1882 – Montefiore is founded in Cleveland as the Kesher Home for Aged and Infirm Israelites by Jewish fraternity, Order of Kesher Shel Barzel, to house persons from a nine-state area who are 65 and older, reasonably healthy and in need of shelter.

1884 – Marking his 100th birthday, British philanthropist Sir Moses Montefiore makes a contribution to the new home of 250 English pounds, and the Montefiore name is added to the name of the Cleveland institution.

1900 – The home has become engulfed in the combustion of city life, and agency leaders begin to think about relocation to a healthier, more tranquil environment.

1904 – As an original beneficiary agency of the Federation of Jewish Charities (now the Jewish Federation of Cleveland), Montefiore receives an allocation of $3,200 – nearly 10 percent of the Federation’s initial disbursements.

1918 – With the Woodland neighborhood continuing to turn more commercial and congested, Montefiore moves to the 5.5 acres it purchased for $30,000 in 1917 to Mayfield Road in Cleveland Heights.

1921 – Armin Berger, the home’s first executive director, begins his 20-year tenure.

1923 – The agency name is shortened to The Montefiore Home. Residents still need to be healthy to be admitted; just one nurse is on duty during the day for accidents and colds.

1932 – Due to the Depression, nearly all produce consumed by the residents is grown on the property. The payroll for nine regular employees is $225 a month.

1941 – Dr. Julius Weil takes the professional helm of Montefiore – soon joined by his wife, Helen, in social services – and residential care quickly expands to include such areas as occupational therapy, recreation activities and skilled nursing.

1949 – By providing students field work training at the home, Montefiore enables Western Reserve University’s School of Applied Social Sciences to become the first graduate school in the country to offer geriatric casework.

1955 – To respond to the doubling of its population in the past 15 years – to more than 120 residents – Montefiore expands and updates its 36-year-old building and constructs a new wing.

1957 – The Montefiore Auxiliary is established to enhance the quality of life for residents and clients, to raise funds, to help maintain Montefiore’s Jewish identity and to foster interest in Montefiore throughout the community.

1965 – The bustling home now accommodates 164 residents and 30 additional seniors in the day care program. To meet the needs of the increasing number of individuals with physical and mental impairments, Montefiore gains growing recognition for its full-time nursing care for non-ambulatory patients and expanded therapy and social programs.

1970s-1980s – Under executive directors Bernard Stregevsky, Ira Robbins and Ed Vinocur, Montefiore continues to enhance medical and social service programs. Meanwhile, through short-term care, the agency enables many individuals to rehabilitate themselves and return to independence at home.

Jacob Rohrheimer served as Montefiore’s first president when the home opened in 1882 on Woodland and East 55th Street in Cleveland. The first residents were a total of 40, “old and poverty-stricken Israelites.”

Montefiore’s elegant new home in Cleveland Heights in 1919 accommodated 8 couples and 45 single people in mainly private rooms. A small vegetable farm and garden enabled residents to do light work and enjoy the outdoors.
1991 – The new Montefiore opens in Beachwood, housing 240 residents and offering specialty services such as short-term rehabilitative care and convalescent care. The new kitchen operates under strict dietary laws.

1992 – The National Council of Jewish Women, Cleveland Section, commits funding through a bequest from the Sadie and Maurice Friedman Foundation to Montefiore’s new hospice program, the first nursing home-based, Jewish hospice licensed by the state of Ohio.

1995 – The Montefiore Foundation is created to build the endowment and expand Montefiore’s financial independence.

1999 – Montefiore leaders plan an elegant senior living community on 46 acres in Bainbridge and receive a $2.5 million grant from the Cornelia Schnurmann Foundation to advance the project – The Weils.

2000 – Montefiore enters the millennium with a new professional leader, Keith A. Myers, charged with continuing to raise Montefiore’s quality of care, its overall scope and its reach into the community.

2001 – Seeking approval from the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations for the first time, Montefiore receives outstanding evaluations in all five areas of resident care.

2002 – Montefiore reflects on its historic roots and recent innovations as the home celebrates its 120th anniversary... committed to moving forward from strength to strength.

The Weils, Montefiore’s new senior living community, opens its doors and provides incomparable amenities and services for healthy living and wellness. The Weils’ residents pursue physical, emotional and spiritual health and are able to live as independently as possible.

