

## The History of Father Martin's Ashley

Father Martin's Ashley began with a challenge and a commitment. The challenge for its founders was addiction. Their commitment was to help others affected by the disease to recover and reclaim their lives.

Father Joseph C. Martin met Ashley's co-founder Mae Abraham at an AA meeting in the early 1970's, and the close friendship has supported their lifelong recovery. Together, they dreamt of opening a treatment center for alcoholics and addicts, and in 1983, their dream became reality as Ashley opened its doors to the first group of patients.

The name Father Martin's Ashley honors co-founder Father Martin, and the memory of Mae Abraham's father, Reverend Arthur Ashley.

The journey began after Father Joseph C. Martin completed his own treatment for alcoholism. He chose to devote his future ministry to promoting an understanding of alcoholism and addiction, and began giving lectures on addiction. By listening to one of his lectures, Mae Abraham found the courage to begin her own recovery.

"Father Martin came out on the stage that night and he said right off, 'I am an alcoholic and my name is Father Martin.' I thought, he is not ashamed to say that. When he started listing the symptoms of addiction I knew what was wrong with me for the first time in my life."

-Co-founder Mae Abraham

Father Martin began working with the U.S. government agencies and the armed services to help them fulfill an alcohol and drug education requirement. His practical and non-judgmental message about alcoholism helped thousands of people identify and address their addiction.

His lecture became known as "Chalk Talk on Alcohol" and was made into an educational film in 1972. Since then, Father Martin has made many other films and audio recordings which are used in government and industry to this day. His book, "One Step More," offers hope for individuals and families affected by alcoholism and addiction.

In 1977, on a flight returning from an appearance in South Carolina, Mae Abraham said, "Father, why don't you open a treatment center where people can get well with your philosophy?"

The Reverend Leonard Angus Dahl joined Father Martin and Mae Abraham in 1982 to help establish the treatment center they envisioned. A year later, Ashley admitted its first patients.

"We called it the impossible dream, but it wasn't impossible because we dreamed it, we believed in it and stuck to our vision, and today it's a reality."

-Co-founder Mae Abraham

Father Mark Hushen, OSFS joined Ashley in 2007 and is now President and CEO. Father Mark continues the Ashley tradition of having a faith leader in a key leadership position.

To date, Ashley has provided treatment and program services to more than 40,000 people suffering from the disease of addiction, and their families.