

1888



2013



ST. JOSEPH'S CENTER

Celebrating 125 years





Dear Friends of St. Joseph's Center,

Each year, it is an honor to present to you the Annual Report. Through it, we hope to highlight the activities and accomplishments of St. Joseph's Center. All made possible with the leadership of our IHM Corporation and Board members, guidance of the Administrative Team and Department Directors, generosity of benefactors, friends and volunteers, dedication of caring staff, and so many others, as well as the example and inspiration offered by those we have the privilege to assist- the residents and clients served by the many programs of St. Joseph's Center. When we come together in support of the mission of St. Joseph's Center, we are a community that lives as is written in Ephesians, "be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us."

In 2013, St. Joseph's Center will mark the important milestone of 125 years since its beginnings in 1888. Throughout the year, we will recall with gratitude all that has been done in the name of this ministry, to remember with faith the generations that have preceded us, and to look forward with hope to all that will be. While much has changed over these years, we are renewed in what have been the constant values-care, concern, compassion and commitment. Please join us as we celebrate.

You are a blessing to St. Joseph's Center. Thank you for who you are and for your caring!

With gratitude and prayers,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sister Maryalice Jacquinet, IHM".

Sister Maryalice Jacquinet, IHM
President and CEO

HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

ST. JOSEPH'S SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO CHILDREN AND AGED PERSONS

In 1888, the prevailing social attitude was that the young, old, poor or abandoned were themselves, the cause of their plight and therefore responsible for freeing themselves from their circumstances. This was the backdrop against which a small group of women, including Reverend Mother M. Francis, Mother Superior of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, came together to discuss the problem of deserted orphans in the city of Scranton. Calling



themselves the St. Joseph's Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children and Aged Persons, they approached the Bishop of Scranton, the Right Reverend Bishop O'Hara, who readily consented to open a house for them. The good work was at once taken up. Initially care was given in private

homes until a house on Jackson Street in West Scranton was procured and placed in the care of a worthy matron. "In this humble way a great work for the salvation of poor little waifs was begun."





DID YOU KNOW?

According to the archives, the Ladies' Aid Society who started St. Joseph's, incorporated in 1890 as St. Joseph's Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children and Aged Persons. The founding group members were: Anna Duggan, Margaret Gunster, Bridget Hoban, Mary Chase, Mary Kelly, Mary Murphy, Mary Flaherty, Elizabeth Walsh

Four children were admitted on the first day with others arriving every day thereafter. St. Joseph's Foundling Home was born. In a matter of months, a larger house was needed and the children were moved to 839 Monroe Avenue. The number of children needing care was increasing daily and it became harder for the Society to meet the financial as well as personal commitments to continue their charitable endeavors.

Bishop O'Hara was petitioned by the Society to have a religious order assume the daily operations of the home while the Society would continue to help provide the financial means to keep it open. After some discussion, the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary officially undertook this task. Sister Mary Celestine IHM became superior of St. Joseph's Foundling Home.



A fourteen room home on Jefferson Avenue was secured but soon this too was overtaxed to the point where it could be a health hazard to the children. Something needed to be done. Two members of the Society persuaded John B. Smith to have the Pennsylvania Coal Company donate two and a half acres of land so that a new building could be erected, which would serve the needs of the children far into the future.

In 1893 a diocesan-wide collection totaling \$11,703.99 and a bequest from the late Reverend J. Finnen helped finance the major portion of the \$38, 681.03 construction costs. Because sufficient funds were not available, two wings of the building called for in the original plans could not be constructed at this time.



DID YOU KNOW?

Reverend J.J.B. Feeley volunteered to take a house to house collection on foot to contribute to the building fund. He raised thousands of dollars.



DID YOU KNOW?

A Catholic Ladies' Aid Society was organized in 1888 to assist the House of the Good Shepherd whose role was "to provide refuge for those who had strayed from the flock." "In the work of reclaiming unfortunate women, the society often met with cases of abandoned infants who were too young to be cared for in an orphanage and for whom no refuge was had been provided"... The people and the stage were set for St. Joseph's inception.



