alvis

Celebrating 50 years of 180 degree impact.
As Alvis celebrates...

a half-century of service to the community this year, we are honored to be the current caretakers of a legendary human services agency that is providing programs to some of the most underserved members of our communities. No matter which Alvis program to which a person turns, that person will be able to find the tools to turn their lives around by 180 degrees. Our vision is that communities believe each person’s potential is more important than their past.

As you look through this commemorative book and our history, the depth of the personal commitments that have sustained Alvis over the past 50 years shines through.

The dedication starts with our founders, who were visionaries. When Alvis was established in 1967, less than a handful of halfway houses for justice-involved individuals existed in the entire country. In those early years, the founders persevered as they created a new generation of human services programs.

Leadership during the second decade faced different challenges. On one hand, major funding sources abruptly changed priorities and cut funding for reentry programs. On the other hand, we found new populations who desperately needed services. In response, Alvis adapted some programs and created new ones. In 1977, Alvis created one of the first employment programs for justice-involved individuals. In 1981, Alvis opened the first treatment program of its kind to serve individuals with developmental disabilities who were involved, or who were at risk of becoming involved, in the justice system.

In the next decades, our nation began a period defined by the war on drugs and tough on crime
practices that increased the percentage of people in prison by 500% between 1980 and 2015. These actions not only resulted in more individuals needing reentry services, but it also left behind families and communities impacted by the absence of a member serving time in the justice system.

In recent years, we have seen an increase in the number of clients in need of substance abuse treatment services due to the ravages of an opiate epidemic that is killing people at record rates. Opiate overdoses are now the leading cause of death for Americans under age 50 and coroners across Ohio have run out of space for overdose victims.

Today, Alvis is led from the heart and built on a foundation of evidence-based and data driven programs which address current community challenges. The agency’s current leadership has evolved to follow a healthy business model while serving as many people and communities as possible.

As a result of the strong foundation established by decades of committed individuals, Alvis has not only survived, but thrived. Today’s Alvis is a vibrant, efficient, effective organization that achieves results. Three years after completing the Alvis residential program, 79% of our graduates are successful in staying out of the criminal justice system. The national average is about 50%.

Over the past decade, Alvis has grown dramatically yet we have ensured our growth is strategic and sustainable. We have seen, first-hand, lives turned around, and we are grateful to be a part of that transformation. We know that without Alvis, our most vulnerable and misunderstood citizens - individuals with developmental disabilities, individuals in reentry and/or recovery and their families - would be without the help they need to reach their potential. So Alvis continues to grow and create new pathways to turn lives around, to set a family on a different course, and to contribute to a stronger, healthier community for all.

We could not do this alone. Collaborations and partnerships are essential components of our success. We are so grateful to the many individuals, institutions, government agencies, elected officials, corporations, community leaders and nonprofit agencies that have been part of the Alvis journey since 1967.

As we come to the close of our 50th Anniversary year, we know Alvis’ work to build stronger families and safer communities is not done. Over the next 50 years, we very much hope you will continue to support Alvis in its mission to turn lives around by innovating and delivering evidence-based human service programs that empower those we serve to build successful and productive lives.

Best Regards,

Denise M. Robinson, President and CEO, and James Benseler, Chair, Alvis Board of Trustees
Alvis Leadership 2017

