

The Berkshire Eagle

Florida couple give \$500K toward Gould Farm community center



Ellen and Tom Bowler, of Palm Beach, Fla., were on hand for Saturday's kickoff of Gould Farm's fundraising campaign to build a community center. The pair donated \$500,000, "the largest single gift" ever given to the nonprofit residential community.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY GOULD FARM

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MONTEREY — A Florida couple has donated \$500,000 to Gould Farm to mark the launch of a fundraising campaign for a new community center. Tom and Ellen Bowler, of Palm Beach, were on hand to present the gift Saturday during a celebration to mark the launch of the public phase of the facility's \$2.6 million Harvesting Hope Capital Campaign.

The nonprofit residential program launched the capital campaign in early 2017, and has since raised \$2.3 million to fund the construction of its first community center.

"This is the largest single gift to the Farm in its 106-year history," said board Chairwoman Phyllis Vine, Ph.D, in a prepared statement. "Tom and Ellen have had a long association with Gould Farm. I cannot express the amount of gratitude I feel for their extraordinary contribution. We are all so thankful, humbled, and appreciative."

Gould Farm is the first residential community in the nation dedicated to helping adults with mental health challenges move toward recovery, health and greater independence through community living, meaningful work and clinical support, according to a release from the organization.

The board of directors is hoping to break ground on a new community center in the spring of 2019 and is estimated to be completed by the summer of 2020, Vine said in the statement.

Designed as a red barn, the building will provide more than 120 guests, staff, families and volunteers who live on the farm with an additional 5,000 square feet of flexible space for more integrated wellness, music and arts activities. The larger space also opens up more opportunities for alumni, friend and Berkshire residents to attend public performances and social events.

The Bowler's gift honors Ellen's father, the Rev. Hampton E. Price, who served as executive director from 1961-72, according to the release. During his tenure, Price transformed the farm's campus, systematized the work program, and brought into focus the therapeutic value of meeting together as a community.

"Ellen's father had a long term vision for the Farm and he had profound impact on its life and effectiveness," said Tom Bowler, in prepared remarks. "It seemed highly fitting to us to name the new Community Center after him, to forever memorialize his life and leadership at Gould Farm."

Price organized the first all-farm Community Meeting in 1967, a weekly meeting that remains vital to the community's mission.

"As a pioneering therapeutic community, Gould Farm stands today as a standard bearer and model for effective mental health treatment," said the Rev. Lianne Finston, executive director, in the release. "In many ways, Gould Farm has stood the test of time because of the compassionate and faithful dedication of Rev. Hampton Price and visionaries like him."

Ellen Bowler said she and her husband have long supported the mission of the community. "The need for the new Community Center as a modern multi-purpose campus hub was abundantly clear to us," she said in the release. "We are excited to be involved."

For more information about the campaign, visit [gouldfarm.org](http://www.gouldfarm.org) (<http://www.gouldfarm.org>).