In May 1900, the now famous yellow brick building with the steep red tile roof was dedicated. Bishop Michael J. Hoban who had succeeded Bishop O'Hara, took an equally active interest in the still very young organization. At his urging, maternity hospital services were added "so that more of... God's creatures... might find protection and shelter from a too readily condemning world..." The organization would now be known as St. Joseph's Foundling Home and Maternity Hospital.

True to its pledge of financial support, St. Joseph's Society approached the Bishop and obligated itself to a \$40,000 loan from the Diocese of Scranton so that the two wings from the original plans could be constructed. Total cost of the addition was \$60,496 an obligation the Society assumed almost single-handedly. The wings were completed in 1909.



DID YOU KNOW?

In 1900 when St. Joseph's permanent home was opened, eight sisters were in charge of the work of caring for 161 infants.



DID YOU KNOW?

In 1902 Society's Crowning Event of the Season, the biggest social function in Scranton's history, was a charity ball for St. Joseph's. More than 3,000 people attended the gala.



The building, called one of the most modern of its time, housed a maternity ward, a chapel replete with stained glass windows, rooms for the treatment of contagious diseases, suitable space for the sisters' community life, and most important of all, more than ample space for the children.

In the coming years the sisters of St. Joseph's tended to the needs of the children and the Society focused its attentions on the financial aspects. Both faced immense challenges. Children's illnesses, both physical and often emotional and denials of government assistance were a few among many difficulties. Only heroic measures by the sisters and the Society dragged their beloved St. Joseph's over each and every hurdle.

In 1913 the year-end report stated, "... During the year the Home cared for 336 patients. Of these, 125 were infants, 165 children over one year of age and 46 were patients in the maternity hospital... the majority receiving the charity of the home. The cost of maintaining this very large family...being \$15,721.60 – leaving a deficit of \$5,000."



DID YOU KNOW?

In 1909 the first elevator that was installed at St. Joseph's was donated by John B. Cleland of the Cleland Simpson Company.



STRUGGLING ON

ST. JOSEPH'S SHELTER

Two major events of the time made life even more difficult at St. Joseph's – World War I and a widespread flu epidemic. The number of unwed mothers coming to the doors of the maternity hospital during the war increased dramatically. The birth of their babies, the large number of sick children for whom admission was being sought, and the number of children whose one or both parents fell victim to influenza swelled the resident population to well over maximum.

Despite the crowding, an inspection by officials from the Commonwealth found it to be the "one of the finest and best kept charitable institutions ever visited."



There seemed to be no end to the line of children seeking help.

In the midst of these daily struggles, Sister M. Celestine and the Society recognized another need, one for a "temporary refuge" for women and children. On October 1, 1915, St. Joseph's Shelter was opened in downtown Scranton and in 1920 a day nursery

was added. Hundreds received love and care during their illnesses because of the bold steps taken by women who had vision and insight far beyond their time.

On Christmas Day in 1919 Sister M. Celestine passed from this world. The lady who toiled to build St. Joseph's into the innovative leader of its time was gone and everyone grieved. Sister M. Rose, who



DID YOU KNOW?
Pediatricians from all over the United States and Europe conducted clinics at St. Joseph's.



DID YOU KNOW? *During the years 1919-1939 there were two severe measles epidemics at St. Joseph's handled with an astonishingly low mortality of 2%. The work of the National Institute of Health, in conjunction with Doctor Berney's clinical work at St. Joseph's Children's and Maternity Hospital, resulted in the development of a serum which marked a step forward in the treatment of measles.*

had arrived in the very early days with Sister M. Celestine, became St. Joseph's new superintendent. Growing needs and willing doctors enabled medical services to expand. Doctor M.J. Noone, who had full medical responsibility for St. Joseph's in 1919 invited Doctor George A. Clark to serve as Pathologist and Doctor Daniel E. Berney as Pediatrician. Doctor Noone remained Obstetrician. Soon, St. Joseph's was transformed into a modern hospital. Dr. Noone and his associates opened a school for pediatric nursing. Accreditation by the Pennsylvania Board of Nursing Education enabled various schools to send nursing students for an enriched course in Pediatrics. Students assigned from three months to a year depending on the course, provided valuable assistance in the day to day care of the infants and children. Reflecting this new emphasis, the name was changed to St. Joseph's Children's and Maternity Hospital.