STAFF LEADERSHIP TEAM:
Members are (from left) Arlene Reitter, Managing Director, Development and Communications; Linda Janes, Managing Director, Amethyst; Gerard Lowe, Sr. Managing Director, Corrections; Ramona Swayne, Managing Director, Social Enterprise; Joe Geary, Chief Financial Officer; Denise M. Robinson, President and CEO; Phil Nunes, Chief Operating Officer; Sandy Allen, Managing Director, DD Services; Dionne Jenkins, Managing Director, Programs; Heidi Riggs, Chief Administrative Officer; Shanda McJunkins, Controller. Not pictured are: Jaime Glandon, Managing Director, Programs; Randy Shively, Ph.D., Clinical Development Director; and Joe Sylvester, Managing Director, Behavioral Health.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:
Members are (from left) first row: Natalie Sisto Means, Accenture; Daniel Weng, Huntington Bank; Treasurer Luke Brown, Nationwide Children’s Hospital; Secretary Sandra Neely, Nationwide (ret); Chair James Benseler, Accenture; Denise M. Robinson, Alvis; Rick Bersnak, Sr., The Keenan Agency; Vicki Abbott, NetJets Services, Inc.; Jennifer Estey, L Brands, Inc. Middle row: Theresa Mason, Grange Life; First Vice Chair Nikki Reiss, Carpenter Lipps & Leland; Erin Gallagher Barnhart, Southern District of Ohio; Stephanie Shaw, The Wendy’s Company. Back row: Mark Kovacevich, Improving Enterprises; Rick V. Carey, Express, LLC; Kameron deVente, Navigator Management Partners, LLC; Hon. Christopher Brown, Franklin County Court of Common Pleas; Keith Stevens, PSI (Proteam Solutions, Inc.); Hon. David Young, Franklin County Court of Common Pleas; Tom Hayes, Law Office of Thomas F. Hayes, LLC; Andrea Kirsh, Senior Counsel, American Electric Power. Trustees not pictured are: Immediate Past Chair Hon. Stephen McIntosh, Franklin County Court of Common Pleas; Jenny Camper, Lesic & Camper Communications; Scott Leithauser, HNB; Bishop Donald Washington, Mt. Hermon Missionary Baptist Church; Hon. Michael Watson, US District Court, Southern District of Ohio; Paul Webber, Fifth Third Private Bank.
The agency’s pioneers had nothing in common except good intentions, little organization and even less funding. Together, they introduced Columbus to a growing trend in community corrections: a halfway house that would help people to be more successful in returning to the community.

In the mid-1960s, two very different personalities – a young, idealistic Episcopal priest and a founding partner in a local law firm – were spending time with inmates at the Ohio Penitentiary. The Rev. David Dunning of Trinity Episcopal Church conducted Bible study classes. Attorney Irwin Barkan was a discussion leader for a “Great Books” course.

Both became passionate about helping the men they met, particularly as they were paroled and transitioning back into the community. As they looked for solutions, they were joined by Edwin Hammock, founder of a court reporting business, and John Holden, who worked in housing rehabilitation for the City of Columbus. Together, they discussed what it would take to start a corrections halfway house.

Interviewed in 1990, Barkan recalled the period as “the sixties, very much … you couldn’t say left wing … but very socially conscious.

“Because I was a lawyer – I was the only lawyer there – they immediately appointed me chairman,” Barkan said.
Unlikely team...continued

“It became rather obvious that nobody had any money … so we first started out talking about a house. One of the board members discovered this house… an older couple had passed away and they’d left this lovely house in a helluva good shape. And it could be bought from the estate for ten thousand bucks.”

One of the original board members was Don Chapman, president of Gates McDonald, who was active in Dunning’s church. As the founders debated how their fledgling organization could raise $10,000, Chapman spoke up.

“Where do I send the check?” Chapman’s company had a revolving fund that provided loans to support civic causes, and he showed up the next day with the money to purchase 971 Bryden Road, Barkan remembered.

“I brought the ten thousand down to the estate, we had a closing and we had the house. And that’s where we started.”

Barkan, Hammock and Holden were among the earliest Alvis House board members and remained active board members for many years. All were later named “Life Members” of the Alvis House Board of Trustees. Dunning moved out of Columbus shortly after the agency was founded. He later left the priesthood and became an organizational psychologist in Seattle, Washington.

All of four of the founders went on to enjoy long lives and accomplished careers, but they never forgot the organization they founded and followed its success through the years. Each man’s obituary proudly noted the founding of Alvis House as a major accomplishment in their lives.

Who was Ralph Alvis?