2005 – Montefiore embarks on an expansion and renovation project to overcome space constraints, update the facility and markedly increase and enhance the rehab therapy area.

2006 – Montefiore opens Rehab Road™, at the heart of its expansion project to create a new Montefiore. Rehab Road™ includes a replica bank, restaurant, grocery store, movie theatre, mail boxes and automobile.

The 6,000-square-foot, innovative Mandel Rehabilitation Pavilion for inpatient and outpatient rehab features steps, ramps, turnstiles, a checkout line and ATM. It also has a simulated kitchen, bathroom and bedroom to prepare patients to maximize their independence.

Montefiore is now wireless throughout the building.

2007 – Outdoor gardens, a courtyard, patio with seating areas, fountains, sculptures, a children’s playground and a therapeutic healing garden for dementia residents are all part of the “new” Montefiore.

Montefiore welcomes Lauren B. Rock as its new president & CEO. She brings with her a wealth of experience in the healthcare industry. Lauren is the first woman to hold this position in Montefiore’s history.

2008 – Montefiore celebrates its 125th anniversary with a community-wide fundraiser, which drew more than 425 people and raised more than $300,000 to establish The 125th Anniversary Fund of the Montefiore Foundation so Montefiore can continue providing the highest quality of care, today and tomorrow.

In the 1940s, Montefiore began to transcend from simply care-taking and entered an era of comprehensive services. In 1947, Montefiore became the first home in the country to care for residents with dementia.

In 1954, Eleanor Roosevelt stated, “The Montefiore Home in Cleveland Heights is perhaps one of the most advanced experiments for old people.”
A groundbreaking ceremony is held for a new 20,554-square-foot rehabilitation pavilion on The Weils campus.

2009 – Montefiore launches a palliative care consult service thanks to a generous grant from the Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation with support from the McGregor Foundation.

The Weils expands and opens a new rehabilitation pavilion to better serve The Weils’ residents and those in the surrounding area. In addition to assisted living and rehabilitation therapy, The Weils now offers an intimate, secure wing for those with memory-impairment.

Montefiore’s Chapel Auditorium is renovated from floor to ceiling including state-of-the-art technology thanks to a gift from The Maltz Family Foundation.

Montefiore opens a dedicated nine-bed, orthopedic rehabilitation therapy annex for post-hospital care. All rooms are refurbished and include a flat screen TV and DVD player.

2011 – Receives a significant gift to endow the hospice and palliative care programs at Montefiore in memory of Jules and Ruth Vinney.

Montefiore is awarded a generous grant from The Cleveland Foundation for chronic disease management.

Montefiore at Home Private Duty Services adds Philips Lifeline Medical Alert Service and transportation services and is named to the Homecare Elite for the fourth year in a row.

Post-Hospital Care Center – Second annex opens for orthopedic patients with the same features as the first annex.

Launches a heart failure pod to educate patients and family members on cardiac disease – new scale, menu items, a patient education station and videos are created.

Renovation of Myers 1 nurses’ station to increase communication and patient satisfaction.

Introduction of new Sleep Apnea Testing and Therapy program.
2012 – Transitional care suite created with private bathroom/shower, dishwasher and refrigerator to help patients transition from rehab to home.

The Stella Kleinman Rehabilitation Therapy Gym opens with state-of-art equipment along with kitchenette and washer/dryer.

Montefiore is “deficiency-free” for the second year in a row from the Ohio Department of Health in health services.

Answers On Demand (AOD) – new Electronic Medical Record to manage financial and clinical software needs is implemented.

Montefiore announces the opening of an assisted living memory care pavilion for individuals with early- to mid-stage dementia who need assisted living and memory care support with ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Montefiore is “deficiency-free” for the second year in a row from the Ohio Department of Health in health services.

The Weils kicks off its 10th anniversary with a series of events planned throughout the year.

The Stella Kleinman Rehab Therapy Gym.

The Weils Assisted Living and Vinney Hospice of Montefiore receives a zero-deficiency survey from the Ohio Department of Health.

Montefiore partners with Cleveland Clinic’s Connected Care program for post-hospital care.

The Weils is recognized by U.S. News & World Report Best Nursing Homes.