Helping to pay for the daily care along with several additions and renovations, were funds from a new community-wide endeavor organized by the Bishop and other local leaders, called the Community Chest. In 1921 St. Joseph's received their first annual allocation from this fund. Aside from this, some funds are procured from the County Poor Boards, a small amount from the maternity services and the rest were donations.



DID YOU KNOW?

During WWI, with a true evaluation of Doctor Michael J. Noone's services, Mother M. Celestine considered him indispensable to the work at St. Joseph's. Her convincing plea, on behalf of the Institution, brought about Dr. Noone's certification as "non-available for military duty and essential for the continued service to St. Joseph's Foundling Home."

Doctor Noone went on to convert St. Joseph's from a "one-man institution" to a medical team approach. He continued to serve St. Joseph's until his death in 1948.





DID YOU KNOW?

In July 1922 a State Venereal Clinic was established at St. Joseph's to care for women and their children. As a result of exceptional care and follow-up, there were no children born at St. Joseph's who later in life presented with traditional congenital characteristics.

In 1936 St. Joseph's had a laboratory, a fully-equipped pharmacy with a Sister who was a registered pharmacist and an X-ray room with portable equipment.

In the mid-30's helpful additional staff came to St. Joseph's through the New Deal Programs. Groups from the Works Progress Administration and the National Youth Administration helped in the Home and Nursery departments.



Every day there were new challenges and then the Great Depression arrived. Financial troubles and an increase in numbers of children, brought the sisters, staff and St. Joseph's Society months and years of hand-to-mouth existence. God's love persevered in the kindness of special, loving people of the community who gave time and resources to insure that the children of St. Joseph's were loved and nurtured.

In 1939 St. Joseph's is officially recognized by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as a child placement agency. Although this work had been carried on for years with the ladies of St. Joseph's Society conducting before and after home studies, this recognition expanded St. Joseph's ability to place children. They were soon approved by the states of New York and New Jersey as well.

With another great war looming on the horizon, St. Joseph's staff began to evaluate its policies. Experience enabled the sisters to prepare for similar circumstances. The decision was made to limit the age of new admissions at St. Joseph's to five years. Finally in 1950, the age limit was again reduced to three years.





CHANGING NEEDS

ST. JOSEPH'S CHILDREN'S AND MATERNITY HOSPITAL

The stage was now set – the final act was in place that would bring St. Joseph's to one of the biggest decisions of its distinguished life – one that would again place it in the vanguard of child care, not only in Scranton, but throughout the northeast.

On March 31, 1950, three children with congenital challenges were admitted for care. These admissions were allowed after it became evident that a number of beds were now available at St. Joseph's because of the changes over the past five years. As it was in 1888, the Sisters, with the support of the Bishop, opened the doors of St. Joseph's to the needs of the community.

Frequent requests had been received previously for



the admission of children with an intellectual disability, but due to space limitations, these requests could not be honored. Now children between the ages of birth and six years who had multiple challenges began coming to St. Joseph's. Initially one ward was opened and in three short years St. Joseph's Children's and Maternity Hospital became home to 114 children.

Many changes were to follow, starting with the Bishop informing St. Joseph's that under new canon law the diocese would no longer be able to sponsor the hospital. He suggested the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary consider adopting St. Joseph's as a charitable endeavor. Having been involved from



DID YOU KNOW?
Babies were delivered at St. Joseph's until 1975. The delivery room was on the fourth floor, currently the Sisters dining room.





the beginning, they did so. Other organizational changes occurred to the Board of Directors and to St. Joseph's Society. The rights, title and all interest in the property of St. Joseph's were transferred from the Society and the Bishop as trustee, to the Sisters.

In addition to the organizational issues, the facility was also in dire need of fire safety renovation as well as physical changes required for the new occupants. Once again, funding the updates was an overwhelming task. After three years the most pressing renovations were completed and the Neurological Program was officially initiated.