When re-naming the Franklin County Halfway House, founders used the name of a legendary corrections leader

Although Ralph W. Alvis may not be well-known today, when founders of the new Franklin County Halfway House considered re-naming the agency in 1968, he was the ideal namesake. A highly-respected community leader, Alvis had been warden of the Ohio Penitentiary from 1948 to 1959.
Alvis didn’t look or act the part of a traditional warden. Just 43 years old when he arrived in Columbus for the job, “Big Red” was a former college and professional football and baseball player. “His wife, Charlotte and two young daughters live in an apartment over the entrance to the pen,” a 1949 Columbus Citizen-Journal article reported.

Another story about Alvis described his “baby pink Cadillac, which looks out of place parked in front of the gray walls on Spring Street [where the Ohio Penitentiary was located prior to its demolition in 1998].” A few years later, the burley former athlete was driving a yellow convertible.

Despite the fact that in 1955 the penitentiary population was at an all-time high of 5,235 men – the second-largest such institution in the country – “things go smoothly,” a Dispatch article noted. By that time, Alvis was renowned for reforms he had made, earning him admiration from inmates and corrections professionals alike.

“Among the advances in prison administration credited to Alvis and his staff were the abolition of lock-step marching, extension of privileges in smoking, visiting and writing, extended educational, recreational and religious programs, establishment of social and psychological services, establishment of a vocational training program and training programs for employees,” the Dispatch later wrote in his front-page obituary.

Alvis had been the first man selected for the original Ohio State Highway Patrol class in 1933, and spent his entire career in law enforcement. He was a staunch opponent of capital punishment, having witnessed the deaths of 53 men and women in the electric chair.

Although regarded as one of the outstanding prison administrators in the country, he left his post as warden after 11 years. His reason for leaving: “The executions will remain.”

Early in his tenure at the Ohio Penitentiary, Alvis was asked about his approach to his work with inmates. He knew hundreds of them by first name.

“Each man has a problem,” he said. “He’s an individual and he should be treated as such if we’re ever to rehabilitate him and make him useful to society. That’s our one aim here. The better we do it, the better we’re doing our job.”

Alvis died of cancer on August 5, 1967 – the same month the Franklin County Halfway House purchased its first facility. A year later when seeking an appropriate name, the answer was simple: Alvis.
All very different, Alvis Executive Directors/Presidents & CEOs each had the right skills at the right time.


The four individuals who served as Executive Directors/President and CEOs of Alvis in its first 50 years brought widely different skills, backgrounds and personalities to the role. And yet, each was the perfect fit for the job at the time they held it.

Maurice A. Breslin, 1967 to 1974

Maury Breslin took a leap of faith in leaving his halfway house job in Wilmington, Delaware, to join the startup effort in Columbus. For more than a decade, he had been managing a program that had strong private-sector support, including that of Mrs. E. Paul DuPont.

As the founders of Alvis cobbled together funds for the first facility at 971 Bryden Road, they quickly discovered there were few people in the country with the expertise to staff it. In a 1990 interview, attorney Irwin Barkan recalled, “We decided we’d just take a chance, interview and see if we could hire somebody. Well, that somebody turned out to be Maury Breslin.”

Breslin felt “maybe this was a better opportunity in this part of the country, but I don’t know if Maury would have come if he had known we had no money,” Barkan said. “We didn’t have any. There were little bits given to us here and there. But it was every day, every week, every month … how would the telephone bills be paid, how would the grocery bills be paid?”

Barkan described the early years of Franklin County’s first corrections halfway house as “hand to mouth,” and noted, “Breslin lived in the house. He was a dedicated guy, tremendously dedicated.” And despite his outspoken, unfiltered style, Breslin added fundraising to his job description, to ensure that Alvis survived.

“Maury was straight out of New York – bigger than life,” said Geno Natalucci-Persichetti, who met Breslin in 1970 while serving as a parole officer for Alvis clients. “Back in the day, the best directors of halfway houses were unique characters. To me, Maury was one of the best at that time, working with offenders.”
Despite his “bombastic” personality, Breslin had a soft heart, Natalucci-Persichetti said. “When the house had no food, Maury would walk all the guys down the street, to a small restaurant near Bryden Road, and pay for their dinners out of his pocket.”

