

Jeffrey Discovers Something New Each Day

Every child is a reflection of the beauty and perfection of God's creation and Jeffrey indeed mirrors this complexity and awe to his caregivers. This delightful three year old came to live in Saint Joseph's Intermediate Care Facility eighteen months ago when the need for increased services became obvious. Upon arrival he loved to jump in his baby bouncer but otherwise preferred to interact with the world lying on his back. He was very capable of playing with toys while in this position but many developmental goals evolve from a tummy position. So the programming began from there. Initially resistive, both Jeffrey and Center staff learned from each other. A favorite toy or something new to explore made the other positions temporarily tolerable and the progress began.

Therapy services and unit programming opened new opportunities for Jeffrey. Like all Center residents, Jeffrey is diagnosed with an intellectual disability. He also has a significant weakness on his left side. Despite these challenges he can battle crawl with the right motivation, is very proficient at rolling to get where he wants to be and his sitting balance improves daily. A constant source of amazement is Jeffrey's ingenuity. Not only can he master most toys with minimal demonstration, but those items that are too big

for one hand he carefully anchors with his weak hand or his right foot so he can play with his right hand. Over the past several months he began to use an adapted walker. Initially progress was slow but he now is a master. He generally does most of the work with his right foot but sails through the halls

of the Main Center and he loves to be on the go. He is now getting used to new foot splints that will give stability to his left foot in hopes of improving the function. He brings smiles as he visits fellow residents, caregivers and office staff. Playing upon his needs and his strengths, Jeffrey's goals are determined and require updating regularly.

To that end Jeffrey was recently enrolled in a half day preschool program so that in addition to therapeutic developments he might also have a chance to socialize and learn with peers. (Most Center residents are older than Jeffrey.) Opening the world to him, the fun, the people, the sights and the sounds and helping Jeffrey to discover his own abilities is central to the mission of Saint Joseph's. Considering the pace of improvements in science and technology, programming strategies and Jeffrey's own determination, there is no way to know exactly what the future will hold. In the meantime, this perfect child, with his little boy energy, stubbornness and sense of wonder is a gift to everyone he meets.



Baby and Children's Pantry Expanding into Luzerne County

From a simple act of charity to an effort that serves over 300 people every month, the Pantry at Saint Joseph's continues to expand, most recently into Luzerne County. Years ago, when Maternity Department staff began to bring in their own children's outgrown clothing and baby supplies for women in Walsh Manor, the Center's maternity shelter, little did they dream how this kindness would snowball? Co-workers and neighbors were asked when additional requests began to be received. As the need became increasingly apparent, Sister Ann Walsh IHM, who had recently joined Maternity and Family Services, prayed that a few broader requests, in church bulletins and to local merchants might be fruitful. The response was overwhelming.

People were eager to repurpose many of their older children's baby things and the stores, their end of season overstocks. Knowing that these items would be given to people who needed them was a happy outcome for all parties involved. Volunteers would sort and size the clothing, wash up the baby seats and highchairs and all the other items that started to come in. Everything was ready to fill the daily requests that were being received. In addition to gently used baby items, diapers, baby food and formula were often on the request list. Generous donors once again answered the call. In addition Saint Joseph's is a member of "Cribs for Kids" and was accepted into the



National Diaper Bank Network, which continues to allow the Center to purchase disposable diapers at a great discount.

This operation has now grown beyond the primary location on Saint Joseph's Blakely Street Campus. The community's generosity has made it possible to share these donations on a

broader scale. Fully aware that many people in need are not within walking distance or on the bus routes to the Pantry in Dunmore, the decision was made to reach out. In cooperation with other human service agencies Saint Joseph's now accepts and fills orders that are delivered once a month to Honesdale, Tunkhannock and South Scranton. At the request of two Luzerne County agencies the logistics and other details are currently being worked on to enable this sharing of resources with the greater Wilkes-Barre area.

With a bit more space, and over 60 volunteers who sort the donations, take phone calls, pack the orders and coordinate Client Choice days, the Pantry remains a bustling but still coordinated operation. Through daily interactions it became increasingly obvious that the families' needs didn't just apply to the babies. The decision was made to accept and distribute children's clothing as well. To make this known to both donors and recipients the name has officially been changed to Saint Joseph's Baby and Children's Pantry. And so the evolution of service continues.

Fall Festival Very Well Received



The Weber and Pachucy families have been very generous to Saint Joseph's for many years. Building on the success of previous efforts, this year they debuted a Fall Festival hosted at the Regal Room in Olyphant. A Pasta Dinner, gift baskets, raffles and entertainment by local bands including Black Tie Stereo, were there to be enjoyed by the many visitors. The event and the day were filled with food, fun and friendship. It doesn't get any better than that.