Throughout the 1950s and 1960s the neurological department saw steady growth. People with special needs were the heart and soul at St. Joseph's. They were beginning to receive similar recognition on a much larger scale. In 1972, Pennsylvania passed the right to Education Law, which made educational programming a right for all children over five years of age in the Commonwealth. St. Joseph's set up classrooms and teachers were provided by the Northeast Educational Intermediate Unit. In 1973, St. Joseph's received a Title I Preschool grant from the federal government, and education services also began for the children from birth to five years of age.

Although St. Joseph's would not be designated as an Intermediate Care Facility for persons with Intellectual Disability until 1980, the first steps were taken in 1962, when having met strict guidelines, it was licensed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Department of Health to care for children with neurological conditions.

DID YOU KNOW?
In 1965 St. Joseph's was denied a grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania intended to build a structure for a pilot program for the education of children considered to be "trainable".



DID YOU KNOW?
In the early 1970s trailers were installed on St. Joseph's property for classrooms to be provided by Northeast Educational Intermediate Unit (NEIU). There were also two NEIU classrooms in the basement of St. Joseph's.



DID YOU KNOW?
Prior to the Summer Festival which began in 1961, there were a variety of fundraisers conducted by St. Joseph's Auxiliary: an annual harvest ball; several 3 day rummage sales; concerts by local talent that were actually held at St. Joseph's; fashion shows; a local boxing event; and Arthur Fielder with his touring Boston Pops.



BREAKING DOWN THE WALLS

ST. JOSEPH'S CENTER



The decision in 1950 to admit children with intellectual disabilities was a bold step that put St. Joseph's on the singular road that would win it praise from its peers, from the highest level of government and one that would make it a leader in its field.

As St. Joseph's began to learn more about the care and active treatment of children with multiple challenges, and as its resources of professional staff members grew, it became evident that a great many more children, who continued to live with their families, might be able to benefit from services. Sister Marian Denise Walsh IHM, who first came to St. Joseph's as a social worker in the maternity department in 1957, returned as administrator in 1975. Sister Marian went

on to become a widely respected advocate in service to people with special needs. She decided to encourage families who were providing home care, by offering community-based assistance.

The first of three programs to break out of St. Joseph's in 1976 was its Home Intervention Program for preschool children. Now called the Early Intervention Program, its goal is to provide assistance to children with developmental delays so as to either remediate or lessen the impact of the delays by the time the children reach school age. Therapists and Special Needs Instructors work in partnership with the child, the family and other caregivers to foster continued growth and development.



DID YOU KNOW?

There was an arson fire in 1984 that affected the south side of the St. Joseph's main building.

The first Golf Tournament to raise funds for St. Joseph's was in 1985.

The first computer system was introduced to St. Joseph's in 1986.



DID YOU KNOW?

There were large laundry facilities in the room that today is St. Joseph's multipurpose room known as the Cognetti Room. The conversion took place in 1979.

In 1977, a three year grant from the U.S. Department of Health Education and Welfare was awarded to St. Joseph's to bring a Recreation Program to the preschool-aged residents. This grant signaled the official start of Recreation Therapy, Music Therapy and Adapted Equipment at St. Joseph's.



In the same year St. Joseph's initiated the Family Aid and Host Home Programs. They now fall under the umbrella of Family Support Services. At the time, this was unique in that it tended to the needs of those who were caring for a child with special needs. Offering short term or overnight sitter-type services gave the caregivers a brief respite. These and more extensive supports can now be offered in the client's home or at community based activities.

In 1977, the Community Living Arrangement Program opened St. Joseph's first community-based home for three boys with intellectual disabilities. This program was developed as an alternative to large congregate living situations. As in St. Joseph's main facility, every person in the community home received complete medical and personal care and through individualized plans each would be assisted to achieve his full potential. Throughout the late 1970s and early 1980s several additional homes were added to this service. In the late 1980s five additional homes under the Intermediate Care designation, (the same program as the main Center) were opened to accommodate the large number of children who were awaiting admission to St. Joseph's.

