They had a small place in the Hills and a group in Charlottesville made it possible for them to move to an Estate called Bloomfield on Bloomfield Road in the 60's. The attention then turned to children with physical disabilities and parents who could not afford their care. It had always been an outreach for the Episcopal Church and included Southwestern Virginia, Southern Virginia and Virginia Dioceses. As the State changed its requirements for young adults to be moved to other facilities at the age of 18, Bloomfield found it could not afford the upkeep of the Estate with only a few children left and some returned to their families, others were placed in foster care. Bloomfield Foundation was formed to continue the support to this group and others needing equipment for their needs. Since the closure and Sale of the property Bloomfield has given grants over \$2,000,000 in equipment to serve this community in Virginia.

The Bloomfield Board consists of members from all three Dioceses. We meet at St. George's in Fredericksburg in Spring and Fall. On the web site you can read more about Bloomfield. An application is made available to print out for your Church.

Courtney Goddin Kohler, President