Volume 38, No. 3 Fall 2017
A publication of Saint Joseph's Center
Scranton, Pennsylvania

Sister Maryalice Jacquinot, IHM
President/CEO

Kristine A. Holmes
President/Board of Directors

Kathleen Norton
Director of Public Relations,
Editor

www.stjosephscenter.org


SAINT JOSEPH'S
CENTER

Pavilion and Outdoor Program Areas Dedicated



A chilly November day was warmed by a prevailing sense of gratitude under the lovely new Pavilion located behind the Adult Day Program on Blakely Street in Dunmore. Both the Pavilion and the outdoor program areas were officially blessed in the presence of many who helped make this dream possible. Representatives from Wells Fargo, the Willary Foundation, the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association and McLane Associates were all in attendance, as were many of the participants in the Adult Program. Lee, who lives in a Saint Joseph's community home and attends the day program, thanked the donors and volunteers on behalf of his fellow beneficiaries.

A colorfully painted open air program area, raised garden beds, a cleverly decorated artist shed, a landscaped walking/biking path, fitness and relaxation areas and oversized, outdoor musical instruments have all been placed within the scenic green space on the Blakely Street campus. This project makes the outdoors both accessible and functional for the ninety people who attend this program. A grant from Lackawanna County that provides for an artist-in-residence only enhances the benefits already being realized. The new Pavilion, which is a gathering space for groups large and small, amply welcomed visitors from Saint Joseph's other day programs to join the Blakely Street crowd for an end of the summer party. These additions enable a new and truly unique set of learning experiences. Thank you to all of the donors and volunteers who made this goal achievable.

Jason shares his musical talents with those who attended the blessing ceremony.

Weinberg Therapy Building Serving the Center and Community for 20 Years

In October of 1997, the Weinberg Therapy Center, a multi-year project, was completed at Saint Joseph's. Sister Vincentia Dorsey IHM, Saint Joseph's Administrator at that time, acknowledged the space limitations, a result of the increasing ages and size of those in the residence that made therapeutic interventions a very real challenge. With the generous support of many donors and mostly especially the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation and the CAD Foundation, the building was designed to provide maximum benefits for people with multiple and profound challenges. In the hands of skilled therapists, the moveable floor and heated water of the therapy pool were a perfect solution for the residents' tight muscles and stiff joints. Add the land therapy rooms, the speech pathology, recreation and music therapy areas and the sensory stimulating Snoezellen room and it was everything needed.

Opening this impressive facility to the general community was always part of the long term plan. With ample space and a mutual appreciation, residents and outpatients continue to share the therapists and the amenities. Outpatients with a doctor's order can receive individual therapy in all the traditional disciplines. Many, who credit the therapy pool for their success, continue to come on a maintenance program or are served in group aquatic therapy programs. Outpatient insurance reimbursements help to pay the bills that keep this facility operating. It is with gratitude that the thousands who have benefitted from services in the Weinberg Therapy Center acknowledge the bold choices made by Sister Vincentia and the many generous donors two decades ago.



Steamtown Marathoners Appreciate Cheerleaders

For the past twenty-two years the Steamtown Marathon Committee and thousands of runners have offered support to Saint Joseph's and in return Center residents have been faithful cheerleaders at the top of the hill nearing mile 24. This year, a very warm October day was exceptionally challenging for the racers but even so, most waved to acknowledge the enthusiastic fans. Many even stopped to high five each member of the Center's cheering section. It is a wonderful, mutually respectful relationship and everyone at Saint Joseph's is very grateful.





Dear Friends of Saint Joseph's Center,

The beautiful Season of Advent invites us to reflect upon this time of expectant waiting and preparation. It is easy to be so busy with the preparation for Christmas - shopping, wrapping, decorating, baking - that little attention is available for the waiting. We know for what we are waiting, the birth of Christ, and the renewal of our hearts in peace, hope and love. May you find balance in your preparations, so that your celebration of Christmas may be filled with abundant joy.

We are grateful to so many people who include Saint Joseph's Center among their Advent preparations. In countless ways, through cards, visits, monetary donations, gifts and invitations, we experience your love and concern for the people who are assisted by this mission and the connection of the heart that spans so many generations. Thank you for opening your heart and finding room for Saint Joseph's Center.

Each edition of Concern offers a glimpse into life at Saint Joseph's. Whether the story is about a remarkable accomplishment or an everyday experience, you can hear the presence of the mission offering opportunities to each person to reach his or her greatest, God-given potential. This happens because so many are committed to recognizing that potential and striving as a cooperative team to making beautiful things possible. As you read, I hope you learn something new about St. Joe's and its people and pray for us. We include you in our prayers with remembrance and gratitude.

We enter the Holy Season of Advent with hearts filled with hope, longing for peace and searching for light. Let us open our eyes to be surprised by the presence of God's love surrounding us in the midst of the preparations and anticipation of Christ's birth. May the joy of Christmas fill you and your family with an abundance of Christ's choicest gifts - peace, hope and love. May these gifts be a true blessing throughout the New Year!

With prayer and gratitude,

Sister Maryalice Jacquinet, IHM

Sister Maryalice Jacquinet, IHM
President/CEO



Address Service Requested

Saint Joseph's Center
2010 Adams Avenue
Scranton, PA 18509