In 1981 three people with profound challenges who were living at St. Joseph's achieved the age of 21 and therefore graduated from their formal education program. It was a first and at the time an astounding milestone. As a sign of respect for the new adults, a daytime work/training program was established. Many others from the community homes and the main Center joined these adults in succeeding years. In 1985 the first of what would become three Adult Day Program sites, was built on St. Joseph's grounds.

The original mission of providing a loving, supportive environment for infants and for their mothers also developed through the years. Greater acceptance in the



DID YOU KNOW?

In 1981, the south wing on the third floor, home of St. Joseph's Chapel, was renovated in honor of Rose Florey Fiorani L.H.S. The size of the chapel was reduced for energy efficiency and the pews removed to accommodate those persons in wheelchairs who were living in the building. The current Board Room, small conference room, copy room and storage room were created. The Sacristy and counseling room were also updated by James and Marion Clauss. The original religious paintings remain on the old ceiling. They continue to watch over all who receive services through St. Joseph's.



community brought a declining need for maternity shelter services. So in 1986 the shelter, that since inception had been within the storied yellow brick building was downsized and transferred to a home in Carbondale. Later, the program would be moved to a Scranton neighborhood and the shelter proudly called, Walsh Manor, in honor of Sr. Marian Denise. The newborns awaiting adoption were no longer spending their first weeks and months in a sterile nursery but in the arms of a doting Center foster family. 1992 saw the introduction of the Statewide Adoption Network (SWAN), which invited St. Joseph's social workers to put their experience to new use in finding forever families for children in Pennsylvania's foster care system who were available for adoption.

Recognized as a leader in the provision of services to families, to mothers and children in need and to individuals with intellectual disabilities, St. Joseph's staff chose to share the acquired knowledge. In addition to the changes that were taking place within St. Joseph's sponsored programs, the Center's administration took an active role in statewide policy development individually and through membership in organizations like Pennsylvania Advocacy and Resources (PAR).

Expanding services into a broader community also stretched St. Joseph's financial resources. In 1984 St. Joseph's Foundation was incorporated for the sole purpose of raising charitable funds to support St. Joseph's and its progress.

In recognition of the evolution of programs and emphasis on extending services beyond 2010 Adams Avenue, the name St. Joseph's Children's and Maternity Hospital was changed in 1979 to St. Joseph's Center.



In 1977, St. Joseph's sponsored a rural program that sent a nurse practitioner on the road to do screenings for at risk children in local communities.



DID YOU KNOW?

There were more than 25 children waiting to be admitted to St. Joseph's in 1986. With so few openings available, this translated into a potential wait time of 10 years. This prompted the initiation of the Intermediate Care homes.

The Center's Adult Day Program had three participants in 1981, today 143 people receive these services.





TODAY AND TOMORROW

Even though time has changed many things, the one constant throughout St. Joseph's history has been the care, concern, compassion and commitment extended to everyone who sought help. These core values are words of both love and action.

New mothers with their babies, who have no where else to turn, find a safe nurturing environment in St. Joseph's Mother/Infant Program. Prompted by the changing circumstances of women in the Center's maternity shelter, in October 2004 a home for five small families was opened. The purpose of this added service was to offer a temporary refuge, counseling and encouragement to homeless women who wanted

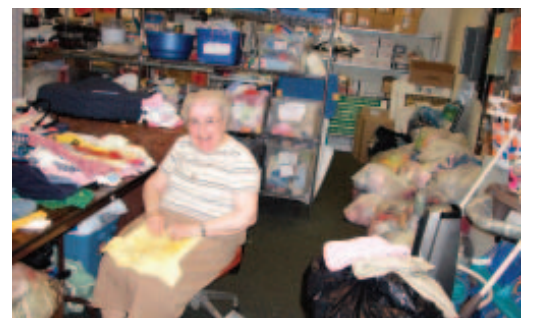


to keep and raise their new baby. A First Home Program helps the little family transition to independent living. The Center's Baby Pantry, which fills thousands of requests annually, offers ongoing support to many area families who are facing difficult times.

