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# Autonomy for residents is Beechwood goal

BY KATHLEEN NORRIS  
Courier Contributor

Everybody wants to be happy at home.

Once an hour, every day, an American is struck with multiple sclerosis, a disabling disease of the central nervous system. Huntington's chorea, which killed folk singer Woody Guthrie, causes cells in the brain to waste away. Cerebral palsy affects 10,000 babies each year in the U.S.

But even when the brain has betrayed the body, for each of these is a neurological condition, the drive to make the best possible use of life remains. For Cincinnatians who grapple with such afflictions, Beechwood Home offers care, shelter and opportunity.

A nominee in the *Business Courier's* 2007

ONE Awards, Beechwood is about more than nursing. To 80 residents, this is home in every sense. It's where they play games, watch videos, check e-mail and practice mu-

sic. It's where, on a nice afternoon, folks can have a quiet conversation in the garden or attend worship service. Those are the daily joys of the journey, the ways in which all of us would know we're alive, not just occupying space.

Autonomy is the dominant theme of all programs. "We try to assess where our residents are and assist them in maintaining as much independence as possible," said CEO Patricia Clark.

Caregivers specialize in advanced rehabilitative and restorative services. On-site physical, occupational and speech therapy are provided. Maximum independence and mobility are encouraged, whether residents walk or require assistive technology. Specially designed fitness programs might include tai chi, stretching and vocal activities.

With 120 years of history, Beechwood expertly blends both tradition and cutting-edge technology. On one hand, the recently established garden covers six acres and is designed to offer

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Patricia Clark  
CEO, Beechwood



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Beechwood Home CEO Patricia Clark checks out resident therapy dog Zeno as he gets ready to catch a ball tossed by Jennifer.

both accessibility and delight. On the other, a Beechwood resident who has gradually sacrificed most of his physical capacity to the ravages of MS can send e-mail, dial the phone and operate the TV in his room with a tongue pad located in a dental retainer.

Recognized by the Multiple

Sclerosis Society as one of only four Centers of Excellence in Care, Beechwood sets national standards. Its most important work, however, is certainly local, where tonight, over dinner, residents will – pretty much like the rest of us – talk about their day, perhaps share a joke and be at home in a good place.



2007 ONE Award  
Category Winner  
**FINALIST**

The winners were chosen through a rigorous process, against objective criteria modeled after the Baldrige National Quality Award program.

## Beechwood Home

**Description:** Long-term care nursing facility and assisted-living residence

**CEO:** Patricia Clark

**Board president:** Bette Stith

**Address:** 2140 Pogue Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio 45208

**Phone:** (513) 321-9294

**Web site:** www.beechwood-home.com