Bob Gloeckner, the third Alvis executive director, recently reflected on what a fortunate hire the founders had made by recruiting the brash, 38-year-old Breslin. “Maury was one of about five people in the United States at that time, who even knew how to run a halfway house,” he said.

During Breslin’s tenure, Alvis became a United Way agency and acquired two more facilities on Bryden Road. In 1974, the agency signed its first contract with the Federal Bureau of Prisons to provide transitional services.

**Milton L. McAngus, 1975 to 1987**

Milton L. McAngus

After a career that combined college teaching in social work and corrections, with public service stints in economic development and city planning, Milt McAngus was an assistant deputy director for the Ohio Youth Commission in 1974. But his politically-appointed boss was leaving at year-end, because Governor John Gilligan had lost a re-election bid to James Rhodes.

McAngus also felt obligated to submit his resignation and his professional transition coincided exactly with the leadership transition at Alvis. In its first decade, the agency had added facilities and staff, stabilized regular funding and expanded its board of directors. As Alvis searched for its second executive director, it needed a leader who could grow its programs and share its mission with a broader audience in Central Ohio.

The charismatic McAngus, a 40-year-old native of Hawaii, had the background to do both, said attorney Dennis Newman, who joined the Alvis board in the mid-1970s.

“Milt became president of the Ohio Halfway House Association, and started the trend of Alvis participating and developing a presence in the corrections industry at the state and national level,” Newman said. As a former professor of corrections at several colleges, McAngus “absolutely believed in the system, the science and the work,” Newman added.

John McCormick, a former Alvis employee, agreed. He said when McAngus spoke to various community groups, “he knew the needs of Alvis clients and how to articulate them to the public.
All very different...continued

“One of his compelling topics was on the politics of incarceration: will candidates be elected by talking about rehabilitation options? Or by saying, lock ‘em up and throw away the key? He made people think.”

McAngus’ other strength was appealing to potential donors, said Natalucci-Persichetti, who became the assistant executive director of Alvis. “I remember watching Milt explain the plans for a new program to a supporter; he represented our agency well.”

Although opposite in their personalities and styles, Maury Breslin and Milt McAngus had one trait in common, McCormick said. “They were into the Alvis mission, period.”

McAngus started his Alvis tenure during a period of growth – adding employment assistance, a group home for delinquent boys and residential services for men with developmental disabilities and behavior issues. But by 1980, reduction of state and federal funds for community corrections hit the organization hard.

Robert L. Gloeckner, 1987 to 2005

As Alvis facilities closed and programs were eliminated, the board decided a financial professional was needed on staff. In 1984, Newman introduced McAngus to Bob Gloeckner, a Columbus bank manager leading a thriving downtown branch.

The 43-year-old was “bored with banking,” Gloeckner said. “I wanted to make a living and still feel good about helping people.” Despite his success, he had quit the bank and was exploring his options when McAngus offered him a part-time job at Alvis.

Gloeckner found “a good organization, with good people – but their business operation was horrible. Right away, I could see all kinds of things they needed to do.” He jumped into the work of building the business of Alvis: helping retire debt, standardizing procedures and computerizing the office. Within a year, he was promoted to assistant executive director.

In 1987, illness forced McAngus to step away from leadership. Newman recalled that, in selecting its next executive director, the Alvis board was confident their best option was already in-house. “We chose Bob because of his knowledge and ability to run the organization.

“But Bob was more than a financial manager – he was a missionary. He needed to have a purpose in life,” Newman said. “He had the desire for the organization to do well. Not to make money, to do well.”

Gloeckner’s business sense was vital as Alvis shifted back into expansion mode. The agency offered drug and alcohol counseling for all residents, began accepting women clients, and piloted a variety of new efforts such as a boot camp prison program.

In 1991, Alvis House made its first major acquisition, Dayton’s COPE (Comprehensive Offender Program Effort) Center. This successful merger lead to other partnerships such as a unique halfway house in Chillicothe for formerly incarcerated military veterans.

