In 1996, a few local runners imagined that Northeastern Pennsylvania had the resources and interest to host a marathon. Their brainstorming led to the development of the first Steamtown Marathon which attracted 511 runners. Now, 25 plus years later, more than 35,000 runners from all over the world have completed the 26.2 mile run from Forest City to downtown Scranton. Steamtown Marathon is often referenced as Marathon weekend as local businesses including hotels, restaurants and other attractions gear up to welcome marathon competitors, their families and other spectators for a fall excursion in NEPA.

Steamtown Marathon is organized by an all-volunteer race committee of approximately twenty-five key people. One of their primary tasks is recruiting and directing 3,000 volunteers needed to safely plan, host and clean up after the marathon. Steamtown Marathon leadership includes, Bill King, Race Director; Jim Cummings, Assistant Race Director; Jack Marx, Treasurer and John McGovern, Secretary. The success of Steamtown Marathon is possible because of the hard work of the committee. Humbly, they will tell you that their motivation is tied to their commitment to Saint Joseph’s Center. In their own way, each has said the Marathon started because they enjoyed running, but the Marathon continues because it benefits Saint Joseph’s Center.

With its efficient operations, generous sponsors and runners, more than $2.1 million has been donated to Saint Joseph’s Center in the first 24 years. Due to the pandemic, the Marathon wasn’t held in 2020 and 2021. With much excitement, the 25th running of Steamtown Marathon was held Sunday, October 9. Marathonguide.com, which conducts the evaluation of about 500 marathons with runners’ input, ranked Steamtown as 4th best overall. Notably, the reviews of this year’s race on marathonguide.com were rated at 5 stars for course, organization and fans with Steamtown Marathon receiving 15 stars, the maximum total rating, along with wonderful reviews!

“Saint Joseph’s Center is deeply honored to be the recipient of the proceeds from the Steamtown Marathon over the years. The commitment to those we serve is moving and immeasurable. Every year, residents and staff look forward to cheering on the runners at a corner in Green Ridge around mile 24. As they do, there is always an exchange of appreciation and the unspoken awareness that the runners are using their physical ability to support those who aren’t able. Mutual respect and inspiration blesses the exchange,” reflects Sister Maryalice Jacquinot, IHM, President and CEO of Saint Joseph’s Center.

Please Join us for the
22nd Annual
Dennis Crafferty Memorial Auction to benefit Saint Joseph’s Center Online
November 10 - 19
Great Auction Items • Saint Joe’s Wishes
$10,000 Cash Raffle
www.stjosephscenter.org
The Largest Backyard Picnic in NEPA Returns!

As the tents went up on the grounds of Marywood University, it felt familiar and new at the same time. The Summer Festival hosted by the Saint Joseph’s Center Auxiliary was BACK! Thanks to your generosity, it was an overwhelming success!

As the preparation was underway for the Summer Festival, the 25th Anniversary of the Go Joe Bike Ride was beginning in Jersey Shore, PA. From beginning to end, the 5 day bike ride was an incredible journey for Joe Snedeker and WNEP TV 16. So many supporters came out to cheer for Joe along the route, and greeted him at various stops with community celebrations. Throughout the days, generous and caring neighbors came out to show their support for Joe and the mission of Saint Joseph’s Center.

By Saturday evening, the combined total of the WNEP Telethon and Go Joe 25 Bike Ride reached just over half a million dollars—a record!

Earlier in the week, we learned that a generous donor, William Chatlos, promised to match all donations—dollar-for-dollar, bringing the Go Joe and Telethon total to just over $1 million.

This year’s summer fundraising will be memorable for another reason. All three Festival days were blessed with lovely weather. There was even a 10 degree drop in temperature, 90s to 80s, from the week prior. As the volunteers were setting up, a warm homecoming spirit greeted them. Long lines for popular, delicious food was a sure sign that the Festival was back!

Funds raised will be used to ensure that nurturing homes are available to assist women and children searching for transitional housing and services for those with intellectual and developmental disabilities will be person-centered and high quality. In particular, some needed projects include the purchase of a 12 passenger bus for Trinity Child Care Center and several renovations scheduled for kitchens and living areas at the Main Center and community homes.

