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## *Letter from the Executive Director*

**"Vision without action is merely a dream. Action without vision just passes the time. Vision with action can change the world." Joel Barker**

The Hutton Settlement Board of Trustees and staff have been reviewing the 100-year-old governing documents as we work on a project. The common denominator throughout the governing documents is Mr. Hutton's commitment to the children we serve. The best way to understand how amazing Mr. Hutton's vision is to try to go back to 1919. Indoor plumbing, electric lighting, and electric appliances were all amenities. The U.S. was faced with profound upheaval and transition marked by racial violence, widespread labor unrest and fear of communism. Women were just allowed to vote via the 19th Amendment, prohibition was in full force, and the U.S. was faced with the aftermath of the Spanish Flu pandemic.

During this time Mr. Hutton drafted the Deed of Trust and the Articles of Incorporation for the Settlement, while a few years after 1919, he drafted his Last Will and Testament. The theme throughout all these documents was putting the child number one at all times by making sure the best care was in place and the governing entity, the Board of Trustees, was committed to the mission.

The following is from the Deed of Trust, and we feel it was novel at that time as it is still our philosophy today:



**"...and that it shall forever be kept and maintained non-sectarian in character. It is not my wish or desire, however, to exclude Christianity or Christian influence from this institution, and I direct that those in charge take care to instill into the minds of the children a proper respect for religion and religious teachings and they be taught a love of truth, sobriety, industry and morality, but that they be left free, upon reaching maturity, to adopt such religious tenets as their more mature reason may enable them to prefer and choose."**

Brilliant, Mr. Hutton. Thank you from the generations of children you raised, the staff that diligently served your mission and the Board of Trustees that governed your desires. And may the world we live in today be changed by taking lessons from your wisdom and vision.

Your Friend

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