Alvis was prepared to add innovative services because the agency had been shoring up an “infrastructure” that allowed it to tackle new initiatives. Gloeckner instituted management training for staff, developed a long-range plan with the board and began an ambitious quality
assurance program. Although it was not required at the time, he set a goal of having every Alvis facility accredited by the American Correctional Association.

Gloeckner had a committed partner in these efforts: Denise Robinson, who had been at Alvis since 1984 and was the program director before he promoted her to assistant executive director. Together, they were determined “to be able to tell people we met the highest standards in the industry,” Gloeckner said.

“It was a long, difficult process – the ACA had hundreds of standards we had to meet to be accredited, and every program had to be accredited separately,” he said. “But Denise never gave up. She was always positive – she always said yes. I could count on her to get the job done.”

After six years, Alvis achieved its full ACA-accreditation goal in 2001, when its final two residential programs were approved. A few years later, as Gloeckner contemplated retirement, he encouraged her to learn the business side of Alvis.

But by the time Gloeckner retired in 2005, the board knew it again had an internal successor poised to lead. For years, Robinson had been nationally regarded as an expert on halfway house programs, having been president of organizations such as the Ohio Halfway House Association and the International Community Corrections Association.

With her frontline experience in Alvis programs and years invested to make them best-in-class, Robinson was ready. Under her leadership, Alvis took on new challenges. Within the first five years of her leadership, Alvis added 10 sites providing supported living services for individuals with developmental disabilities; expanded from one to three women’s facilities; opened a Work Release program; and acquired Community Connection for Ohio Offenders.

Launching these projects meant the agency grew at an amazing pace, both in employees and annual income. At the end of 2005, the agency had about $7 million in annual revenue; a decade later, Alvis annual revenue surpassed $22 million.

Because she started her career teaching individuals with developmental disabilities – first, at the Columbus Developmental Center and then at Alvis – Robinson has a thorough knowledge of both populations her agency serves. “I grew to love the corrections side as well as DD,” she said, noting the hardest part of becoming CEO was having less personal contact with Alvis clients.

“With the significant growth, I needed to surround myself with good people,” Robinson said. Alvis has continually been on the cutting edge of community corrections. The agency was among the first of its kind to have a psychologist on staff, and in practicing cognitive behavioral treatment approaches.
All very different...continued

“We are using evidence-based models that are assessment-driven and outcome-driven – small organizations couldn’t do that,” she said. After decades building staff expertise, Alvis has no shortage of community corrections opportunities, Robinson noted, adding, “The reward is how many people you can help.”

Even with its reputation for innovation and expertise, Robinson said Alvis continually learns from each program it undertakes. “For example, in our women’s programs, it took us a while to figure out that this is a much more challenging population than our traditional clients. We needed to take a whole different approach.

Today, Alvis is well-recognized and well-positioned for the future. Alvis has a second to none reputation for the quality of its programs across all service lines. Despite the growth of the agency, it is the person to person connections that are still the hallmark of Alvis – the healing, the learning and the rebuilding of families once torn apart and gradually being made whole. Today and for the next 50 years, the heart of Alvis will continue to pulse with the power to turn lives around, by 180 degrees.

**ALVIS GROWTH IN FIVE-YEAR INCREMENTS, BASED ON TOTAL ANNUAL REVENUE**

- **1967**: $500
- **1972**: $88,705
- **1977**: $562,329
- **1982**: $810,930
- **1987**: $1,547,776
- **1992**: $2,399,542
- **1997**: $4,889,412
- **2002**: $6,094,089
- **2007**: $9,022,002
- **2012**: $15,085,416
- **2017 (Budget)**: $33,244,719
Decade One – 1967 to 1976

*The dream becomes reality*

- The first facility, located at 971 Bryden Road, is purchased. – 1967
- Maurice Breslin, an experienced halfway house manager from Wilmington, Delaware, is hired as executive director. – 1967
- The agency is named Alvis House, after a respected, progressive former warden at the Ohio Penitentiary, the late Ralph W. Alvis. – 1968
- In its first year providing services, the 15-bed facility assists approximately 60 men paroled from the Ohio Penitentiary. – 1968
- Alvis House becomes a United Way agency. – 1970
- Second and third facilities are purchased, 844 and 868 Bryden Rd. – 1972 and 1973
- Alvis House signs its first contract with the Federal Bureau of Prisons to provide transitional services. – 1974
- Milton McAngus, an assistant deputy director for the Ohio Youth Commission, is hired as the second executive director. – 1975

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David Dunning, Alvis House co-founder, was a newly-graduated seminarian at Trinity Church in downtown Columbus and assigned to serve as Episcopal chaplain at the Ohio Penitentiary. There, he developed a passion for helping people who were returning to the community from prison.

