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Ruth M Smith Center Centennial – a Year of Celebration

The Ruth M Smith Center in Sheffield PA is marking its centennial year of ministry. We celebrate its past, remembering that one hundred years ago the Ruth M Smith Center was a gift to Methodist Women of the Erie Conference to be used as an orphanage. The gift was from the C.H. Smith family, in memory of their daughter Ruth who had died of rheumatic fever at the age of eight. In the 1960's there was little need for orphanages and the Smith Center morphed into a home for court appointed at-risk youth. When state support and process for this social need changed, the Smith Center transformed once again in the late 1980's into a personal care home for elderly and those with mental or physical needs, and a Day Care Center for children.

January is a month named after the Roman god, Janus, depicted with two faces, one looking into the past, the other into the future. The past year has included many blessings for the Smith Center. We celebrate those who consulted the online wish list and then gave personal items for the residents – from shampoo and soap, to tissues and hand sanitizers. We're grateful for the donations that helped purchase a large freezer; for the couch donated by Cook Furniture in Kane; for the fresh produce given weekly in the summer by Lindell's Hatch Patch; for the seasonal meals and celebrations hosted by the Sheffield United Methodist Church for Smith Center residents.

Local Boy Scouts have volunteered and Sheffield residents have pitched in throughout the year donating everything from Christmas gifts to bags of snacks to containers filled with the basic needs.

Everybody deserves a place to call home; a place to learn; a place to gather. It takes effort from a lot of caring people to provide that place. We celebrate those who make the Ruth M Smith Center that home for adults; that safe learning place for children; that gathering place for people in the region surrounding Sheffield.

For more information or to donate your support directly to the Ruth M. Smith Center visit us on the web at: <https://www.ruthmsmithcenter.org>.