There are countless ways that friends of Saint Joseph’s Center contribute to the Summer Festival, Go Joe Bike Ride and WNEP TV. On behalf of all who will benefit, sincere appreciation is extended to all who contributed through volunteerism, presence and charitable support.
Community Groups and Families Enrich the Lives of Swoyersville ICF Residents

From the first day throughout its 35-year history, the Swoyersville community has warmly embraced the residents and staff of Swoyersville Intermediate Care Facility (ICF). Some examples include a neighbor who would bake cookies and the Swoyersville Hose Company hosting the young men for a wonderful Christmas party. For 33 years, the Alhambra Caravan #4 has provided gifts at Christmas and Easter, and the Kiwanis Club has been actively involved for over 20 years giving large items to benefit all in the house and many individual gifts.

The Swoyersville ICF was the first home where all the medical and therapeutic services offered at the Main Center would be offered in a community setting. Two of the employees have served there for many years, including Regina Zapotoczny, Health Services Coordinator, who shared, “Since the home opened there have been 11 residents. I have had the honor of providing care for and spending special times with each one.” Reflecting on the relationship between residents and staff, Maureen Ridilla, LPN noted, “Our staff here is caring and compassionate, and I feel they have always made the residents their priority.”

Families have also been involved in enriching the lives of the residents. One example is the 40th birthday party for Jimmy Viercinski hosted by his mother Marie Stefanides who is also Center Board Member. Close to 100 people attended including Jimmy’s family, residents and their families; employees at Swoyersville and the Main Center; members of the educational and medical community and others who helped Jimmy to live his best life. The party, held in the American Legion pavilion located in the neighborhood, featured barbecue food truck, ice cream truck and, of course, birthday cake.

Jimmy’s mom, Marie Stefanides, shared that Jimmy has flourished under the care of those at Swoyersville. “I thank God for Saint Joseph’s Center every day. Jimmy has a wonderful life and is very happy. I have peace of mind knowing he is always receiving the best of care enriching his quality of life.”

PAR Names Frontline Supervisor of the Year

Congratulations to Erin McDermott, Saint Joseph’s Center Unit Manager, named “We Are Worth It.” 2022 Frontline Manager of the Year by Pennsylvania Advocacy and Resources for Autism and Intellectual Disability (PAR).

When PAR officials visited Scranton for a regional meeting, they stopped at Saint Joseph’s Center to congratulate Erin as an outstanding Frontline Manager who has demonstrated innovative leadership practices. “Person-centered, supportive, helpful, and available” are just a few of the ways staff describe Erin. Comments on the social media posts announcing this award truly reflect how families, coworkers and friends feel about Erin. Foundation Board Member, Emilie Deery wrote “Well deserved! A Beautiful shining star and wonderful advocate for our children! Thank you Erin for all you do.” Colleague Mary Wozniak wrote, “Erin, you are the best representative to the Mission of Saint Joseph’s Center! The past two years have been challenging, but you’ve made it look so easy!! Congratulations to you! Well deserved!”

Congratulations to Erin! Saint Joe’s is deeply grateful for all you continue to do and for leading by example—ensuring the highest quality services for the individuals you and the Saint Joe’s team support!
Dear Friends of Saint Joseph’s Center,

This summer, we were fortunate to host the Summer Festival, Go Joe Bike Ride and WNEP Telethon. It was such a blessing to have the full scale Summer Festival on the beautiful campus of Marywood University and to celebrate the 25th Go Joe Bike Ride in the local area. For two years, we thought about how it would feel to be in person for these events which mean so much to us. It was a wonderful reunion. While the funds raised are critical to our services, the positive energy and joy affirm the people we support and help to communicate that they are important members of the community.

This edition of Concern features two important Saint Joseph’s Center events, Go Joe Bike Ride and Steamtown Marathon. Both reached 25th Anniversary milestones in 2022. This year, I also celebrated 25 years as a Sister, Servant of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. As I reflect on these years, I am filled with gratitude for so many blessings including the honor of serving at Saint Joseph’s Center, a sponsored ministry of the Congregation. Each day, I am aware of and grateful for the many ways that God’s unconditional love for all is manifested through the people affiliated with this ministry.

Saint Joseph’s legacy dating back to 1888 tells the story of a caring community across generations. With various roles and responsibilities, I am humbled daily by the commitment and example of so many. Beloved residents and clients, dedicated staff, faithful Sisters, energetic Auxiliary members, thoughtful donors, charitable business partners, concerned neighbors, committed volunteers, trusting families unite around the mission of Saint Joseph’s, so that each of us can reach for our God-given potential and live full, meaningful lives. This generous mission calls us together to serve and be served. How blessed we are.

As we look forward to the season of Thanksgiving, be assured of my prayers and gratitude for you and your family.

Gratefully,

Sister Maryalice Jacquinot, IHM

Sister Maryalice Jacquinot, IHM
President/CEO