

The Miracle Worker

A little girl named Annie in 1876, at 10 years of age, was put into a poorhouse for children. It was called the Tewksbury Alms House in Massachusetts.

Her mother had died and her father had deserted her. Her aunt and uncle found her too difficult to handle. She had a bad disposition and a violent temper, stemming in part from eyes afflicted with painful trachoma.

She had been put in the poorhouse because no one wanted her. She was such a wild one that at times she had to be tied down.

But there was another inmate named Maggie, who cared for Annie. Maggie talked to her and fed her, even though Annie would throw food on the floor, cursing and rebelling with every ounce of her being.

But Maggie was a Christian, and out of her convictions she was determined to love this dirty, unkempt, spiteful, unloving little girl. It wasn't easy, but slowly it got through to Annie that she was not the only one who was suffering. Maggie, you see, also had been abandoned. And gradually, Annie began to respond.



Maggie told Annie about a school for the blind, and Annie began to beg to be sent there. Finally, consent was given and she went to the Perkins Institute.

After a series of operations, her sight was partially restored. She was able to finish her schooling and graduate at the age of 20.

Having been blind so long, she told the director of Perkins that she wanted to work with blind and difficult children. They found a little girl, 7 years old, in Alabama who was blind and deaf from the age of 2. So, Annie Sullivan went to Tuscumbia, Alabama, to unlock the door of Helen Keller's dark prison and to set her free.

The rest history. Helen Keller became an author, political activist and lecturer. She was the first deaf-blind person to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree.

The story of how her teacher, Annie Sullivan, broke through the isolation imposed by a nearly complete lack of language, allowing the girl to blossom as she learned to communicate, has become widely known through the dramatic depictions of the play and film *The Miracle Worker*.

(more)

It is also a testament to the power of acts of kindness that can create a chain of positive impact on others, even into other generations – as exemplified from Maggie to Annie to Helen and beyond.

One human being, in the name of Christ, helping another human being! That's how God's kingdom comes – through small acts of kindness.

And it is the foundation of the work of Life Care and Century Park.

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God (Hebrews 13:16 ESV).

– Beecher Hunter