

Ambassador of Good Cheer

Khayden loves everyone he meets and it is impossible not to return the sentiment. At 20 months, he is already a people person. His mom, Jena, says he has little interest in toys but is fascinated by people. In every store or restaurant he greets all passersby with a smile that is so contagious, he is a celebrity by the time they are ready to leave. Khayden is every bit as interested in the staff and the other children who attend Saint Joseph's Trinity Child Care Center in Scranton.



Khayden and mom, Jena are ready to begin the day.

The Trinity Center is licensed by the Pennsylvania Department of Health as a Prescribed Pediatric Extended Care Center. The only one of its kind in Lackawanna County, it operates Monday through Friday from 6am to 6pm. This program was developed for the children of working parents whose medical issues make traditional day care impossible. Staffed by nurses and trained child care workers, each child has a Daily Medical Care Plan developed with input from the family and the child's physician. Khayden has been attending the Trinity Center three days per week for almost a year now. He has minor heart issues that are not unusual for children who are diagnosed with Down Syndrome but he is at Trinity due to chronic pulmonary challenges that developed after a bout of pneumonia. Despite his health issues Khayden is thriving.

In addition to the daily medical assessments, Khayden also receives his physical and occupational therapies, services from a feeding specialist and an Early Intervention teacher. With their help, that of the Trinity staff and the other children who attend, Khayden is doing extremely well and so is his mom. Khayden is an only child who was at

home prior to attending Trinity. Although he did receive supportive therapies at home, it was just Khayden and Jena the rest of the time. Jena heard about the Trinity Center from one of Khayden's therapists. Recognizing his need for more socialization, and her own interest in returning to work, it has become a perfect answer for both of them.

Khayden jumps into the arms of the caregivers at Trinity, as readily as he jumps back into the arms of his mom at the end of the day. He is happy and very secure in both situations. Whether at home or at Trinity, Khayden is an active boy who enjoys exploring, opening cupboards and drawers and sharing the findings. He particularly likes playing ball and at Trinity there is never a shortage of playmates.

With the nursing staff, visiting therapists and teachers, Khayden's medical status is closely monitored as are his developmental needs. Interaction with the other children



Khayden

only helps. Khayden, like some of his Trinity pals, is beginning to walk – still holding on but making steady progress. Inspired by the activity he sees around him, Khayden has the confidence to try new things.

His optimism may be innate but it is carefully cultivated by a mom who is dedicated to giving her son every opportunity to succeed. For now Saint Joseph's Trinity Child Care Center is working for both of them.

Jena feels confident that Khayden is in a safe, nurturing environment and the staff have become a great resource for her as she navigates his ongoing medical challenges. The feeling is clearly mutual, this beautiful child who spreads happiness wherever he goes and his mom are beloved members of the Trinity family.

For information about the Trinity Child Care Center 570-558-2455 or mjohnston@stjosephscenter.org

PA Congress Members Become “Direct Support Professionals for a Day”

Recently, members of Pennsylvania’s Congress have participated in an initiative designed to acquaint the legislators with the skills required and the labor intensive nature of a Direct Support Professional’s (DSP) job. The role of a DSP is to provide the personal care, daily programming requirements, behavioral supports and emotional encouragement to people with intellectual disabilities. Since many people diagnosed with intellectual disability receive services through government funded programs it is imperative that the legislators understand the DSP role.

Saint Joseph’s Center alone employs over 200 DSPs, and thousands of DSPs are employed throughout the Commonwealth. Pennsylvania’s Congress had not approved increases for services to those with intellectual disability/autism (ID/A) for almost a decade



Pennsylvania Congressional members visit Saint Joseph’s as part of a statewide initiative. Senator John Blake visits with Mark at the Main Center and Representative Mike Carroll assists Anthony with one of his goals at the Adult Day Program on the Blakely Street Campus.

creating a dire workforce shortage. In an effort to bring this issue to the forefront, the “DSP for a Day” program was initiated by (PAR), the Pennsylvania Advocacy and Resources for Autism and Intellectual Disability. Hoping to make a lasting and accurate impression on state legislators, it seemed firsthand experience would be best. The timing was perfect. Governor Tom Wolf recently made ID/A one of the priority areas in his 2017-2018 budget and legislators are carefully considering his proposal.

Accepting the invitation from Saint Joseph’s were Senators John Blake and Lisa Baker and Representatives Mike Carroll, Sid Michaels Kavulich, Marty Flynn and Kevin Haggerty. Each of the members of Congress worked closely with a Center resident and their caregivers and then met with Sister Maryalice and the Administrative team. All were very grateful for the experience. The hope is that a funding increase will enable service providers to offer competitive salaries for these critically important positions.

