

Annie Malone Children & Family Service Center

History and Heritage



Most commonly known as the Annie Malone Children's Home, the *Annie Malone Children & Family Service Center* first opened its doors in 1888 as the St. Louis Colored Orphan's Home. Helping St. Louis families for more than a century, the agency today has grown into a multi-service center in the community, addressing social and education needs of families throughout St. Louis.

In 1886, a group of concerned women led by Sara Newton Cohron, raised community concern for the welfare of neglected and orphaned children. The first location of the St. Louis Colored Orphan's Home was 1427 North 12th Street. In 1905, the Home moved to a site on Natural Bridge Avenue. In 1910, the first May Day Celebration was held. Today, the parade has grown to be an outstanding weekend celebration of family and includes a Soiree, a Barbecue, and a Gospel Celebration. Thanks to the generosity of Annie M. Turnbo Pope Malone, the Home moved to a permanent location in 1922 to 2612 Goode Avenue in the Historic Ville Neighborhood.

Malone was the founder of Poro College and a pioneer manufacturer of cosmetic products. She served as President of the Board of Directors of the St. Louis Colored Orphans' Home from 1919 to 1943. In tribute to her loyalty and dedication to the Home's goals, it was renamed in her honor in 1946 to Annie Malone Children's Home.

The building of the new facility, along with the Board of Directors' emphasis on Annie Malone Children's Home being responsive to the needs of children, laid the ground work for the Home to become and remain an important and viable social service provider in the greater St. Louis community.

In the 1950s, many of the ethnic orphanages were closed or merged with other organizations. Not so for Annie Malone. It continued to serve as a refuge for orphans and continued to provide residential placements at 2612 Goode Avenue for the next thirty years.

In the 1980s, in response to changing community needs, Annie Malone expanded its services and programs to the addition of two facilities which continued its mission of helping children grow into independent, positive-minded adults. The Boys Group Home was opened on Kennerly Avenue for males 14



Annie M. Turnbo Pope Malone
Entrepreneur, Philanthropist
1869-1957

years of age and older. The Family Crisis Center was opened and provided crisis nursery and respite care for children at risk of abuse and neglect.

In 1986, Goode Avenue was changed to Annie Malone Drive in honor of Annie M. Turnbo Pope Malone. Later in the 1980s, Annie Malone Children's Home started a capital fundraising campaign to renovate the old Homer G. Phillips School of Nursing Facility at 2516 Annie Malone Drive into a residential facility capable of housing at minimum 100 children, as well as house other agency programs.

In the 1990s, Annie Malone completed the renovation project and opened the Residential Care Facility. Annie Malone's small therapeutic school program was moved to the newly renovated building and was named "Emerson Academy" in honor of Emerson Electric, a major donor to the capital fundraising campaign.

During the 1990s, the State of Missouri requested that Annie Malone implement a program that worked with families whose children were at risk of being placed in foster care. Annie Malone fulfilled the state's request with its Family Reunion program. Annie Malone also implemented the Family Focus program as part of its residential contract with the State of Missouri. The program provides a variety of support services designed to help meet the needs of children and families, over a nine-month period, and reunite children with their families.

In 1993, Annie Malone Children's Home became Annie Malone Children and Family Service Center in response to the growth and diversity of the Home's services.

Later in the 1990s, Annie Malone and its administrative staff helped to form the Northside Consortium, an eleven member organization comprised of churches and other social service agencies. The Consortium's purpose was to help families affected by the passage of the new Welfare to Work Act of 1996.

In the 2000s, with the help from Senator Chris Bond, Annie Malone opened up the Annie Malone Day Care and Respite Center at the Prince Hall Building on North Newstead. Annie Malone also ventured into the social entrepreneurial business by planning and implementing its food preparation service, Annie M. Fine Cuisine. The program provides food services for the children in the residential program and for seniors in the Homer G. Phillips Senior Living facility.

In 2004, Annie Malone Children and Family Service Center entered into a partnership with the Deaconess Foundation, called the Deaconess Impact Partnership. This partnership is designed to assist the agency in building its infrastructure over a five year period (2004-2009). Key components of the plan include Board Governance, Resource Development, Human Resource Development, Public Relations and Marketing, Information Technology and Strategic Planning.