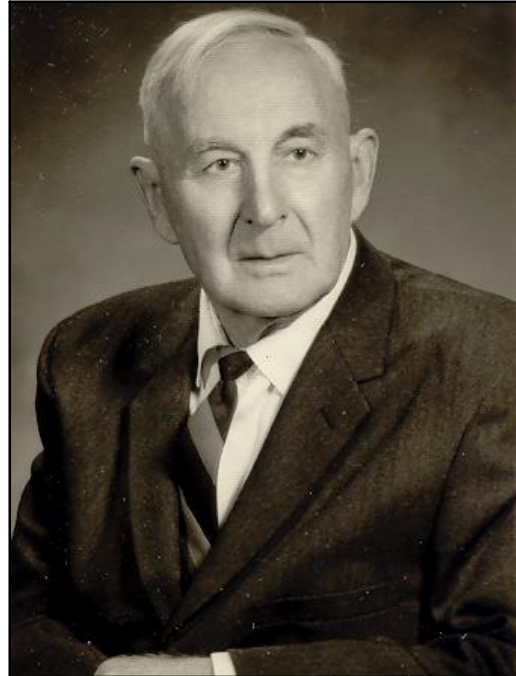


THE HISTORY OF SPAULDING FOR CHILDREN

Two forces, each seeking a way to make life better for children without families, joined together. Warren Spaulding, an 84-year-old bachelor farmer with a centennial farm outside Chelsea, was searching for a way to use his farm and home for children during his lifetime and as his legacy. Adoption professionals and parents attending the Frontiers in Adoption Conference in Ann Arbor had decided that a special effort was needed on behalf of older children and children with disabilities who were growing up in foster and institutional care.

Meetings between Mr. Spaulding, members of the Chelsea community and Ann Arbor adoption advocates led to a decision to found the agency, Spaulding for Children in 1968. Spaulding for Children would be devoted solely to providing advocacy and adoption services for children whose needs for permanent families were not being met by existing agencies.



Warren Spaulding

The agency set out to become a national model in child-centered practice. It defined its operating principles:

- No child, regardless of age, race, or disability is unadoptable.
- Adoption must be child centered.
- Most people, whether they are family units, childless couples or single parents are capable of providing permanent, nurturing environments for waiting children
- Agency responsibility does not end with adoption finalization
- No fees, other than the court-filing fee, are charged to adoptive parents.

Spaulding's first office in Chelsea, MI.