Irwin Barkan was the founding partner of a Columbus law firm. He led a “Great Books” program for prisoners at the Ohio Penitentiary, which is where he met Dunning. Barkan also became interested in helping men to transition successfully back to the community.
**Decade Two – 1977 to 1986**

*Struggle, survival and resurgence*

- Employment assessment and job placement services begin. – 1977
- Two 25-bed programs for men open at the downtown Columbus YMCA. – 1978 and 1980
- Severe reductions in government funding for halfway houses force the closure of several programs and reduction in staff. – 1981
- A 15-bed intermediate care facility opens for men with developmental disabilities and significant behavior challenges, adding a second, significant line of service for Alvis House. – 1981
- The employment services unit expands with the help of a landscape and litter abatement program and funding from the Private Industry Council, through the Job Training Partnership Act. – 1983

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"No one should be discarded because they have a disability. These are people who can’t speak for themselves – they need a voice."

Denise M. Robinson

"It really doesn’t matter where you start; it’s where you end up. And Alvis brings that great ending to most of the stories. It takes a person through whatever process is best for them: uniting them with their family, preparing them for the world of work, helping them with their addiction, making them look back and saying, ‘Now I can move forward, because of Alvis.’"

Hon. Joyce Beatty, Congresswoman

Gathering for a reunion luncheon at Alvis last year were several individuals long connected with the agency. From left: John McCormick, staff member, 1985 to 1996; Bob Gloeckner, President and CEO, 1987 to 2005; Denise M. Robinson, President and CEO; Al Young, staff member, 1983 to 2015; and Anne Powell Riley, Alvis House Board Chair, 1979.
Decade Three – 1987 to 1996

Building the business side of Alvis House

- Former banker Bob Gloeckner is promoted from assistant executive director to become the third executive director of Alvis House. – 1987

- Professional alcohol and drug counseling services are made available to all residents. – 1989

- Alvis House begins first residential program for women clients. – 1990

- Alvis House cosponsors a national conference looking at issues related to treatment of individuals with developmental disabilities who also have behavioral support needs due to justice involvement or being at risk of justice involvement. -1990

- Alvis House expands its efforts beyond Central Ohio with the acquisition of COPE Center (Comprehensive Offender Program Effort) in Dayton. – 1991

- Program Services Center, with expanded facilities for cognitive management services, substance abuse education/counseling and staff training, opens at 700 Bryden Rd. – 1996

“The reason I’ve been involved with Alvis all these years is that it’s common sense to help people learn to do things better instead of just punishing them for doing it the wrong way. I like supporting and being a part of Alvis because we help people to learn skills and develop understanding which gives them the joy of leading a productive life.”

Anne Powell Riley, Longtime donor and Former Chair of the Alvis House Board of Trustees

“Donatos has been in business for 54 years, and we’ve been working with Alvis for a really long time. And some of our very most dedicated, passionate and loyal associates have been people that have had backgrounds and/or overcome barriers and they are with us still today, doing an awesome job.”