A growing availability of therapy equipment that might lessen the effects of physical and medical challenges led Sister Vincentia Dorsey IHM, Center administrator from 1990 – 2001, to spearhead the construction of the Harry and Jeannette Weinberg Therapy Building on the main campus. This fully equipped therapy center, complete with a therapeutic pool, completed in 1997, serves the Center's residents



DID YOU KNOW? *The WNEP Telethon has been a welcome addition to the Summer Festival every year since the late 1970s. This telethon not only raises funds but it also raises friends for St. Joseph's by sharing the good news of the Center's mission to a much broader audience. The 1996 addition of Joe Snedeker's annual Go-Joe Bike Ride dramatically added to the success of the telethons and the overall Summer Festival.*





and is open to the community as an outpatient clinic.

Medical advances, programming, optimistic care and a sense of purpose happily resulted in people with multiple and profound challenges living longer. The same people, living in the same space seemed cramped. Once again, based on prayer, the wise advice of the Center Board of Directors and confident in the financial support of the St. Joseph's Center Foundation Board and St. Joseph's Auxiliary, the decision was made that another physical update to the residential portion of the main Center was possible.

Sister Therese O'Rourke IHM who assumed the role of President of St. Joseph's in 2002 was immediately faced with a project that had been in discussion for some time. The multi-year project that began in 2003 with the conversion of an office building into four apartments, ended in 2005 with a complete renovation of three floors in the century old Center. The facility that was built for children was now more suitable for the adults in wheelchairs who are the majority of the current population. Fully accessible community homes were also built to replace rented properties.



DID YOU KNOW?

Even in the most difficult times, Christmas has been a both a joyous and fun holiday at St. Joseph's. Mrs. Rena Mattiucci baked and sold 70 pounds of cookies to raise money to buy toys for the St. Joseph's residents for Christmas in 1960. That tradition continues through the generosity of Terry and Dave Weber, who in lieu of gifts for one another, have been buying a Christmas gift for every resident on the Center's main campus since 2000. Local churches and community groups have steadfastly supported St. Joseph's from the very first day.

The Steamtown Marathon began in 1996. Center residents have been there every year to cheer the runners. Over the past seventeen years the increasingly successful Marathon has donated over \$800,000 to St. Joseph's.



A second Adult Day Center in Dunmore was added to accommodate the growing number of adults in residential care. This new day program was a welcome development for families who have their adult child living at home. For many years parents who had requested admission into St. Joseph's Adult Day Program were told politely, "When an opening becomes available." Now there was space. A third Adult Program is now operating in Luzerne County.

The transition from St. Joseph's Society, through St. Joseph's Foundling Home, St. Joseph's Children's and Maternity Hospital and finally St. Joseph's Center was not an easy one. The sisters, with capable advisors, benefactors, coworkers and Divine intervention, have led St. Joseph's out of the 19th and 20th centuries into the 21st.



DID YOU KNOW?

In 2008 St. Joseph's Auxiliary added a Junior Auxiliary to its membership. Recognizing the interest and tradition of service among area young people, the Auxiliary decided to familiarize them with the mission of St. Joseph's and afford them opportunities to serve in an organized capacity. The Junior Auxiliary members interact with residents of the Center, assist at Auxiliary and community functions and coordinate their own fundraising efforts on behalf of St. Joseph's.





The needs and daily challenges remain, but from that first day so many years ago, this sacred work has been blessed with generous spirits, those willing to humbly share their dire stories and those willing to respectfully and lovingly respond. That response began and carried on largely as a result of the steadfast devotion of St. Joseph's Society. Renamed St. Joseph's Auxiliary, the work continues enthusiastically. Their energy, paired with the poignant needs of those who receive services today, continue to inspire countless thousands in the community to support the mission. Through the intercession of St. Joseph we pray that this mutually beneficial relationship continues far into the future.



DID YOU KNOW?
Since the Mother/Infant Program began in 2004, fifty eight little families including three sets of twins have been served by the program.





SAINT JOSEPH'S
CENTER

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