

HWB History

The Harry Whiting Brown Community Center has been enriching, enlightening, entertaining and educating the community of Glendale for almost 75 years.

The Harry Whiting Brown Community House was established by the Harry Whiting Brown family in 1930 as a living memorial to Mr. Brown's beloved village of Glendale "...so that all the people of the Village will feel free to use it."

Selecting a beautiful property carpeted with wide, green lawns and majestic shade trees in the heart of the Village on the southeast corner of Willow and Sharon Avenues, the family began fixing up the property for the community's use. The Scouts were the first beneficiaries, as the Brown family transformed the property's stables into a cozy Scout clubhouse.

More improvements soon followed. In 1931, the family expanded the property so more groups could enjoy the Harry Whiting Brown community House, building a new hall just east of the Scout's clubhouse.

Interestingly, the house also served a most practical purpose. Single teachers in Glendale Public Schools found the second floor of the main house a warm, inviting, and safe place to live. The first floor was home to the Community Nurse Association until the early 1950's, when the Glendale Public Library assumed the space.



The property's most recent addition was perhaps also its most unusual. One day in 1994, an army of volunteers, engineers, and the curious converged at the St. Edmund's Home church camp on Chester Road. The church camp, which had closed years before, featured a beautiful, tiny chapel built in 1922 called the St. Edmund's Boys' Chapel. The group watched or helped, as the Boys' Chapel was loaded up and moved a mile-and-a-half to the Harry Whiting Brown property, where it sits today.

The initial bequest of the family and Board of Trustees was for the property to be used as a permanent home for the Boy and Girl Scout Troops, Community Nurse activities, residence for teachers, community meetings, museum space, playground for children's recreation and a bird sanctuary. Though some of the programs have changed, volunteer trustees continue today carrying on the mission of the Brown family, to the benefit and enjoyment of Village residents.

Today, on the same wide shaded lawns, sit the original Victorian structure--the main house--complete with a meeting room and two apartments. The Community House, Carriage House and Mews provide space for Scout activities. There is a kitchen, and large supply of tables and chairs. And, of course, the Boys' Chapel, which seats 50 people in exquisite hand-carved pews for quaint ambiance.

The Harry Whiting Brown Community Center hosts many fun, interesting and enlightening programs for the community. Scouts, language classes, ballet, fencing, and karate lessons, play groups and monthly potluck dinners are just some of the ever-changing programs offered. Its Glendale Academy of music, featuring conservatory-trained professionals, is regarded among the finest in the region. Harry Whiting Brown's Community Service Scholarship Fund benefits Glendale youth. *Concerts on the Green*, home and garden tours, and special events bring neighbors of all ages together.

The Harry Whiting Brown Community Center is a 501(C)3 non-profit organization supported through community grants and private donations.

For additional information, go to www.hwbccommunitycenter.org