

PROPOSAL TO THE WILL ROGERS MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

THE MAINTENANCE OF CHILDREN IN PREVENTORIA

The Will Rogers Memorial Foundation was made possible by a Fund raised by public subscription in the memory of the lamented and beloved American. The Fund is an estate in perpetuity and is administered under the name of The Will Rogers Memorial Foundation by a Board of Trustees.

The Foundation will neither own, rent, or build any monument or real estate (outside of what housing might be required for administrative purposes), and has no financial interest whatever in any property or real estate known or used as Preventoria.

The Will Rogers Foundation devotes the income of the Will Rogers Fund solely to maintenance of children in existing Preventoria.

The Preventoria in which children can be received must have the approval of the Board of Trustees both as to the manner in which they are conducted and their charges for maintenance.

The children who are applicants for admission to Preventoria must be certified as eligible by physicians who are specializing in Tuberculosis either in private practice, hospital, clinic, dispensary or welfare work. Children who are applicants may be either male or female, of any race not over 21 years of age, may have any religious affiliation, but they must be citizens of the United States residing within its territorial jurisdiction.

The actual administrative work as regards approval of Preventoria, passing on eligibility of applicants for admission to Preventoria, the financial accounting--but not the payment of bills--, will be done by the National Tuberculosis Association through its branches situated in the United States.

Financial obligations incurred by per child day stay at Preventoria will be paid by the Board of Trustees as approved by the local administrating unit.

The Fund shall incur no indebtedness beyond what it is able to pay out of its income.

Alex. Heron Davison

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ADDENDA

Preventoria are considered to be institutions under medical and nursing supervision for children who are considered to be pre-tubercular, to have juvenile tuberculosis, or in any way judged as potential sufferers from tuberculosis in later life.

According to the Journal of the American Medical Association for December 7, 1935, preventoria are distributed over the United States as follows:

Arizona 1	Massachusetts 1	Ohio 1 -
California 8	Michigan 1	Pennsylvania 1
Delaware 1	Minnesota 1	Rhode Island 1
Florida 2	Missouri 1	Tennessee 1
Georgia 1	New Jersey 1	Vermont 1
Illinois 1	New York 4	Wisconsin 1

This total of 29 preventoria does not include summer camps and units conducted by sanatoria, hospitals, or other institutions. Other institutions admitting the type of child we have in mind number 176.

The number of children admitted to preventoria in 1934 totalled 4,098, which figure this Proposal intends to increase by 1000 to 1500 per year. The approximate cost of children in preventoria per child day is \$1.39. The Annual cost of tuberculosis hospitalization is over \$70,000,000. In 1934 there were 166,818 patients treated for tuberculosis, over 20,000 being children. The total deaths from this disease totalled 74,564.

From the above it will be seen that some states do not have preventoria, but the fact that the Foundation would pay for the board of the children should be an incentive for these states to provide preventoria.

The features that recommend this plan very strongly are:

1. That it would be a perpetual trust, the income only to be used.
2. That no real estate of any kind would be owned by the Foundation.
3. That it would be nation-wide in its benefaction.
4. That each state would receive a pro-rated number of preventoria child day stays.
5. That it will not be local by the erection or assembling of one or more buildings in one designated location.
6. That by the nation-wide distribution of its benefaction, the beneficiaries would be able to remain near their homes and families.
7. That if \$4,000,000 were raised, 1500 children might be given preventoria care for 60 days a year for each child, in addition to those now receiving preventoria care.
8. That if 100 pre-tubercular children per year did not, through their residence in preventoria, develop tuberculosis, then there would be 100 less cases a year of open tuberculosis to cause infection.
9. That it would be doing good for the greatest number at the smallest cost.
10. That the administrative cost would be so small.

It would not seem desirable to spend the whole amount at once, in some project, perhaps, that would require further expenditure for upkeep; nor would it seem advisable to spend the money in one place. It does seem that the greatest number of handicapped children are those who have the greatest life handicap--a tubercular tendency. Residence in a preventorium is held to build up the child's resistance against susceptibility. The fund could be designated a Trust in perpetuity or alterable at the end of ten years.

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