Jane Grote Abell, Chairwoman of the Board of Donatos Pizza
Decade Four – 1997 to 2006

Alvis begins to be recognized as community corrections model

- Alvis House opens groundbreaking residential program at the VA Medical Center in Chillicothe to provide treatment for former offenders who are military veterans. – 1997

- Board of Trustees approves Alvis House’s membership in OhioLink Corrections & Treatment, Inc., an organization whose membership consists of the three largest non-profit corrections agencies in Ohio: Alvis House, Oriana House of Akron and Talbert House of Cincinnati. – 1998

- Alvis House builds Ohio’s first halfway house from the ground up: the Alum Creek Residential Treatment Center. – 2000

- Alvis House opens and manages the OhioLink Toledo Residential Reentry Program. – 2000

- With the accreditation of the Alum Creek and Toledo programs by the American Correctional Association, Alvis House completes a six-year goal of accrediting all the agency’s residential programs. – 2001

- Alvis House receives multiple awards for its excellent work from the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, the Ohio Community Corrections Association, the Ohio Chief Probation Officers Association and CORJUS, Inc. – 2001, 2002, 2003

- Services for individuals with developmental disabilities expand as Alvis House begins providing supported-living programs. – 2003

- Upon the retirement of Bob Gloeckner, Executive Vice President Denise Robinson is named President and CEO of Alvis, Inc. – 2005
Decade Five – 2007 to 2016

Alvis expands at extraordinary pace to meet increasing needs

- As some agencies discontinue providing reentry services, Alvis House is asked to expand and take on those clients to ensure continuity of services. – 2007, 2008

- Community Connection for Ohio Offenders, which operates programs in Columbus and Lima, becomes a part of Alvis House. – 2008

- Alvis House receives a Crystal Eagle Award from the American Correctional Association, the association’s highest honor recognizing a commitment to excellence in corrections. – 2012

- The CHAT program (Changing Habits, Attitudes and Thoughts) is launched to serve women who were victims of human trafficking. – 2013

- Alvis House creates a Family and Children’s Program for mothers in its residential program and their minor children. – 2014

- A new substance abuse treatment program, Recovery Choices, is opened at the Alvis House Community Reentry Center. – 2015

- Alvis was awarded $1.3 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor to begin implementation of the Career Pathways Program with its partner, Goodwill-Columbus. – 2015

- Alvis begins social enterprise programs that provide job experience for clients. – 2015

- Alvis drops “House” from identity and is rebranded with a new logo, collateral material, and website that mirror overall efforts to show the inspiration of Alvis programs as they work to turn lives around by 180 degrees. – 2015

- The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction names Alvis the Clifford Skeen Award winner two years in a row – for the Dunning Hall Women’s Program in 2015 and the Jackson Pike Program in 2016.
Decade Five...continued

- Alvis is awarded CARF (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities) accreditation. – 2016
- The Easton Community Foundation selects Alvis as a Change for Charity partner. – 2016
- POWER, a medication assisted treatment program provided in partnership with The Ohio State University’s Talbot Hall substance abuse treatment program, begins. – 2016

2017 Highlights

- Alvis adds a third line of services: Recovery Services for individuals with substance abuse treatment needs.
- The Columbus Foundation names Alvis as 1 of 5 Nonprofits to Watch in 2017 and applauds Alvis’ ongoing commitment to provide innovative programming for some of the community’s most vulnerable residents.
- Evening of Light 2017 was very successful and raised 20% more than in 2016. The event featured the 50 Faces of Alvis Choir comprised of Alvis clients, staff, board members, community volunteers and Harmony Project Choir members.
- Amethyst, a nonprofit agency that has provided substance abuse treatment for women and recovery housing for women and their children for 40 years in Columbus, becomes a program of Alvis.
- The U.S. Department of Labor awarded Alvis a new $1.5 million grant to support the next generation of the Career Pathways program. Alvis’ current program, which began in 2016, provides skills certification training to help justice-involved individuals attain living wage jobs, is considered a model program in the nation.
• In 2016 and 2017, the agency’s Back to School campaigns result in the donation of more than 700 backpacks full of supplies for the children of our clients each year.

• The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction names the Alvis Dunning Hall Women’s Program the winner of the Clifford Skeen Award for 2017. It is unprecedented for an agency to win the award three years in a row.

• The Pages Treatment and Recovery Center on Livingston Avenue opens and the ribbon cutting is attended by community dignitaries and covered by all Columbus-area television stations. The facility features a beautiful mural painted by Alvis clients, staff, board members and community volunteers.