Montefiore celebrates its 130th anniversary with several events including a Senior Living Health Expo, thanks to a grant from the Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation.

Montefiore receives a $2 million bequest from Steven and Judy Willensky to name the new assisted living memory care pavilion The Willensky Residence, An Assisted Living Memory Care Community.

Beautiful new gardens, walking path and sitting areas greet you in the front of the building thanks to a gift from an anonymous donor.

Open dining room and living areas with safe and separate entrance at The Willensky Residence.

Bikur Cholim room opens through a gift from Amir & Edna Jaffe and Family with additional support from the Dessler Family Foundation to better accommodate individuals needing private space for religious purposes.

Montefiore partners with Cleveland Clinic’s Connected Care program for post-hospital care.

Lead gift support of $1.5 million grant from the Maltz Family Foundation for the proposed hospice house and palliative care pavilion, with additional gifts from Montefiore’s capital donors.

Montefiore chaplain Rabbi Joel Chazin, with featured guest, Dr. Marc E. Agronin, author of “How We Age” at Montefiore’s Senior Living Health Expo.

Cozy living room with fireplace for residents and loved ones to enjoy.
Montefiore hosts Orthodox Men’s Health Fair in conjunction with Bikur Cholim of Cleveland.

Health screenings at Orthodox Men’s Health Fair.

2014 – Montefiore receives a deficiency-free survey for the fourth year in a row from the Ohio Department of Health.

Montefiore is named as a finalist in Nursing Facilities in “Best of the East” from Circle East Live Well Magazine, a division of Cleveland Magazine.

Montefiore holds a 130th Anniversary Celebration gala – raising $400,000 to benefit the future home of the Maltz Hospice House and Palliative Care Pavilion on its Beachwood campus.

130th Gala co-chairs: Elaine Gilbert, Joyce Wald, Margo Vinney and Judy Willensky.

The Montefiore Auxiliary celebrates its 55th anniversary.

Montefiore at Home receives perfect PASSPORT survey with zero deficiencies for second year in a row.

Groundbreaking begins on the Maltz Hospice House and Palliative Care Pavilion.

Montefiore and The Rehabilitation Pavilion at The Weils is recognized by U.S. News & World Report in Best Nursing Homes ranking, receives highest 5-star rating.

Montefiore receives a grant from the Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation to sponsor a community-wide dementia health fair symposium and a healthcare professional CEU seminar scheduled for fall 2014.

Best of the East – Montefiore named a finalist in Nursing Facilities in “Best of the East” from Circle East Live Well Magazine, a division of Cleveland Magazine, for the second year in a row.

Montefiore receives two grants (totaling $45,000) from the Innovative Fund of LeadingAge and the William J. and Dorothy K. O’Neill Foundation to introduce an In-Home Memory Support program to the community. The establishment of this program will benefit individuals with dementia, their families and the general community.

Montefiore named Civic Organization of the Year by the Beachwood Chamber of Commerce.

2013 – Montefiore and The Rehabilitation Pavilion at The Weils is recognized by U.S. News & World Report in Best Nursing Homes ranking, receives highest 5-star rating.

Montefiore is named as a finalist in Nursing Facilities in “Best of the East” from Circle East Live Well Magazine, a division of Cleveland Magazine.

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Thanks to a gift from Jeffrey & Marti Davis, and his mother Lois Davis, the new memory care pavilion at The Weils is named The David and Freda Robinson Residence in memory of Lois’ parents and Jeffrey’s grandfather. This $4 million expansion project consists of 18,000-square-feet and was designed as a residential residence for individuals with dementia. The pavilion consists of 18 suites with three distinctive neighborhoods of six suites each.

The Montefiore Auxiliary changes its name to Montefiore Volunteer Partners (MVP).

Montefiore President & CEO Lauren Rock receives the 2014 Hillcrest Hospital Community Service Award for her outstanding and significant contributions to the community.

2015 – The Willensky Residence expands to add five studios and two suites for a total of 25 studios/suites. An innovative “life stations” room is created centered on careers, hobbies, interests and familiar daily activities for residents and family members to enjoy and reminisce.

Montefiore launches its Memory Care Network, which umbrellas The Willensky Residence, The David and Freda Robinson Residence, and its new in-home memory support program.