Bee’s Backyard Helps Babies in Need



Baby Pantry. The Pantry distributes new and gently used baby necessities to area families in need. Every effort is made to fill the hundreds of requests that are received every month. The day at Bee’s Backyard, which was initiated by Saint Joseph’s Young Professionals group, was not only fun but also a great success for the Pantry.

A crowd gathers for a photo at Bee’s Backyard at The Marketplace at Steamtown. The business recently invited families to bring a baby item, (diapers, toiletries or clothing) and receive half off the price of admission as a way to both gather supplies for and raise awareness of Saint Joseph’s

Summer Food Service Program

As part of Saint Joseph’s responsibility as a School Food Authority, we join the Pennsylvania Department of Education – Division of Food and Nutrition in alerting families about the availability and location of free meals for students via the Summer Food Service Program.

Please use the list below to locate the sites that serve free meals to children during the summer.

- Call 211
- Call 1.866.3Hungry or 1.877.8Hambre
- Text “MEALPA” to 877877 during the summer months
- Visit the website: www.fns.usda.gov/summerfoodrocks (note, this replaces the whyhunger.org website)
- Use the site locator for smartphones - Rangeapp.org

Sustaining Fund Appeal



Sustaining Fund Wyoming Valley Committee

Saint Joseph's Center announces its fifth annual Sustaining Fund appeal. Donations help Saint Joseph's meet rising operating costs while maintaining high quality, person-centered care. "The community support is incredible, so many caring individuals help us in so many ways. We are tremendously grateful for the ongoing support of our mission" says Sister Maryalice Jacquinot, IHM, President and CEO of Saint Joseph's Center. Saint Joseph's Center needs your help, please call 570-963-1260 or visit www.stjosephscenter.org to donate.

Volunteers Make All the Difference

Integral to both the operation and the aura of Saint Joseph's Center is the vital role volunteers have played for almost 130 years. So inspired by the individual stories of those who have, and those who continue to seek help, are generations of good people who work tirelessly, without monetary compensation, to insure that the services continue. Volunteers contribute in every way, from the day to day tasks to long term planning, and from fund raising efforts to advocacy and prayers. Each person who volunteers shares her/his individual talents and ultimately, it all comes together.

Whether the assistance is financial, in the form of guidance, raised awareness or the literal helping hand, it is all gratefully received. Guided by the humility of each person who seeks assistance, those who lead this mission acknowledge how critical volunteer support continues to be to the very survival of the organization. During this month of recognizing volunteerism we thank all who sincerely appreciate the value of every person and we celebrate the joy with which they serve.



Volunteers serve Saint Joseph's Center as Baby Pantry Helpers, Auxiliary Members and Client Assistants on Boards of Directors and in many other capacities. Each volunteer enhances the services and is a cherished member of the family of Saint Joseph's.

Volume 38, No. 1 Spring 2017
A publication of Saint Joseph's Center
Scranton, Pennsylvania

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Dear Friends of Saint Joseph's Center,

As this edition of the Concern newsletter arrives, I hope that you are enjoying some the delightful blessings of springtime - longer days, warm sunshine, singing birds, bright flowers and budding trees. All serve as a welcome contrast to the challenges of winter which was punctuated by March's Blizzard, a record setting snowfall in NEPA.

While the snow covering the lawn is quickly disappearing and the piles grow shorter each day, I won't soon forget the Blizzard especially the generous response of our dedicated employees. Demonstrating our vales of Care, Concern, Compassion and Commitment, many staff made great efforts to ensure that those who reside in a Saint Joseph's Center home were safe and well. It is what they do every day, but even more significant during challenging times such as these.

Without a doubt, the ministry of Saint Joseph's Center is blest with wonderful people who share their gifts to help make the mission possible. Naturally, this includes the dedicated staff as mentioned above as well as generous benefactors and caring volunteers. Each April, our nation recognizes the important contributions made by volunteers through National Volunteer Week. We, at Saint Joseph's Center, are tremendously grateful for the services performed by volunteers and their friendship.

Generous with their time, talent and love, volunteers perform a variety of tasks in different program areas throughout Saint Joseph's Center. Just as important as the work they accomplish are the relationships they form with the staff, clients and residents. Helping one another achieve our God-given potential is the invitation of our mission and made more possible because of the presence of such caring volunteers. We are indeed grateful to each of them as well as Kathy Norton who works tirelessly as the Director of the Volunteer Program, coordinating schedules and ensuring a suitable match for each person.

May you and your loved ones enjoy the blessings of the Easter Season. May the Risen Christ fill you with confidence in God's unconditional love and the promises of life renewed!

With prayers and gratitude,

Sister Maryalice Jacquinet, IHM

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President/CEO



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