

# Fieldhome marks 130th anniversary of service

By Laura Scharf

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CORTLANDT — It has been 130 years since Sister Louise, a young Episcopal nun, established the House of the Holy Comforter, a residence for poor and infirm women, in a private house on West 23 Street in Manhattan. The Home, which could accommodate 14 women, was overwhelmed with requests for admission.

On Sept. 15, the 130th anniversary of the exact date when Sister Louise opened the doors of the original residence, John Ahearn, CEO of Fieldhome – Holy Comforter, honored Frederick Rossetter, the president of the board of trustees and Ian Smith, the vice president and treasurer, for their unwavering dedication and the longevity of their commitment.

Rossetter joined the board of Holy Comforter in 1963 and presided over its merger with Fieldhome. Smith joined Holy Comforter's board in 1967 and has served as vice president and treasurer since 1981. He presided over its merger with The Seabury – Wilson Home in 1997, and the subsequent construction of the Seabury at Fieldhome.

Marsha Henderson, secretary of the board, presented proclamations to both men, thanking them for their ceaseless devotion to the Fieldhome community.

Local officials including Yorktown Town Supervisor Don Peters, county legislators Michael Kaplowitz, George Oros and Bill Burton and former Peekskill

Mayor John Testa congratulated Field Home officials on their service to the community and announced that the board of legislators had proclaimed Fred Rossetter Day and Ian Smith Day, to be marked with large electric signs at the County Center in White Plains.

In 1880, with the support of the Episcopal bishop and a board of trustees, Holy Comforter was incorporated to serve “women and female children, without means, and who are pronounced to have incurable diseases and who cannot be received into hospitals or homes for the aged or young.”

Over the years, Holy Comforter moved to progressively larger quarters, ultimately moving to the Grand Concourse in the Bronx, so it could accommodate more people in need.

In 1984, Holy Comforter merged with Fieldhome, and in 1986, the House of the Holy Comforter moved into the newly constructed 200-bed skilled nursing facility, becoming what is now known as Fieldhome-Holy Comforter in Cortlandt Manor.

Fieldhome-Holy Comforter, a nonprofit organization, offers both short- and long-term nursing care and rehabilitation services on its 100-plus acre campus. The Seabury at Fieldhome offers assisted living and Alzheimer's support facilities. The Early Learning Center provides day care for infants, toddlers and pre-schoolers.