Montefiore received Best of the East in the category of “Nursing Facility” from Circle East Magazine, a division of Cleveland Magazine.

Montefiore welcomes Seth Vilensky as its new President & CEO. Seth has a deep commitment to seniors and brings with him a wealth of experience in the healthcare industry having served as administrator for Cleveland Clinic’s Center for Connected Care.

Seth oversaw operations and strategy for the health system’s homecare, transitional care, skilled care and hospice. He also played a key role in the Clinic’s post-acute care planning and development of its “value-based” care model.

Seth has a deep commitment to seniors and brings over 15 years of healthcare experience to the position. His strong clinical background and understanding of the complex healthcare landscape will help position Montefiore for the future and enable the organization to continue to navigate a rapidly evolving healthcare environment.

A sold-out crowd of 400 guests joined Montefiore to honor outgoing President & CEO Lauren B. Rock and help raise funds for the new In-Home Memory Care Program at a benefit brunch held in May at Executive Caterers at Landerhaven.
Montefiore Board Chairs

- Jacob Rohrheimer*: 1882-1884
- Jacob Mandelbaum*: 1884-1888
- Sam Woolner*: 1888-1891
- Adolph Freund*: 1891-1894
- Samuel Grabfelder*: 1894-1900
- Fred Lazarus*: 1900-1912
- Louis M. Wolf*: 1912-1932
- Jacob Mandelbaum*: 1932-1937
- Julius Bloomberg*: 1937-1946
- Edward Schultz*: 1946-1952
- Abe M. Luntz*: 1961-1964
- Jack N. Mandel*: 1964-1967
- Leroy Kendis*: 1967-1972
- Sylvan Grote*: 1972-1976
- Joel Garver*: 1976-1977
- Alvin Barkley 1978-1981
- Elmer Paul*: 1981-1984
- Hal Myers 1984-1987
- Sally H. Wertheim 1987-1990
- Harley I. Gross 1990-1993
- Darrell A. Young 1993-1996
- Harvey A. Siegel 1999-2002
- Susan R. Hurwitz 2002-2005
- Donald S. Scherzer 2005-2008
- Andrew W. Hoffmann 2008-2011
- Steven S. Willensky 2011-2015
- Lawrence A. Mack 2014-2017
- Ira S. Goffman 2017- present

Montefiore CEOs

- Armin Berger* 1921-1941
- Julius Weil* 1941-1967
- Bernard Stregesky* 1967-1983
- Ira Robbins* 1983-1988
- Edward W. Vinocur* 1988-1999
- Larry McElroy, Interim CEO 1999-2000
- Keith A. Myers 2000-2007
- Arlene Manross, Interim CEO 2007
- Seth Vilensky 2015-present

* Deceased

2016 – Best of the East – Montefiore is named a finalist in Nursing Facilities in “Best of the East” from Circle East Live Well Magazine, a division of Cleveland Magazine, for the second year in a row.

The Weils Assisted Living and The David and Freda Robinson Residence receives a deficiency-free survey from the Ohio Department of Health. Montefiore launches a Home Smart Memory Care Program which gives peace of mind knowing a loved one with memory issues can live safe at home with a two-step process including a technology integration assessment and an individualized plan of care with ongoing assessments and support services.

2017 – The Montefiore Foundation kicks-off an innovative fundraiser, Shining Star CLE, a unique solo-singing vocal competition that gives high school students the chance to compete for college scholarships and perform at the Ohio Theatre at Playhouse Square. Students submit online video auditions and those selected are invited to face-to-face auditions with a team of professional artists and musicians. Proceeds from this event will benefit Montefiore and The Weils memory care programs and services.

The Weils Assisted Living and The David and Freda Robinson Residence receive deficiency-free surveys for the second year in a row from the Ohio Department of Health. Additionally, The Rehabilitation Pavilion at The Weils is deficiency-free in all patient care areas.

The Willensky Residence, Montefiore’s memory care assisted living community, receives a deficiency-free survey from the Ohio Department of Health.

Montefiore launches an Associate Board with members between the ages of 21-45 with the mission of creating the next generation of leaders who will raise awareness on issues facing seniors and help advocate on behalf of the organization.