(l-r) Susan Beaudry, Director of Programs, Osteopathic Heritage Foundation; Bob Strausbaugh, Alvis graduate; *Connie Brown; *Amelia Lambert; James Benseler, Chair, Alvis Board of Trustees; Denise M. Robinson, President and CEO, Alvis; Hon. Zach Klein, President, Columbus City Council; *Sarah Gunnels Porter; Charleta Tavares, President, PrimaryOne Health; Dustin Mets, CEO, CompDrug; Stephen White, Central Ohio Director and General Counsel, Senator Rob Portman; Karen Morrison, Senior Vice President of External Affairs, OhioHealth; and Doug Kridler, President and CEO, The Columbus Foundation.

*Connie, Amelia and Sarah are the daughters of the late Laura Stanley Gunnels, a longtime supporter of Alvis whose love of books led to the Center’s name, Pages.
“The most important thing to me is that it’s rekindled my family back as one. We are now whole and we’re able to sit as a family and enjoy one another with no worries, no stress and enjoy every holiday, every situation … and literally process it, completely through. There’s no barriers, no blockers and nothing is better than to get back the time that has been taken from my bad behaviors. To me, this program saved my family life.”

Ranay L. completed the Alvis Residential Treatment Program, the Alvis Family and Children’s Program and is currently living in Amethyst’s Recovery Housing.

“When I was 20 years old my drug addiction caused me to commit a crime that put me in prison where I spent 32 years because of my addiction…Upon my release from prison [in January 2016], I was put in the Alvis Recovery Choices Program…For the first time I was shown and told what addiction is, what affect it has on you and your family and friends, what triggers are - people, places and things that will make you go back to using – how to identify triggers, how to react to triggers. They gave me everything I needed to combat my addiction.”

Bob S. is a graduate of the Recovery Choices Substance Abuse Treatment Program. Through Alvis, Bob got a job at Donatos and was promoted to manager, where he says, “I love it there and they love me.”
“When I came out [of prison], I needed a plan to succeed, so I enrolled in the Career Pathways program and worked to earn my CDL (Commercial Driver’s License). Today, I’m still driving for trucking company in Columbus and I know they value my work. I make $18 per hour, plus overtime and benefits.”

Stanley is a graduate of the Alvis Career Pathways Program.

Drugs and alcohol resulted in Robert spending more than eight years in prison. Today, he’s at Alvis and participating in programming designed to help him transition back to the community and he’s working full time as a cook while planning to open his own restaurant. “I got three kids, man,” he said. “I’m not going to be separated from them anymore.”

Robert H. is a client in an Alvis Residential Reentry Program.

Griffin H. is a consumer of Alvis’ supported living services that help individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities live as independently as possible. Griffin graduated from the Columbus Scioto K-12 School.

Griffin celebrates earning his diploma, May 2015
Family of the Year Award

In 2014, Alvis created our Family and Children’s Program for mothers in our residential program and their minor children. Alvis’ commitment to children and breaking the generational cycle of incarceration is the reason all funds raised at the annual Evening of Light gala are dedicated to supporting this important program.

In 2015, Alvis’ dedication to families expanded and we began honoring a family whose efforts have positively impacted our community and created sustainable social change. During Evening of Light, the Family of the Year award is presented to a family whose collective leadership serves the community through philanthropy and volunteerism as well as commitment to helping families and children. Each family we’ve honored is a unique mix of intergenerational leadership, business acumen, talents and personalities. They are all united in their compassion for others.

It is an honor to have given awards to the following outstanding families:

The Crane Family, 2017

The Grote Family, 2015

The Ingram Family, 2016
Our Community Partners

Alvis is deeply grateful to the companies who have demonstrated their deep commitment to the agency and who have been recognized as Community Partners. The Community Partner designation began in 2016 in recognition of companies and individuals who have annually invested more than $25,000 to advance the mission of Alvis.

Diverse funding streams, quality service partners, professional affiliations and accreditations are at the heart of our success. We work together to help our clients reach their full potential and to create stronger families and more vibrant communities.